President U Htin Kyaw, Japanese PM hold talks

President U Htin Kyaw and Japanese Prime Minister Mr. Shinzo Abe held a meeting yesterday in Tokyo, with Japan’s support for the efforts of the Myanmar government and State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi’s plans for improvement of Maungtaw in Rakhine State discussed.

Before the meeting, President U Htin Kyaw received a ceremonial welcome at the Prime Minister’s Office in Tokyo. At the meeting, the Japanese government affirmed its fresh support of 800 billion yen for Myanmar’s infrastructure development.

“With 800 billion yen supported by Japanese government, Myanmar would promote the development of Yangon, basic infrastructure, transport and electricity sector in the city,” said President U Htin Kyaw at the press conference held following the meeting.

SEE PAGE-3

Myanmar soon to be prepared for quakes

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

At the meeting, the Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, Dr. Win Myat Aye delivered an opening speech, saying that the effect of climate change is seen increasing every day. Myanmar was faced with natural disasters in 2015 and 2016, and incurred much damage and losses. In addition to threats from natural disasters due to its geographical location, the danger of earthquakes and tsunamis should not be forgotten. Myanmar is located on the Alpine fault line, which runs from the extreme northern portion of the country to the Bay of Moattama in the south. Most of the country’s regions sit along the earthquake fault lines and, according to seismologists and geologists, People living in the coastal area of Myanmar also need to be aware of the danger of tsunamis, which could occur along with an earthquake.

SEE PAGE-11

PHOTO: MNA

President U Htin Kyaw (L), is welcomed by Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe at the prime minister’s office in Tokyo yesterday.
Vice President U Myint Swe delivers speech at successful completion of nationwide census

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

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

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

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

In the 2014 census, many internationally recognized statisticians, population experts and social scientists provided suggestions, which is in accord with international standards. Their help was very much appreciated, said the Vice President.

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

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

The 2014 census was a valuable investment for Myanmar and international organisations, as well as supporting the establishment of a democratic system and increasing the capacity of organisations and individuals for progress in the development process. As exact and correct data were made available in a timely manner, information obtained from daily work is urged to be used for the best benefits.

The government will continue to work toward publishing the remaining data from ethnicity lists in the census. Furthermore, as per the suggestion of the United Nations, preparations are being made to conduct the census once every ten years.

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

The Vice President then announced the successful completion of the population and household census work, and proclaimed the availability of reports simultaneously to data users country-wide and throughout the world.

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

Afterwards the usefulness of census data was discussed by Ministry of Planning and Finance Permanent Secretary U Tun Tun Naing and Dr. Zaw Moe Aung of the Leprosy Mission Myanmar.

Discussions on the census works process was then continued, and will be conducted until 15 December.

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

— Myanmar News Agency ■

Singapore delivers humanitarian aid to Rakhine State people

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

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

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

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

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

“The aid donated today will be sent immediately to Rakhine State. Once it is there, relevant organisations, including the Rakhine State government, will deliver it to local people who are in need. Where the earlier donations were being delivered was also being told to the respective donors. The current donations will be sent directly to the people as soon as possible,” said RRD Director General Dr. Ko Ko Naing.

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

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

—Zaw Gyi ■
President U Htin Kyaw reaffirms Myanmar’s commitment to Universal Health Coverage

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

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

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

Underlying the critical role of health sector in our nation-building efforts, key stakeholders including the government, ethnic nationalities, civil society, private sector, and development partners, jointly formulated the National Health Plan (2017-2021) with an overall aim of achieving the UHC by 2030, he added.

“Given our financial and technical constraints, we have identified key strategic areas to focus on our first steps towards the UHC, namely: defining the content and delivering an essential package of health services; developing a national health financing strategy; and strengthening functions of the health system to be able to provide quality services,” said the President.

President U Htin Kyaw also urged like-minded partners from within and outside of Myanmar to cooperate closely to overcome the challenges the country is facing. “Myanmar, being an emerging democratic and developing country, is facing a variety of challenges from all aspects such as political, economic and social. We consider the challenges as opportunities,” said U Htin Kyaw.

