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Rule of law for all

Judiciary, legal institutions urged to work honestly for reforms

STATE Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi said yesterday that rebuilding and reforming rule of law and the justice sector will be a top priority for Myanmar. She said to that end, the country's legal profession and court system will be strengthened.

The comments were made in her address to the Conference on the Justice Sector Coordinating for Rule of Law held yesterday at the Myanmar International Convention Centre II in Nay Pyi Taw.

One of the benefits of legitimate and efficient rule of law is the confidence that ordinary citizens will receive a fair and impartial hearing in court.

"This delivers long-term social and democratic stability. There is no need and there is no excuse for people to resort to vigilante conduct or to take the law into their own hands", she said.

Another benefit of rule of law is that it supports economic development. "If there is genuine rule of law, both foreign and domestic businesses can compete fairly. If they feel that the law is transparent and predictable, that there is a level playing field and that disputes will be resolved pursuant to established laws and procedures under a strong legal framework, this will encourage investment and drive our country's development", she said.

In order to accomplish this, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi said Rule of Law centres will be established across the country.

SEE PAGE-3



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi delivers the address at the Conference on the Justice Sector Coordination for Rule of Law at the MICC-II in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**



NATIONAL

President U Htin Kyaw receives outgoing Japanese Ambassador

PAGE-3

NATIONAL

State Counsellor's Opening Speech at the Conference on Justice Sector Coordinating for Rule of Law

PAGE-6-7



NATIONAL

VP U Myint Swe calls for close cooperation with private sector

PAGE-10

LOCAL NEWS

Japan locomotives to arrive after Yangon circular railway upgrade

PAGE-4



NATIONAL

Maungtaw District Deputy Commissioner meets IDPs in Rakhine State

PAGE-11



'BANK OF THE YEAR IN MYANMAR 2017'

Awarded by Financial Times (The Banker)

Pyithu Hluttaw

Pyithu Hluttaw discusses plans to ensure health of students

The Union Minister for Health and Sports Dr. Myint Htwe answered numerous health-related questions in yesterday's meeting of the Pyithu Hluttaw in Nay Pyi Taw.

The Union Minister said that his ministry will look into whether the ministry owns any plot of land for a sports stadium and a Red Cross to be built in Namhsan Township, Shan State, in response to U Htay Lwin from Namhsan Constituency. The Union Minister replied to U Lu Htae Hon of Laukkai Constituency that they are working to quickly send a child specialist, a midwife and a physician to Laukkai in northern Shan State by the second week of March. The Union Minister then answered to U Aung Sein of Dawei Constituency in Taninthayi Region that currently the ministry cannot send additional medical staff to Dawei General Hospital for upgrading it to a 500-bed hospital.

The Bill Committee and MPs then put forward a motion to amend the Myanmar



Dr. Myint Htwe. PHOTO: MNA

Dental Council Bill. Speaker U Win Myint then announced that the bill will be put on record for interested MPs to discuss. Next, the bill committee put forward a motion to discuss the bill for the Myanmar Historian Association Bill, which will be put on record for further discussions.

This was followed by 15 MPs discussing a motion by Dr. Aye Zin Latt of Shwe Bo Constituency urging the Union Government to create a long term strategic plan with the Ministry



U Lu Htae Han. PHOTO: MNA

of Health and Sports and other respective ministries to draft a national policy to include sports activities in school curriculums and to allot a suitable amount of the national budget annually for the initiative.

Daw Aye Mya Mya Myo of Kyauktan Constituency said that to ensure school canteens sell only healthy foods, it requires preventing unhealthy foods from entering the marketplace. She said that authorities need to consider the number of



Dr. Aye Zin Latt. PHOTO: MNA

students when constructing a school building so that it can accommodate an adequate number of restrooms, washrooms and a big enough water supply. She also said schools need to give education on harmful side effects of drugs and alcohol and to ensure that they are not easily accessible by students within the school's perimeters.

Tatmadaw representative Major Htin Lin Oo said the Union Government should adopt the Focusing Resources on Ef-

fective School Health (FRESH) framework developed by WHO, UNICEF, UNESCO and the World Bank and launched at the Dakar Education Forum in 2000.

Union Minister Dr. Myint Htwe said there are three priorities set that support this motion, namely raising public health awareness, school health awareness and obstetrical or maternity health awareness. He said that in the year 2016-2017 his ministry has conducted health inspections for 44,000 schools out of 45,000, completed construction of 88 per cent of restrooms for the schools, completed 67 per cent of nutritional development goals, and given 30 per cent of the school health education programs. The Union Minister said he will approve the motion so that a suitable budget can be allotted to the ministry after the Hluttaw's approval.

The Pyithu Hluttaw then approved of the motion and the Speaker announced the next meeting will be held on 9 March. —Aye Aye Thant, (MNA) ■

Amyotha Hluttaw

Amyotha Hluttaw enacts amended peaceful assembly law

THE 25th-day meeting of the seventh session of the second Amyotha Hluttaw was held in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

The MPs continued to debate the bill to amend the Peaceful Assembly and Peaceful Procession Law, tabled by Bill Committee Secretary Dr. Myat Nyana Soe of the Yangon Region constituency (3), from yesterday's meeting.

U Tin Aung Htun from the Magway Region constituencies said that the new Article 18, which will be added to Chapter 7 on sanctions, allows authorities to fine protesters an unlimited amount of money and should not be added.

Tatmadaw Hluttaw Representative Major Aung Ko Min said the amendment to Article 4(d) is unnecessary as it adds that citizens or organisations applying for permission for peaceful protests have to provide information on their budgets and their source of funds, which would have no discerni-



Dr. Myat Nyana Soe.

ble effect on the protesters. He also added that the inclusion of Article 18 can appear to be a pre-emptive measure, as it can allow authorities to sentence or fine individuals or organisations funding the peaceful assembly.

The issue was then discussed by U Kyi Win of the Ayeyawady Region constituency (12), Dr. Kun Win Taung of Kachin State constituency (11), U Sai Than Naing of Kayin State



U Tin Aung Htun. PHOTO: MNA

constituency (5), U Ye Htut of the Sagaing Region constituency (5), Tatmadaw Representative Lieutenant Colonel Tin Lin Oo, and U Soe Thein of Kayah State constituency (9).

Bill committee member Daw Nwe Nwe Aung said the bill committee had reviewed the bill to see if it was in accordance with Article 354 of the Constitution, which grants liberty of free expression. She said the majority of the bill committee



Major Aung Ko Min. PHOTO: MNA

members had concluded the amendments would target only individuals or organisations who disrupt the rule of law and national security through peaceful assembly, and have therefore agreed to request the Amyotha Hluttaw to pass the bill. Bill committee members U Kyaw Kyaw, Daw Nan Ni Ni Aye and Brigadier General Tint Lwin then said they did not support the motion.

This was followed by a dis-

cussion among MPs U Khin Maung Latt, U Kyaw Kyaw Win, U Soe Thein and bill committee members U Kyaw Kyaw, Daw Nan Ni Ni Aye and Brig-Gen Tint Lwin on why the bill should not be passed, while the other MPs and bill committee members involved in the previous discussions discussed why the bill should be passed.

Bill Committee Secretary Dr. Myat Nyana Soe of the Yangon Region constituency (3) then motioned for the Amyotha Hluttaw to pass the bill and Daw Kyin Ngai Mahn backed the decision.

This was followed by the Amyotha Hluttaw voting on passing the bill for amending the Peaceful Assembly and Peaceful Procession Law, and the speaker then announced that the Amyotha Hluttaw had voted for the enactment of the amended law.

The next meeting of the Amyotha Hluttaw will be held on 9 March.—Aung Ye Thwin ■



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi bids farewell to outgoing Japanese Ambassador Mr. Tateshi Higuchi. **PHOTO: MNA**

State Counsellor receives outgoing Japanese Ambassador

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, State Counsellor, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar received outgoing Japanese Ambassador to Myanmar His Excellency Mr. Tateshi Higuchi who completed his tour of duty in Myanmar on 7 March 2018 at 11:30 AM at the Union Minister's guest room at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw.—Myanmar News Agency



President U Htin Kyaw holds talks with outgoing Japanese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Tateshi Higuchi who has completed his ambassadorial duties in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

President U Htin Kyaw receives outgoing Japanese Ambassador

President U Htin Kyaw met with Japanese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Tateshi Higuchi, who has completed his ambassadorial duties at the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw at 2:30 pm yesterday. They had a cordial discussion on investment, development of Rakhine State, bilateral relations and cooperation between Myanmar and Japan. Union Minister U Kyaw Tin, Deputy Minister U Min Thu and other officials attended the meeting.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Judiciary, legal institutions urged to work honestly for reforms

FROM PAGE-1

This would include the training of a future generation of legal professionals, which would further improve the justice system and encourage young people to consider pursuing public service through a legal career, she said.

The court system would similarly be reformed, with a focus on eliminating corruption, improved legal training, and availability of legal counsel for the indigent.

“The public trust in people who are working in the justice sector has eroded. It is because of corruption, exercising the law for their own interests, failing the principle of upholding justice without favour, and not performing their work efficiently and lacking expertise”, she said.

The State Counsellor also said an accused person must be given quick access to a lawyer and to a speedy trial. Myanmar's long tradition of settling disputes through village and ethnic leaders, and not through courts would be retained and improved.

The State Counsellor also



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi checks the periodicals displayed at the Conference on Justice Sector Coordinating for Rule of Law at the MICC-II in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

commented on the police force.

“A great many of the complaints sent to higher authorities are concerned with the police. If the public is afraid to seek help from the police or do

not wish to come forward about a criminal matter, the relationship and cooperation between the public and the police will deteriorate”, she said.

Yesterday's conference

involves the sharing of ideas that will create new strategies for strengthening, improving and modernizing rule of law, the court system, legal aid and law enforcement.

“I would like to encourage all relevant government institutions and departments to work seriously and diligently, not because of a complaint or suggestions submitted by the people, but because it is your duty and responsibility,” she said.

