Myanmar Permanent Representative to the United Nations delivers a Statement at Security Council on Government’s efforts in Rakhine State

NEW YORK, 13 Feb — The United Nations Security Council held a briefing session regarding the situation in Myanmar at its Chamber in New York on 13 February 2018. At the session, U Hau Do Suan, Permanent Representative/Ambassador of Myanmar delivered a statement at the Council on the Government’s efforts on restoration of rule of law, peace and stability, preparation for repatriation of displaced persons from Rakhine State, and implementation of the Rakhine Advisory Commission recommendations. Some salient points of his statement are as follows:

- Myanmar has been cooperating with the United Nations in its efforts to alleviate the current humanitarian problems and to achieve its objective of sustainable solution to the issue of Rakhine State.
- Myanmar and Bangladesh have made significant progress in their bilateral efforts for repatriation of displaced persons. Myanmar will draw on the services of the UNHCR as needed and at the appropriate time.
- Myanmar has already provided Bangladesh with information relating to the resettlement plan, provision of livelihood assistance, access to basic services, and safety arrangements for verified returnees.

SEE PAGE-3
YANGON-MANDALAY ROAD TO BE UPGRADED TO INTERNATIONAL STANDARD WITH ADB ASSISTANCE

The first 40-mile section of the Yangon-Mandalay Expressway, on which hundreds of traffic accidents occur every year, will be upgraded to international standards with the assistance from the Asian Development Bank (ADB), said Deputy Minister for Construction U Kyaw Lin.

He made the comment at the Pyithu Hluttaw yesterday in his answer to the question of whether the government has a plan to upgrade the road to a modern four-lane road in order to decrease road accidents, to install modern monitoring and safety equipment and to enforce traffic rules along the road.

“The cabinet has allowed us to get a loan from ADB to upgrade the section from 0 mile to 40 miles starting from Yangon, and we will submit our plan to Pyidaungsu Hluttaw soon,” said Deputy Minister U Kyaw Lin.

The condition of the road does not meet international standards in three ways – speed, comfort and safety, he said.

Though the road was target-ed to be constructed meeting the expressway standard, use of the road was allowed before the road met the international standard, said U Kyaw Lin.

In attempts to reduce traffic accidents, road signs, rumble strips, road lines, road lane and solar lamp posts are installed at 22 places where road accidents mostly happened.

The major cause of traffic accidents is speeding, and it has been discovered that the number of traffic accidents has decreased dramatically as speed limits have been imposed and pointed out that it is necessary to set up sign boards for road safety along the expressway.

Actions have been taken against more than 22,600 vehicles from 2016 to 2018 for breaking traffic rules. — Kyaw Thu Htet, Mi Mi Phyo/Myanmar News Agency

MOTION TO CONSERVE NATURAL RESOURCES AS NATIONAL DUTY PASSED

The MPs of Amyotha Hluttaw debated the depleting environmental resources in Myanmar at the Amyotha Hluttaw yesterday, and urged the union government to provide protection to the country’s natural resources.

The debate focused on the preservation of the country’s natural resources as a national duty, submitted by MP U Pe Chit of the Yangon region constituency (9) to the Hluttaw. In his discussion, U Khin Myo Win of the Taninthayi Region constituency (12) pointed out that five factories in Myeik, Taninthayi Region, are using some 300 tonnes of fingerlings a day to produce chicken and ducks, and they were also using some 20,000 tonnes of firewood every year to run the factories.

“Short-term and long-term plans are required to save millions of fingerlings that are being used to produce feed,” said U Khin Myo Win. Six MPs also participated in the discussion. Union Minister for Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation U Ohn Win explained the measures adopted by the ministry, pledging that the extraction of natural resources would be conducted with accountability and responsibility towards sustainable development.

In response to the motion, the union minister also acknowledged that the natural resources of the country need to be conserved. To implement the tasks prescribed in the Environmental Conservation Law, the union government formed a national-level body for environmental conservation, headed by Vice President U Myint Swe, as well as work committees and region/state supervisory committees for environmental conservation that were formed on 2 June 2016, he said. The union minister also called for cooperation from all sectors, including government, non-government organisations, region/state governments and local people, to ensure environmental conservation is a success, and urged the Hluttaw to put the motion on record. The motion was passed by 92 votes to 82, with four abstentions. — Aye Aye Thant (Myanmar News Agency)
NRPC discusses Framework, National-Level Political Discussion, TOR and SOP

A WORKSHOP for Framework, National-Level Political Discussion, Terms of Reference (TOR) and Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) was held at the National Reconciliation and Peace Center (NRPC) in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the workshop, the Secretary of the NRPC, Deputy Minister for the Office of the State Counsellor U Khin Maung Tin delivered the opening speech.

Then, Director-General of the Ministry of the State Counselor Office U Zaw Htay explained the items to be discussed.

Secretary of Peace Commission U Khin Zaw Oo talked about the structure, political discussion processes, and issues to be discussed during the political discussion. U Hla Maung Shwe from the Peace Commission talked about National-Level Political Discussions concerning TOR, along with the CSO Forum.

Soon after, U Zaw Htay explained the procedures of the National-Level Political Discussion, and the roles of the organisers of political discussions of the SOP and the role of the supervising committee. A question-and-answer session was held next. The meeting was attended by Hluttaw representatives from groups representing the government, members of supervising committee of national-level political discussion, ministers of ethnic affairs, directors of Nay Pyi Taw Council area, states and regions and officials.

—Myanmar News Agency

Workshop for Framework, National-Level Political Discussion, TOR and SOP held in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. PHOTO: MNA
Ministry granted 1,605 hotel licenses in January

MORE than 1,600 hotels and guest houses, renting out over 64,500 rooms, were operational across the country as of the end of January 2018, according to the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism.

The Ministry of Hotels and Tourism has approved licenses for these hotels, after carefully reviewing the hotels’ applications, to ensure tourist can travel conveniently throughout the country.

There are some 390 hotels and guest houses with 20,245 rooms in Yangon, 208 hotels with 8,676 rooms in Mandalay, 141 hotels with 4,401 rooms in Tawnggyi and Inle and 85 hotels with 2,919 rooms in Bagan and Nyaung U.

The number of hotels and guest houses which were granted licenses by the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism has increased every month.

Also, the ministry has granted some 2,638 travel and tour agency licenses, including to 2,596 companies owned by local residents. In addition, the ministry has granted 2,548 transport licenses, 4,380 guide licenses and 3,449 regional tour guide licenses, as of January 2018.