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

The President said Myanmar’s progress so far could not have been achieved without the help of Japan. “The Government of Myanmar thanks the Government of Japan for their contribution on our way towards UHC. The Government of Japan’s continuous support to the Myanmar health sector has dated back to the seventies. With the support of the Government of Japan, officials from Myanmar Ministry of Health and Sports have had the privilege of accessing state-of-the-art knowledge in many Japanese institutions.— Myanmar News Agency”

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

State Counsellor receives UNSG’s representative

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

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

President U Htin Kyaw, Japanese PM... FROM PAGE 1

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

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

Prime Minister Mr. Abe reaffirmed Japan’s stance to support Myanmar’s democratic transition, reforms and peace process. Mr. Abe vowed to cooperate in building infrastructure in the state such as constructing roads and schools and electrification financed by Japanese loans and grant aid which Tokyo already announced it would provide to Myanmar.—MNA
Third day of 2017 Mid-Year Myanmar Jade and Gems Emporium

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

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

During the 2017 Mid-Year Myanmar jade and Gems Emporium, 190 gem lots will be sold under an open tender system on 15 December. The schedule for the sales of lots includes 16 December jade lot no. 1 to 1150, on 17 December jade lot no. 1151 to 2300, on 18 December jade lot no. 2301 to 3450, on 19 December jade lot no. 3451 to 4600, on 20 December jade lot no. 4601 to 5750 and on 20 December jade lot no. 5751 to 6685 will be sold under an open tender system.

The jade lots displayed are uncut and can be made into jade ornaments. The prices with which the merchants buy these jade lots could not be the same. The jade lots are bought according to the price expected to be fetched when it is sold as finished jade products. That is why it is best to use an open tender system”, said U Than Zaw Oo, Deputy Director of Myanmar Gems Enterprise.

— Myan News Agency

Rubber latex training to prevent shortage of skilled labours

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

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

“Kayin State is a farming state. It has a favorable climate and environment for growing crops, especially rice, rubber and other edible oil crops. Last year, rubber plantations produced 722 pound per acre. To be able to produce more rubber, our department is providing the technical assistance to grow good-quality rubber in suitable weather conditions, to latex rubber systematically and to produce Ribbed Smoked Sheet (RSS) rubbers,” said Daw Naw Thu Lay Htee, the head of the Kawkareik District Agriculture Department.

At the opening ceremony for the training, U Thin Maung Win, the administrator of Kawkareik District, delivered the opening speech. Following this, Daw Naw Thu Lay Htee, the head of the Department, and U Win Zaw, an agricultural expert, explained the techniques used in rubber plantation.

Kawkareik District has 132,804 acres of rubber plantations. The training is being provided to the rubber plantation owners and labourers, in a bid to systematically produce rubber latex.— Nay Myo Lwin

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

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

A project for food security using innovative practices is being carried out by the Magway Region Agriculture Department under the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation in cooperation with the Network Activities Group (NAG). This project covers 50 villages in Minhla, Minbu, Magway and Natmauk townships. A total of 865 farmers from those villages participated in the projects by planting 3,094 acres of black sesame seeds to yield quality sesame seeds that are free from chemical residue.

NAG is an agency of the Food Security Working Group that is financially supported by the European Commission. Upon passing the quality requirements for of sesame, more than 4,000 baskets of sesame seeds were exported to Japan.

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

Green grams are also planned to be cultivated under GAP and 600 acres are slated for this project in Yetwinkon, Chaunggyu, Mnahtauk, Theekon and Kyunbya villages in Minbu Township. The Agriculture Department will make efforts to export green grams produced from those project farms to European Union countries in cooperation with NGOs and farmers, said an official from the Agriculture Department.

About 73 per cent of agricultural land in Magway Region is used for crop cultivation. Twenty-nine per cent of planted areas are set aside for edible oil crops.— Phoe Pyae (Minbu)
Domestic gasoline consumption rises by six fold in past five years

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

In the past five years, about 290,000 gallons of gasoline were distributed daily. At present, consumer demand has reached some 1 to 1.2 million gallons per day. Diesel consumption this year slightly declined, compared to last year, said Dr. Win Myint.

Ninety per cent of fuel oil consumption depends on the import market, whereas the remaining fuel comes from local production. Fuel oil is primarily imported through Singapore, and it also flows from Malaysia. Fuel oil imports are approximately 200,000–400,000 tons per month.