Union Attorney-General U Tun Tun Oo, in his capacity as the chairman of the coordination committee on the rule of law and justice affairs, extended greetings, pledging to bring about fair laws, transparency and easy access to justice by the people.

In today's session of the Conference on Justice Sector Coordination for Rule of Law, Sir Jeffrey Jowell KCMG QC of Bingham Center, Dr. Diani Sadiawati, senior adviser to Indonesia's National Level Development and Planning Ministry, and representatives of the Union Supreme Court, Union Attorney-General's Office, the Anti-Corruption Commission, the Myanmar Police Force, and experts took part in different topics of discussion.

The forum will end today.—Myanmar News Agency ■

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Illegal fish, prawn farms under scrutiny in Yangon Region

By May Thet Hnin

Of the 80,000 acres of fish and prawn farms operating in the Yangon Region, only 40,000 acres have official sanction.

Therefore, the Yangon Region Government will inspect the fish farming lakes in the Yangon Region, said U Phyo Min Thein, Yangon Region Chief Minister, during the 15th meeting with Vice President and entrepreneurs, which was held on 7 March at the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation

of Chambers of Commerce and Industry.

"According to the 2012 Farmland Law, farmers misusing farmlands shall be imprisoned or fined. Therefore, the government is discussing means to control illegal fish farming lakes. Also, the government is planning to take legal action against those who are digging lands to create fish farming lakes and bribing the authorities," he added.

Myanmar Fisheries Federation General Secretary U Win Kyaing said, "We have already

submitted a proposal to use farmlands for other purposes, according to the 2012 Farmland Law. Although the government has encouraged the breeding sector, there are many difficulties in acquiring land according to this law. Therefore, the government should set up a new policy related to land access."

There are some 480,000 acres of fish and prawn breeding grounds across the country, but only 108,000 acres are officially sanctioned by the government.

The Fisheries Department

has already submitted a proposal to the Union Government to establish livestock breeding zones on 10,000 acres of land in Kawhmu and Kungyangon townships.

"While responding to a question posed by the Twantay Township constituency representative in the Pyithu Hluttaw, the Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation assured the Hluttaw that all such matters would be resolved in 2018. So, I hope it will be all right soon," said U Win Kyaing. ■

Betel nut growers battered by steep decline in price

Betel nuts are selling at less than half the price they fetched last year in Ye Township, impacting local betel nut growers.

Though the betel nut price had declined during the 2017 Chinese New Year, it picked up after the festival. "This year, the betel nut price has been on a downward spiral. So, we expect the price to go up again," said a local betel nut grower.

"A huge volume of betel nuts is entering the market this year compared with last year. However this year, the demand

from Bangladesh has been low due to instability in the border areas between Myanmar and Bangladesh," said U Arkar, a betel nut trader.

Last year, betel nuts sold for Ks9,700 per viss; however, now betel nuts are bringing in only Ks4,000 per viss.

There are nearly 150,000 acres of betel nut plantations across the country, with the Taninthayi and Ayeyawady regions and Mon State being the major producers.—Htut Htut (Ye) ■



Seintalone mangoes to be exported to Italy this year

Myanmar is planning to export its Seintalone mangoes to Italy this fiscal year, said U Sai Aung Kyaw, General Manager of Myanmar Shwe Fruit company.

To export the mangoes to Italy, Myanmar exported Seintalone mangoes to fruit traders and other food manufacturing companies in Italy on a trial

basis last year.

Myanmar will start exporting the mangoes to Italy from the first week of April.

"If the export of Seintalone mangoes to Italy is successful, Myanmar will export them to other European countries as well, with the assistance of Italian fruit traders and other food

manufacturing companies. We expect Myanmar mangoes to penetrate the European market," U Sai Aung Kyaw said.

Other export markets for Myanmar are China, Singapore, Thailand and South Korea. Myanmar mangoes are mainly sent to the Chinese market through border trade camps. However,

we do not want to lose the domestic market. Some 10 to 20 per cent of the mangoes produced in the country are consumed by the local people," he added.

Seintalone mangoes are cultivated mainly in Kyaukse, Meiktila and Yamethin. —GNLM ■

Japan locomotives to arrive after Yangon circular railway upgrade

Locomotives purchased from Japan will be used on the Yangon circular railway after it is upgraded, said U Zaw Lwin, divisional traffic manager of Division 7 of Myanmar Railways (MR).

Japanese loans amounting to US\$207 million were used to buy diesel-electric multiple

units locomotives and 66 coaches manufactured in Japan, as well as to install the advanced signal system along the circular train route, according to Myanmar Railways.

So far, the installation of the advanced signal system has been completed. However,

the locomotives and coaches that were ordered from Japan will reach Yangon only after the two-year project to upgrade the Yangon circular railway is completed.

MR has been upgrading railway stations and platforms with the help of government

funds. The estimated cost of the whole project is \$301 million.

The circular trains will complete a single circuit in one hour and five minutes instead of three hours. According to Myanmar Railways, an average of 73,000 commuters rely on the train services on a daily basis.—GNLM ■

Stock trading value drops on lacklustre YSX in February

By Ko Khant

THE value of stock traded by the five companies listed on the Yangon Stock Exchange (YSX) in February 2018 registered an all-time low of Ks740 million, according to statistics provided by YSX online.

Also, the figure shows a drastic decline compared with the trading value of Ks1.2 billion achieved in January.

The decreasing share prices and the lack of public interest are contributing factors to the sharp drop in the value of stock-trading. YSX failed to attract public interest despite holding discussions, YSX expos and educational talks.

Shares of five listed companies— First Myanmar Investment (FMI), Myanmar Thilawa SEZ Holdings (MTSH), Myanmar Citizens Bank (MCB), First Private Bank (FPB) and TMH Telecom Public Co. Ltd (TMH) — are being traded on the YSX.

Some 20,968 shares were traded by the four listed companies yesterday, at an estimated value of Ks80 million. The share prices have dipped below the base price, recording Ks12,000 for FMI, Ks2,850 for MTSH, Ks8,000 for MCB and Ks26,500 for FPB, at closing time.

More than 2.5 million shares were traded in 2016,

at an estimated value of some Ks70 billion. In 2017, despite an increase in the stock-trading volume to 2.6 million, the trading value was only Ks22 billion. The stock trading value hit the highest point of Ks3.4 billion in March 2017, whereas this year, February's trading reached an all-time low of some Ks740 million.

Some 3,825 shares were traded by the five listed companies yesterday at an estimated value of Ks26 million. The share prices were below the base price at Ks11,500 for FMI, Ks2,850 for MTSH, Ks7,900 for MCB, Ks27,500 for FPB and Ks2,900 for TMH during closing time. ■



A staff seen in front of the electronic board showing the stock exchange rates in YSX. PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR

MFPPEA calls for G2G negotiation over Saudi Arabia's fishery import suspension

By May Thet Hnin

The Myanmar Fishery Products Processors and Exporters Association has requested the government to conduct a government-to-government (G2G) negotiation concerning Saudi Arabia's suspension of fishery imports from Myanmar from 1 April.

The request was made during a regular meeting held between the Vice President and entrepreneurs yesterday.

Saudi Arabia suspended seafood imports from Viet Nam after it detected two prawn

diseases during an inspection tour. Later, Saudi Arabia imposed fishery import bans on Myanmar, Bangladesh and India.

"We cannot do anything about the ban. Only G2G negotiations can help. So, we have called for the government to take action to get access to this market again. Saudi Arabia placed an embargo on our seafood without providing any feedback. This ban will affect not only the prawn but also the fish industry. If they doubt our products, they can come and examine our cold storages,"

said U Win Kyaing, General Secretary of MFF.

Myanmar exports farmed fish to Saudi Arabia, which accounts for 30 per cent of the farm-raised fish exports and 40 per cent of rohu exports.

The officials concerned responded by assuring the MFF that the government would initiate a negotiation through Saudi Arabia's ESPmbassy in Myanmar.

Myanmar's fisheries have never been rejected in international markets, nor have they received a complaint, said U Win Kyaing.

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

တနင်္ဂနွေနေ့တိုင်း: "Sunday Special" အချုပ်ပိုင် (၈) မျက်နှာပါဝင်သော The Global New Light of Myanmar နေ့စဉ်ထုတ် သတင်းစာကို အောက်ပါမြို့များတွင် ဖတ်ရှုနိုင်ပါပြီ

"Sunday Special" အချုပ်ပိုင် (၈) မျက်နှာ ပါဝင်သည်

နေပြည်တော်
ပြန်ကြားရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာန၊ ရုံးအမှတ်(၇) နေပြည်တော်၊ သတင်းနှင့်စာနယ်ဇင်းလုပ်ငန်း (ရုံးချုပ်)၊ ဝိမရော့ဌာန၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၆၇၄၁၂၁၀၈

နေပြည်တော်
နေပြည်တော်သတင်းစာတိုက် (တပ်ကုန်း)၊ ယော့သီရိမြို့နယ်၊ ခရောင်လမ်း၊ နေပြည်တော်၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၆၇၃၆၁၄၈၊ ၀၆၇၃၆၁၂၉

ရန်ကင်း
The Global New Light of Myanmar သတင်းစာတိုက်၊ အမှတ် ၁၅၀၊ ငါးထပ်ကြီးဘုရားလမ်း၊ ဗဟန်းမြို့နယ်၊ ရန်ကင်းမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၁၀၆၀၅၉၃၂၊ ၀၉၉၇၄၄၂၄၁၁၄

မန္တလေး
လမ်း (၂၀ x ၂၀)ကြား၊ (၈၂ x ၈၃)လမ်းကြား၊ မုလဲခေ့ ရောင်ရမ်း၊ မန္တလေးမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၂၃၂၇၂၉၀၂၃၂၅၅၀