Among the 14 states and regions, tourists primarily visited Mandalay and Yangon regions and Shan State. Some 3.44 million tourists visited Myanmar in 2017, 2.91 million in 2016 and 4.6 million in 2015.

The number of hotels and guest increases from May 2015 to January 2018 by 457 hotels with 19,247 rooms.— ZWE

Thailand-Myanmar border trade reaches US$1.2 billion

The value of border trade between Thailand and Myanmar between 1st April and 2nd February was more than US$1.2 billion in the current fiscal year (FY), which is an increase of $97 million over the same period in the last FY. Thai-Myanmar border trade is carried out through the Tachilek, Myawaddy, Kawthoung, Myeik, Htee Khee, Mawtaung and Maese gates.

Of these seven gates, Myawaddy gate is the main access point for Thai-Myanmar trade, though trade value was $6 million less than last FY. Similarly, Htee Khee also shows a slight decline in trade. The remainders show increases in trade. Exports through the Kawthoung and Myeik checkpoints significantly surpassed imports.

Export values were $71 million at Tachilek gate, $751 million at Myawaddy, $159 million at Kawthoung, $211 million at Myeik, $10 million at Htee Khee, $3.8 million at Mawtaung and $0.75 million at Maese.

Some 95 domestic investment enterprises permitted

DOMESTIC investment, including increased investments, reached Ks3.37 trillion (over US$900 million) as of the first week of February in the current fiscal year (FY) 2017-2018. This FY, the Myanmar Investment Commission approved 95 local enterprises. Those domestic investments are engaged in electric power, real estate development, transportation and telecommunications, livestock and fisheries, hotel and tourism, industrial estate development, agriculture and other service sectors.

The Real Estate Development sector absorbed most of the domestic investments, as detailed by the Myanmar Citizens Investment Sector.

According to the new Myanmar Investment Law, region and state DICA offices are authorized to approve investment proposals with capital of not more than $5 million. Land leases are also to be authorized from regional offices. In addition, tax relief for investments will be available, depending on the set investment zone.— Ko Khant

Write for us

We appreciate your feedback and contributions. If you have any comments or would like to submit editorials, analyses or reports, please email co@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com with your name and title.

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

FIVE containers of dry Taro leaf-stems to be exported to S Korea

FIVE containers of dry Taro leaf-stems (petioles) will be exported to South Korea this fiscal year, according to U Aung Ye Myat, a merchant from Pantonaw Township, Ayeyawady Region.

“Currently, we are planning to annually export more dry Taro leaf-stems to Korea. The price of dry Taro leaf-stems has increased. On the other hand, South Korea has also offered to buy double the amount of dry Taro leaf-stems. Recently, Korea began buying dry Taro leaf-stems, which are grown in Ayeyawady Region and Shan State, he added.

Dry Taro leaf-stems grow naturally in the Ayeyawady Region. Foreign demand has increased because Taro leaf-stems are healthy and are not grown using chemical fertilizers.

In Shan State, the price of dry Taro leaf-stems is Ks 2,500 per viss, depending on the distances in which they are transported to market.

Dry Taro leaf-stems are also exported abroad. Recently, local farmers began buying land to cultivate Taro in order to prevent a scarcity of Taro leaf-stems. — Zar Lin Thu (AMIA)
All-round cooperation needed to practice OSH system

By May Thet Hnin

More than 100 workers are subject to occupational accidents each year, based upon a survey conducted at factories, workshops and stores, in accordance with the Factories Act 1951. This figure excludes accidents in other workplace locations.

According to a report based upon the Myanmar Labour Force Survey 2015, the country has a labour force of 44.8 million people, more than 51.7 per cent of which is working in the agriculture industry. The industrial sector accounts for 16.6 per cent of all workers, while 31.5 per cent are engaged in the service sector. If those sectors are included in the survey, the rate of occupational accidents and deaths rises higher.

Global estimates of occupational accidents and work related diseases, issued by the International Labour Organization (ILO), claims that a worker dies from a work-related accident or disease every 15 seconds, at a rate of an estimated 2.3 million lives per year. It also claims that some 317 million workers suffer from accidents. This announcement also points out that a lack of occupational safety leads to a nation’s 4 per cent loss in GDP.

In Myanmar, there were overall 156 cases of work-related accidents from 1st January 2017 to 3rd December 2017, with 49 minor cases, 82 serious accidents and 25 fatal cases, according to a table of work-related accidents.

The Factories Act 1951 was amended in 2016, however, the new law fails to cover occupational safety in every workplace. The Occupational Safety and Health Law (draft) submitted to the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw in February 2017 is now in the hands of the Bill Committee of Pyithu Hluttaw. After this law is instituted, OSH activities will be obligatory for all employers. U Nyunt Win, director-general of the Factories and General Labour Inspection Department, said that prior to enactment of the OSH bill, educational campaigns regarding occupational safety were conducted at factories and workplaces, in cooperation with ILO.

“The OSH law, which is soon to be developed, is regarded as an umbrella law. The formation of the OSH committee and assignments are embodied in this bill. It highlights the joint agreement between employers and employees. Procedures for formation of safety committees and inspections to identify safety and health hazards and training in the workplace are incorporated into this bill”, he noted.

At present, employers and workers usually agree to mutual understandings about compensation following occupational accidents. Cases requiring action under the underlying laws are seldom seen.

Employers are reluctant to execute OSH activities due to weaknesses in the law and regulations, along with the high cost of OSH activities, U Nyunt Win said.

“Employers have little interest in the Occupational Safety and Health process. Most of them are concerned over high costs, and those activities are virtually meaningless to them. We can even count on the fingers of hands number of businesses which practice OSH system”, said Director-general U Nyunt Win.

Weak OSH processes, a lack of leadership, a minimum budget to carry out the OSH process, workers who have little knowledge about OSH, and workplaces in far-flung areas in which labour inspectors cannot easily reach, are contributing factors to the high rate of work-related diseases and accidents, said U Kyaw Kyaw Tun, deputy director of the Factory and General Labour Law Inspection Department.

OSH requirements include having a proper working environment with specific lighting, protective measures to guard against chemical and toxic hazards, electrical safety and workstation ergonomic designs. Additionally, purchasing safe machines, using safe feeding and ejection devices, placing guards around dangerous parts and regular maintenance, are a must to ensure safety around machines.

