State Counsellor inspects model rural house and child care centre

STATE Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi inspected a model rural house that will be built and donated by the Daw Khin Kyi Foundation and a child day care centre opened by the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement yesterday afternoon.

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi arrived at the Ministry yesterday afternoon and inspected a home similar to ones that will be built for Khondaing Village, Maungtaw Township. Union Minister Dr. Win Myat Aye, Deputy Minister U Soe Aung and Seven King Construction Co. Managing Director U Myo Ko Ko explained details of the house and the suitability of the house to the region.

See page-3

NATIONAL
Investigation into 10 bodies found at Indin Village in Maungtaw Township, Rakhine

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, left, inspects the model rural house which will be built and donated by the Daw Khin Kyi Foundation. PHOTO: MNA

Myanmar, Bangladesh agree on terms of repatriation

MYANMAR and Bangladesh came to an agreement on terms of repatriation for those who fled Rakhine State four months ago and are currently in temporary Bangladeshi camps.

A Myanmar delegation led by U Myint Thu, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, travelled to Bangladesh on Monday and met with a Bangladeshi delegation led by Mr. Md. Shahidul Haque, Foreign Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Bangladesh in Dhaka yesterday.

At the meeting, Myanmar and Bangladesh reached agreement on Terms of Reference of the Joint Working Group to oversee the repatriation process of displaced persons from Rakhine State. The agreement was signed by Permanent Secretary U Myint Thu and Bangladeshi Foreign Secretary Mr. Md. Shahidul Haque in the presence of Mr. Abul Hassan Mahmood Ali, Foreign Minister of Bangladesh.

See page-3

NATIONAL
Investigation into 10 bodies found at Indin Village in Maungtaw Township, Rakhine

See page-3

NATIONAL
NCA signatories committed to achieving results at Union Peace Conference—21st Century Panglong

See page-10
Union Minister Nai Thet Lwin receives Tibet cultural delegation

UNION Minister for Ethnic Affairs Nai Thet Lwin received Mr. Zhang Yun, head of the China Tibet Research Centre and director of the Institute of Tibet cultural delegation at the Ministry’s office yesterday morning.

During the meeting, they discussed raising the standard of socio-economic sectors, preserving the traditions and heritage of ethnic races, dissemination of the literature and languages of ethnic races, development of mutual benefits of the relations between Myanmar and the Tibet Autonomous Region, and cooperation in keeping with the interest of the ethnic races of both countries, it was learnt.

The Union Minister expressed sincere thanks for the People Republic of China’s stance on international affairs, and its efforts in supporting Myanmar’s course toward national reconciliation and peace. —Myanmar News Agency

Eight Myanmar marine workers receive compensation

EIGHT Myanmar marine workers who were promised jobs in Thailand but were instead trafficked to Benjina Island, Indonesia received US$32,000 (Ks43.65 million) in compensation from an Indonesian company yesterday. The Compensation from an Indonesian company yesterday. The Compensation from an Indonesian company yesterday.

The eight workers in the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population and Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, together with Lembaga Perlindungan Saksi Dan Korban (LPSK) of Indonesia worked on the trafficking case. LPSK is a witness and victim protection agency of Indonesia.

The Indonesian government filed a criminal case against PT Benjina Pusaka Resources Company, and on 28 November were ordered to compensate the eight Myanmar marine workers. The $32,000 was divided among the eight Myanmar workers depending on how long they worked and how much abuse they endured, officials said.—Min Thit (MNA)

Donations for UEHRD projects

DONATIONS of goods and money were made to the projects of the Union Enterprise for Humanitarian Assistance, Resettlement and Development in Rakhine (UEHRD) by donors and members of the public from around the world.

Myanmar nationals and former Myanmar nationals in Switzerland donated US$3,766, Myanmar nationals in South Africa donated US$2,165, Dr. Win Naing and wife Daw Wei Wei Aye from Singapore donated 300 Singapore dollars. The Union Minister for International Cooperation U Kyaw Tin handed over the donations to UEHRD Vice Chairman Dr. Win Myat Aye yesterday afternoon at the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement. The UEHRD Vice Chairman presented documents of honour; it is learnt. —Myanmar News Agency

Correction

In a chart titled “2018 Matriculation Exam Timetable Released” on Page 2 of the 18 December, 2017 issue of the Global New Light of Myanmar, there was an editing error. In the next-to-last column of the chart under “Subjects”, the column should say “Geography”, not “Geology”. The GNLM regrets the error.
Daw Aung San Suu Kyi receives China’s Special Envoy of Asian Affairs

DAW Aung San Suu Kyi, State Counsellor of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, received Mr. Sun Guoxiang, Special Envoy for Asian Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People’s Republic of China, at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday at 10:00 am.

During the meeting, they discussed matters related to bilateral relations and cooperation, peace process and the situation in Rakhine State.—Myanmar News Agency

State Counsellor inspects model rural house and child care centre

**FROM PAGE 1**

The rural house will be built on a 40 ft. long, 60 ft. wide plot of land. The house will consist of an 18 ft. x 28 ft. zinc sheet roof, concrete slab walls and wooden floors.

The State Counsellor also visited the “Mother’s Bosom” child care centre operated by the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement. The centre is caring for children 3 years of age and younger. Union Minister Dr. Win Myint Aye and officials provided a briefing about the operation of the centre. Afterwards, the State Counsellor went to the playground of the child care centre and observed the children playing happily in the playground.

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi visits the “Mother’s Bosom” child care centre. PHOTO: MNA

Myanmar, Bangladesh agree on terms of repatriation

**FROM PAGE 1**

The Joint Working Group will adhere to the general principles, policy aspects and modalities as stated in the Arrangement.

Myanmar and Bangladesh sign an agreement on the Terms of Reference of the Joint Working Group. PHOTO: MNA

Coordination meeting on implementation of Permanent Residency held

THE Central Committee for Implementation of Permanent Residency (PR) coordination meeting 2/2017 was held yesterday afternoon in the meeting hall of the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population in Nay Pyi Taw.

The Chairman of the Central Committee for Implementation of Permanent Residency, Union Minister U Thein Swe explained about the forming of the committee and the work committees, announcement of the rules, the amendment required for the rules, the status of applying for PR not only in the country but also in Myanmar embassies, the number of applications made, rejected and granted since the program was started, the issuance of PR cards to those who are permitted and the status of assessments submitted by work committees that will be re-assessed by the central committee.