တောင်ကြီး
ရုံးကြီးလမ်း၊ သစ်တောရပ်ကွက်၊ တောင်ကြီးမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၈၁၂၁၁၆၄၊ ၀၉၅၂၁၄၄၅၇

မကွေး
နတ်မောက်လမ်း၊ တပ်မ (၈၈)တပ်နယ်ရေးအနီး၊ မကွေးမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၆၃၂၃၇၁၂

တိုင်းတော်
မြို့သစ် (၃-၈)အမှတ် (၁) လမ်းသွယ်၊ မြို့ပတ်လမ်း၊ ကျိုင်းတုံမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၈၄၂၂၄၉၂

တလေး
အောင်ဇေယျရပ်ကွက်၊ မြို့နယ်အားကစားကွင်းအနီး၊ တလေးမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၇၃၂၂၁၃၃

မြင်ကြီးများ
အမှတ် (၄၁)၊ ရေခဲရပ်ကွက်၊ အောင်ဆန်းလမ်း၊ မြစ်ကြီးနားမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၇၄၂၂၄၆၂

စစ်တွေ
ဓမ္မာဝတီလမ်းနှင့် တက္ကသိုလ်ရိပ်သာလမ်း၊ မိဆက်ကြီးအနီး၊ မန်ကျည်းမြိုင်ရပ်ကွက်၊ စစ်တွေမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၄၃၂၃၀၆၈

လားရှိုး
ဟူးမွန်ကျေးရွာထိပ်၊ ဟူးမွန်ဆည်ဘယ်ဘက်ခြမ်း၊ (၁၂) ရပ်ကွက်၊ မန်ကျည်းကျေးရွာ၊ အဝေလမ်း၊ လားရှိုးမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၈၂၂၄၀၆၇

ခြောက်
မေတ္တာလမ်း၊ ရှမ်းချောင်းရပ်၊ ကလွင်ကျေးရွာအုပ်စု၊ ခြောက်မြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၅၉၄၂၁၀၃

မော်လမြိုင်
ကြာအင်းကျေးရွာ၊ မော်လမြိုင်မြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၅၇၂၇၂၅၊ ၀၅၇၂၇၂၆

ပဲခူး
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State Counsellor's Opening Speech at the Conference on Justice Sector Coordinating for Rule of Law

(7th March, 2018)

Myanmar International Convention Centre (MICC - II), Nay Pyi Taw

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Mingalar Bar, a warm welcome to you all.

Today's conference is the first of its kind because it aims to create a discussion around effective processes and procedures for better justice sector coordinating and the role of the Coordinating Bodies for Rule of Law Centres and Justice Sector Affairs in Myanmar.

On behalf of the government, I congratulate all the Coordinating Bodies, as well as the Advisory Group and the Working Group which have and continue to support them. I know that the members of each of these Bodies have worked incredibly hard to make this conference a reality. I also give my thanks to each of the donors and development partners responsible for supporting this event.

Setting the Scene

Myanmar is going through a critical period of transition. The government is dealing with social, economic, rule of law and justice challenges.

Looking back at Myanmar's recent legal history, our country had formidable legal credentials just after our independence. The Burma Law Reports of the 1950s were on a par with the Hong Kong and Singapore law reports of that era, and with those of other respected Common Law jurisdictions. It is essential that all relevant stakeholders work together to grow upon our Common Law roots and return to the good practices that made our legal history so notable.

To that end, there has been significant progress in the justice sector this year, including the Union Supreme Court and the Union Attorney General's Office adoption of modern Codes of Ethics that meet international standards to be followed by all judges and law officers. That said, while adopting them has been an important step, it is crucial to implement and enforce them fully so that citizens benefit and the public is aware of them.

Rebuilding Rule of Law

Rebuilding and reforming the rule of law and justice sector is a top priority for Myanmar. It is also vital for our efforts towards sustaining Peace and Development.

Therefore, I would like to encourage everyone who is working at the Coordinating Bodies for Rule of Law Centre and Justice Sector Affairs: Hluttaw representatives from Regions and States, the Supreme Court of the Union, the Union Attorney General's Office, the Ministry of Home Affairs, the General Adminis-



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi delivers the address at the Conference on Justice Sector Coordinating for Rule of Law at the MICC-II in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

tration Department and Myanmar Police Force, and responsible persons from the National Human Rights Commission, lawyers, representatives from civil society organizations, UNDP, IDLO, USAID, Denmark, JICA, MyJustice and Development Partners to cooperate and coordinate in a balanced manner. Furthermore, to achieve Rule of Law, those responsible, especially in the Legislative, Executive and Judiciary must work together among themselves with diligence and in unison.

Benefits of Rule of Law

The benefits, if there is genuine rule of law, are many. By way of example:

1. When each individual can legally challenge injustices, and do so with confidence that they will receive a fair and impartial hearing at court, rather than resorting to non-legal means, this delivers long-term social and democratic stability. There is no need and there is no excuse for people to resort to vigilante conduct or to take the law into their own hands.

2. Rule of law also supports economic development. If there is genuine rule of law, both foreign and domestic businesses can compete fairly. If they feel that the law is transparent and predictable, that there is a level playing-field and that disputes will be resolved pursuant to established laws and procedures under a strong business legal framework, this will encourage investment and drive our country's development.

Myanmar's Rule of Law Centres

During my tenure as Chair of the Parliamentary Committee for Rule of Law and Tranquility, we developed the concept for Rule of Law Centres to be established across this country. The idea grew out of

the need to deliver large scale, practical legal skills training to a future generation of legal professionals who were not yet knowledgeable about the law, but wanted to serve for the benefit of others. The concept evolved and expanded to include a focus on connecting lawyers with communities they serve and on providing community leaders with basic knowledge of legal principles and with advocacy and other practical skills.

In 2013, we discussed with UNDP for rule of law. In 2014, two pilot rule of law centres in Mandalay and Lashio were developed by UNDP and IDLO, proved to be a great achievement for rule of law. Following the success of these pilot centres, Rule of Law Centres have been established in Myitkyina, Yangon and Taunggyi.

Strengthening our Legal Profession

The role of the legal profession in our country has changed in the last few years. Lawyers are now practicing more effectively on behalf of the aggrieved. The legal profession as a whole must be subject to standardized admission practices, codes of ethics and disciplinary procedures, and continuing legal education so they can better help the public.

Strengthening our Judiciary

The Judicial system and the courts must be strong and reliable for justice to prevail. The public trust in people who are working in the Justice Sector has eroded. It is because of corruption, exercising the law for their own interests, failing the principle of upholding justice without favour, and not performing their work efficiently and lacking expertise. Thus, these main challenges in the Justice Sector of

our country must be prioritized.

Relating to our criminal legal system, when a complaint is made by an aggrieved person, it must be responded to immediately. After the detention of an accused person, arrangements must be made to give them access to a lawyer promptly so they can discuss the case. We must also bring cases before the court quickly, avoid delayed processes, and respect the full the rights of the accused. On the other hand, aggrieved persons and complainants should have redress under the Law. We must give due regard to the adage "Justice Delayed is Justice Denied."

We are pleased to hear that the Union Attorney General's Office is preparing to publish the Fair Trial Guidance Manual. I believe that if it is observed in the prosecution of criminal cases, public confidence in the judicial system will improve and these standards can highly support the Rule of Law and the Justice.

Developing Alternative Dispute Resolution

Myanmar has a long tradition of settling disputes through their village and ethnic leaders according to long-held customs in each region of Myanmar; they do not resolve their problems in courts. We should consider improving these practices of traditional dispute resolution in the future. The courts are not the only forum in which to solve disputes.

It is my observation that at the community level, the majority of people continue to use long-standing local methods for solving disputes and are reluctant to take cases to the formal or official justice system of the State. The costs, time and distance required to travel to the courts can also be too challenging. We must

ensure that those people do not face additional burdens when they are in court or at the police station. We should treat them fairly and offer appropriate legal protections.

Therefore, in formulating our national justice strategy, we should take into consideration the use of mediation in resolving disputes systematically and the development of various modes of alternative dispute resolution to settle disputes.

Police and Rule of Law

A professional, reliable and trusted police force that can better serve the public is essential for implementing the rule of law. A great many of the complaints sent to higher authorities are concerned with the police. If the public is afraid to seek help from the police or do not wish to come forward about a criminal matter, the relationship and cooperation between the public and the police will deteriorate. Consequently, the Rule of Law will stumble.

I realize that there are inadequate resources for the police force to do their job effectively. They need better training on how to respond to modern forms of crime to carry out investigations of crimes, make inquiry of the accused, collecting evidence, money laundering, and cyber-crimes, how to cooperate with the public, and how to make sure that anyone suspected or accused of a crime is treated fairly according to the law.

The General Administration Department, the courts, law offices, and police forces are responsible under the law to protect the public. They play a crucial role in implementing Rule of Law effectively in Myanmar.

I have noticed that public trust and confidence in police force and administration department improves as these institutions provide their services in a matter that is fair and that people feel satisfied with.

Legal Aid

In respect of Legal Aid, we have seen that not every aggrieved party can acquire their legal rights. Especially, the poor, the children, women, and people with disabilities still find it difficult to

obtain the assistance of courts for access to justice.

At present, the Union Attorney General's Office hires a lawyer with State funds to appear for an indigent person accused of a criminal offence punishable by death. Recently the Union Legal Aid Body was established to provide legal aid services effectively and to ensure that the public has access to justice. The Legal Aid Body will be formed in the various regions, districts, and township levels and they will support the rule of law and justice affairs.

Developing Good Governance and Administrative Justice

As you all know, each and every one of us is concerned with the daily administrative actions and decisions of government departments and civil service personnel.

Administrative measures and decisions have as much impact on people's lives as judicial decisions. The public ultimately suffers from poor or illegal decisions made by government officials that are not made in compliance with the law.

The aggrieved person can seek a remedy by way of a writ petition if he finds that any order, directive or decision of government organizations is not in conformity with the law or the person was not treated fair. On the other hand, the civil service personnel need to perform their duties carefully not to negatively affect the people.