Occupational safety does not count solely on the leaders and employers. U Naw Aung, deputy chairman of Myanmar Industries Craft and Services Trade Unions Federation (MIFC), stressed flaws found in both the government and employees.

Regarding occupational safety and healthy activities, the government’s law enforcement is also weak. Employers need to create a happy work environment for workers by providing necessary facilities to assure occupational safety, he noted. Workers also need to avoid careless actions, such as working without wearing gloves, masks, safety boots, and more. Workers need to recognize the risks of possible work-related accidents and diseases.

“The government’s supervision and law enforcement is the most critical thing. All those stakeholders who are links in the chain of events show weaknesses”, he continued.

SMEs and garment industries, which form the basis of Cutting, Making and Packaging systems, have a strong labour force which must adopt OSH processes, said U Aye Thaung, chairman of the Shwe Lin Pan Industries Zone. OSH related certificates are required for CMP based garment factories linked with Europe, the USA and Japan, and so they hire doctors and nurses in the workplace. The government requires creating educational campaigns about OSH, and providing subsidies for carrying out the OSH processes.

“Prevention measures are needed to prevent accidents. If the government cannot provide financial assistance to small enterprises which cannot afford to carry out OSH activities, they should link with organizations for funds”, said U Aye Thaung.

Dr Khin Maung Lwin, managing director of Fame Pharmaceuticals, who has been recognized by ASEAN for carrying out OSH activities in the workplace, points out that quality management systems, environmental management systems and occupational safety and health systems must work in harmony to have a successful business.

Those employers that put in place OSH systems gain considerable prestige, he noted.

Carrying out OSH activities is likely to reduce medical leaves, prevent risks of fires, create a proper workplace and build good relation between employers and employees. Therefore, businesses following OSH system can save more money in the long term and promote businesses’ reputation, said Dr Khin Maung Lwin.

In 1972, the Occupational Safety and Health Review Commission (Central) adjudicated the working functions at factories, forming sub-committees. After 1988, this committee was dissolved. There are now stacks of occupational accident records at the Social Security Board and the Factory and General Labour Law Inspection Department under the Ministry of Labour, Immigration, and Population, as well as related departments under the Ministry of Health and Sports, said Dr Than Htut, retired deputy director (Occupational Health) of the Ministry of Health and Sports.

“The lack of occupational safety causes disabilities and even fatalities. The workplace must have occupational safety measures and related educational events for their workers. It also needs to support training, when it is required”, he added.

Occupational safety is compulsory for the workplace, due to changing working conditions, and in line with introduction of new technologies, said OSH trainers.

“OSH is a right of workers, and its use creates prestige for employers. OSH activities might seem like a burden on employers, but they will reap benefits to the state, employers and workers, in the long term. Thus, all-around cooperation is required by the state, employers, employees and social welfare organizations, said U Ohn Myint, patron and advisor of the Wisdom World Company, which provides OSH training.

Poor human resources and financial conditions in Myanmar results in a rising toll of work-related accidents and diseases in SMEs, which remain the driving force of Myanmar’s economy. As a consequence of this, accidents can harm productivity rates and it can also affect the country’s economic growth, somehow. ■
Union Attorney-General’s Office mid-level law officer refresher course concludes

A concluding ceremony for the Union Attorney-General’s Office mid-level law officer refresher course 1/2018 was held yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw. Union Attorney-General U Tun Tun Oo addressed the ceremony.

The Union Attorney-General said, “Trainees need to study and learn case law. Combining real life experience with the training provided in this course will help law officers provide legal advice and to draft laws.”

The Union Attorney-General added, “There are many benefits to gain, such as crime investigation, crime management, intellectual property, labour law, laws to protect women and girls against violence conducted by UNDP, JICA and USAID. Law officers need to be free from corruption, take pride in their work and be knowledgeable in order to reach their ultimate destination.”

“Everyone is urged to live under the motto ‘Law practice is a practice full of ethics and dignity’”, the Union Attorney-General further said.

The outstanding trainees were then awarded by the Union Attorney-General.

The event was attended by Deputy Attorney-General U Win Myint, Permanent Secretary, directors general, deputy directors general, directors, trainers and 35 trainees.

—Myanmar News Agency

Brunei Darussalam signs an Agreement for reciprocal exchange of land for the construction of diplomatic premises

THE Signing ceremony of an Agreement for reciprocal exchange of Land for the construction of diplomatic premises between the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and the Government of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam was held at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

The Agreement was signed by U Myint Thu, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, on behalf of the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and H.E. Mr. Pe Hnin Orang Kaya Seri Pahalawon Colonel (R) Dato Paduka Haji Abdu'r Rahman bin Dato Paduka Haji Basir, Ambassador of Brunei Darussalam to Myanmar, on behalf of the Government of Brunei Darussalam.

U Kyaw Tin, Union Minister for International Cooperation witnessed the Signing Ceremony, and Directors General of Planning and Administrative Department, Protocol Department and Political Department and officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, representatives from Nay Pyi Taw Development Committee and officials from the Embassy of Brunei Darussalam also attended.

The Agreement aims to support the relocation of the Embassy of Brunei Darussalam to Nay Pyi Taw Diplomatic Zone, the administrative capital and will enhance a closer cooperation and efficient communication between the Government’s institutions and the Embassy.—Myanmar News Agency

One more political party applies for registration

Registrations of political parties are being scrutinized by the Union Election Commission (UEC). It is learnt that the National United Democratic Party (N.U.D) has approached UEC to register itself as a political party on 14 February 2018.—Myanmar News Agency

Public Announcement for remonstration

THE National United Democratic Party (N.U.D) headquartered at No. 2319, at the corner of Chindwin Road and Khatta Road, Shwe Kyar Pin Ward in Zahtun Township in Nay Pyi Taw, has submitted an application for registration as a political party in accord with Section 3 of the Political Parties Registration Law on 14-2-2018. In their application they mentioned that they will use the name, the flag and the emblem as described hereunder.

In accord with Section 14 (d) of the Political Parties Registration Rules, it is hereby announced that those who want to remonstrate with the UEC about the party’s name, flag and emblem may submit a complaint along with the supporting evidence within seven days starting from issuance of this announcement.

Union Election Commission

Myanmar Cultural Variety Show held in Nay Pyi Taw

The Myanmar Cultural Variety Show, to mark the 71st anniversary of the Union Day of Myanmar, was held on 12 February at Shwe Yathu Hall of the University of Veterinary Science, Yezin, Nay Pyi Taw.