U Thein Swe then commented on the points discussed and concluded the meeting after giving a closing remark.

The PR system in Myanmar was started in 29 January 2015 under four categories for experts, investors, former Myanmar nationals and foreigners who are related to nationals. As of the end November 2017, there were 429 applications and five central committee meetings were held to conduct personal interviews and assessments of 332 applicants, out of which 338 were issued with PR cards. The remaining 14 hadn’t collected their PR cards yet.

An official from the Central Committee for Implementation of Permanent Residency explained about the forming of the central committee, duties, the marking scheme and the application status.

Of the permanent residency permitted to former Myanmar nationals, four had applied to become Myanmar citizens again and confirmation was obtained to take back the PR cards. The status of extending the validity of the PR annually and application to change personal information was also explained and discussed. Union Minister U Thein Swe then commented on the points discussed and concluded the meeting after giving a closing remark.

The PR system in Myanmar was started in 29 January 2015 under four categories for experts, investors, former My-
CBT in Thandaunggyi has become popular this year

MORE local visitors flock to Thandaunggyi this year as Community Based Tourism is developing in the township and return of the peace to the area eased travel restrictions.

Visitors to Thandaunggyi daily increased due to consequences of peace process in the State. Upon travel permit from the regional government and related organizations, local visitors and tourists can observe indigenous culture and tradition and give a tour to coffee plantation and other crop farms, hot spring, waterfall, Naw Bu Baw Hill station, etc.

Thandaunggyi is one of the less well known of the hill stations established during British colonial rule. The place was listed on Myanmar’s tourist attractions during a declaration of Visit Myanmar Year in 1996. Number of visitors to Thandaunggyi increased from three digits to five digits in 2012. CBT was implemented in Thandaunggyi in December 2014. Thandaunggyi Tourism Development Working Group and local stakeholders managed to develop socio-economy of the local residents, creating job opportunities and providing facilities to the travelers.

With rich nature attractions and indigenous culture, Kayin State attracted over 187,660 local visitors and over 505,260 local visitors as of September this year.

Inflow of day trippers to Kayin State increased this year.

Upgraded aquarium museum in Nay Pyi Taw Zoological Garden to be reopened

THE aquarium museum in the Nay Pyi Taw Zoological Garden that was opened on 14 October 2010 was meant to protect endangered species of fish and allow observation of these fish as well as traditional fish and aquarium fish which were imported from abroad.

At the time of opening the museum, around 3,000 species of fish were on display in the aquarium, including 26 foreign species and 18 local species.

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation has now upgraded the aquarium museum in Nay Pyi Taw Zoological Garden and will reopen the facility on 23 December. The upgraded museum will display 1,881 fishes, including 45 foreign species and 11 local species. On the day of the reopening ceremony, authorities from the museum will provide fish spa service to everyone at no charge. This can stimulate acupuncture points and promote healing to regulate the nervous system, relax the body and release fatigue.—GNLM

Two-year survey shows pollution worst in lower Bago River

A two-year water quality examination along the Bago River has shown that the water pollution of the lower reaches of the natural waterway has reached its worst level, according to a report in the Myawaddy Daily yesterday.

The survey shows that although the water quality of the upper reaches are still good, the pollution is much worse at the lower reaches. Throwing garbage into the river, erecting toilets along river banks and the flow of fertilizer and pesticide have negatively affected the quality of the river water, according to Watershed Management Department.

The Norway-aided water quality examination project selected Bago River and Inlay Lake from the many bodies of water in the country for its pilot programme.

After receiving the results of the water quality examination, coordinated conservation efforts will be conducted by regions and states along the river.—GNLM

Upgraded road to Alaungdaw Kathapa to open in January

A repaired and upgraded road to the shrine of Alaungdaw Kathapa used for pilgrimages will be opened in January 2018, in time for the pilgrimage season, according to a report in the Myawaddy Daily yesterday.

The road to Alaungdaw Kathapa was damaged due to heavy rain this season. Repairs to the road were delayed also because of continued heavy rain.

But work is near completion and the road will be reopened for the pilgrimage season from January to April.

Worshippers making pilgrimages in cars to Alaungdaw Kathapa will be allowed to visit from 5am to 5pm. Cars will be required to stop at the parking lot at the foot of hill. More visitors are expected this year because the authority has implemented ecotourism businesses near the villages.

Currently, the authorities are upgrading the road to ensure safe and convenient transportation for the pilgrims.—GNLM
861 jade lots sold on day 8 of Jade and Gems Emporium

ON the eighth day of the 2017 Mid-Year Myanma Jade and Gems Emporium held yesterday morning at Mani Yandana Jade Hall in Nay Pyi Taw, 861 jade lots were sold to gem merchants, it is learnt.

A total of 1,150 jade lots were put up for sale under an open tender system and 861 lots were sold, fetching a total of about 38.23 million euros (Ks61.674 billion). On the eighth day of the emporium, a total of 4,429 local and international gem merchants visited the emporium.

To date, the gem emporium has sold 32 gem lots worth 767,000 euros and 3,520 jade lots worth 203.549 million euros (Ks327.93 billion) were sold under an open tender system, it is learnt.

The 2017 Mid-Year Myanma Jade and Gems Emporium will be continued until 21 December. On 20 December, jade lots No. 4601 to 5750 and on 21 December jade lot No. 5751 to 6685 will be sold. — Myanmar News Agency

Magway Region to grow more onion in this winter

LOCAL farmers in Magway Region is planning to grow more onion in this winter, according to local onion growers from Magway Region.

“Magway Region has over 40,000 acres of onion plantations every year. This year, onions were fetching a high price and so, the acreage of onions increased” said U Phyo Min, a local onion grower.

“The local farmer from Magway Region extended their onion cultivation to over 800 acres. Onion prices have increased due to dwindling stocks. Therefore the local farmers are extending more onion plantation, said U Zaw Latt, the Win onion brokerage owner.

Last year, the price of onions has been decreased because many onion plantations were destroyed by flooding, according to local onion farmers.

Mostly of the onion species like Shwe Phalar, Baung Sat, Thapaiklone, Mindone are growing mainly in Mandalay, Magway, Nay Pyi Taw and Yangon regions and Shan State.

