Diplomats, UN officials witness true situation in Rakhine State

An entourage headed by Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr. Win Myat Aye visited Maungtaw District in Rakhine State yesterday to provide authentic, reliable news to the international community about repatriation efforts being undertaken there.

The entourage also included foreign ambassadors and representatives of UN agencies stationed in Yangon.

The foreign ambassadors, UN agency representatives and other organisations arrived in Sittway Airport yesterday morning and were welcomed by Dr. Win Myat Aye, Rakhine State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu, Rakhine State ministers and other officials.

The guests were seated in the guest hall of the airport, where Dr. Win Myat Aye explained in detail about the operations of the Union Enterprise for Humanitarian Assistance, Resettlement and Development (UEHRD), and the repatriation and resettlement process for displaced persons mapped out by the Union government. Next, U Nyi Pu gave details of the completed components in the resettlement process and future processes that are yet to be finished.

The guests were then briefed on the day’s trip by U Kyaw Moe Tun, Director-General of the International Organisations and Economic Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

SEE PAGE-6
THE seventh session of the second Pyithu Hluttaw held its 18th-day meeting yesterday morning, when five questions related to the Ministry of Home Affairs were answered by Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Maj-Gen Aung Soe and a report on a bill was submitted.

Replying to a question posed by U Bo Gyi of Chauk constituency, the deputy minister said that from July 2012, a branch of the passport office was opened in Mandalay, while earlier, the Yangon office was the only place where passport services were available.

For the benefit of passport applicants, some 15 more branch offices were opened in Nay Pyi Taw and major towns in the states/regions from January 2014. The requirements for education clearance, income tax declaration, Maj-Gen Aung Soe said that from July 2012, a branch of the passport office was opened in Mandalay, while earlier, the Yangon office was the only place where passport services were available.

For the benefit of passport applicants, some 15 more branch offices were opened in Nay Pyi Taw and major towns in the states/regions from January 2014. The requirements for education clearance, income tax declaration, and the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture was relaxed, and only a recommendation letter from the township Sangha Nayaka committee was needed.

As the biometric system is being used, individuals need some time to apply for a passport. To reduce the waiting time, the immigration department had increased its counters from seven to 12, and combined groups, including the Myanmar Police Force, are making sure there are no cases of applicants being cheated of money, replied the deputy minister.

In response to a question put forth by Daw San San Ei of Mohlynin constituency on extending and opening more methadone clinics and rehabilitation centres in Mohlynin Township, Maj-Gen Aung Soe said the Ministry of Health and Sports had opened 15 methadone clinics in Kachin State and Mohlynin District. The Mohlynin People’s Hospital and Hopin People’s Hospital each have a methadone clinic. The authorithies are coordinating to open methadone clinics in Nantum and Namaa station hospitals for patients taking methadone medication from Mohlynin People’s Hospital and Hopin People’s Hospital. Arrangements are underway to set up community-based rehabilitation centres in Myitkyina Town and Tanai Town, replied the deputy minister.

A question by U Thein Tun of Kyaukawgong constituency on constructing the Myanmar Police Force head of township office, police stations and police posts in Kyaukawgong Township and a question by Dr. U Myint Thein of Nyangunglein constituency on the plan to open a sub fire station in Nyangunglein Township were also answered by Maj-Gen Aung Soe.

The Hluttaw was then informed of the receipt of the science, technology and innovation bill, confirmed with an amendment and sent by the Amyotha Hluttaw, while the bill committee report was read and explained by committee member U Nay Myo Tun. —Kyaw Thu Htet
Fifth coordination meeting of Consumer Protection Central Committee

A fifth coordination meeting of Consumer Protection Central Committee was held yesterday morning in the Ministry of Commerce meeting hall.

Consumer Protection Central Committee Vice Chairman and Deputy Minister for Commerce U Aung Htoo said consumer protection works are essential in the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC), as Myanmar is a member country of ASEAN. The ASEAN Committee on Consumer Protection (ACCP) was formed under AEC and four strategic goals were set and implemented.