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

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

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

US dollar exchange rate rising on demand from traders

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

Also, petrol importers are reportedly buying dollars. The US FX rate has been hovering around Ks1,358.9 in recent days. On 14th December, the dollar selling price was Ks1,359, while the buying price was Ks1,357, according to money exchange counters.

The Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) set the exchange rate at Ks1,363 per dollar.

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

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

Rice exports this FY exceed target

By May Thet Hnin

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

“Rice is much in demand in the market, added officials report that 60 per cent of rice exports went to China’s market, along with 44 countries. Myanmar’s rice, unlike in previous years. At the new harvest time, broken rice export-led growth strategies”, said U Ye Min Aung.

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

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

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

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

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

Rice exports through border gates in November double against October

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

Some 216,252 tons of rice, with an estimated value of US$596 million, was exported through border land crossings, whereas October witnessed over 109,265 tons of rice exported via border gates. Similarly, broken rice exports in November increased against October; with an export volume of 8,278 tons worth US$2.5 million.

Nevertheless, sea trade in November showed a decline of 28,877 tons against October. More than 39,280 tons of rice, worth $13.9 million, were exported to foreign trade partners, while 98,090 tons of rice were exported in October. Broken rice exports in November were down by 4,265, compared to October’s export volume. Last year; there were only 29 foreign rice buyer countries. Myanmar’s rice, however, is now shipped to 44 countries.—Ko Htet ■
MRF provides rice harvesters, dryers to Maungtaw, Buthidaung and Yathedaung

By Min Thit (MNA)

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

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

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

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

The MRF and MAPCO are using eight harvesters in Oo Daung, Aung Mingala, Ngwe Taung, Aung Zaya, Phawutchaung and Mawyawaddy villages in Maungtaw Township and 14 harvesters in Zediypin, Gwasaone, Auk Kyayung Taung, Thane Taung, Thamhla, Kyunupaw, Kalachaung and Htway Laung Tin villages in Yathedaung Township.

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

“There are 30 acres of rice fields. Because of the events in this region, farm workers became scarce, but the MRF came to help harvest with harvesters,” said Farmer U Maung Soe Win of Zediypin Village, Yathedaung Township.

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

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

“Rice mill machineries have already been sent. They were not installed yet because we are not ready. The construction will be completed during the open season” said U Ye Lin Aung of MAPCO.

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

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

Rice fields are being harvested by Myanmar Rice Federation in Maungtaw, Buthidaung and Yathedaung.
Myanmar Scout delegation attends 1st Solar Scout Jamboree Festival in Thailand

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

Supervised by National Scout Organization of Thailand, the festival was held at Va-jiravudh Camp.

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

Attended at the ceremony were Mr. Kongnut Phai Boon, in charge of Scouts Jamboree festival, Thailand scout organizations and over 15,000 youth scouts.

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

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

First Lady attends flower arrangement ceremony in Japan

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

—Myanmar News Agency
WATER is an essential element for life. Without water, we cannot survive. Many of the products that we use every day contain it or are manufactured using it. Only three per cent of the world’s water is fresh water, and 77 per cent of that is frozen. Of the 22 per cent that is not frozen, only half a per cent is available to supply every plant, animal and person on Earth with all the water they need to survive.

The third Asia-Pacific Water Summit was held in Yangon the other day with an opening speech by State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi. In her speech, the State Counsellor said that water demands in Myanmar have increased as populations and urbanization increased, whereas water demands have decreased in rural and mountainous regions. The counsellor also increased the need for expanded cultivation and other rural-based economic activities, adding food security is based on water and the availability of energy.

The State Counsellor also focused on the smooth functioning of our hydrological cycle, the water-energy-food ecosystem, which has been damaged at various forums in the country.

It is our firm belief that water is a fundamental requirement of all human beings, and nothing can be done without the participation of a person without it. Water is essential to improve overall wellbeing of families and communities, and to achieve eco-economic growth and prosperity that will benefit the whole region.

With this, we should be mindful that without water the country would not prosper as much as it should.

No one has a role to play in building a prosperous society. Good water supply and therefore, people need to be inculcated with the knowledge on water security. Now is the most opportune time for the countries in the region to actively participate in the fight against water-related issues.