Myanmar exports onions to neighbouring China, India, Thailand, Indonesia, Malaysia and Pakistan.

In fiscal 2017-2018, Myanmar has exported 16615.53 tons of the onion with five months, a decrease of over 30,000 tons from the same period of last year.— Zar Lin Thu (AMIA)
More than 8,000 tonnes of fertilizers imported by sea

DOMESTIC importers bought more than 8,000 tonnes of fertilizer from foreign trade partners by sea between 26 November and 2 December, according to the Commerce Ministry.

When compared with the previous week before 26 November, the import volume of fertilizers decreased by over 14,420 tonnes. The country imported a total of 23,070 tonnes of fertilizers between 19 and 25 November.

During the aforesaid week, the country imported 2,000 tonnes of fertilizer from Germany, over 1,000 tonnes from Iran, 478 tonnes from South Korea, 98 tonnes from Norway, 1,050 tonnes from Pakistan, 3,490 tonnes from Russia and 515 tonnes from Thailand. Myanmar usually imports compound fertilizer, nitrogen, foliar and urea from Europe, East and West Asia, and Southeast Asia.

Mandalay Region Planning and Finance Minister U Myat Thu, director-general of the Director of Investment and Company Administration (DICA) U Aung Naing Oo, and officials attended the meeting. Union Minister addressed the exploitation of natural resources and explained activities concerning export promotion, import substitution and development of small and medium enterprises.

Afterwards, he accepted reports submitted by businessmen and officials from the respective departments. In the afternoon, he visited the Mandalay Myotha Industrial Park Project in Nganzun Township, Mandalay Region operating under the approval of the Myanmar Investment Commission (MIC).

This project was implemented on 11,404 acres of land by six foreign enterprises and includes a golf yard, factories, warehousing, banks, a hospital, a school, market and residential buildings. Much more foreign direct investments could be made into the park.—Myanmar News Agency

Border imports of motorbikes from neighbours decreased

MYANMAR imported a total of 7,359 motorbikes worth US$3.396 million from China, India and Thailand via border trade camps in the last week of November, according to border trade authorities.

The current imports show a significant decline in the number of motorbikes against the previous week's total of 16,004. Border merchants say that motorbike imports from Muse and Myawady gates considerably decreased in the week between 25 November and 1 December. However, the imports of similar products from Kawthaung and Tamu borders increased than that of previous week ending 24 November.

According to official figures, the country imported $2.227 million worth of a different variety of 6,616 motorcycles from Muse, $0.017 million worth of 10 motorbikes from Kawthaung, $0.029 million worth of 242 motorbikes from Tamu and $1.123 million worth of 209 motorbikes from Myawady trade zone in late November.

Myanmar predominately conducts motorcycle imports from China, India and Thailand.—Swe Nyin

Union Minister for Planning and Finance meets with Mandalorian entrepreneurs

IN order to discuss the matters of promoting export and import-substitution businesses, U Kyaw Win, Union Minister for Planning and Finance, met with entrepreneurs engaged in livestock, factories, vegetables and flower planting, transportation and food, cosmetics and medicine at the Mandalay Region Chambers of Commerce and Industry in the morning of last Monday.

Mandalay Region Planning and Finance Minister U Myat Thu, director-general of the Director of Investment and Company Administration (DICA) U Aung Naing Oo, and officials attended the meeting. Union Minister addressed the exploitation of natural resources and explained activities concerning export promotion, import substitution and development of small and medium enterprises.

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High supply on pomelo causes price fall

The prices of pomelo have declined due to high supply and torrential rain in Mon state, according to a report in the Myawady Daily.

“This year, the rain is heavier than last year. Therefore, the local farmers pick up the fruits before the right time and sent to the market. There is not demand for the pomelo because we don’t get the quality fruits,” said U Myint Thein, the chairman of the pomelo group. Although, pomelo from Mon state have good test and produce very well, the Myanmar pomelo cannot enter international market because of the lack of technical.

Currently, the pomelos from Mon state are selling mainly in Yangon and Mandalay regions. But, we are discussing to export pomelo to China legally next year. Pomelos are cultivated mainly in Mon State. It also grows in Yangon, Mandalay and Bago regions and, Kachin and Kayin states, it is learnt.—GNLM
Ginger to be cultivated in Rakhine State

The local government is planning to cultivate ginger in Rakhine State as a pilot project with the cooperation of local entrepreneurs, according to the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI).

To be able to cultivate ginger in Rakhine State, the UMFCCI and Rakhine State Chambers of Commerce and Industry (RSCCI) will provide 1,000 viss of ginger seeds while the Myanmar Fruit, Flower and Vegetable Producers and Exporters Association (MFVEP) will provide technical assistance. The groups are planning to cultivate several acres of ginger in four townships — Kyaukpyu, Ponnagyun, Buthidaung and Maungtaw — as a pilot project in Rakhine State with the investment of the Public Development Committee in Kyauktaw Township and the Cooperative Society in Rakhine State. If the project is successful, they will extend the ginger cultivation project across Rakhine State, said U Aung Aung, the secretary of RSCCI.

“Myanmar exports the ginger to Bangladesh and earns around US$3 million annually. Currently, ginger is cultivated mainly in the southern part of Shan State. If our cultivation in Rakhine State is successful, we can export the ginger to Bangladesh directly, which can reduce the transport fees”, he added. “Rakhine State has a favourable climate and environment for growing ginger. We have already had a ginger market in America, the Netherlands and Germany. But we could even fulfill demand from Bangladesh,” said U Kyaw Thu, the secretary of MFVEP. An acre of ginger costs between Ks15 million to Ks15 million. An acre of ginger produces approximately 8,000 viss.—MNA

Deputy Minister U Kyaw Lin Inspects House and Roads Construction

The Deputy Minister for Construction U Kyaw Lin inspected the construction of houses and roads in Maungtaw, yesterday.

They inspected the paving of earthen Kyein Chaung-Goat Pi Road, which is 15 miles long. This road construction was constructed by No. 17 Special team, Road Department.

Then they went to the construction site of modular houses conducted by No. 14 Special Team, Road Department. The construction started in early December and is estimated to be completed by the end of January. The project involves 17 modular houses, each 90 feet long and 18 feet wide. The construction team has already built three of these houses, it was learnt.