Therefore, the Ministry of Commerce is conducting consumer protection works as a focal ministry. In conducting consumer protection works “consumer dispute resolution groups” were formed according to the law in states/regions and district levels while consumer information complaint centres were opened where consumer complaints are accepted and resolved. In addition to this, to effectively protect the consumer, a consumer protection bill (draft) has been drawn up and submitted step by step and it had now been submitted to Pyidaungsu Hluttaw. In the past, complaints were on products but now there are more on services. Especially on telecom services, television and radio services and assurance services of products sold. By conducting consumer protection works, the public will obtain more consumer protection opportunities on one side while production and sale of goods and provision of services will be done correctly enabling the economic development of the country, said the Deputy Minister.

Consumer Protection Central Committee members and officials then discussed the status of departments and regions in implementing consumer protection works and to conduct consumer protection work processes more widely. —Myanmar News Agency

Celebrating 72 years of MRTV

Naing Lin Kyi

MYANMA Radio and Television held a ceremony celebrating its 72nd anniversary at the MRTV Auditorium in Tatkon, Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Dr. Pe Myint, the Union Minister for Information, gave the keynote speech, saying MRTV carries the pride of the nation by keeping the people informed of current and important news. He said MRTV has stood with the people throughout all the political transitions of Myanmar and will continue to be present in the nation as long as the world stands. Next, the Union Minister conferred awards for Outstanding Civil Servants of 2017 on ten recipients, and one gold medal for achieving first place in international sporting events. The Deputy Minister, U Aung Hla Tun, then conferred awards on seven individuals who achieved prizes in trainings sent by the ministry and to three individuals who won in literary competitions.

MRTV was founded in 1946 with the name Bama Athan (Voice of Burma) when the British established Burma Broadcasting Service (BBS) carrying Burmese language for its programmes. The service was renamed Myanma Athan on 28 November 1958, and with the arrival of colour television on 1 November 1980, it was renamed to Myanma Radio and Television and went on to become one of the most successful state-owned media services.

Present at the ceremony were MRTV Director-General U Myint Htwe, Director-General of Information and Public Relations Department U Ye Naing, Director-General of Printing and Publication Department U Aung Myo Myint, Managing Director of News and Periodicals Enterprise U Kyaw Soe and staff members from MRTV and invited guests. —Myanmar News Agency

Union Minister Dr Pe Myint addresses the celebration of 72nd anniversary of MRTV in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA

Deputy Minister U Aung Hla Tun presents award to literary competition winner. PHOTO: KO MIN

Naing Lin Kyi

MRTV is one of the most successful state-owned media services. Present at the ceremony were MRTV Director-General U Myint Htwe, Director-General of Information and Public Relations Department U Ye Naing, Director-General of Printing and Publication Department U Aung Myo Myint, Managing Director of News and Periodicals Enterprise U Kyaw Soe and staff members from MRTV and invited guests. —Myanmar News Agency
10,000 vehicles yet to register as city taxis

THE Yangon Region Transport Authority (YRTA) is issuing city taxi registrations to Yangon licensed taxis. However, some 10,000 Yangon licensed taxis are yet to register as city taxis, according to a report in Myawady Daily.

YRTA had officially announced that all taxis must register as city taxis before 31 December 2017. For unregistered vehicles, YRTA had extended the registration deadline to 31 January 2018. Even though YRTA extended the deadline, some 10,000 Yangon licensed taxis have not registered, said Dr. Maung Aung, secretary of YRTA.

“The announcement was made through the state-owned newspaper and television. The Yangon Region government will now take legal action against unregistered city taxis running on Yangon roads,” he added.