The show was organised by the Central Committee of national ethnic literature and culture from the University of Veterinary Science, Yezin Agricultural University and University of Forestry (Yezin). Students of these universities performed at the show, and the performances included the Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Chin, Bamar, Mon, Rakhine, Shan and Naga ethnic dances.—GNLM
INTERVIEW

NCA signatories: We are ready to work together to create the Federal Republic

Photo: Htein Nan Naw, Hmway Thant

THE news team interviewed participants at the signing of the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA) by the New Mon State Party (NMSP) and Lahu Democratic Union (LDU).

Colonel Wunna Aung, Secretary (1) of Joint Monitoring Committee

We will be monitoring if organisations are following the military rules and regulations, as well as the NCA rules. We might send inspection teams for that, but our main goal is to reduce difficulties for everyone.

U Yar Htep, Shan State Minister for Lahu Ethnic Affairs

Our region still lacks good healthcare, education and basic infrastructure, but by cooperating with the union government, we hope to provide better opportunities to the ethnic people. Peace is crucial for the country’s development and to achieve that, firstly, all ethnic groups must be united, and secondly, all ethnic groups must have mutual respect. If we can achieve that, then we can develop each region, state and the nation.

U Khin Zaw Oo, Secretary of Peace Commission

On 15 October 2015, the union government and eight ethnic armed organisations (EAOs) signed the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement, and now, after numerous meetings, we have two additional signatories to the NCA, in southern Myanmar; there is Kayin State, Mon State and Taninthayi Region, and of the three, only Mon State had not signed the NCA and was not involved in the peace effort and development processes. However, now that the New Mon State Party has signed the NCA, we can assume that all of lower Myanmar is on the right path towards lasting peace. We have not closed our doors to anyone for peace talks. There have been unofficial meetings with EAOs, but we cannot officially announce anything yet.

Naing Aung Mangae,

NCA signatories: We are ready to work together to create the Federal Republic

I want to tell the remaining non-signatories to conduct negotiations and join us together in the peace process.

Dr. Tu Jar, Kachin State Democracy Party

Civil war is a political problem that needs a political solution, and everyone knows this. Especially in 2010, during President U Thein Sein’s administration, people have come to accept this and have engaged in talks, as opposed to using force. Eventually, this led to the forming of the NCA and holding of discussions based on it. Not all EAOs have signed the NCA, because there are some points in it that they want to amend. During the meetings leading up to the NCA, we can at least achieve a temporary ceasefire scenario, which may help us build trust in each other. The delegation for political negotiations (DPN) and the National Reconciliation and Peace Centre hold discussions and came up with eight points to be added to the NCA. The NMSP and LDU were satisfied with that, and they have signed the NCA, so I think other EAOs can find ways to ask for something that will work for them.

Narvis Bon, LDU Executive Committee Member

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

U Yar Htep.

U Khin Zaw Oo.

Naing Aung Mangae.

Dr. Tu Jar.

Narvis Bon.

88 generation Peace and Open Society

The signing of the NCA today shows the amount of trust that has been built, and I think there should be more meetings with the non-signatories to build trust in them too. I think there should be continuous interaction with them, even if it is not on official grounds, so that we can become more intimate with each other. The JMC (joint monitoring committee) was established to monitor the NCA, and the UPDJC was formed for political development. They are like the left and right feet. One of the pair monitors the ceasefire based on political activity, and the other conducts political dialogue based on the ceasefire situation.

U Thein Tun, Member of UPDJC (National Unity Party)

We have 10 signatories to the NCA now, and I urge the remaining EAOs to join the NCA as soon as possible. It is the wish of all ethnic groups. If all of us sign the NCA and the civil war ends, then we can engage in a political dialogue, and if we are all united in our mission, then we can establish a federal democratic system.

U Nyo Ohn Myint, Secretary of Centre for Peace and Reconciliation

After eight meetings for the NCA under the current administration, the NMSP said they will sign the NCA if the Tatmadaw offers some sort of agreement; so, I assume the commander-in-chief made an agreement with Chairperson Nai Hlaw Mon, and the other NMSP leaders accepted it. This is just my speculation. There may be additional signatories in the future. It takes some two to three months for the EAOs and the union government to convene, and misunderstandings can happen during that waiting period. However, today’s signing was possible because there was trust.

U Ko Ko Gyi,
As Myanmar moves towards greater decentralization of political power and fiscal responsibilities, how does the emerging conversation between governments and citizens shape up?

By Hibrid Valley and Stephanie Guo

MYANMAR is currently in the midst of a historic shift towards more federal and regional governance, spurred by the creation of elected state and region governments. Local politicians at subnational levels are tasked with the responsibility of formulating policies and managing their own budgets to best meet the needs of their communities. This shift decentralizes political power and fiscal responsibilities, away from the center and closer to those who are most affected.

If a productive dialogue between governments and citizens is to be realized, then decentralization brings the two parties closer, fostering a smoother conversation and allowing for greater transparency and accountability. As Myanmar moves towards greater decentralization of political power and fiscal responsibilities, how does the emerging conversation between governments and citizens shape up? Citizen’s Budgets are a strong step in the right direction.

As politician, the state一年一度的公民的总预算 mirrors the initial step taken by the government of Myanmar. This year, six state and region governments are moving towards co-creating their own Citizen’s Budget. Citizen’s Budgets are a strong step in the right direction.

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Middle-aged man hurt in mine blast in Myitkyina Township, Kachin State

A local resident sustained serious injuries in a mine explosion near Nangkwechaunggya in Myitkyina Township in Kachin State on Monday, according to the police.

The 42-year-old man, identified as U Ngwa Lay, a resident of Area-14, Shwesettaw Ward, was hurt when the explosion occurred, injuring his left arm and leg. He underwent surgery at a 309-bed military hospital.

Four other people were also hurt in mine explosions near Tanai Township, Myitkyina District, Kachin State, on 19 January and 20 January. —Win Naing (Kachinmyay)

Two high school students killed in traffic accident

TWO high school students were killed in a collision between a farm tractor and a motorbike in Bago Town on Union Day, which fell on 12 February, according to the police.

The tractor, which had no number plate, was driven by Maung Maung, an 18-year-old student, traveling with two others onboard. Officials said the bike collided with the tractor, driven by Ko Thu, 22, who resides in Mazin Ward in Bago Town. The accident happened near Power Restaurant at the edge of Socialist Street-23 in Shinsawpu Ward in Bago at around noon.