In the afternoon, the minister and party went to the Saing Din Bridge construction site, which is situated on Buthedaung-Kyauktaw Road, and Yathedaung Bridge construction, which is on the Yathedaung-Ponnagyun Road.—Myint Maung, Zayar

CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE

MV FSL SANTOS VOY. NO ( )
Consignees of cargo carried on MV FSL SANTOS VOY. NO ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 20.12.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of AIPFT 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 NEW GOLDEN SEA PTE LTD
Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE

MV SINAR BANDA VOY. NO ( )
Consignees of cargo carried on MV SINAR BANDA VOY. NO ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 20.12.2017 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.

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S SAMUDRENA SHIPPING LINE
Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE

MV MCC MERGUI VOY. NO ( )
Consignees of cargo carried on MV MCC MERGUI VOY. NO ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 19.12.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P.M.I.T.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 MCC TRANSPORT (S’PORE) PTE LTD
Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE

MV SOUL OF LUCK VOY. NO ( )
Consignees of cargo carried on MV SOUL OF LUCK VOY. NO ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 20.12.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T.M.LLP 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 MCC TRANSPORT (S’PORE) PTE LTD
Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE

MV CAPE FLORES VOY. NO ( )
Consignees of cargo carried on MV CAPE FLORES VOY. NO ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 20.12.2017 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.

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S NEW GOLDEN SEA PTE LTD
Phone No: 2301185

Deputy Minister for Construction U Kyaw Lin and officials view the road construction site in Maungtaw, Rakhine State. PHOTO: NAY WIN TUN

Rakhine government and UMFCCI members held a meeting to cultivate ginger in Rakhine State. PHOTO: MNA

The Deputy Minister for Construction U Kyaw Lin inspected the construction of houses and roads in Maungtaw yesterday.

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In the afternoon, the minister and party went to the Saing Din Bridge construction site, which is situated on Buthedaung-Kyauktaw Road, and Yathedaung Bridge construction, which is on the Yathedaung-Ponnagyun Road.—Myint Maung, Zayar

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Deputy Minister U Kyaw Lin inspects house and roads construction
Need to lift the major economic driving force

In the national economic sphere, heavy industries occupy only one percent, with 99 percent occupied by SMEs, it was noted. Hence, the SMEs are taking on heavy responsibility for national economic development and for improving economic capability. It is explicitly described in the 12 points of the national economic policy that it needs to support SMEs which help the creation of job opportunities and economic development. The National Level Central Committee had been formed to effectively support the SMEs in accord with SMEs development matters.

As SMEs have covered nearly the whole national economic sphere, concerted effort must be exercised to give necessary assistance to them so that one day some of them can grow higher to transform themselves into becoming light industries and eventually become heavy industries. In the past, the SMEs managed to survive in their own way, that is, without any interference from governments.

After promulgation of the SMEs Law in 2015, the Union Government, after studying the actual situation of the SMEs carelessly, realized that more efforts were needed and means to uplift the SMEs.

It is firmly believed that long-lasting sustainable development will be achieved if practical approaches can be found in performing the tasks of SMEs development. In this regard, systematic employment of financial resources, human resources, institutional resources and natural resources will be critically important.

For a market economist, sustainable economic development can be achieved by managing to gain reasonable profits for some time, instead of gaining profits 24 hours. For strengthening the economic system, broad expansion of the market as much as possible with reasonable profits is more important than gaining too much profit.

Firstly, the capital resource is very important as the practical approach for SMEs’ development, hence the need to systematically disburse the capital needed for the enterprise.

Nationally, economic development makes an important contribution to population growth in many parts of the world and even recognize the need for migration. Between 2000 and 2015, migration contributed 42% of the population growth in Northern America and 51% in Europe, as the size of the population would have declined during the past 2000-2015 in the absence of migration.

In 2017, among the 267 countries or territories of the world, 99% of international migrants were of working age, and between 20 and 64 years of age, compared to 35% of the global population. Migrants comprise a larger proportion of working-age persons compared to the overall population, a net inflow of migrants lowers the dependency ratio, that is, the number of older and child-bearing persons compared to those of working age. In Africa, Asia, Latin America, and the Caribbean, in countries where population growth is negative in most countries but typically small compared to other population changes. In some small developing countries, however, the negative population growth rate is such that the size of the population can be substantially, especially among adults of working age — United Nations.

Invitation to young writers for Sunday section

The Global New Light of Myanmar is accepting submissions of poetry, opinion, articles, essays and short stories from young people for its weekly Sunday Next Generation Platform. Interested candidates can send their works to the Global New Light of Myanmar at No. 155, Sga Thar Ywadi Road, Town 42, Maymyo, with the following information:

Name
Age
Email
Address
Phone
Contact number

For more details, please visit www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com with the following information:

Before the deadline, please sent the works to info@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com. The selected pieces will be published in the next Sunday’s edition of the Global New Light of Myanmar, and the authors will receive a monetary reward.

The Global New Light of Myanmar is a weekly newspaper published in Myanmar, with sections in English and several other languages. It is a government-owned newspaper that covers news, politics, and entertainment in Myanmar. The newspaper was established in 1948 and is one of the oldest newspapers in Myanmar. It is published by the Global New Light of Myanmar Company Limited and is distributed throughout the country.
Investigation carried out into 10 bodies found in Maungtaw

AN investigation into the discovery of 10 bodies found in Indin Village, Maungtaw Township began yesterday. Authorities and a medical team commenced a forensic investigation into the 10 bodies edumed by security forces on 18 December.

The bodies were found in a mass grave after authorities acted on an anonymous tip-off, according to local police. The investigation is being conducted by a team comprised of the Medical Superintendent of Maungtaw Township Hospital, the Maungtaw Township Judge, officials from the Maungtaw District General Administration Department, and Indin police.

In a statement regarding the discovery of the mass grave, the Tatmadaw said action would be taken against those who were involved in the killings. In conducting law enforcement measures to restore rule of law following the 25 August terrorist attacks by the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA) extremist terrorists in the area, security forces were ordered to follow rules of engagement, said the statement. "An investigation is being carried out to uncover the truth behind the grave," according to the statement released by the Office of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services.