“Earlier, we registered Yangon licensed taxis again as city taxis at YRTA, said a taxi driver. —GNLM

Taxis run in downtown Yangon. The Yangon licensed taxis are yet to register as the City Taxi. PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR

Developmental Projects to be undertaken in Hpa-an

Village development projects (VDP) are being undertaken in forty-five villages in the area of Hpa-an in Kayin State under the management of the Department of Rural Development of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation during the 2017-2018 fiscal years.

The village development projects for 684 villages in twenty townships around the country were earmarked by the Department of Rural Development during the 2017-2018 fiscal years. The amount of ten million kyats for one village will be allotted in order to carry out village development projects such as constructions of roads, bridges and retaining walls in forty-five villages in Hpa-an.

“During this fiscal year, there was 450 million kyats provided to forty-five villages. The forty-one concrete roads, two concrete bridges, one retaining wall and one trash can for burning waste are being built by the cash provided by government and other organizations, the funds from the regional Hluttaw and the cash donated by public including the villagers themselves” said an official from the Department of Rural Development.

The village development projects are carried out in order to use natural resources of the villages by the villagers themselves and to get the local villagers opinions, criticisms and concerns regarding the projects so the projects can run smoothly in the future.

The expected development projects in the villages were financed from the budget of the government, regional government, the budget of representatives of Hluttaw and funds from townships, cash donations from UN, donor organizations and private donors. —Myanmar Digital News

35 flyovers to be constructed on Yangon circular railway

THE Yangon Region authority is planning to construct some 35 flyovers, including eight flyovers on the Yangon-Insein route, for the Yangon circular railway in the next fiscal year, according to a report in Myawady Daily.

Currently, the authorities are upgrading the Yangon circular railway area by building a wall for the safety of the passengers.

The authorities will construct the flyovers depending on the budget.

The eight flyovers to be constructed on the Yangon-Insein route are: two flyovers between Ahlone and Panthaing train stations, three bridges between Hledan and Kamayut stations, two flyovers between Kamayut and Thiri Myaing stations, and one flyover between Thamaing Myothit and Gyoyn stations.

The 26 flyovers to be constructed on the Yangon-Mingalardon route are: one flyover between Pazundaung and Mahawagon train stations, two flyovers between Mahawagon and Myititar Nyunt stations, two flyovers between Myititar Nyunt and Tamway stations, two flyovers between Tamway and Bauktaw stations, two flyovers between Bauktaw and Kanbe stations, one flyover between Kanbe and Payami stations, one flyover between Payami and Yegu stations, one flyover between Yegu and Tadagale stations, two flyovers between Tadagale and Kyauk Ye Dwin stations, three flyovers between Kyauk Ye Dwin and Pa Ywet Seik Kon stations, one flyover between Pa Ywet Seik Kon and North Okkalapa stations, one flyover between North Okkalapa and Weibargi stations, and one flyover between Weibargi and Mingalaron stations.

The three flyovers to be constructed on the Mingalaron-Danyingon route are: two flyovers between Mingalaron and Mingalaron market stations, and one flyover between Mingalaron market and Kyakailake stations. The four flyovers to be constructed on the Insein-Danyingon route are: two flyovers between Insein and Ywarma stations, one flyover between Ywarma and Phawkon stations, and one flyover between Phawkon and Aungsan stations. —GNLM

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 us at localnews@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.
Grapes are seen at a farm in Yamethin Township, Mandalay Region.  **PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE**

**Government imports of intermediate goods show slight decline**

THE IMPORTS of intermediate goods by the Myanmar government showed a slight decrease in value, of more than US$1.3 billion in the current financial year, according to official statistics from the Ministry of Commerce.

As of 2 February, the country’s imports of intermediate goods were nearly $6.250 billion, including $7.163 million from the government and $6.086 billion from the private sector.

At this time last year the country bought similar products, valued at $4.853 billion from overseas customers, including $171 billion from the government sector. The total import of goods in the current FY topped over $15.510 billion, including over $8.492 billion in capital goods and $3.708 billion in consumer goods. The current figures increased by $2 billion, compared to the same period in the last fiscal year.