— By Maung Mhditar

Invitation to young writers for Sunday section

The Global New Light of Myanmar is accepting submissions of poetry, opinion, articles, essays and short stories from young people for its weekly Sunday Young Generation Supplement. Interested candidates can send their works to the Global New Light of Myanmar at No. 235, 8th Street, Kyauk Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon or email toDigest@globalnewlightmyanmar.com with the following information:
- The name of the author (for all 18 years old and more)
- A photograph of the author
- (Myanmar) National identity card number
- A 200 word biographical sketch

All entries must be the original work of the writer and have not been previously published anywhere else.

The deadline for entries will be the 3rd of the previous month.

Shape our future, sculpt our figures

By Maung Mhditar

STILL remember events that took place in 1948 Myanmar saw ubiquitous fear and there across the world. It was none other than the campaign for taking census.

Taking census

To be exact, the campaign was launched on 30th March 2014 to 10th April, for 12 days. Under the scorching sun in mid-sum- mer, voluntary groups comprising of teachers, INPFA staff, supporting members of wards and village staff were door-to-door-data-collection members. By following this process of taking census were being done continuously—without any money, time and effort to initiate the census taking. It needs the participation of the whole popu- laces. For these reasons, even in this type of development, census-taking is launched once in every 10 years. Whatever it is, each and every country to take census.

Objective of taking census

Census taking helps draw- ing up national development policy, laying down policies and mechanisms, and project and analysis of performances for the develop- ments, home and abroad. Its main objective is to strictly acquire the accurate amount of labor forces and population for planning and drawing projects.

The process of taking census was launched in Myanmar was initiated by 4 steps. As the first step, prepara- tion was commenced in 2011, and it ended in March 2014, last step was to share experiences of census, to share experiences of census, to share experiences of census, which was opened in Nay Pyi Taw so that any dam- ages or mistakes cannot be done. As the Headquarter census questions to answers sent from all the regions were kept through the use of Optical Mark Recogni- tion (OMR)- machines provided by UNFPD and partner countries. Staff from BPSPO performed their duties around the clock in two shifts—day and night.

International藻nual

Concerning the census tak- ing, members of the international workshops acclaimed, putting it on the table that the Myanmar’s performances con- cerning the process of taking census across the world was marked as one of the cream de la cream. Thus, the Ministry of Planning, for taking census, for 30 years, Myanmar has shown its caliber to the world.

Declaration to make the world known to the campaign

On 20 May, the major re- port of Census, 2014 was officially published. The ceremony was attended by the President himself. According to the statistics, Myanmar’s population amount- ed to 51.48 million (to be exact, 51,486,253), which was Yangon, whereas the least was Rakhine. Per head of Myanmar’s population density was 514.8 per square kilometer, it was learnt.

70 percent of the national popula- tion is in urban areas, whereas the increasing rate of population growth was 2.2 percent per year from 2013 to 2014. As regards internal migration of people, it was greater than 60 percent of the foreign going population being hostile to, mostly in Thailand. Life expec- tancy is 68.5 years of age. 4.6 percent of the people have been disabled ones. 87 percent of the population sleeps dwelling places. Only 2 percent can use electricity for lighting. 97 per cent of the population have access to clean and wolfed for cooking. 39 percent of households take drinking water from tubes wells with 9 percent taking from pipe line, 4.8 percent from wells, 74 percents use standard toilets. 10 percent of the popula- tions have no latrines. 94 percent of the house-dwellers have TVs. 92 percent use mobile phones with 36 percent using bicycles and 9 percent owning mor- tor vehicles.

Research papers released

Every nation releases statis- tics once in 10 years. According to reports, Myanmar releases its population on every year based on the data received from the census. On 1st October 2017, there are 32,358,552 people in Myanmar. Nearly 2 million people increased in important years.

Those are issues such as addressing climate change, tackling existing ine- qualities and removing institutional obstacles to development, according to the World Economic Outlook and Prospects (WEO) report, released yesterday.

In 2017, world economic growth has reached 3 per cent—the highest growth since 2011—as crisis-related frictions and the adverse effects of other recent shocks waned. Across Asia, two-thirds of countries worldwide experiencing stronger growth than last year had been expected to remain steady at 2.1 per cent in 2018 and 2019. Against this backdrop, East and South Asia will remain the world’s most dynamic and fastest-growing regions.

In 2017, regional GDP expanded by 6.7 per cent, outpacing the rest of the world. Supported by growth in China, robust pri- vate consumption, higher exports and accommodative macroeco- nomic policies, the economy is projected in remain relatively at 5.1 per cent in 2018 and 5.3 per cent in 2019.