In the terrorist attack, ARSA terrorists holding arms committed besieging and threatening villagers from ethnic villages, members of Myanmar Police Force, departmental personnel and members of the Sangha by chanting and raided the villages and police outposts where least police members were assigned one after another by fleshing torches at night. —Myanmar News Agency

NCA signatories committed to achieving results at Union Peace Conference – 21st Century Panglong

Eight signatories to the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement agreed on five points at their five-day meeting in Chiang Mai, Thailand, in preparation for coming to the third session of the Union Peace Conference-21st Century Panglong.

"To achieve total peace in the country, we, eight ethnic armed groups, are determined to work hard and together to achieve good results at the Union Peace Conference," said Pado Saw Kwe Htoo Win, following the meeting of the Peace Process Steering Team (PFST) of eight ethnic armed groups and their work committees.

The meeting ended on Monday. During the five-day meeting, they discussed five sectors of political, security, social, economic, land and environment issues that will be submitted to the 3rd session of the Union Peace Conference – 21st Century Panglong.

"From the discussions in this meeting, relevant work committees are submitting sector-wise reports to the PFST meeting. These will be discussed and confirmed and then will be re-submitted to national-level political dialogue, where their thoughts and ideas will be combined," said Pado Saw Kwe Htoo Win.

"Decisions include 20 approvals, and four were documented. A decision also includes conducting more meetings to achieve success in political discussions. For success in establishing peace, there should be no obstructions or interferences when the signed organisations are conducting national-level discussions, region and ethnic national-wise, which will be conducted by responsible leaders of the relevant groups", said Pado Saw Kwe Htoo Win.

The five agreements of the meeting include holding public consultations by respective ethnic armed organisations to seek suggestions from the public.

They also agreed to follow the decisions of the Union Peace Dialogue Joint Committee (UPD-JC) to make political dialogue and public consultations a success. —Ye Gaung Nyunt

Road link between Sittway, Maungtaw to benefit local people

The Department of Bridges under the Ministry of Construction is building several bridges that will help regional development in Rakhine State.

Following is the interview with Deputy Administrator for Construction and officials visiting in Rakhine State.

U Kyaw Lin, Deputy Minister for Construction

Roads and bridges are being built in order to develop Buthidaung, Yathedaung and Maungtaw regions. First of all, the ministry issued designs and QC (quality control) to construct an 18-foot-wide concrete road conducted by Asia World Co., Ltd under the Union Enterprise for Humanitarian Assistance, Re-settlement and Development in Rakhine (UEHRD). It is about 50 miles from Aungmaw to Maungtaw, and it can promote the development of the region. We are now paving two roads through Yoma. They are Kyauk Pnu-Zayti Pyin Road and Kyein Chaung-Goat Pi Road. The main thing is that we are in urgent need of paving the motorway from Buthidaung and Maungtaw regions, and from Sittway to Maungtaw. That’s why we are paving the roads, which are about 95 miles long, towards Sittway, Punnagyun, Yathedaung, Buthidaung and Maungtaw, respectively. We are currently building five bridges at the same time. It has been learnt that arrangements are being made to finish the bridges in March. We can drive from Sittway to Maungtaw in March, 2018.

U Ohn Lwin, Director General, Department of Highways

We are conducting to pave two roads among the four roads, and these roads can lead to Mt. May Yu. The first road is Zayti Pyin-Indir-Kyauk Pannu, which are 10 miles and 7 furlongs long. We are using 28 mechanism cars, and going to build 75 bridges on the roads.

The second road is Kyein Chaung-Goat Pi, which is 15 miles long. We will arrange to build another 52 bridges on it. The width of the road is 34 feet. According to the budget allotment, another concrete road, which is 18 feet long, will be built. It can improve the transportation system between the eastern and western parts of Mt. May Yu.

U Khin Thet, Director General, Department of Village Development

Our department is upgrading Buthidaung-Maungtaw Road, which is 46 miles and 5 furlongs long. The concrete road is one mile and 2 furlongs, and the rest is seven-mile-road in an earth one. We are trying to pave the road so it can be used during all seasons, because the bridges are still under construction. We are going to build another 49 small bridges so that we can go from one place to another without any difficulty.

U Shaw Lay, Director General, Department of Bridges

Our department is conducting to build five bridges on Punnagyun-Yathedaung-Buthidaung-Maungtaw roads.

The bridges are scheduled to be completed by 31st March, 2018.—MNA
Poland confers Honorary Doctorate on U Phyo Min Thein

The University of Information Technology and Management in Rzeszow, Poland, conferred an Honorary Doctorate in Business Administration on U Phyo Min Thein, Yangon Region Chief Minister, on Monday, acknowledging his efforts for reforms and improvement of Yangon.

Officials of the university conferred the doctorate on U Phyo Min Thein at his residence in Yangon.

“I hope this award becomes a driving force for reforms in Myanmar,” said U Phyo Min Thein.

“The University of Information Technology and Management in Rzeszow, Poland, is monitoring those who are taking part in reforms and business administration and evaluating those who are able to carry out those reforms,” said U Phyo Min Thein.

The university also invited the Yangon Region Chief Minister to give a speech at the university.— Min Thit (MNA)
Britain’s new 3 billion pound warship has a leak

LONDON — Britain’s biggest ever warship, the new 3.1 billion pound ($4.2 billion) aircraft carrier HMS Queen Elizabeth, has a leak and needs repairs, the Ministry of Defence (MoD) said on Tuesday.

The 65,000-tonne ship, hailed as Britain’s most advanced military vessel and which was only officially commissioned by the queen two weeks ago, has an issue with a shaft seal which was identified during sea trials, the MoD said.

“This is scheduled for repair while she is alongside at Portsmouth,” a Royal Navy spokesman said. “It does not prevent her from sailing again and her sea trials program will not be affected.”

The Sun newspaper reported that the 280-metre (920-foot) warship, the nation’s future flagship vessel, was letting in 200 liters of water every hour and the fix would cost millions of pounds.

A defence source said the navy was aware the ship, which took eight years to build, had an issue when it was handed over by manufacturers and the Sun said the builders would have to foot the repair bill.

The Aircraft Carrier Alliance — a consortium including British engineering companies BAE Systems and Babcock, and the UK division of France’s Thales — built the Queen Elizabeth and its sister aircraft carrier, the HMS Prince of Wales, as apart of a 6.2 billion pound project.