The motorcyclist, Maung Maung, was pronounced dead at the scene, while Zin Bo, a 16-year-old student, one of the bike’s passengers, was rushed to a nearby hospital where he died during treatment.

The drivers of the tractor and motorbike have been charged under Section 304 (a), 337 and 338 of the Penal Code, with careless driving. —Tin Soe (Bago)

Taxi driver escapes from vehicle fire

An taxi caught fire in Kamayut Township, Yangon, in the early morning of Tuesday, 13 February, according to the township Fire Services Department.

The fire occurred in front of the Yangon Institute of Marine Technology on Bayintnaung Road at about 5.34 am. The taxi, driven by U Zeya Tun, 38, caught fire while enroute to Kyimyindaing Township. The cause of the fire was believed to be an overheated engine.

It is not clear whether the taxi was in service at the time, but it is known that there were no passengers on board.

A military hospital. Authorities say the vehicle was engulfed in flames when firefighters arrived. There were no reported injuries.

The fire was extinguished by firefighters within 10 minutes of their arrival.

Police are still investigating the incident, in an effort to arrest the driver who fled from the scene of the fire. The driver could face legal charges under Section 285 of the Penal Code. —Pwint Thitsa

Over 2,500 dengue cases, 27 deaths, recorded in Rakhine State last year

RAKHINE State recorded more than 2,500 confirmed cases of dengue fever in 17 townships last year, said Dr San Kyewt Khine, Assistant Director of the state Public Health Department.

According to the Myawady Daily’s Tuesday report, the cases of dengue haemorrhagic fever (DHF) in Rakhine State significantly increased, when compared with the previous year.

As reported in hospital-based data, the number of DHF cases increased in Sittway, Myitkyina, Kyauktaw and MraukU townships in 2017. The disease killed 27 people, mostly in Sittway, Kyauktaw and MraukU townships. The most affected age group was children between 5 and 10 years of age, according to physicians.

Dr San Kyewt Khine said the health department continues to carry out preventive measures against dengue fever in every ward and township since the beginning of this year.

In Myanmar, the disease is still more common in the rainy season, but now DHF transmission occurs throughout the year, said physicians.

The virus has been particularly prevalent in flood-affected areas that provide ideal breeding grounds for mosquitoes. Lack of sanitation, unhygienic water storage and overcrowding are mainly blamed for causing the deadly infectious disease.

There were more than 42,900 confirmed cases of dengue fever, with 140 deaths, in the country in 2015. However, these figures dropped to 10,770 cases with 58 deaths in the following year. —GNLM

MR to build ten diesel locomotives this year

MYANMA Railways (MR) will build ten diesel locomotives this year, according to a report in 13 February’s Myawady Daily. The MR will build ten locomotive workshops in Nay Pyi Taw and Myintnge at the end of February. Locomotives will run on 2000-HP diesel engines and operate at speeds of up to 100 km (70 miles) per hour.

According to the upgrade project, launched in 2015, the MR will build 22 locomotives and 60 train coaches. The building of locomotives included in this project will be completed this year. The MR will continue producing locomotives, if its receives necessary monetary assistance, said U Aung Win, the General Manager of MR.

Nay Pyi Taw locomotive workshop has received equipment for five locomotives, with the remainder still to be delivered. The assembling of the locomotives can begin at the end of February. —GNLM

Diesel locomotives will be built by Myanma Railways this year. PHOTO: GNLM/PHOE KHWAR

Firefighters try to extinguish the vehicle fire. PHOTO: SUPPLIED
A bomb explosion occurred in Ottara Thiri Township

A bomb explosion occurred on Tuesday in Nay Pyi Taw’s Ottara Thiri Township, a police officer from the Ottara Thiri township police station confirmed.

The explosion occurred when a 10-year-old child from Kyaukse township, threw an explosive device into a fire behind his home after he found it while he was playing.

“The boy found an old bomb and he threw it into the fire because he was scared so it was exploded. A 13-year-old girl and an 18-month-old boy, who were sitting near the fire, received minor injuries,” the police officer said. They were sent to the Nay Pyi Taw hospital.—Myanmar Digital News

Young craft makers display their talents

A COLLECTIVE handicrafts show was held on 13 February in Monywa Township, Sagaing Region, to showcase a wide range of handicrafts made from forest products.

“Efforts were made to display our creations during a group handmade show over the last two years. We receive a lot of knowledge, experience and innovative ideas from this event,” said Ko Kwan Kyaw, one of the craft makers from Monywa.

This was the first time Monywa Town hosted the group handmade show, displaying the works of 13 young handicraft makers from different towns, including Yangon, Mandalay, PyinOoLwin, Sagaing, Monywa, Lashio and Rakhine, he added.

The show also aims to inspire the creativity and imagination of children and young people through the creation of handicrafts, with the organisers planning to hold similar events in the future.

The show took place at the Kanthaya garden resort in Kyaikhte Ward, Monywa Township, displaying more than 100 types of crafts made of wood, bamboo, fibres, plaster and waste materials.

The show started at 9 a.m. and continued until 5 p.m.—Win Oo (Zeyataing)

Rubber exports rise sharply

MYANMAR rubber exports crossing through the Muse border gate saw an increase of nearly 20,000 tons in this fiscal year, compared with the same period last year, although the price of raw rubber has fallen in recent months, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

Currently, the demand for rubber has been rising in China. As global rubber prices have not significantly declined, the price of rubber in the local market has remained stable at Ks 750 per pound, said an official from the Ministry.

“Previously, Myanmar exported between 70,000 and 80,000 tons per year. Since last year, Myanmar has exported over 100,000 tons per year. We expected that we can export 150,000 tons of rubber this year,” he added.

Last year at this time, the price of rubber was Ks 1,300 per pound. But this year, rubber prices declined to Ks 750 per pound. To charge a high price for rubber, officials need to keep track of rubber prices in October and November, he added.

Myanmar harvests nearly 200,000 tons of rubber annually. China usually buys some 80 per cent of Myanmar’s rubber. The other 20 per cent is shipped to Singapore, Indonesia and Malaysia. Myanmar rubber is produced mainly in Mon State, Tanintharyi Region, Kayin State, the Yangon Region and Bago Region. Currently, Myanmar has more than 1.5 million acres of rubber plantations, as much as 700,000 acres produce latex rubber.—GNLM

Plum growers report losses due to decline of plum prices in Mandalay

Plum growers in Mandalay region have reported losses, as plum prices declined to nearly half of last year’s prices, according to plum growers from Kyaukse township.