In 2017, China grew at a faster pace of 6.8 per cent, marking its fourth year of expansion at 6.7 per cent.

Looking ahead, growth is expected to remain solid, sup- ported by robust domestic demand and accommodative fiscal measures. The pace of growth, however, will moderate grad- ually to 5.3 per cent in 2018 and 5.3 per cent in 2019, in light of ongoing risks.

In South Asia, the economic outlook remains steady and downward pressure mostly from private consumption and sound macroeconomic policies. The positive outlook will contribute to further gradual progress in labour market indicators and a reduction in poverty. Monetary policy stances are moder- ately accommodative, while fiscal policies maintain a strong emphasis on infrastructure investment. Regional GDP growth is expected to strengthen to 5.3 per cent in 2018 and 7.0 per cent in 2019, after posting an estimated 6.3 per cent in 2017. Despite a slowdown observed in early 2017, the outlook for India remains positive, underpinned by strong private con- sumption, robust public investments and reforms.

GDP growth is projected to accelerate from 6.7 per cent in 2017 to 7.2 per cent in 2018 and 7.4 per cent in 2019. Yet, the anaemic performance of the largest economies in the region remains a key macroeco- nomic concern.

For East and South Asia, potential stressed areas in global financial markets could result in a sharp flattening of liquidity conditions in the region. In East Asia, risks to financial stability are moderate and global shocks are considered unlikely to impinge on the region.

According to the report, the World Economic Outlook and Prospects (WEO) report is the UN’s flagship publication on world economic developments. The WEO is produced by the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA), the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the UN Centre on Trade and Development and the World Tourism Orga- nisation (UNWTO). — UN

An upturn in the global economy — now growing by about 3 per cent — poses significant challenges to countries and other policy makers in terms of management of the potential pressures from rising inflation, higher oil prices and stronger currencies that could feed into food and fuel price shocks, the report said.

The UN’s annual survey of the global economy showed that the world economy grew by 1.8 per cent in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the associated social distancing measures, as countries around the world enacted lockdowns to limit the spread of the coronavirus.

The report said that the world’s largest economies, which account for about 35 per cent of global GDP, are expected to show a 4.4 per cent recovery. However, the UN’s projections show that the global economy is still facing a number of challenges, including economic inequalities.

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

THE second workshop on the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), jointly organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and the Centre for Civil and Political Rights based in Geneva, is being held in Nay Pyi Taw from 14 to 15 December 2017. Director-General U Kyaw Moe Tun, International Organizations and Economic Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs delivered opening remarks at the workshop. A total of fifty participants including the members of Pyithu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Home Affairs, the Ministry of Defence, the Ministry of the Office of the State Counsellor, the Ministry of Information, the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture, the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population, the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Health and Sports, the Ministry of Ethnic Affairs, Union Supreme Court, Union Attorney General’s Office and Myanmar National Human Rights Commission as well as invited scholars attended the workshop. The first workshop was also held in Nay Pyi Taw in early this year. Myanmar is promoting and protecting human rights of its people by observing and ratifying International Human Rights Conventions. The workshop was held with an aim to signing of the ICCPR and to understand more on the ICCPR. The current workshop will help participating institutions for better understanding on the ICCPR in Myanmar’s desire to sign the Covenant.—Myanmar News Agency

Bank Holiday

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

Central Bank of Myanmar

TRADEMARK CAUTION

Monster Energy Company, a company registered under the laws of Delaware, the United States of America, which is located at 1 Monster Way, Corona, California 92881, the United States of America, is the sole owner of the following trademarks:

RED DAWN
Reg. No. 11303/2017

GOLD STRIKE
Reg. No. 11304/2017

In respect of Class 32: Non-alcoholic beverages, including carbonated drinks and energy drinks; syrups; concentrates; powders and preparations for making beverages, including carbonated drinks and energy drinks; beer.

RIPPER
Reg. Nos. 15383/2014, 12362/2017 (Class 5)
Reg. Nos. 15384/2014, 12363/2017 (Class 32)
In respect of Class 32: Non-alcoholic beverages.

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

Daw May Thoe Hlaing, L.L.B., L.L.M., (H.G.P.)