“It’s normal practice for a volume of work and defect resolution to continue following vessel acceptance,” BAE Systems said in a statement. “This will be completed prior to the nation’s flagship re-commissioning her programme at sea in 2018.”

Chris Parry, a former senior Royal Navy officer, said all ships took on water.

“That’s why you have pumps,” he told Sky News. “When you get a brand new car not everything’s perfect, you have to send it back to the garage to get a few things tweaked. This is exactly in that bracket.”

—Reuters

Speeding train derails on new route in Washington state, killing three

DUPONT, Washington — An Amtrak train derailed on Monday as it took a corner on a new stretch of track in Washington state at more than twice the speed limit, sending passenger cars tumbling from a bridge and killing at least three people.

The train was on its inaugural run on a faster route from Seattle to Portland, Oregon, when 13 of its 14 cars jumped the tracks and tumbled onto a major highway near the town of DuPont.

In addition to the three fatalities, about 100 people were taken to nearby hospitals, of whom 10 had serious injuries, Washington State Patrol spokeswoman Brooke Bova told a news conference.

Seven motor vehicles were also involved in the accident, and fragments of the bridge were left scattered on the highway.

Some motorists were injured but none died, authorities said.

Amtrak said there were people 86 aboard the train, 80 of them passengers.

Officials with the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) said late on Monday that a data recorder recovered from a rear locomotive showed the train was traveling 80 miles (130 km) per hour in a 30 mile-per-hour zone when it jumped the track at a curve leading up to the bridge.

NTSB spokeswoman Bella Dinh-Zarr told reporters it was too early to tell if the train’s speed contributed to the derailment. But the accident seems likely to intensify concerns about railroad company’s safety record, which was already under scrutiny following a series of fatal incidents.

—Reuters
MANILA — The Philippines said on Tuesday it has withdrawn an application for a second grant from a US aid agency, after getting an initial five-year $434 million grant in 2010 aimed at reducing poverty.

Such grants require counterpart funding from the Philippines for MCC-financed projects, but presidential spokesman Harry Roque said the government wanted to channel resources into rebuilding Marawi, a southern city devastated in fighting between the military and Islamist insurgents this year.

“It was deemed that for the time being, we will withdraw our application for the second cycle and we will focus instead on the rebuilding of Marawi,” Roque said.

“We have to re-allocate our resources and priority to the rebuilding of Marawi.”

The issue of aid has been contentious in the Philippines of late, with President Rodrigo Duterte objecting to donors attaching conditions to their help, and especially to any expressions of concern about human rights.

Nearly 4,000 people have been killed by police since June last year. Police reject allegations they are executing drug users and dealers and say killings were all in self-defence.

Several thousand other people have been killed in mysterious circumstances, and especially to any expressions of concern about deaths to gang violence.

In August, the MCC upheld the eligibility of the Philippines to secure a fresh grant, after initial applications for another MCC grant had nothing to do with such issues.

He said the government would “probably” apply for another MCC grant in future. This year, his government rejected about 250 million euros ($295 million) in European Union grants.

“Nearly 4,000 people have been killed by police since June last year. Police reject allegations they are executing drug users and dealers and say killings were all in self-defence.”

But Roque was quick to point out that the decision to withdraw the application for another MCC grant had nothing to do with such issues.

He said the government would “probably” apply for another MCC grant in future. This year, his government rejected about 250 million euros ($295 million) in European Union grants. Officials of the MCC, which describes itself on its website as an independent US foreign aid agency created by the US Congress in 2004, were not available for comment.

— Reuters

BANGKOK — Thai Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha said on Tuesday he would use a special order that gives the military sweeping powers to lift a ban on political activity that has been in place since a 2014 coup, paving the way for a 2018 general election.

Major political parties had urged the government for months to lift the ban to allow parties to prepare for the vote and the announcement won some applause from government critics.

Prayuth, who is also head of the junta, has said that Thailand will hold an election in November 2018 — news that was largely welcomed by investors in Southeast Asia’s second-biggest economy.

“The government will have to use Article 44 to solve this problem (political activity deadlock),” Prayuth told reporters, referring to a constitutional clause that grants the military absolute powers. Prayuth did not say when the order would take effect.

According to the usual procedure, executive orders must be published in the Royal Gazette before they can become law.

Thanawut Wishaidit, spokesman for the red-shirt United Front of Democracy Against Dictatorship which opposes military rule and has made statements critical of the junta, said the announcement was “the first step for elections and democracy”.

“It’s definitely a good thing,” he said, adding that the junta should also lift a ban on public gatherings. The military has been running Thailand since the May 2014 coup when it ousted the civilian government of Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra, ending years of political turmoil, including pro-and anti-government street protests.—Reuters
Luke Bryan’s ‘What Makes You Country’ debuts at No 1

LOS ANGELES — Luke Bryan’s “What Makes You Country” album debuted in the top spot this week on the Billboard 200 chart, giving the country singer his fourth No 1 album.

According to Nielsen Music data released on Monday, Bryan sold more than 107,000 units of the album during a week in which Irish band U2 plummeted from last week’s top spot to 13th place with “Songs Of Experience.”

In a week of few new releases, chart favourites Taylor Swift and Ed Sheeran moved up to second and third places, respectively, on the Billboard 200. Swift’s “Reputation,” released in November, added another 99,000 in sales, while British singer Sheeran’s March release “Divide” sold more than 69,000 copies for the week.

The Billboard 200 chart tallies units from album sales, song sales (10 songs equal one album) and streaming activity (1,500 streams equal one album).

Sheeran’s love song “Perfect” again dominated the digital songs chart, which measures online single sales, thanks to a newly released collaboration with Beyoncé. “Perfect” sold another 97,000 units to keep the No 1 spot.

Among other new album releases, the “Double Or Nothing” collaboration between rappers Big Sean and Metro Boomin debuted at No 5, while the rap compilation album “Quality Control: Control The Streets, Vol.1,” featuring various artists, arrived at No 6. — Reuters

Plummer brings on the charm in reshot ‘All the Money in the World’

LOS ANGELES — When director Ridley Scott decided to remove Kevin Spacey from his film “All the Money in the World” and reshoot it with Christopher Plummer, he did not just pull off an extraordinary feat.

Plummer’s performance as US oil billionaire J Paul Getty also subtly changed the tone of the movie about the sensational 1973 kidnapping of Getty’s 16-year-old grandson.