“Last year, the price of plums was between Ks 9,000 and Ks 13,000 per basket. But this year, the price of plums is only Ks 6,500 to Ks 7,000 per basket. Therefore, local plum growers do not even break even on their planting costs,” said U Khin Lin, a plum grower from Kyaukse township.

Though plums are also being sold in paper boxes, the cost is higher than their being sold in baskets. Last year plums sold well in the local market. That is why local plum growers increased the amount of their cultivation this year. We have also produced more fruit, and plum traders have bought plums at lower prices. When we do not sell fruit at the lower price, the fruit will spoil on the tree”, he added.

Recently, plum traders bought plums directly from farms. Then, they sent them to be sold in Muse, Tamu, Kalay and the upper regions of the Chindwin River through Yangon, Mandalay, Bago and Monywa, annually from December to March. Plums are mainly grown in Mandalay, Magway, the Sagaing regions and Nay Pyi Taw. Brazil apples, also called Loquat and Taiwan plums, have to be picked between January and March.—Myat Thu (AMIA)
**Myanmar MoP Local Coordinators Training held in Yangon**

THE Myanmar Messengers of Peace (MoP) Local Coordinators Training was held at the Diamond Jubilee Hall of Yangon University yesterday morning.

The MoP training is a collaboration between the Myanmar Scout Association and the Asia-Pacific Regional Scout Committee. Chief Scouts Commissioner Dr. Tin Nyo opened the ceremony with a keynote speech followed by comments from Mr. Paul Parkinson, the Regional Chair of the Asia-Pacific Regional Scout Committee, and Dr. Somboon Bunyasiri from the Thailand Scout Association. Ko Sa Kyaw Nyi Nyi Zin, a local MoP coordinator, then explained the structure of the training.

Afterwards, scouts and students from various universities in attendance were divided into three groups with Asia-Pacific Scout officials and engaged in practical peace making scenarios. Towards the end of the training, Dr. Tin Nyo, committee members, Chief Scouts, Mr. Parkinson and his committee members exchanged honorary gifts and took a commemorative photo together.—Myanmar News Agency

**Prosecution witness in Reuters reporters’ hearing testifies**

THE latest prosecution witness in the hearing to determine whether two detained Reuters reporters should be charged under the Official Secrets Act appeared in court yesterday.

Sub-inspector Myo Ko Ko was the fourth prosecution witness to testify in the proceedings to decide whether reporters Wa Lone, 31, and Kyaw Soe Oo, 27, should be charged under the colonial-era Official Secrets Act.

All the witnesses for the prosecution have so far been police officers. “Two more prosecution witnesses will appear at the court at next hearing,” said Deputy District Judge Daw Sandar Win. The next hearing is scheduled for 21 February, according to the court.

Wa Lone, also known as Thet Oo Maung, and Kyaw Soe Oo, also known as Moe Aung, with the Yangon bureau of the Reuters news agency, were arrested on 12 December for illegally obtaining important and secret government documents.

The journalists told relatives from interviews with doctors, cardiologists and patients from Mandalay General Hospital.

**Heart valve procedure successfully performed at Mandalay General Hospital**

Five cardiac patients who were in need of heart valve replacement underwent successful procedures this week using Transcutaneous Aortic Valve Implantation (TAVI) at the cardiac unit of Mandalay General Hospital.

Mandalay General Hospital has been performing operations for patients who are in need of heart valve replacement but cannot tolerate open-heart surgery.

The TAVI treatment uses a catheter to insert a new heart valve through an artery.

This recent treatment was made with the help of two cardiologists from Mandalay General Hospital and National University of Singapore (NUS) from February 12-13.

The 12 heart valves used in the procedure were donated by Edward Life Science Co. Ltd. All the procedures were deemed successful, medical officials said.

The following are excerpts from interviews with doctors, cardiologists and patients from Mandalay General Hospital.

**Prof. Dr. Than Than Kyai, Head of the Department of Cardiology, University of Medicine, Mandalay**

This is the first time this type of cardiac treatment using Transcutaneous Aortic Valve Implantation (TAVI) has been done in Mandalay. With the help of Dr. Edgar Tay and Dr. Jimmy Hun from NUS, we could perform the TAVI procedure successfully.

**Prof. Dr. Kyaw Soe Win, cardiologist, Mandalay General Hospital**

Formerly, this kind of treatment used to take six hours and most of the patients were elderly. Nowadays, in Asia alone, there are 10,000 patients who have received this kind of treatment, and the majority are from Japan, then Singapore. Thanks to this new treatment, the patients will recover within a couple of days.

**Dr. Edgar Tay, a cardiologist from Singapore**

The reasons why I come here is to treat the patients who are suffering from cardiology. As far as I know, the doctors from this hospital are well experienced and helpful. I see that all my patients are getting better and pleased it after the operation.

U Bo Maung, a cardiac patient I suffer from heart disease and went to Mandalay General Hospital. Due to my old age, I couldn’t undergo the operation. Now, a new valve has been transplanted without any surgery and I am feeling better now. So I want to say that I am very grateful to those who helped me.—Min Htet Aung (Mandalay)
Suzuki bets on remodeled eco car to rev up sales in Thailand

BANGKOK — Japan’s Suzuki Motor Corp has launched a remodeled environmentally-friendly Swift hatchback in Thailand, aiming to increase its eco car sales to grab around a 20 per cent share of the segment in Southeast Asia’s second-largest auto market.

Suzuki Motor (Thailand) Co, a wholly owned subsidiary of the Japanese carmaker, said it expects to almost double sales of cars in the Swift series from 8,080 units last year to 15,700 this year, with the first release of the third-generation All New Suzuki Swift model in the region. Senior officials of the local unit foresee new car sales in Thailand this year growing 3.4 per cent from 2017 to over 900,000 units while predicting the eco car segment will surge 15.2 per cent to 180,000 vehicles.

The Thai subsidiary’s eco car sales grew 13.4 per cent to 21,300 units last year, grabbing a market share of 13.6 per cent. It expects to keep up momentum for a further gain in 2018 on the back of the first release of a new Swift model in six years.

Two other eco car models — the 1.25-liter Ciaz sedan and 1.0-liter Celerio hatchback — sold 12,000 and 1,800 units last year, respectively.