When administrative measures and decisions are made without reference to the relevant laws and regulations, it leads to poor use of due discretion and can result in biased decision making. As a result, failing to reference the legal basis for decisions by civil servants will negatively impact the rule of law and make people less confident in government. I would like to say the civil service personnel in relevant areas should not forget that they are serving the public and to carry out their duties selflessly and with good intentions.

In addition, we should not do our jobs only when there is a complaint; we must instead provide our functions dutifully and responsibly. To improve the broader

governance practices of the public sector, accountability and transparency in decision making and complaints handling is necessary.

Addressing Corruption

As I continue to state, corruption is the major obstacle for the rule of law and needs to be addressed. Addressing corruption is essential to delivering good governance. It relies on the "tone from the top" and each of you here today must consider yourselves responsible for setting the appropriate tone in a clear and forceful manner and remove opportunities for corruption.

Government organizations not only need to cooperate with the Anti-Corruption Commission but also implement E-government functions with great effort.

Cleaning up corruption is not a program but a culture. It is a culture that needs collective effort by the government and the public for sustainable development of the country.

The Role of Individuals

The rule of law, peace and the stability of our country are inter-connected and are the concern and responsibility of every single one of our people. We must put greater emphasis on sharing and disseminating information so that our people not only know their legal rights but also the provisions that exist to combat violations of these rights. I would like to add that our people are entitled to their rights but also to perform their public obligations dutifully. For the coordinating bodies to function effectively, I wish to urge cooperation and harmony with the responsible persons from Hluttaw, the Supreme Court of the Union and respective government departments and organizations, legal experts, lawyers, persons from civil society organizations, and national and international organizations and to coordinate more among the relevant departments and organizations.

If the government organizations of respective Region and State provide necessary assistance, work by the Regional and State Coordinating bodies will be more effective. The respective govern-

ments need to support the sub-coordinating bodies.

Similarly, because department officers who are assigned to the sub-coordinating bodies are the key responsible personnel from the government agencies mainly concerned with the rule of law, they need to perform efficiently in their work with the sub-coordinating bodies in accordance with the laws, rules and regulations. They should not give favour to one particular department or person.

Conclusion

In conclusion, I am aware that rule of law and justice affairs are essential for a peaceful coexistence and development of Myanmar and our people.

The reform activities taking place in Myanmar are done with the intent to provide genuine peace in people's lives, and that the stability of the country leads to development. This is why all government institutions must work honestly and correctly.

I would like to encourage as well that all relevant government institutions and departments work seriously and diligently, not because of a complaint or suggestions submitted by the people but because it is your duty and responsibility. Furthermore, when implementing activities on behalf of the coordinating bodies, your duty of loyalty is with the coordinating body, not your department or government agency.

All the frank advice and suggestions given from all the participants today will hugely benefit in strengthening the rule of law and in formulating programs and procedures for justice sector coordination.

Therefore, I would like to conclude my speech by urging all of you attending this workshop:

- to openly discuss, propose and advise on ways to strengthen the rule of law and have enduring justice;
- to create a new strategy for the future through the outcome of this conference; and
- to share your experiences, ideas and opinions for the rule of law in Myanmar.

Thank you.



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and dignitaries have the documentary photo taken at the Conference on Justice Sector Coordination for Rule of Law. PHOTO: MNA

Work together to strengthen rule of law

MYANMAR is going through a critical period of transition and is facing challenges in the justice sector.

The judiciary system and the courts must be strong and reliable for justice to prevail. The public trust in people who are working in the justice sector has eroded. It is because of corruption, exercising the law for their own interests, failing the principle of upholding justice without favour, not performing their work efficiently and lacking expertise. These are the main challenges in the justice sector that our country must prioritise.

By giving top priority to rebuild and reform the rule of law and justice sector, Myanmar is making efforts towards sustaining peace and development.

In the judiciary sector, systematic reforms for the judiciary sector are being carried out and not only judges, judiciary officers and those who are participating in the judiciary but also partners and media also play an important role in carrying out the reforms.

It is important for all in the judicial, legislative and administrative sectors to conduct their duties as comrades for the good of the country. When there are some problems and misunderstanding between one another, they should smooth things up so that they can effectively work for the country.

The Union Attorney-General's Office is preparing to publish the Fair Trial Guidance Manual. We believe that if this is observed in the prosecution of criminal cases, public confidence in the judicial system will improve and these standards can highly support the rule of law and the justice sector.

A court must establish judicial freedom by example and commit itself to responsibility and transparency as outlined in Myanmar's judicial ethics handbook.

The public trust is served when courts resolve cases according to the law without corruption.

The second strategic plan for the Myanmar judiciary sector has adopted the motto: "Towards improving Justice for All."

The civil service personnel in relevant areas should not forget that they are serving the public and to carry out their duties selflessly and with good intentions.

All need to work together. No group is against another group for the sake of the country. We must cooperate with anyone for the sake of the country.

Rule of law and justice affairs are essential for a peaceful coexistence and development of Myanmar and our people.

All government institutions must work honestly and correctly.

It is evident that all populations of living things including natural resources, wildlife and ecosystems are interrelated one another. When one population of animals, plants, or insects increase or decrease, other populations of living things are also affected. The number of animals such as insects and birds could increase due to fewer insect eating birds and trees and other plants could be negatively affected as a consequence of ecosystem. The amount of habitat can be determined the number of animals which can live in the jungle. Moreover human activities can lead to the greatest impact on the amount and quality of wildlife habitat in the forest. Wildlife habitat can be destroyed as a result of urban sprawl, agricultural practices, pollution, sedimentation, or habitat fragmentation.

Wildlife Conservation is the duty and responsibility of all Myanmar

By Min Min (Dawei)

A Positive impact on wildlife populations

People can also have a positive impact on wildlife populations through improvement and protection of habitat or ecosystems. The planting of trees, shrubs and wildlife food plots, in the appropriate locations is one way landowners can improve wildlife habitat. As for people, they can be able protect ponds, streams, rivers and wetlands from sedimentation by reducing soil erosion on lands surrounding these aquatic ecosystems. There are many things people can do to improve habitat for wildlife. There is a number of natural resource management agencies which can help people enhance and protect wildlife habitat.

Wildlife and ecosystem

Wildlife can be found in all ecosystems. Deserts, forests, rain forests, plains, grasslands and other areas including the most developed urban areas, all have distinct forms of wildlife. While the term in popular culture usually refers to animals that are untouched by human factors, most scientists agree that much wildlife is affected by human activities these days.

Impact of wildlife on the environment

It is evident that wildlife has a considerable impact on the environment and man has indirectly altered some of the many links which associate animals with the environment. Food chains are an essential link, for they associate animals to plants and to other animals. But food chains can determine the equilibrium of populations in their habitat.

Habitat destruction

The habitat of any given species is considered its preferred area or territory. Many processes associated with human habitation of an area cause loss of this area and decrease the carrying capacity of the land for that species. In many cases these changes in land use cause a patchy break-up of the wild landscape. Agricultural land frequently displays this type of extremely fragmented habitat. Farms sprawl across the landscape with patches of uncleared woodland or forest dotted in-between occasional paddocks.

World Wildlife Day

On 20 December 2013, at its 68th session, the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) decided to proclaim 3 March, the day of the adoption of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), as World Wildlife Day.

Big cats
World Wildlife Day has now become the most important global event dedicated to wildlife and the World Wildlife Day will be celebrated in 2018 under the theme "Big cats: predators under threat".

Big cats are widely recognized and admired animals across the globe, however, today these charismatic predators are facing many and varied threats, which are mostly caused by human activities. More their populations are declining at a disturbing rate



Photo: Courtesy Julia Thiemann WWF-Myanmar

due to loss of habitat and prey, conflicts with people, poaching and illegal trade.

In an effort to reach as wide an audience as possible, the expanded definition of big cats is being used, which includes not only lion, tiger, leopard and jaguar – the 4 largest wild cats that can roar – but also cheetah, snow leopard, puma, clouded leopard, etc. Big cat species are found in Africa, Asia, and North, Central and South America, representing a virtually global distribution, and representations of big cats, such as for car logos, by sporting clubs and the fashion industry, are used globally.

Number of tiger and wildlife species in Hugaung Tiger Reserve

Myanmar is also home to some of Southeast Asia's most extensive coastal and marine ecosystems, which include coral reefs, mangroves and sea grass beds.

Awareness campaigns concerning wildlife conservation activities are being made for inclusive public participation. Priority actions for conservation in the short term are the establishment of protected

areas, a monitoring programme, reduction in the killing of tiger prey species, and suppressing illegal hunting.

According to the GTI statistics, there are currently about 3,200 wild tigers left in the world and the forests of Myanmar still has about 150 tigers.

Myanmar and Wildlife Protection

The killing and smuggling of animals is undermining economies and ecosystems, fuelling organized crime and feeding corruption and insecurity across the globe. Actions should be taken to protect resources and ecosystems, ensuring sustainable development for future generations which can save the environment and biodiversity.

Environmental issues ought to be embedded in our development policies aims to raise public awareness of the need to preserve the environment, to understand environmental issues and challenges and highlight awareness of the illegal wildlife trade.

As part of the country's efforts to promote sustainable development, including the protection and preservation of wildlife, Myanmar formulates a na-

tional environmental policy, strategic framework and a master plan in collaboration with the UNDP; a national climate change strategy and action plan with UNEP, UN-Habitat and the EU; a green economy policy and strategic framework with the World Wildlife Fund; National and city-level waste management strategies and action plans with UNEP and the Institute for Global Environmental Strategy; and a hazardous waste management master plan with the National Environmental Agency of Norway.

Efforts are being made to step up the country's national strategies, urging the people to understand how to preserve the endangered animals.

It is important to make more awareness among the public to combat illicit trading of wildlife and endangered species of plants. Effective enforcement should be made to establish more wildlife sanctuaries in the country.