For Monster Energy Company

Tilleke & Gibbins Myanmar Ltd., No. 1068, 16th Floor, Sakura Tower, 339 Bogoyoke Aung San Road, Kyauktada Township, Yangon, Myanmar.

Email address: myanmar@tilleke.com

Dated:15th December 2017

MYANMAR FISHING BOAT SINKS OFF ANDAMAN SEA

A fishing boat named “Ngwe Yamone-6” with 7 people on board sank in the Andaman Sea at about 22.0 nautical miles northwest of Kawthoung Township, Taninthayi Region on 12 December in the morning.

MYANMAR NAVY RUSHED TO THE SCENE TO CARRY OUT RESCUE OPERATIONS AND PROVIDED THE SURVIVORS WITH FOOD AND MEDICAL ATTENTION, according to the Commander-in-Chief’s Office.—Myanmar Digital News

illegal gun and ammunition seized in Kalay township

AUTHORITIES have arrested Khine Za Khine, 50, for possession of illegal guns in Kalay township, Sagaing region, on 12 December. Acting on a tip, a combined team of officers and staff searched Khine Za Khine’s house at KyoKyaw Kwin village, Kalay township, Sagaing region, and found 29 illegal guns and three magazines in his room. Authorities filed charges for violations of section 19(F) of the Weapon Law.—GNLM

MAN HOLDING BANGALDESHI SIM CARD AND IDENTITY CARD ARRESTED IN MAUNGTAW

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

One Bangladeshi SIM Card, Bangladeshhi taka 9,230 and one national identity card were confiscated from him. He has been charged with breaking export and import laws by a local police station, according to the statement released by the Ministry of Home Affairs.—Myanmar Digital News
Accomplishment of process on Census, 2014 and its benefits

By Myo Myint, Mi Mi Phyo
Photo: Aung Thu

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

U Thein Swe
Union Minister for Labour, Immigration and Population

Statistics on ethnics had been compiled, but it still needs to be negotiated. It is necessary to explain to ethnics to be well convinced of it. For the time being, it cannot be publicised as there are still to be done. We tried our best to publicise as soon as possible. Concerning carrying out the tasks of publicising designated definition, it needs not to disagree with each other. For unnecessary consequences not to happen, all are scrutinising with great care. We are making arrangements for the nationals to be able to accept in unity. It is not sure yet as to whether quantity will increase or decrease. Decision will be made just after negotiations. It may decrease with greater possibility. It is under negotiation to explain to the lower level. Mainly, it is incumbent upon nationals living in the regions to decide. It will be carried out after consulting with the Ministry of Ethnic Affairs.

Dr. Khaing Khaing Soe
Director of Department of Population

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

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

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

Dr Zaw Moe Aung
Country Director, the Leprosy Mission Myanmar

Desire to measure disability is one of the State as well as the whole populace and the persons in question themselves. It is a great challenge as to how to find the solution. The department of social welfare usually asks the four questions with the designated definition. From 2013 on, the method of four questions tried to be applied. They have six questions to be used.

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

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

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

Accomplishment of process on Census, 2014 and its benefits

Myanmar earthquake response

The danger of earthquakes exists all along the fault lines. “People living in the coastal area of Myanmar also need to be aware of the danger of tsunamis, which could occur, along with an earthquake. It is still difficult to predict the magnitude of an earthquake and how much damage it could cause. Physical damages can be seen, but other damage to health, education and cultural heritages need to be included and considered, as well. We have had experiences in these, and from those experiences we need to discuss in this meeting how to prepare for natural disasters. All are urged to participate in the discussion,” said the Union Minister.

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

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

The responsibilities of each committee following a natural disaster was then discussed in groups, and the outcome of the group discussions were reviewed.—Myanmar News Agency
Literary Conference 2017 held for 2nd Day