The new Swift has a 1,200 cc engine, with prices ranging from 499,000 to 629,000 baht ($15,800 to $20,000), targeted at those aged 21 to 39. The local unit produces the remodeled car at its plant in Rayong province, southeast of Bangkok, and is planning to export it from April to Southeast Asian countries such as Cambodia, Indonesia and the Philippines.

It forecast that 4,000 units will be exported in the first year. Suzuki Motor has simultaneously released the same model in India, produced at a local plant.

— Kyodo News

PHOTO: KYODO NEWS
Russian Navy to get large amphibious assault ship by late spring

MOSCOW — The large amphibious assault ship Ivan Gren is scheduled for delivery to the Russian Navy by the end of spring. Head of the United Ship-Building Corporation Alexei Rakhmanov told reporters on 9 Friday. “We are expecting any minute, so to speak. The task is to complete all the measures. I won’t give a specific timeframe but I believe that we are to complete everything by the end of spring,” he said.

Sergei Mikhailov, spokesman for the Yantar Shipyard on the Baltic coast, which is building the Ivan Gren, earlier told TASS that the warship’s state trials were expected to be completed in late February. The Project 11711 large amphibious assault lead ship Ivan Gren was developed by the Nevskoye Design Bureau in St Petersburg in northwest Russia. It was laid down by the Yantar Shipyard in Kaliningrad in west Russia in December 2004 and launched in May 2012. Its sea trials began in June 2016. On 30 November, 2017, the large amphibious assault ship Ivan Gren started undergoing state trials in the Baltic Sea. The warship can carry 13 main battle tanks or 36 armoured personnel carriers (infantry fighting vehicles), or up to 300 marines. The warship can carry 13 main battle tanks or 36 armoured personnel carriers (infantry fighting vehicles), or up to 300 marines. The amphibious assault ship can also transport a reinforced marine infantry company with organic military hardware and land it with the use of pontoons. The amphibious assault ship Ivan Gren is armed with 30mm six-barrel artillery systems and two Kamov Ka-29 transport/attack helicopters in its deck hangars.—Tass

Cuba prepares to end dual currency system

HAVANA — For more than two decades, Cubans have used a unique dual currency system to protect a fragile economy, but with just weeks of his mandate remaining, President Raul Castro has signaled much-delayed change is finally coming.

Plans to scrap the divisive system were first mooted in 2003 as part of a series of market-oriented reforms introduced by Castro, who is due to step down in April. Now, after years of delays, authorities on the Caribbean island are finally expected to bite the bullet and begin consolidating the two currencies, despite fears of a shock to the economy. “This issue has taken us too long and it cannot be delayed any longer,” Castro said in a speech in December. The government has resisted any commitment to a timetable, but many observers believe a meeting of the Central Committee of the Cuban Communist Party (PCC) next month will finally set the process in motion.

The country has had two currencies since 1994 when it introduced the Cuban Convertible Peso, or CUC — alongside the Cuban Peso, the CUP — as part of measures to protect the economy in the wake of the collapse of its biggest sponsor, the Soviet Union.

The CUC, originally used exclusively for foreign trade and in the tourism industry before gradually seeping into the normal economy, is worth about 25 times the CUP and pegged to the dollar.

The dual currencies created a two-tier class system in Cuba, which favored those with access to the lucrative tourist sector through hotels, restaurants and foreign trade.—AFP

Dutch FM resigns triggering vote of no-confidence

THE HAGUE — Dutch Foreign Minister Halbe Zijlstra resigned on Tuesday after admitting lying, triggering a political bombshell and a vote of no-confidence in the country’s prime minister.

Prime Minister Mark Rutte overwhelmingly survived the vote brought by his arch-foe far-right politician Geert Wilders, with 101 MPs against and only 43 in favour.

But the scandal has erupted in just a few days in the Netherlands, and threatens to undermine Rutte’s fledging and fragile four-party coalition.

The drama came after Zijlstra admitted he had falsely claimed to have attended a 2006 meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin.

“This is by far the biggest mistake I have made in my career,” he told the lower house of parliament, adding tearfully that he had no option but to resign.

Rutte then found himself in the firing line, when MPs grilled him about why he had not informed parliament sooner after being told about Zijlstra’s deception on 29 January.

“It was an error of judgement on my part,” Rutte said. “I didn’t think this affair would have such a political fallout. I underestimated the impact of this lie.”

Lack of experience

Zijlstra, a member of Rutte’s Liberal VVD party, had only been in the post for four months, and his appointment in October had already raised eyebrows due his lack of experience.

His resignation came just hours before he was set to leave for Moscow to meet with Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov.

They had been due to discuss among other things the 2014 downing of Malaysian Airlines flight MH17 shot down by a missile fired from territory held by pro-Russian rebels in eastern Ukraine.

The tragedy in which all 298 people on board died, most of them Dutch, has soured ties and led to accusations that Moscow is not being truthful about the events.

A Dutch foreign ministry official told AFP that the Moscow “meeting will not go ahead, for obvious reasons” and they would try to look “at a later date”.

Stepping down, Zijlstra told MPs on Tuesday that the credibility of the country’s foreign minister must be “beyond doubt, both inside and outside of the country”.

He resigned after finally admitting that his long-held claim to have attended a 2006 meeting in Putin’s dacha, which included Jeroen van der Veer, Shell’s former chief executive, was false. “I have spoken about an incident of great importance, saying I was there in person, while that was not the case,” Zijlstra told MPs on Tuesday. “I wanted to tell this story convincingly without revealing my source, it was obviously the wrong choice. I should not have done it. I am sorry.”—AFP

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Largest human image of Myanmar breaks Guinness World Records title

The largest human image of Myanmar, organized by Telenor Myanmar at the sports grounds in Magway on 12 February 2018 was recorded in the 2018 Guinness World Records. The image of Myanmar measuring 234 ft in length and 106 ft in width in the space of 24,804 sq ft was shaped by 3,466 people including students. It became the first ever mass gathering to create an image of a country or a continent to break the Guinness World Records title in Myanmar.

“The reason why we chose Magway to shape the image of Myanmar is that Natmauk Town is the birthplace of Myanmar’s independence hero General Aung San. The event was held to mark the 71st anniversary of Union Day,” said an official from Telenor Myanmar Co, Ltd.

In September 2016, 811 people teamed up to create image of the Africa continent, setting a Guinness World Records title.