Myanmar conducts trade with Asian countries, ASEAN member states, island nations, Middle Eastern states, some European and African states, and other western countries. Roughly 80 per cent of the country’s external trade is through sea routes.—Shwe Khine

**Grape prices fall due to low demand**

THE price of grapes in the Yangon market has declined following unseasonal rainfall in the Mandalay Region last December and the consequent low yield, which has reduced the demand for grapes, according to a report in Myawady Daily yesterday.

Torrential rainfall results in low yield. The prices this year are much lower than that of last year, said a vine grower from Yamethin Township.

Apart from the local varieties, imported grapes from China and Thailand are also gaining market shares.

The black queen and big black grape varieties are primarily grown in Myanmar. Currently, there are more than 5,000 acres of vineyards across the country. Grapes are mostly grown in Kyaukpyu, Meiktila, Mandalay, Sagaing, Monywa, Pakokku, Yenangyoung, Yamethin and Pyaybwe townships.—GNLM

**UMFCCI, JCCM sign MoU to strengthen economic cooperation**

\*May Thet Hnin*

THE Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI) and Japan Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Myanmar (JCCM) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on all-round economic cooperation and development at the Park Royal Hotel last Wednesday.

Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein, Japanese Ambassador to Myanmar Tateshi Higuchi and his delegation attended the MoU signing ceremony. Katsuji Nakagawa, chair of JCCM, and U Zaw Min Win, president of UMFCCI, signed the MoU to promote bilateral trade and investment, information and technology exchange, as well as human resource and infrastructural development.

Katsuji Nakagawa noted, “The signing ceremony aims to make the people of the two countries realise Japanese companies have a strong interest in Myanmar, despite the controversial Rakhine issues.”

“Myanmar and Japan have established strong economic ties, in addition to the heavy capital brought into Thilawa Special Economic Zone. Japan has helped Myanmar in its economic development effort. With this MoU, more investments are likely to enter the country from Japan,” stated U Phyo Min Thein.

“Apart from government-to-government cooperation, Japan and Myanmar also have a business-to-business cooperation in the private sector. During its period of democratic transition, the investment law and the Myanmar Companies Law were enacted. The Myanmar Investment Commission grants incentives to foreign investors. I believe this MoU will bring significant increases in bilateral trade and promote investments,” said U Zaw Min Win.

From 1995 to 2017, Japan and Myanmar agreed to enter into 15 MoUs. Bilateral trade between Japan and Myanmar grew 2.2 times between 2012 and 2017.

Speaking during the signing event, the Japanese Ambassador said that Japan would continue to extend its assistance to Myanmar, especially in the field of social and economic development. Also, Japanese companies will invest more in Myanmar in the future, he added.
Diplomats, UN officials witness true situation in Rakhine State

FROM PAGE 1

Dr. Win Myat Aye, U Nyi Pu and the visiting delegation then travelled by helicopter to Ngakhuya Village and inspected the temporary repatriation camp there. The ambassadors interacted with the local residents and asked them questions.

The ambassadors, UN agency representatives and other organizations were then given a presentation on the Ngakhuya temporary repatriation centre by Deputy Director for General Administration Department U Zaw Min. He mentioned the different ministries involved in the repatriation process and the departments that were formed to carry out the process. He also pointed out the temporary shelters and basic necessities provided to the repatriates before answering questions posed by the foreign delegates. The group was then shown the repatriation office compound and the houses set up for the repatriates.

The visiting delegation was then taken to the repatriation camp for displaced persons who will return by land in Taung Pyo Letwe Township. The group toured the office compound, the temporary shelters for displaced persons and the bridge connecting Myanmar and Bangladesh borders.

The group then visited Hla Pho Khaung, a transit camp where displaced persons can take up temporary residence. U Ye Htut, Maungtaw District Deputy commissioner later explained the further processes of the camp and answered questions put forth by the visiting delegation, before showing the group around the camp.