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

Literary discussions in groups were held separately in six locations at today’s session. In the morning, writer Myanmunlinwin led the discussion under the title, “To organize a semi-govt Art Council for the Myanmar translation website” with Dan Feng and Kate Griffin taking part in discussions; “Ideas and contemporary feelings on short stories” of Upper Myanmar Writer Association” led by writer Nyi Pu Lay, with writers Hsahaung, Soe Hlaing Tint (Yezagyo) and Ko Yoe Kunt taking part; “National solidarity and the role of alien literature by Myanmar writer association,” led by writer Maung Nyein Thu (Gyothingauk) with writers Manotetha Kyaw Win, Myat Wai Toe, Hmawwinyi Kyi Myat and Dr Tun Tint; “Patent and related matters of Myanmar publishers and distributors association,” led in discussion by writer U Kyaw Oo (Parami) with writers Myo Aung (botany), Kyi Shoon, Khaing Khaing Oo; “Towards Digital literature market, of Pan Myanmar,” led in discussion by writer Han Zaw, with writers Win Hlaing, Zeyathu and Soe Thiha Naung; “Difficulties on Literature encountered by Local Poets of Myanmar Poet Union,” led by poet Maung Linn Yek, with poets Nay Pan Oo, Thar Oo, Min Swe Hnt, Nari (Myeik) taking part.

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

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

CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE
MV EVER ALLY VOY. NO ( )
Consignees of cargo carried on M.V EVER ALLY VOY. NO ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 15-12-2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of AWPT where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws 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.

CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE
MV NINOS VOY. NO ( )
Consignees of cargo carried on M.V NINOS VOY. NO ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 15-12-2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of HPT 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.

CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE
MV BLPL TRUST VOY. NO ( )
Consignees of cargo carried on M.V BLPL TRUST VOY. NO ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 15-12-2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of B.S.W 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.

CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE
M.V THANLWIN STAR VOY. NO ( )
Consignees of cargo carried on M.V THANLWIN STAR VOY. NO ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 15-12-2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.
Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claim’s Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.
No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE
M.V ANAN BHUM VOY. NO ( )
Consignees of cargo carried on M.V ANAN BHUM VOY. NO ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 15-12-2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.
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No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY HOLIDAY NOTICE
As the wharves, warehouses and chellann Offices of Yangon Port will be closed on the 18th DECEMBER 2017 (Kayin New Year day), Loading, Unloading and delivery for Goods will be received on Payment as Holiday Fees.
President U Htin Kyaw sends message on 43rd Anniversary Rakhine State Day

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

Dear esteemed ethnic brothers and sisters living in Rakhine State,

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

After Rakhine State has been designated in the 1974 Constitution, the 13th of December which was the day on which a referendum was process was began for the purpose of approving the Constitution. This day was designated as Rakhine State Day and beginning from 1975 we have been celebrating Rakhine State Day every year and today we celebrate the 43rd anniversary.

In Rakhine State all, along the west lies the long and beautiful coastal region; in the east lies the Rakhine Yoma mountain range; and in the north lie the Kaladan River Basin Project, as this State is blessed with many rivers.

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

We had to face and suffer the terrorist attacks beginning from 9 October 2016 and also the ARSA terrorist attacks on 25 August 2017 in Maungtaw region of Rakhine State. Due to these events, a great deal of people living in villages in those areas had to leave their villages and people of Islamic faith went over to Bangladesh. Because of these people who had to leave their homes we established the Rakhine State Peace and Development Council and forming four working committees. In the same way we have been working on the Kyauk Pyyu Special Economic Zone, which is very important for Rakhine State development, by taking due note of the wishes of the local people, and making careful assessments regarding environmental concerns and socio-economic needs by establishing a Management Committee.

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

In conclusion, just as it is important to work diligently for peace, rule of law and where Buddhism once flourished in all its glory.

With your wise wisdom and trust, the Union Government has been striving hard by having the Rakhine State Advisory Commission and the Maungtaw Region Investigation Commission. Also, to implement the recommendations of these two bodies relating to Rakhine State, a Committee had been formed and this committee is now carrying out its duties by making projects.

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

Furthermore, due to the Mora Cyclone which hit Rakhine State on 29 May 2017, the region suffered great losses. In this instance the Union Government and the Rakhine State Government joined hands to conduct emergency relief operations, erect emergency shelters, provide relief and rehabilitation, and build capacity and capabilities to face natural disasters, to the best of their abilities. I wish to place on record my special admiration and pride for the indomitable spirit, strong and resolute determination and courage of the Rakhine people who have to suffer many natural disasters due to their geographic location. In spite of all this they have always overcome these challenges with resolute spirit and determination.

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

I send my greetings and good wishes for auspicious Rakhine State Day and urge all citizens of Rakhine State to work in unity and make concerted efforts.