“There is a coolness to Kevin. That’s his style, even when he’s being emotional,” Scott said in an interview. “This man (Plummer) has enormous charm, and when you apply that charm to such, sometimes really hard, words, it makes it much more interesting,” he said. Part biography and part thriller, “All the Money in the World” dramatizes the kidnapping in Italy of John Paul Getty III and his grandfather’s refusal to pay a $17 million ransom despite being the richest man in the world.

In a rare move, Scott announced in November that he would reshoot the finished film with Plummer after allegations of sexual misconduct against Spacey, saying he feared negative publicity would damage the film’s prospects.

Spacey issued an apology for the first reported incident, involving actor Anthony Rapp. He has since been accused of misconduct by more than 30 men and dropped from the next season of Netflix TV series “House of Cards.” Reuters has been unable to verify the allegations against Spacey. The Oscar-winning actor is seeking unspecified treatment, and a representative on Monday did not respond to a request for comment. The Sony Pictures, movie, now starring Plummer along with original cast members Michelle Williams and Mark Wahlberg, will be released in Europe later this week and in the United States on 25 December.

Plummer, 88, sought to bring humanity to Getty, although he said he “made no pretense at research” for the role ahead of a nine-day reshoot in London and Rome in mid-November. He did not see Spacey’s original scenes.

“I had to follow the writing, all in a very short space of time,” Plummer said. “I saw him more vulnerable than the script suggested ... so he would have some dimension and some humanity.”

Plummer, Scott and Williams were nominated last week for Golden Globe awards.

Scott said he was initially drawn to the project not so much because of the kidnapping by the “Ndrangheta, the Calabrian mafia, who cut off their victim’s ear, but because of the elder Getty.” He’s an enigmatic character who isolated himself through wealth. When somebody becomes that wealthy, all the friends start evaporating, so he was an isolated individual,” the British director said.

Getty died in 1976. — Reuters

ESPN President Skipper resigns to deal with substance addiction

LOS ANGELES — Walt Disney Co’s (DIS. N) John Skipper resigned on Monday as president of ESPN, the company’s most important network, due to a problem with addiction.

“I have struggled for many years with a substance addiction,” Skipper, who was also Disney Media Networks chairman, said in a statement. “I have decided that the most important thing I can do right now is to take care of my problem.” (espn2kgmncy)

George Bodenheimer will be the sports network’s acting chairman for the next 99 days, ESPN said in a statement. He had been its president from 1998 to 2011 and executive chairman until May 2014.

An ESPN spokeswoman declined to comment on who may be considered as Skipper’s successor.

Skipper’s departure comes within a few days after Disney struck a deal to buy film, television and international businesses from Rupert Murdoch’s Twenty-First Century Fox Inc (FOXA.O) for $52.4 billion.

Skipper, who became ESPN president in 2012, has led the network to a series of long-term distribution agreements with major rights holders, including the National Basketball Association and Major League Baseball.

But ESPN has also struggled with subscriber losses and ratings declines. Last month, it said it would lay off about 150 employees.

Disney Chief Executive Officer Bob Iger, who extended his stay at the company through 2021 to oversee integration of Fox’s businesses, lauded Skipper’s candor and backed his decision. Disney shares were down 0.2 per cent at $111.09 on Monday afternoon. — Reuters

**Image**

Luke Bryan. PHOTO: REUTERS

Plummer, Scott and Williams pose at the premiere for “All the Money in the World” in Beverly Hills, California, US on 18 December, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS
Fifty Chinese couples marry in mass ceremony in Sri Lanka

COLOMBO — Fifty couples from China tied the knot in the Sri Lankan capital on Sunday in a mass wedding ceremony, conducted in the island’s Buddhist traditions, as the island aims to woo more tourists.

The couples included newly-weds as well as already married couples aiming to re-dedicate their marriages, officials said.

Some were dressed in the traditional attire of Sri Lanka’s mountainous central region while others wore Chinese or Western clothes at the main ceremony in the central Colombo area.

“There’ll be many more couples who want to come here and celebrate true marriages from China and other parts of the world,” Tourism Minister John Amaratunga told Reuters.

“It’ll be an opening to say Sri Lanka is the best destination for foreigners,” Chinese tourist arrivals in Sri Lanka have been rising

Sri Lanka three years ago. Her husband, 25-year old Henry Liu, wore a traditional red costume resembling the dress of the ancient kings of Sri Lanka.

—Reuters ■

Tokyo zoo celebrates panda cub Xiang Xiang’s public debut

TOKYO — Tokyo’s Ueno zoo on Monday held an event celebrating the impending public debut of giant panda cub Xiang Xiang, inviting some 130 guests, including the wife of the Chinese ambassador to Japan, to mark the occasion.

“I hope that Xiang Xiang will grow in good health and become an envoy of peace and friendship,” said Wang Wan, the wife of Chinese Ambassador to Japan Cheng Yonghua. China began gifting pandas to Japan in 1972 when bilateral ties were restored after World War II.

“I also hope that children in areas affected by the (2011) Great East Japan Earthquake will have the opportunity to meet Xiang Xiang,” she said.

After the ceremony, guests and some lucky children got the opportunity to see Xiang Xiang a day before her much-awaited public debut with mother Shin Shin. “It is my honour and joy to be able to share this occasion with the public for the first time for 29 years,” Yutaka Fukuda, head of the Ueno Zoological Gardens, said after receiving a gift of a panda figurine from Wang.

The last time a giant panda born at the zoo went on show for the first time was in 1988 when a cub named Yu Yu was unveiled.

After seeing the cub on Monday, Tokyo Gov. Yuriko Koike told the press, “She has a lot of energy. She showed us her cute bottom climbing in a tree and held bamboo in her mouth.”

Xiang Xiang, fathered by Ri Ri and born approximately six months ago, has fattened up, going from her 147-gram birth weight to over 12 kilograms, according to the zoo.

The zoo conducted a lottery to allocate times for up to 2,000 daily visitors. The cub will be on display for two-and-a-half hours per day until 31 January, with the zoo restricting numbers in order to avoid overwhelming Xiang Xiang.

Due to the over 247,000 applications received, the zoo installed a live video feed from inside Xiang Xiang’s enclosure so that those who missed out can still get a look at the zoo’s newest star. —Kyodo News ■

Thangka collection on display in Israel

LANZHOU — A collection of thangkas, or traditional Tibetan Buddhist scroll paintings, has been put on display for the first time in Israel from Monday.