All the bodies including the governments, non-governmental organizations, the business community and all the citizens are essential to participate in the implementation process to be successful.

Translated by Win Ko Ko Aung

International Women's Day

UNDP Administrator's Statement on International Women's Day, 8 March. Theme: "The Time is Now: Rural and Urban Activists Transforming Women's Lives"

Women's movements dominate today's global conversation. From #MeToo and #TimesUp spotlighting sexual harassment and abuse, to #NiUnaMenos, the not one less movement protesting femicide, women voices demanding equality have crossed the globe, and a palpable feeling of change is in the air.

These movements and marches infuse this year's International Women's Day with special meaning. Today, we celebrate the activists who work tirelessly to "speak truth to patriarchy" and push all of us to achieve equal rights for women.

The Time is Now to end sexual harassment and abuse. Preventing this behavior is our collective moral imperative, and it must be eradicated wherever it is found. We must all work together to change our cultures and create safe spaces for reporting.

The Time is Now to end violence against women. 49 countries lack laws protecting women from domestic violence, and in 37 countries perpetrators of rape are exempt from prosecution if they are married to or subsequently marry the victim.

The Time is Now to promote women's political participation. Women make up only 23.5% of the world's parliamentarians. The world needs women to have an equal voice in decision making.

The Time is Now to close the gender wage gap. The global gender wage gap is 23%, and will take 100 years to close at the current rate of change. We need to value women's work and reduce their disproportionate burden of unpaid care and domestic work. This work deprives women of time to earn money and engage in public life, and deprives communities and nations of women's full contributions.

The Time is Now to ensure that rural women have equal opportunities. 43% of the global agricultural workers are women, and rural women comprise the majority of these workers. They need equal access to resources, information, and decision-making. Despite their vital roles in growing food, and critically in adapting and building resilience to climate change, rural women fare worse than rural men or urban women on almost every measure of development.

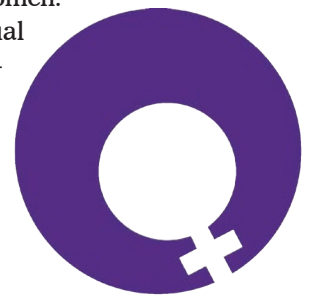
The Time is Now to celebrate activists working on women's equality and rights.

On this International Women's Day, join me in celebrating them and honoring their work in the best way possible: by redoubling our efforts to build a world free of discrimination and exclusion and make it possible for all women and men to live lives of dignity and opportunity.

They have created a momentum for change that builds on the promises of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals.

These 17 goals—which range from ending poverty, to boosting equitable growth and achieving quality education for all—are strongly interconnected, and gender equality is pivotal to achieving all of them. That means that all of us have a role to play in supporting women's empowerment, at home, in our communities—and in the workplace.

Together, by achieving women's equality and the 2030 Agenda, we can ensure that no woman is left behind.



International Women's Day



Vice President U Myint Swe addresses at the meeting with entrepreneurs in Yangon. **PHOTO: MNA**

VP U Myint Swe calls for close cooperation with private sector

VICE President U Myint Swe met with entrepreneurs in Yangon yesterday, calling for close cooperation between the government and businesses for the development of the private sector.

The Vice President made the remark in his opening address at the 15th meeting with leaders of the private business sector at the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry yesterday.

The two sides had held a meeting in October 2016, when businesspersons submitted 225 points of their difficulties to the Union Government.

U Myint Swe pledged to solve the remaining points of difficulties through the private-public dialogue model.

In his opening address yesterday, U Myint Swe also invited the private sector to cooperate with the government in its efforts to ease rules, promote small and medium enterprises, develop the trade sector, provide vocational training and build infrastructure.

Reforming the private sector plays an important role not only in the country's economic sector but also in promoting the socio-economy of the people, because more than 90 per cent of the country's economy relies on the private sector, said Vice President U Myint Swe.

The value of foreign trade has reached more than US\$28.6 billion up to February this fiscal year, registering an increase of more than \$4 billion compared

with the same period last year.

In the trade sector, more than \$23.6 billion came from the private sector, amounting to 83 per cent of the foreign trade.

The Vice President also thanked the peasants and traders for achieving a record high of rice exports in 70 years. He also informed the private sector that the Union Government had formed 11 groups, led by the Deputy Minister for Commerce, aiming to raise Myanmar's spot in the Ease of Doing Business Report of the World Bank.

During the meeting, the two sides discussed obstacles faced by the private sector and matters related to the development of the fuel, rubber and fishery sectors.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Deputy Minister for Information receives KAS's Authorized Representative



Deputy Minister for Information U Aung Hla Tun holds talks with the Authorized Representative from Konrad Adenauer Stiftung (KAS), Dr. Norbert Eschborn, in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Deputy Minister for Information, U Aung Hla Tun, received the Authorized Representative from Konrad Adenauer Stiftung (KAS), Dr. Norbert Eschborn, at the meeting hall of the Ministry yesterday morning.

During the meeting they discussed about inviting experts for public relation affairs, holding the Transition Forum again, training the Research Department of the Ministry for Information, and publishing the Economic book.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Announcement on formation of External Affairs Body formed under the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee

Yangon, 7th March

In accordance with a resolution of the third meeting of the 7th State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee held at the Maha Pathana Cave on KabaAye Hill on 26 February, 2015, the External Affairs Body was formed under the Education and External Affairs Sub-Committee of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee on 1st November 2016 with the aim of carrying out the following four objectives.

(a) To propagate the Theravada Buddhism
(b) To cooperate with foreign religious organizations and personnel in carrying out religious affairs

(c) To release information on undertakings of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee and information on Theravada Buddhism through www.mahana.org.mm

(d) To assist the Theravada Buddhist missionaries sent by the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee to foreign countries

State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee
Maha Nayaka Monastery, KabaAye Hill
Mayangon Township, Yangon
Phone: 01-661746

(Unofficial Translation)

Tatmadaw, Myanmar Press Council hold fifth workshop

The Tatmadaw and Myanmar Press Council held a workshop in Yangon on Tuesday, discussing the relationship between the two sides.

At the meeting, Maj-Gen Soe Naing Oo of the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army) of Defence Services explained the releasing information by the Tatmadaw on Rakhine issue.

They also discussed the media law and journalistic ethics.

At the fifth workshop, senior military officers discussed fake accounts on social media, fake news and accusations against the Tatmadaw and efforts for the Tatmadaw to turn itself into a standard army.

U Ohn Kyaing, Vice-Chairman-1 of the Myanmar Press Council said the council will brief the experiences gained in a recent workshop of the four pillars of the country and the weak and strong points of the media discussed in the workshop with the Tatmadaw will be conveyed to the media personnel.

Maj-Gen Soe Naing Oo, Chairman of the Tatmadaw True News Information Team said the Tatmadaw is carrying out its duties abiding the law and has taken actions against its members who break the law while following the international conventions.—Myanmar News Agency ■



Tatmadaw and Myanmar Press Council discuss the relationship between the two sides at the workshop in Yangon. **PHOTO: MNA**

Maungtaw District Deputy Commissioner meets IDPs in Rakhine State



Maungtaw District Deputy Commissioner U Ye Htut meets IDPs near the mouth of Mho Win creek, in Maungtaw Rakhine State. PHOTO: MNA

YESTERDAY, Maungtaw District Deputy Commissioner U Ye Htut and other officials visited IDPs from Yathedaung and Buthidaung townships who fled their homes after the 25 August 2017 terrorist attacks and are temporarily settled near the mouth of Mho Win creek to cross into Bangladesh.

The officials inquired the reasons for fleeing their homes, why they want to cross over to Bangladesh, the difficulties they are currently facing and their needs and their requirements. Officials discovered that initially a total of 666 residents from 15 villages in Buthidaung and 2 villages in Yathedaung had taken up temporary shelter in the area but 210 of them had already left for Bangladesh leaving 456 people behind. The IDPs claim that scarcity of jobs,

food, and threats from ARSA terrorists are the reasons for crossing over to Bangladesh.

U Ye Htut assured the IDPs that authorities responsible will do all they can to provide security and they are collaborating with NGOs to provide weekly and monthly humanitarian aid to villages in afflicted areas. He said District and Township Administration Committees have issued special documents to allow workers to travel within workplaces in Buthidaung and Maungtaw.

The IDPs replied that Hluttaw representatives and Muslim leaders have discussed matters with them to relocate back to their hometowns but they are voluntarily leaving for Bangladesh where their relatives are already settled.—Hein Htet Zaw ■

Peace Commission, KNPP hold unofficial meeting

THE Peace Commission and the Karenni National Progressive Party-KNPP held a meeting in Yangon yesterday, discussing the ethnic armed organization's role in political dialogues and military affairs.

"This is an unofficial meeting and both sides discussed openly. They (KNPP) agree to sign the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement-NCA and to take part in the peace process," said U Zaw Htay, Director-General of the Union Peace Implementation Department.

Good results are expected to be achieved in an unofficial meeting between the two sides,

he added.

The two sides also agreed yesterday to hold the upcoming official meetings as soon as possible.

"We discussed how we will hold the political dialogues, negotiations over military affairs and development works for Kayah State," said U Khu Oo Reh, Vice Chairman of KNPP.

The two sides also discussed the role of KNPP in the Joint Monitoring Committee on ceasefire and the role of international observers in the ceasefire agreement, he added.

KNPP also proposed to hold an official meeting in Loikaw, the

capital city of Kayah State.

KNPP signed the state-level bilateral agreement six years ago. Yesterday's meeting is the first ever meeting between KNPP and the new government.

The official meeting is expected to be held in late March or early April.

Yesterday's meeting was attended by Dr. Tin Myo Win, Chairman of the Peace Commission, Vice Chairman U Thein Zaw, Secretary Lt Gen Khin Zaw Oo (Ret), Lt-Gen Than Tun Oo and officials of the Peace Commission while KNPP delegation was led by Khu Oo Reh.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Nationwide matric exams begin

Matriculation exams began all across Myanmar yesterday and Maungtaw, Rakhine State also peacefully participated with other States and Regions.