Sd/- Htin Kyaw
President
(Unofficial Translation)

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

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

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

The Yetagun Youth Program Season-2 proudly announced ‘Yangon Binarhaus’ team from Myanmar Maritime University for their proposed project ‘Maker Space and Underwater Research Lab’ as champion team for Yangon Region. Winning teams were awarded by Country Chairman, PETRONAS Myanmar Operations and Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprise (MOGE) officials.
Bon Jovi, Nina Simone among five Rock Hall of Fame inductees

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

The heavy rock 2018 list marks a return to the roots of the US Hall of Fame, which for the past two years has broadened its base to welcome rap artists like the late Tupac Shakur and N.W.A.

Bon Jovi, led by Jon Bon Jovi, formed in 1983 in New Jersey and remains one of the biggest acts in the US music industry, releasing albums every couple of years. The band toured the United States in 2017 in support of its “This House Is Not for Sale” album.

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

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

After several changes of lineup, the band is due to embark in late 1970s, merged rock and synthesizer-oriented pop to produce hits like “Drive” and “Just What I Needed” before breaking up in 1988. The band reunited in 2010, releasing the album “Move Like This,” and toured in the United States in 2011. — Reuters

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

LOS ANGELES — Professional wrestler turned actor Dwayne “The Rock” Johnson paid tribute to his family on Wednesday’s list was at odds with the Golden Globe nominations on Monday, where fantasy romance “The Shape of Water” earned a leading seven nods, followed by “The Post,” starring Streep and Tom Hanks, with six. The SAG winners will be announced in Los Angeles on 21 January, two days before Oscar nominations.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

After thanking the crowd, he recounted his favourite quote that he first discovered as a 15-year-old: “It’s nice to be important but it’s more important to be nice.”

Johnson’s star, the 2,624th to be awarded, is next to the stars of World Wrestling Entertainment CEO Vince McMahon and muppet Kermit the Frog. — Reuters

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

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

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

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

“We’re learning that audiences want to see those stories, and it’s not just about seeing themselves on screen, these are financially viable movies as well,” he added.

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

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

The black comedy about an angry woman, played by best actress nominee Frances McDormand, seeking vengeance for her murdered daughter will compete with “The Big Sick,” racial thriller “Get Out,” mother-daughter comedy “Lady Bird” and period race drama “Mudbound.”

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

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

Through the $75 billion (US$5.8 billion) deal, which a source said is expected to be announced Thursday morning, Disney would be able to distribute its programming on Star India, operator of 69 TV channels in eight languages, as well as the popular Hotstar streaming service. Disney also would gain global rights to professional cricket.

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

Netflix Inc (NFLX.O) has been offering its streaming service in India for nearly two years, and Amazon.com Inc’s (AMZN.O) Prime Video has been courting customers there for one year.

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

India represents the second-largest subscription TV market in Asia, with 154 million households in 2016, according to consultancy Pricewaterhouse-Coopers, which projected that number will grow to 167 million in 2021.

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

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

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

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

—Reuters

Paris welcomes cultural initiative Operation Panda

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

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

The initiative is the first joint operation between the two sides since they established an international partnership in May to advance in-depth exchanges in art, culture, commerce, and joint tourism promotion, with the support of Chengdu municipal government and the 6th arrondissement of Paris.

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

The piece of art will be exhibited at the Christmas market for the holiday season before traveling to Beauval Zoo, the French zoo where pandas are on loan to France from China. In June 2018, the art work will take part in the contemporary art fair Parcours Saint-Germain, before being donated to the Necker children’s hospital in central Paris.

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

Meanwhile, Chengdu is celebrating the event “Romantic Rive Gauche, French Christmas”.—Xinhua

Italian high school teacher among Global Teacher Prize finalists

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

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

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

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

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

“Her learning model uses drama activities and problems solving exercises,” according to the Global Teacher Prize website.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

15 December 2017
THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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

Kyaw Zin Lin

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

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

Thailand, an ASEAN powerhouse, attempted to control the ball from the start, but Myanmar’s systematic counterattacks frequently rankled Thailand’s defense line.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

MFF new referee course concludes

Kyaw Zin Lin

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

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

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

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

Wenger defends Sanchez after Gunners fail to find target

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Title rivals Napoli and Juventus face potentially tricky away trips to Turin and Bologna respectively, with the latter fixture taking place on Sunday.

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