About 100 thangkas are displayed, in the city of Haifa, for three days to show the essence and style of Tibetan thangkas and culture.

“The collection on display is an encyclopedia of the thangka art form. It allows the Israeli public to appreciate the unique Chinese art form at close range,” said Gesang Chi, manager of a Tibetan culture company in the Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture of Gannan in northwest China’s Gansu Province, which owns the scrolls. The exhibition will also feature Tibetan songs and dances by artists from Gannan.

Thangka is a form of silk painting that dates back to the Tibetan Tubo Kingdom 1,200 years ago. It was listed as a UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity in 2009.

—Xinhua ■

Foreign visitors to USJ top 2 million for 1st time in 2017 Category

OSAKA — The number of foreign visitors to movie theme park Universal Studios Japan in Osaka topped 2 million on Tuesday for the first time in a calendar year, operator USJ Co said.

The number has doubled since 2014 when 1 million tourists flocked to the park’s newly opened area based on the “Harry Potter” film series. Most foreign tourists who visit are from other parts of Asia, such as China, South Korea, Taiwan and Hong Kong, making the park which opened in 2001 a major draw for Osaka, USJ said.

The operator attributed the surge in visitors to the successful opening in April of a new area which features the diminutive yellow Minion characters from the “Despicable Me” movie franchise. Other attractions such as rides and shops also proved popular among foreigners, it said.

On Tuesday, two Singaporean families were recognized as the 200-millionth foreign visitors to USJ and the park gifted them special passes that allowed priority access to attractions. “In addition to the rides, goods only sold in Japan and hospitality services are popular so we want to continue spreading our information abroad,” said a USJ official. —Kyodo News ■
Coordination meeting on youth football competitions held

By Kyaw Zin Tun

A COORDINATION meeting for the 2018 football events including the Grassroots Program, the Regional U-14 and the University Football Tournament was held yesterday afternoon at the Myanmar Football Federation (MFF) Meeting Room, Novotel Yangon Max in Kamayut Township, Yangon.

In the meeting, they discussed matters regarding the university-level football competition, the U-14 competition and the Grassroots Program. Myanmar National League and MPT jointly organise the Grassroots Program, Regional U-14 & University Football Tournament.

Present at the meeting were Director-General Dr Khang Myae, Deputy Director-General U Kyaw San, Deputy Director-General U Tun Yi, Rector Dr Tin Maung Hla, Deputy Director-General Daw Khin Mar Swe, Assistant Director U Aye Min, Marketing General Manager of MPT Joint Operation U Kyaw Thet, Senior Staff Level 3 MPT Joint Operation U Ye Aung Bo, sport head U Zaw Min, associate general secretary U Tin Myint Aung, Myanmar National League COO U Sue Aung, MPP Youth Development in charge U Win Thu Moe and related officials.

According to the discussions in the meeting, the MPT University Cup 2018 will be held from 1 to 12 February in Taunggyi, from 10 February to 2 March in Mawlamyine, from 17 February to 1 March in Pathein, from 20 June to 2 July in Mandalay and Yangon.

The MFF-MPT Grassroots Festival 2018 will also be held in Taunggyi, Mandalay, Monwya, Bago, Mawlamyine, Rakhine, Pathein and Yangon.

MFF Futsal Open Cup 2018 to be held in March

THE MFF Futsal Open Cup 2018 will kick off on 1 March, 2018 in Yangon, supervised by Myanmar Football Federation (MFF).

Teams that want to participate in the competition can register at the MFF from 15 January to 15 February. The format for the competition will be determined after it is learnt how many teams will be participating.

The teams from other regions and states will be given accommodations by the MFF.

Further inquiries about the MFF Futsal Open Cup 2018 can be made to MFF executive U Kyi Min Thein at 0973008786 — Kyaw Zin Tun

Sigurdsson stunner for Everton sinks Swansea at Goodison

LONDON — Everton continued their revival under Sam Allardyce with a 3-1 win over bottom club Swansea City that moved them up to ninth place in the Premier League on Monday.

Everton had gone behind in the first half but recovered to take a 2-1 lead in the 64th minute when Gylfi Sigurdsson, a close-season signing from Swansea, beat goalkeeper Lukasz Fabianski with a perfectly struck shot into the far corner.

A 79th minute Wayne Rooney penalty wrapped up the win after Martin Olsson was ruled to have brought down Jonjoe Kenny.

Swansea, who lost striker Wilfried Bony to injury after four minutes and have now lost their last six away games, had taken a surprise lead in the 35th when Leroy For lost his marker and netted a Tom Carroll corner from close range.

Everton got on level terms just before halftime when Wayne Rooney’s penalty kick was pushed against the post by Fabianski but Dominic Calvert-Lewin was on hand to drive in the rebound. — Reuters

Ex-Australia coach Postecoglou takes over at J-League’s Marinos

HONG KONG — Former Australia coach Ange Postecoglou has been appointed as the new head coach of Japan’s Yokohama F Marinos, the J-League club announced on Tuesday.

Postecoglou resigned from his position at the helm of the Socceroos after guiding them through playoffs against Syria and Honduras to qualify for the finals of next year’s World Cup in Russia. The 52-year-old replaces Etsuo Momberts, who will leave the club when his contract expires at the end of the month.

“I am excited to be moving to Japan and returning to club football,” Postecoglou said in a statement issued by the club.

“Coaching Yokohama F Marinos will be a great challenge and I am very much looking forward to working with the club’s players, and young players in particular, to achieve success.”

Postecoglou previously led Brisbane Roar to two A-League titles before being appointed the Socceroos coach in the build-up to the 2014 World Cup after Germany’s Holger Osieck was fired. Australia exited the competition in Brazil at the end of the group stage, but Postecoglou was credited with rejuvenating an aging squad and then steered the country to their first Asian Cup title in 2015 when they beat South Korea in the final.

“Ange Postecoglou is an excellent coach, with an attractive and entertaining style of football which will suit our approach,” said Marinos President Koichiro Furukawa.

“At the Marinos, we are committed to developing players and Ange has a very strong record in doing this. We are confident that he is the perfect choice to take us forward.” —Reuters