There are other recipients of Guinness World Record titles in Myanmar such as Mingun Sayadaw U Vicittasarabivamsa, a record holder in the human memory category, the largest sapphire in the world, the heaviest bell in the world called Mingun Bell and the people with the longest necks.—Myanmar Digital News

Shinhan Bank awards scholarships to Yangon and Mandalay universities students

On 6 and 9 of February, Shinhan Bank awarded scholarships to 60 outstanding students from Yangon and Mandalay Universities of Foreign Languages for the academic year of 2017.

Since 2014, Shinhan Bank has given scholarships to a total of 240 students in Yangon and Mandalay University of Foreign Languages for their educational development and in recognition of their academic talent.

Shinhan Bank is continuously performing corporate social responsibilities in Myanmar.

Recently, Shinhan Bank donated an ambulance and sponsored the third programme of cleft lip and palate surgeries as well as congenital heart disease open heart surgeries for the Seoul National University of Republic of Korea in Yankin Children’s Hospital in 2017 and 2018.

Shinhan Bank has also sponsored the sport jerseys for the Myanmar National football Team in the Incheon Asian Games and constructed a new primary school in Hlegu Township with KOICA. Since September 2016, Shinhan Bank is the only Korean bank providing foreign corporate banking services. Moreover, Shinhan Bank also promotes investment to the foreign investors in Myanmar by providing various kinds of services. — Myanmar News Agency

A delegation from Thai Red Cross Association researchs in Mrauk-U

A delegation from the Thai Red Cross Association visited the Mrauk-U yesterday. This area has many ancient pagodas, breathtaking natural landscapes and traditional customs and heritages of ethnic people.

Mr. Tej Bunnag, a delegate from Thai Red Cross Association said “I enjoyed the Mrauk-U trip because I was surprised at seeing and experiencing Rakhine’s architecture and heritage and I’m very pleased to see these ancient icons up close.”

The number of pilgrims and visitors to Mrauk-U rose than year by year.—Myanmar Digital News

Students from Yangon and Mandalay Universities of Foreign Languages pose for a documentary photo at the ceremony of Shinhan Bank Scholarship Awarding to outstanding students. PHOTO: MNA
Nishikori through to 2nd round at New York Open

NEW YORK — Japan’s Kei Nishikori safely advanced to the second round of the inaugural New York Open on Tuesday, beating American wildcard Noah Rubin 7-5, 6-3 in his opening game.

Nishikori is competing in his first ATP World Tour event since sustaining a right wrist injury last August. The 1.75-metre Noah, ranked 232nd in the world, forced Nishikori to come back after seizing a 3-0, first-set lead.

With a crucial break in the 11th game, Nishikori turned the tide and took advantage of Rubin’s mistakes in the second set.

“It was the best game I’ve played since I returned,” Nishikori said.

“There are still areas I need work on such as my feel for the game and how I enter the match, but it’s gradually getting better. This is where it starts getting harder,” he said.

The 12-18 February tournament at Nassau Coliseum in Long Island is the first ATP World Tour event to use black-colored hard courts. Since his return to competition in late January, the 28-year-old Nishikori has competed in Challenge Tour Tennis Tournament in New York on 13 February, 2018.

PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

Nishikori reached fourth in the men’s singles world rankings less than a year ago but now finds himself 27th.


He will face 72nd-ranked Evgeny Donskoy of Russia in his next match on Wednesday.— Kyodo News

MNL Week 6 matches includes Shan United vs Ayeawaddy

THE football Association of Wakema was formed yesterday with the aim to promote standard of football not only in the Ayeyawady Region but also for the whole country, according to the Myanmar Football Federation.

The association was formed with 25 members, including the president of the association, township administrator U Htet Aung Hlaing, chairman Dr. Win Zaw, football officials, officials from Township’s Physical and Education Departments and township elders. The purpose of the team’s meeting yesterday was to elect members and also to discuss future plans.

The Football Association of Wakema is the 14th Association of the Ayeyawady Region. Wakema is a town in the Ayeyawady Division of south-west Myanmar. It is the seat of the Wakema Township in the Myaungmya District. Wakema is also the hometown of Sayadaw U Fannya Yama, a notable Buddhist missionary.— KyawZin Lin

Allegri irritated by criticism as Juve fail to kill off Spurs

TURIN — Juventus coach Massimiliano Allegri insisted he would not be getting depressed despite criticism at failing to land the killer blow against ‘Totten- ham in their Champions League last 16, first leg clash in Turin.

“If anyone thought that Juventus would win 4-0 this evening he was way off track,” blasted Allegri, after his more experienced side threw away a dream start with two Gonzalo Higuain goals inside ten minutes.

But Harry Kane revived Spurs hopes after half an hour, with his seventh goal in the competition this season, rounding flattened goalkeeper Gianluigi Buffon.

Higuain missed a second penalty before the break following Serge Aurier’s reckless challenge on Douglas Costa to keep the English side in the game.

Christian Eriksen scored Tottenham’s second goal from a free-kick after centre-back Giorgio Chiellini fouled Dele Alli, sending it low past a wrong-footed Buffon, leaving all to play for in Wembley on 7 March.

“It’s like we lost 8-0 — good doctors are needed, not one, but many very, very good,” Allegri berated journalists at the post-match press conference.

“Football is like this, we went from 3-0 to 2-1, we had a 3-1 penalty and instead Tottenham equalised 2-2,” explained Allegri of the game. “I believe the lads are putting in a fantastic season, but that’s a long way off thinking they can win a last 16 match by a 3-0 scoreline.”

Three-pronged attack

Juventus are bidding for a seventh straight Serie A title this season, and are just one point off leaders Napoli. They are also in the running for a fourth straight Italian Cup, and to reach the final of the Champions League for the third time in four years.

“People must realise that winning is not normality, it is extraordinary,” continued the former AC Milan boss.

“I will not accept that tonight’s 2-2 draw could depress the Juve fans. There are some scary ups and downs in the mood here.

“There really irritates me, because people have no idea of how teams function. The primary ob- jective is the Scudetto: it’s not easy. Then we’ll try to go forward in the Champions League.

“It was always 50:50 with Tottenham and it still is.”

Spurs boss Mauricio Pochettino said his side “showed character” in a competition where their best finish was the semi-fi-

nals in 1962.

“We’ve shown great per- sonality against a team that has played two finals in the last three years, my players have been fantastic. “Now it’ll be like a final in London.”—AFP