More than 788,000 students registered to take the matriculation exams which began yesterday. In Yangon Region, more than 111,800 students registered for the exam.

Maungtaw District Deputy Commissioner U Ye Htut inspected the three examination centers in Maungtaw Township and met with the township Education Officer to discuss plans in place for smooth matriculation exams for students.

U Khin Aung, the township education officer, said that a total of 78 per cent of students in the township have taken the



Students return home following the end of the first day of matriculation examination in Maungtaw. PHOTO: RAMANYA

first day of the exams while the rest of the students have not. Last year, over 2,000 students signed up for the matriculation exams but only 1,200 students actually took the exams while

700 neglected to participate. Even though not a lot of students participated this year the number is a significant increase from last year.—Hein Htet Zaw ■

19th ASEAN-COCI successfully held in Yangon



The second day meeting of the 19th ASEAN-COCI Subcommittee on Information Meeting held at Sky Star Hotel in Yangon yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

THE second day meeting of the 19th ASEAN-COCI Subcommittee on Information Meeting was held at Sky Star Hotel in Yangon yesterday morning.

Chairpersons and members of the Subcommittees on Information from respective ASEAN countries, departmental heads and producers and officials from ASEAN Internal Affairs attended the meeting.

The participants discussed issues on the Information sector for the upcoming 20th ASEAN-COCI Subcommittee on Information Meeting that will be held in the Philippines, funds for

ASEAN's Culture, and exchanging colorful and educated ASEAN TV programmes for showing to each ASEAN country in turn were discussed.

After the meeting, Chairpersons and representatives from ASEAN-COCI visited the Myanmar Gems Museum on Kabar Aye Pagoda Road, the Secretariat on Theinphyu Road and then they visited Shwedagon Pagoda.

As the meeting was successfully finished, chairpersons and representatives will go back home today.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Women blazing a trail in 'men's jobs'

PARIS — In the ring, battling flames or lifting off into space, women have entered professions generally considered to be men's jobs.

For International Women's Day on March 8, AFP Photo and AFPTV met some 20 women breaking down the barriers of gender bias in the world of work.

Here are profiles of three women trailblazers around the globe:

- Firefighter in Turkey -

"In the beginning, my family told me: 'Stop, you won't succeed, this is a job for men'," says Devrim Ozdemir, who did not heed the advice. In 2008, she became one of the first women to put on a firefighter's uniform in Turkey.

"Today, everyone supports me, they have confidence in me," says the 37-year-old. Assigned to a

fire and rescue brigade in the western city of Izmir, she has started a trend. Now there are 51 women firefighters, though they are still a small portion of the 1,200-strong force.

"Today I am a firefighter who stands beside people in their difficult times," she says, of her motivation.

And sometimes the firefighting itself can be physically tough.

"It has been difficult at times, for example on interventions that require physical strength. I also faced challenges in carrying all our equipment, but apart from that, I never had any trouble."

Ozdemir encourages young women to persevere in the male-dominated profession and points out that there is pay equality.

"For me it is important, we could have re-



Devrim Ozdemir, one of the first women firefighters in Turkey, has inspired 50 other women to join the Izmir brigade. **PHOTO: AFP**

ceived less money for the same job, but no, we have the same salary."

Her enthusiasm, determination and pride in her profession also inspires youngsters, like her six-year-old son — instead of reading him bedtime stories she tells him about her work.

"I'm a heroine to my son, it's an incredible feeling," she says, smiling, and

adding proudly: "He, too, wants to become a firefighter."

- South African fighter -

As the first woman amateur champion in mixed martial arts (MMA) in South Africa, Shana Power defies the stereotypes about women in a combat sport with her ferocity in the ring. She was nicknamed "Titanium".

Born in Johannes-

burg, the 25-year-old blonde was first attracted to MMA by such star fighters as American Holly Holm and wanted to do the same in her homeland.

"When I was growing up I was very athletic, I've always been sporty. So I understood that the mind then your body will be an unstoppable force."

Power says she was supported by the people who trained her in MMA and now trains and inspires others herself.

"In my profession I've actually been quite fortunate. I haven't faced many challenges, for example, being a woman in a male-dominated sport. I've actually had a lot of positives from it."

Except perhaps for the money.

"I don't think we get offered the same," admits the champion, now a MMA professional. But she adds that "in terms of the personal training and coaching, yes," it's the same as for men.

- US astronaut -

"I was 10 years old when Apollo 11 landed on the moon and that was my 'aha' moment as I like to say.

"I looked at Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin walking on the moon and thought that's what I want to do when I grow up: 'I'm gonna be an astronaut and I am gonna fly in space,'" says Wendy Lawrence, 58, a former NASA astronaut.

A trained Navy helicopter pilot, she realised her dream becoming an astronaut with four flights onboard a NASA space shuttle between 1995 and 2005.—AFP ■

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V KOTA HASIL VOY. NO. ()

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V KOTA HASIL VOY. NO. () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 8-3-2018 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 ADVANCE CONTAINER
LINES**

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V ORIENTAL SKY

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V ORIENTAL SKY are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 8-3-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MIPL where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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AGENT FOR: M/S RK SHIPPING &
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Phone No: 2301928



The rearmament of Russian missile formations with Iskander-M systems continues as planned. **PHOTO: TASS**

Russia's Iskander-M to remain unmatched until at least 2025 — official

MOSCOW — Other countries will not be able to design a rival to Russia's Iskander-M mobile short-range ballistic missile systems before 2025, Russian Ground Forces Commander-in-Chief Col Gen Oleg Salyukov told the Russian Defence Ministry's official Krasnaya Zvezda daily on

Wednesday.

"According to designers, foreign states will be able to create its counterpart no earlier than in 2025," Salyukov said.

According to the official, the rearmament of Russian missile formations with Iskander-M missile systems continues as

planned. Iskander tactical ballistic missile systems are capable of hitting both small-size and large-area targets at a distance of up to 500 km to destroy missile and multiple launch rocket systems, long-range artillery guns, aircraft and helicopters at aerodromes, command

posts and communications centres.

The Iskander tactical ballistic missile complex includes a launcher, a loader-transporter, a routine maintenance vehicle, a command post vehicle, an information post, an ammunition equipment set and training aids.—Tass ■

Genetic tweak makes plants use 25% less water

LONDON—Researchers on Tuesday unveiled a genetic modification that enables plants to use a quarter less water with scant reduction in yield.

By altering a single gene, scientists coaxed tobacco plants — a model crop often used in experiments — to grow to near normal size with only 75 per cent of the water they usually require.

If major food crops respond the same way, they said, the first-of-its-kind genetic “hack” could help feed the growing population of an increasingly water-starved world.

“This is a major breakthrough,” said senior author Stephen Long, a professor at the Institute of plant biology at the University of Illinois.

“When water is limited, these modified plants will grow faster and yield more.”

The findings were reported in the journal *Nature Communications*.

Today, 1.2 billion people live in regions where water is scarce, and four billion — two-thirds of humanity — experience scarcity at least one month every year.

By 2030, the planet will face a 40 per cent water deficit if global warming continues at its current pace, according to the UN World Water Development report.

Agriculture guzzles three-quarters of all groundwater withdrawals — 90 per cent in poor countries.

“Making crop plants more water-use efficient is arguably the greatest challenge for current and future plant scientists,” said lead author Johannes Kromdijk, also from the University of Illinois. Long and his team tweaked the gene that codes a protein — known as PsbS — crucial to photosynthesis, the process by which plants convert light into nutrients.

PsbS plays a key role in relaying information about the quantity of daylight, which triggers the opening and closing of microscopic leaf pores called stomata.

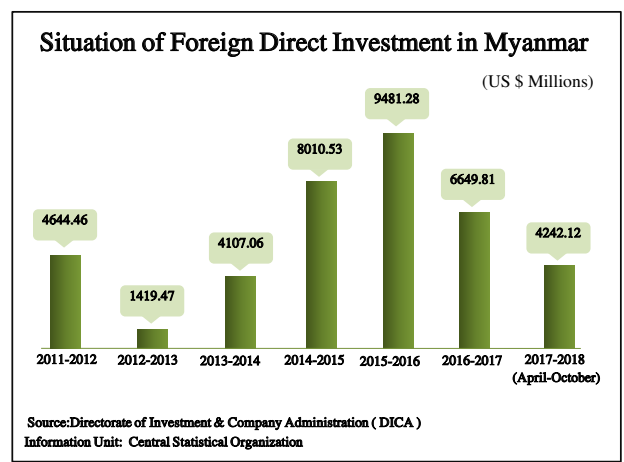
-Some help from global warming -

When stomata are open, plants can absorb the CO2 needed for photosynthesis.

At the same time, however, water also escapes into the air.

In the genetically engineered plants, increased levels of PsbS caused the tiny leaf pores to close earlier than they normally would, allowing the plant to retain more precious liquid.

Ironically, this gain in water storage is only made possible by global warming, which has increased the concentration of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere by about 25 per cent since 1950. In the experiments, the tobacco plants could take in enough CO2 — despite the stomata’s shortened work day — because of this higher concentration.—AFP



REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT CONSULTANT

C4-CS3

INDIVIDUAL CONSULTANT

Client: Yangon City Development Committee (YCDC)
Country: Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Project: Myanmar Southeast Asia Disaster Risk Management Project
Loan No. 60800-MM
Assignment Title: International Financial Management Consultant
Reference No. (as per Procurement Plan): C4-CS3

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar has received financing from the International Development Association (IDA) in the form of a loan toward the cost of Myanmar Southeast Asia Disaster Risk Management Project. The Yangon City Development Committee (YCDC), an implementing agency for the Project, intends to apply a portion of the proceeds of this loan for Consulting Services.