By noon, the group arrived in Kanyin Chaung Special Economic Zone and inspected the construction process and the border trade situation there. They then travelled to Border Gate (1) in Maungtaw Township and inspected the area. The group then went to the local market in Maungtaw to assess the free trade in the area and bought some items from the vendors there.

The Union Minister and his entourage travelled back to Sittway and returned to Yangon in the evening. The group, led by Dr. Win Myat Aye, comprised of ambassadors and officials from the embassies of Egypt, Finland, Germany, Israel, Italy, Denmark, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, New Zealand, Brazil, Poland and Sri Lanka in Yangon, as well as representatives from United Nations Development Programme, United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, United Nations International Children’s Emergency Fund, United Nations Fund for Population Activities, United Nations Human Settlements Programme, World Health Organisation, International Organisation for Migration, Asian Development Bank and United Nations Office for Project Services. —Myanmar News Agency
Diplomats and UN officials visit the friendship bridge at Taung Pyo Letwe. PHOTO: MNA

Diplomats and UN officials visit Kanyin Chaung Special Economic Zone. PHOTO: MNA

Diplomats and UN officials meet with local people at Ngakhuya Village. PHOTO: MNA

Diplomats and UN officials meeting with immigration officers at Ngakhuya Village. PHOTO: MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY

The delegation of diplomats and UN officials headed by Union Minister Dr. Win Myat Aye visits Maungtaw Market. PHOTO: MNA

Diplomats and UN officials visit Maungtaw Market. PHOTO: MNA

Union Minister Dr. Win Myat Aye and Rakhine State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu brief on repatriation readiness in Sittway. PHOTO: MNA
**OPINION**

**Marching towards a peaceful and prosperous federal state**

FOR years, the image of Myanmar has been that of a country going through a long-lasting armed conflict only to suffer from the bitter treatment of the Tatmadaw under the leadership of the previous regime. Thanks to the efforts of the National League for Democracy, who came back to our country in 2016, the fruitful results of the peace movement are on the increase, and these are the reasons why we are feeling joyous and hopeful about the fruitful results of the peace talks.

Throughout history, ancient Myanmar kings built a strong union through national spirit. In the late KingBhumibol dynasty, the country fell under the domination of the imperialists. Consequently, national freedom became dismantled. Having founded the Myanmar Tatmadaw under the leadership of General Aung San, the national people fought against the invaders with the help of the Japanese. However, all the national people suffered from the bitter treatment and oppression by the Japanese. Despite the war broke out, faces were driven out of the country.

The NMSP is a landmark agreement between the government and ethnic armed groups, and it was first signed on 15 October 2015. The NCA is a landmark agreement between the government and ethnic and armed groups, and it was first signed on 15 October 2015. The NCA is a landmark agreement between the government and ethnic and armed groups, and it was first signed on 15 October 2015.

However, the British colonialists who came back to our country were bastions against economic independence in Myanmar and they intended to give independence only to the members of the bupage. Through the efforts of the British colonialists, Myanmar regained her independence in 1948.

The NCA is a landmark agreement between the government and ethnic and armed groups, and it was first signed on 15 October 2015. The NCA is a landmark agreement between the government and ethnic and armed groups, and it was first signed on 15 October 2015. The NCA is a landmark agreement between the government and ethnic and armed groups, and it was first signed on 15 October 2015.

**ADDRESS**

**Marching towards a peaceful and prosperous federal state**

FOR years, the image of Myanmar has been that of a country going through a long-lasting armed conflict only to suffer from the bitter treatment of the Tatmadaw under the leadership of the previous regime. Thanks to the efforts of the National League for Democracy, who came back to our country in 2016, the fruitful results of the peace movement are on the increase, and these are the reasons why we are feeling joyous and hopeful about the fruitful results of the peace talks.

Throughout history, ancient Myanmar kings built a strong union through national spirit. In the late KingBhumibol dynasty, the country fell under the domination of the imperialists. Consequently, national freedom became dismantled. Having founded the Myanmar Tatmadaw under the leadership of General Aung San, the national people fought against the invaders with the help of the Japanese. However, all the national people suffered from the bitter treatment and oppression by the Japanese. Despite the war broke out, faces were driven out of the country.

The NMSP is a landmark agreement between the government and ethnic and armed groups, and it was first signed on 15 October 2015. The NCA is a landmark agreement between the government and ethnic and armed groups, and it was first signed on 15 October 2015. The NCA is a landmark agreement between the government and ethnic and armed groups, and it was first signed on 15 October 2015. The NCA is a landmark agreement between the government and ethnic and armed groups, and it was first signed on 15 October 2015. The NCA is a landmark agreement between the government and ethnic and armed groups, and it was first signed on 15 October 2015. The NCA is a landmark agreement between the government and ethnic and armed groups, and it was first signed on 15 October 2015. The NCA is a landmark agreement between the government and ethnic and armed groups, and it was first signed on 15 October 2015. The NCA is a landmark agreement between the government and ethnic and armed groups, and it was first signed on 15 October 2015.
**Senior General Min Aung Hlaing to accept Knight Grand Cross (First Class) of the Most Exalted Order of the White Elephant**

The Tatmadaw Commander-in-Chief and his delegation were seen off by Deputy Commander-in-Chief Vice Senior General Soe Win, Chief of General Staff (Army, Navy and Air) General Mya Tun Oo, high ranking officers from the commander-in-chief’s office, the Nay Pyi Taw Command commander, Deputy Chief of Mission of the Royal Thai Embassy in Yangon Narong Boonsatheanwong, Royal Thai Armed Forces military attaché (air) and officials at the Nay Pyi Taw airport.

Accompanying the Tatmadaw Commander-in-Chief were his wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla, high ranking officers from the commander-in-chief’s (Army) office and the Yangon Command commander. The Tatmadaw commander-in-chief will accept the Knight Grand Cross (First Class) of the Most Exalted Order of the White Elephant presented by the King of Thailand and will visit other well-known places in the country.

The Tatmadaw Commander-in-Chief, his wife and delegation arrived in Bangkok, Thailand, where they were welcomed by Gen. Tarnchaiyan Srisuwan and his wife high ranking officers from Royal Thai Armed Forces, Myanmar Ambassador to Thailand U Myo Myint Thant, Myanmar military attaché Brig-Gen Khin Zaw and officials at the Don Muang airport (Wing-6).—Myanmar News Agency

**Delegation led by Union Minister Lt-Gen Kyaw Swe leaves for Bangladesh**

A delegation comprising personnel from the Myanmar Police Force, General Administrative Department and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, led by Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Kyaw Swe, left for Bangladesh from Yangon International Airport yesterday morning. They were seen off at the airport by officials. The Myanmar delegation will discuss matters related to Myanmar-Bangladesh border security, the rule of law, anti-narcotic activities and the opening of a Border Liaison Office during their visit.—Myanmar News Agency

**Ministry of Border Affairs, SDC sign MoU**

A signing ceremony of MoU between Ministry of Border Affairs and Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation held in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA

**Ambulance donation ceremony held in Sittway**

A ceremony to donate an ambulance to the Rakhine State Government by the People’s Republic of Bangladesh was held in front of the Rakhine State Government’s office at 9 a.m. yesterday.

The Commercial Counselor of the Bangladesh Embassy in Yangon Mr. Hasan Khaled Foisal handed over the necessary documents for donation to Rakhine State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu.

This is the third ambulance donation by the People’s Republic of Bangladesh, and the previous ambulances have already been transferred to the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement.