YCDC wishes to invite eligible Individual Consultant to express his/her interest in providing his/her services as International Financial Management Consultant.

The International Financial Management Consultant shall be responsible for inter alia: i) Assisting the Project to set up internal control system (including recording, funds flow, reporting) for the Financial Management; ii) Review, including identification of an accounting software will be suitable for the project. If so, work closely/co-ordinate with Finance team at relevant implementing agencies identify project requirements and needs, to design appropriate chart of accounts and reporting format to ensure the project’s financial reporting requirements/needs are met iii) Supervise and undertake on-the-job training and allocation of works for finance/accounting staff. The Consultant should carry out training need assessments of the capacity of the government finance staff working on the project. Prepare an annual capacity building plan and provide trainings including formal on-the-job training; iv) Prepare /revise financial management manuals, including revising all forms when required.

It is envisaged that the services will be carried out as short term assignments (total duration: estimation 180 days) over a period of one year and renewable for a further year subject to satisfactory performance.

YCDC now invites eligible Individual Consultant to indicate his/her interest in providing the Services. Interested individual consultant must provide information indicating that he/she is qualified to perform the services: Curriculum Vitae (should include a description of education and general qualifications, similar assignments, experience in similar conditions etc. and the names, business contacts and email addresses of three referees).

The successful candidate must have (Essential Qualifications and Knowledge/Experience): 1) At least a Master degree in accounting, finance or relevant field or holding recognized accounting professional qualifications (CA, CPA, ACCA) is preferable; 2) At least 10 years of professional experience in accounting, development project accounting in donor-financed projects, with major development partners or international non-governmental organizations; 3) Experience in setting , using and training computerized accounting software; 4) Previous experience in conducting similar assignment within Asia and other regions ; 5) Must have excellent communication and inter personal skill with gender sensitivity, respect for local culture and result oriented attitude.

The attention of interested Consultants is drawn to paragraph 1.9 of the World Bank’s *Guidelines: Selection and Employment of Consultants under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits & Grants by World Bank Borrowers* January 2011, revised July 2014 (“Consultant Guidelines”), setting forth the World Bank’s policy on conflict of interest.

A Consultant will be selected in accordance with the Individual Consultant Selection method set out in the Consultant Guidelines.

Further information can be obtained at the address below during office hours [9.30a.m to 4.30p.m, Monday to Friday].

Expressions of interest must be delivered in a written form to the address below (in person, or by mail, or by fax, or by e-mail) by 21st, March, 2018 before 3:00 pm.

Yangon City Hall
Contact Person: U Aung Kyaw Thu
1st Floor, Yangon City Hall,
Kyauktada Township, Yangon,
Republic of the Union of Myanmar.
Tel: ++ 951388732
Fax No. : 951388732
E-mail: ycdcdba@gmail.com

circulation@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

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Bezos sailed past Gates to top the Forbes billionaires list for the first time. PHOTO: AFP

Bezos tops Forbes world's rich list as Trump wealth drops

PARIS — Amazon chief Jeff Bezos is now the world's richest person, having snatched the top spot from Microsoft founder Bill Gates who slips to second place, according to Forbes magazine's annual billionaires list published on Tuesday.

US President Donald Trump's ranking on the list fell to 766th place from 544th in the last edition, his wealth now being estimated at \$3.1 billion, \$400 million less than a year ago.

Bezos' fortune shot up to \$112 billion, Forbes said, after a 59-per cent rise in Amazon shares over the past 12 months that put him way ahead of the \$90 billion listed for Gates.

After the announcement, Bezos' worth rocketed again to \$127 billion in line with a spike in Amazon stock, widening the gap between him and Gates.

Legendary investor Warren Buffett held on to his number-three ranking, followed by French industrialist Bernard Arnault, who jumped to

fourth-richest person from his previous number 11 spot, mostly thanks to euro strength against the dollar, the magazine said.

Facebook's Mark Zuckerberg was fifth on the list.

Two Chinese billionaires rose to be among the 20 richest people in the world: Ma Huateng, CEO of Chinese internet giant Tencent who is the richest person in Asia and number 17 in the world, and Alibaba founder Jack Ma. There are now a record 2,208 billionaires in the world, Forbes counted, and their combined worth is \$9.1 trillion, up 18 per cent from last year. The US has the most billionaires (585), followed by mainland China (373).

Forbes' list contains 259 newcomers, including the first-ever cryptocurrency billionaires. Falling fortunes or political headwinds, meanwhile, pushed 121 people out of the illustrious list, including all 10 Saudi Arabians, the magazine said.—AFP ■

UK video game industry, home of Lara Croft, fights gender imbalance

LONDON — Giving life to a black elf in a fantasy video game, softly spoken schoolgirl Hannah leans into the microphone to deliver an ominous warning: "This world, and everything in it, will burn!"

With seven other schoolgirls, the 13-year-old is learning the tricks of the gamer trade as part of an initiative to encourage more girls to enter the industry.

For the past three years Creative Assembly, one of Britain's largest video game developers, has hosted girl-only workshops at its offices in Horsham, South London.

"We encounter a lot of feedback from school students and parents," said Jodie Azhar, lead technical artist on "Total War: Warhammer", the studio's flagship series.

"We want to address these misconceptions such as 'it's easier for men to find jobs than it is for women in this industry' and 'my mom tells me to get a real job.'"

With her rectangular glass-

es and red highlights, Azhar knows as a young female that she is an exception in Britain's video game industry.

According to a 2016 study, women fill only 19 per cent of jobs, despite the fact that women make up half of British gamers.

"In that 19 per cent, how many of those women are actually making games?" asked Marie Claire Isaaman, president of the "Women in Games" group, which seeks to increase female representation.

"If I look to a range of other data, most women aren't making games," she added. "So you have all male team(s) developing female characters. That can be a big problem."

-Gamergate and Lara Croft-

For Azhar, this shortage is primarily linked to education.

"I think the biggest issue with women getting in the industry comes from a school age," she told AFP.

"Although I loved playing video games, I didn't realise that

making them could be a professional career. At school, I never got told about these jobs."

Much of the disparity can be traced back to a supply shortage, with fewer girls choosing to study STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) subjects, according to Richard Wilson, head of the Independent Video Game Developers' Association in the UK.

Studios "can actively go out and try to encourage more women to get a career in the video games industry," he suggested.

Part of the imbalance has also been ascribed to negative attitudes within the video game world, claims that boiled over in 2014 with the so-called "Gamergate" incident.

The row centred on accusations that journalists were artificially boosting games created by female developers, but soon took a dark turn with death and rape threats levelled against independent developer Zoe Quinn.

On the flip side, studios now appear less hesitant to cast women as main characters, such as in recent releases "Horizon: Zero Dawn" and "Uncharted: The Lost Legacy".

In recent years, more and more women have also joined development teams.

And the sector is booming: the UK has more than 2,000 studios, employing around 13,000 people, and the industry grew by 7 per cent in 2017.

The country boasts some of the industry's most prestigious names, such as the Rockstar North studio in Scotland, creator of the "Grand Theft Auto" series, and London's Rocksteady.—AFP ■



Cosplayers wearing costumes of Lara Croft and a Star Wars' stormtrooper. Lara Croft is a popular video game character but now the UK industry is seeking to redress the gender imbalance among game developers. PHOTO: AFP

Richa Chadha to play adult film star Shakeela in biopic

MUMBAI — Actress Richa Chadha will play the role of real-life adult film star Shakeela in her biopic which will be directed by Indrajit Lankesh.

Shakeela is one of the biggest stars of the 90s from Kerala and has acted in several adult films in languages spanning Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam and Kannada.

The film will go on floors

next month and will chronicle the life of Shakeela who entered the film business at the age of 16 and traces her life journey from there.

"The film is the story of Shakeela, one of the most famous actors from Malayalam cinema from the 90s who rose to a spectacular amount of fame. Her fans were spread across Asia and she earned fanfare as

a woman which back then was unheard of," said a spokesperson for Richa.

"The film's script was exciting and is a great story to tell and the story will make for a great watch for the audience.

The preparations will begin soon and the film should be going on floors in end April or May," he added.—PTI ■



Actress Richa Chadha. PHOTO: PTI



Futuristic floating spherical capsule hotels are unveiled to the press at the Huis Ten Bosch theme park in Nagasaki Prefecture, southwestern Japan on 6 March, 2018, ahead of the official launch. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**

Theme park Huis Ten Bosch unveils floating capsule hotel

NAGASAKI — A futuristic floating capsule hotel was unveiled to the press on Tuesday ahead of its official launch at the Huis Ten Bosch theme park in southwestern Japan.

Huis Ten Bosch Co, the operator of the Dutch-themed attraction in the southwestern Japan prefecture of Nagasaki, will start trials of the spherical capsule this month with an eye to beginning the service this sum-

mer. The company plans to have a ship tow the hotel between the theme park and a nearby island.

One floating capsule can accommodate two or three persons, with its first floor designed as an accommodation cabin and second floor an observation dome.

In a programme planned by the operator, visitors will check in at the Huis Ten Bosch resort and get on the capsule to travel to

an uninhabited island in Omura Bay alongside the city of Saikai.

Huis Ten Bosch President Hideo Sawada told a press conference, “We can make more improvements.

We will upgrade designs and functions from now on.” On the island, the company is planning to open a new facility where visitors can fight dinosaurs in an augmented-reality game. —Kyodo News ■

Einstein letter fetches \$100,000 at Jerusalem auction

JERUSALEM — A letter penned by legendary physicist Albert Einstein discussing one of his groundbreaking theories sold in Jerusalem on Tuesday for over \$100,000 as part of a trove of documents that went under the hammer.

The handwritten missive,

sent in 1928 by Einstein from Berlin to a mathematician about the formalisation of the “Third Stage of the Theory of Relativity”, was snapped up by an anonymous buyer for \$103,700 (83,600 euros). The letter was written during one of the “most exciting, feverish periods of Einstein’s scientific ca-

reer” as he worked to hammer out one of the major scientific breakthroughs of the last century, auction house Winner’s said.

It included a second note jotted by Einstein on the back of the envelope refining his thinking.

The sum — while large — pales in comparison to the \$1.56 million that one purchaser paid for a letter from Einstein on the secret of happiness at a Jerusalem auction in October after it was initially valued at some \$8,000. Among Tuesday’s other lots were letters and photographs relating to the winner of the 1921 Nobel Prize in physics that also sold for several thousand dollars.

Winner’s boss Gal Wiener told AFP that the trove “reveals the complex character of the great scientist”. German-born Einstein served as a non-resident governor of Jerusalem’s Hebrew University up to his death. —AFP ■



A picture taken on 6 March, 2018 in Jerusalem shows an auctioneer holding up a letter by Nobel Prize-winning physicist Albert Einstein dated 1928 concerning the formalisation of the “Third Stage of the Theory of Relativity” that sold for \$103,700. **PHOTO: AFP**

Oldest message in a bottle found at remote Australian beach

SYDNEY — A message in a bottle written 132 years ago and found on an Australian beach by a group of walkers including the parents of Formula One star Daniel Ricciardo has been verified as the world’s oldest known missive of its kind.

The rectangular bottle was discovered half-buried in sand dunes near Wedge Island, some 160 kilometres (99 miles) north of Perth, in January.

It took weeks of sleuthing using Google Translate, online research and archival digging before the unusual find was confirmed as an authentic bottle thrown from a German ship into the Indian Ocean.

The group of six had been driving through the remote west-coast dunes when Grace Ricciardo suggested they stop to take a walk, Kym Illman told AFP on Wednesday.

His wife Tonya accompanied her and spotted the object, thinking it was rubbish.

“She thought, “That looks nice, that’ll look good on my bookshelf”,” he said.

The group thought they might have picked up something special when they shook the bottle and a damp, rolled-up parchment that looked like a cigarette fell out.

Returning to their nearby holiday home, they opened the note after warming it briefly in an oven.

Illman used his knowledge of basic German to decipher instructions asking the finder to send details of where and when the bottle was found.

Using Google Translate to understand the rest of the text, Illman realised they might be the first people to read the note — if it was authentic — since

12 June, 1886, according to the date written on it.

The discovery led Illman to plunge into weeks of research and discussions with museums, before settling on the theory it might be a 19th century Dutch gin bottle thrown from the German sailing barque Paula some 950 kilometres from the West Australian coast.

It was one of thousands of bottles used in a long-term German oceanographic experiment to better understand global ocean currents and find faster, more efficient shipping routes, the Western Australian Museum said.

“Extraordinary finds need extraordinary evidence to support them, so we contacted colleagues in the Netherlands and Germany for help to find more information,” the museum’s assistant curator for maritime archaeology Ross Anderson said in a statement.

“Incredibly, an archival search in Germany found Paula’s original Meteorological Journal and there was an entry for 12 June 1886 made by the captain, recording a drift bottle having been thrown overboard.

“The date and the coordinates correspond exactly with those on the bottle message.”

The museum said Germany’s Federal Maritime and Hydrographic Agency and National Meteorological Service had verified the find as authentic, with the bottle to go on display at the WA Maritime Museum in Fremantle.

The previous oldest known message in a bottle was found in Germany 108 years and 138 days after it was thrown into the North Sea by a marine biologist in 1906.—AFP ■



It took weeks of sleuthing to verify the unusual find as the world’s oldest known message in a bottle. **PHOTO: AFP**

Yangon United trounces Global Cebu in 2018 AFC tourney

Kyaw Zin Lin

YANGON United won its third match in a row in their AFC Cup 2018 (Group-G) play with a convincing 3-0 win over Global Cebu with goals by Mg Mg Lwin and Sekou Sylla at Thuwunna Stadium in Yangon yesterday.

In the early minutes of the match, Global Cebu, a team from the Philippines, put pressure on Yangon, who responded with a stable defending style and an attack of their own.

At the 23-minute mark, Yangon's Sylla attempted to score, but his kick was over the net. In extra time, Yangon United earned a foul ball and Mg Mg Lwin kicked a nice shot into the net from 18 yards out. The first half ended with Yangon United leading 1-0.

In the second half, Yangon again went on the offensive. The second goal of the match was scored by Sylla at 47 minutes when he headed the ball into the net with an assist from Mg Mg Lwin.

A few minutes after the goal, there was another great chance for Yangon.

At the 57-minute mark,



Yangon's star player Mg Mg Lwin poised to kick the ball in yesterday's AFC Group G match against Global Cebu FC at Thuwunna Stadium. **PHOTO:YUFC**

Sylla shot the ball from nearly midfield, a distance of nearly 18 yards. The ball entered the net past the right side of the opponents' goalie.

Yangon United defender Thein Zaw received a red card

for aggressive play in the late minutes of the second half. Soon after, Marco Casambre from Global Cebu also received a red card for aggressive play. From then on, the match was played with 10 players on each side.

Yangon United now tops Group G with 9 points from 3 wins and no losses.

On 13 March, Yangon will play against Global Cebu, this time on their home field in the Philippines. ■

Summer football course for children

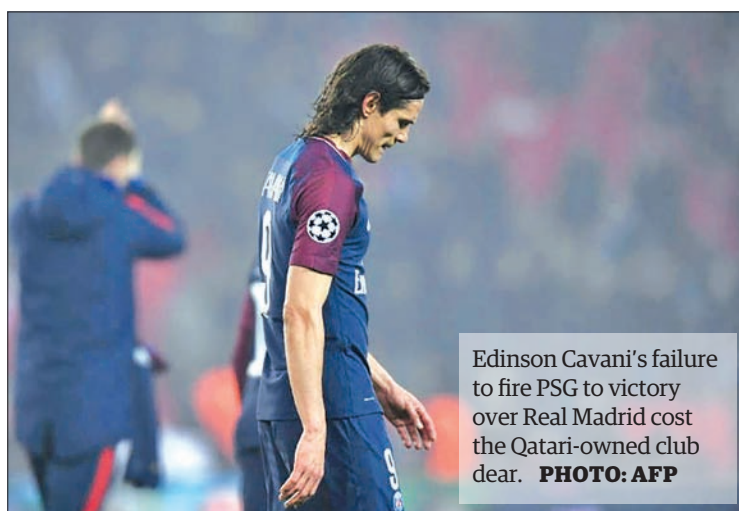
Under the supervision of the Myanmar Football Federation (MFF), a month-long football course for children under the age of 18 was launched on the morning of 5 March on the artificial turf of Thuwunna Stadium in Yangon. There were over 400 girls and boys not only from the Yangon Region but also from Regions and States across Myanmar, said an official from the MFF. The courses are very convenient to attend as they were arranged to be held in the long summer holidays for all school students, said U Mya Kyi Thar Aye, a parent of a children who is undergoing the training programme. The course is being conducted and headed by qualified football coaches including U Nyi Nyi Latt, the Myanmar U-16 national team head coach, along with AFC licensed qualified coaches from the MFF and Myanmar National League. Old Myanmar footballers including Than Toe Aung, Kyi Lwin, Myo Hlaing Win, Win Aung, Tin Myint Aung, Aung Kyaw Kyaw, Thann Wai, Aye Sann, Yar Zar Win Thein will also show their brilliant football skills to kids for part of the time, an official added. All the children who pass the training courses will be given certificates and the course will be conducted until 5 April.—Kyaw Zin Lin ■

Where did it go wrong for PSG in the Champions League?

PARIS — Paris Saint-Germain invested 400 million euros (\$496 million) this summer to try to buy European supremacy, only to crash out of the Champions League at the same last-16 stage as last season.

AFP Sport looks at where it went wrong for the Qatari-owned club as they were eliminated 5-2 on aggregate by defending champions Real Madrid on Tuesday: Neymar's broken foot bone

The absence of Neymar, PSG's main potential matchwinner, weighed heavily on a team that looked short on attacking ideas without the Brazilian magician waving his wand. When PSG needed him most, and in exactly the match he was bought to win, the 222-million-euro man was in Brazil recovering from a



Edinson Cavani's failure to fire PSG to victory over Real Madrid cost the Qatari-owned club dear. **PHOTO: AFP**

foot operation.

Cavani shoots blanks

Edinson Cavani became PSG's all-time top scorer this season, but against Real Madrid the Uruguayan was toothless, with just a lucky bounce off his knee earning him a place on the scoresheet at the Parc des Princ-

es. When his personal goal tally is measured against Cristiano Ronaldo, the score over the two legs was 3-1 to the Portuguese World Player of the Year.

Lack of experience

In 2017, PSG blew a 4-0 lead from the first leg against Barcelona as they capitulated

spectacularly in the Camp Nou, losing 6-1. This year they conceded two goals in Madrid when they had seemingly been heading for a 1-1 draw that would have given them a springboard for a second-leg victory. The man who will inevitably wield the axe after the latest failure, club president Nasser Al-Khelaifi, did not mince his words: "We know that Real have a lot of experience. We didn't do what we needed to do to win." Real have won 12 European crowns, Barcelona five, while PSG have never reached the final — and it shows.

Seeing red

The tie was probably getting away from PSG anyway, but Marco Verratti's disastrous sending-off sealed their fate. The Italian midfielder's talent has never been in question, but his temper-

ament is seriously suspect. After already earning a first yellow card earlier in the match, he felt he was fouled and charged at German referee Felix Brych to protest. The red card was produced without hesitation, summing up a PSG performance that was at times ragged and ill-disciplined.

That man Ronaldo

Cristiano Ronaldo was showing signs of age earlier in the season. Was the glorious reign finally over? He made nonsense of that question with two strikes in the Bernabeu to earn Real a 3-1 first-leg win. The header to open the scores in Paris was his 117th Champions League goal, extending a remarkable record. Any of Real's quarter-final opponents who write off the 33-year-old will do so at their peril.—AFP ■