Attendees at the ceremony were the Rakhine State Chief Minister, State Ministers, Advocate General of the State and the Commercial Counselor of the Bangladesh Embassy in Yangon and in Sittway. —Tin Htun (IPRD)
Amyotha Hluttaw discusses ...

FROM PAGE-2

The earth removal work in Mulaung Village was not carried out with funds provided by the Ministry of Border Affairs, but with the funds of the state government, said the deputy minister.

Regarding the companies that were responsible for conducting maintenance works in the 2016-2017 FY period but failed to complete their works within the set period, the deputy minister said the companies which were responsible for conducting maintenance works have to make submissions to the development management offices of the relevant states/regions and from there to the ministries. Depending upon the availability of funds, it will be conducted accordingly. However, if a force majeure situation occurs, it should be reported to the ministry within a month, and if the ministry accepts the situation, it will allow a grace period. If the work is not completed in the set FY, the relevant company will have to pay a penalty at the rate of 0.01 per cent per day, explained the deputy minister.

Next, a bill committee report on the findings and remarks on the industrial copyright design bill, invention copyright bill, trademark copyright bill, and literature and art copyright bill was read by committee member Tatmadaw Representative Brig-Gen Tint Lwin.

This was followed by Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than obtaining the approval of the Hluttaw for the industrial design copyright bill.

Later, Union Minister for Education Dr. Myo Thein Gyi tabled the bill that was supported by U Ko Ko Naing of Sagaing Region constituency (8). The decision of the Hluttaw was obtained for the bill and as the Hluttaw agreed, it was announced by the Amyotha Hluttaw speaker to be confirmed as amended.

Similarly, Mahn Win Khaing Than obtained the decision of the Hluttaw on the trademark copyright bill and the literature and art copyright bill.

Both the bills were tabled by Dr. Myo Thein Gyi, which was supported by U Ko Ko Naing of Sagaing Region constituency (8). The decision of the Hluttaw was then obtained for the bill and as the Hluttaw agreed, it was announced by the Amyotha Hluttaw speaker to be confirmed as amended.

The 19th-day meeting of the seventh session of the second Amyotha Hluttaw will be held on 19 February.—Aye Aye Thant (Myanmar News Agency)
Science and Technology Fair- 2018 kicks off at MICC-II in Nay Pyi Taw

The Science and Technology Fair-2018 was held at the Myanmar International Convention Centre II in Nay Pyi Taw at 9 a.m. yesterday.

Union Minister for Education Dr. Myo Thein Gyi delivered a keynote speech outlining the purpose of the event. He said the event was held to increase the interest of the students in the fields of science and technology. He hoped that by participating in these competitions, students would become more innovative and competitive, learn about teamwork and cooperation, and develop a sense of responsibility.

Dr. Myo Thein Gyi said that the field of education was one of the most heavily invested sectors across the globe, with everyone in a mad dash to develop it. As a result, young people need to be equipped with modern and updated skills to become key players on the global stage. Dr. Myo Thein Gyi said his ministry supported all research players on the global stage.

The Union Minister then took a commemorative photograph with the participants and a tour of the event.

The two-day event is being held from 15 to 16 February. The event organisers have invited U Htet San Lin, U Thaw Dar Tun and U Htoo Myint Naung from the Myanmar Young Entrepreneurs Association, who will discuss the challenges and opportunities for technological entrepreneurs. Furthermore, readings of research papers by experts and thesis by postgraduate students will also be held.

Deputy Minister of Education U Win Maw Tun, Nay Pyi Taw Council member U Tin Tun, members of the education development committee from the Pyithu and Amyotha Hluttaw councils, members of the National Education Policy Commission, permanent secretaries and directors-general of various departments, members of the Myanmar Engineer Council and the Myanmar Engineer Association, members of the Myanmar Computer Professionals Association, members of the Myanmar Young Entrepreneurs Association and other invited officials also attended the event. —Myanmar News Agency

Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker receives CEO of Westminster Foundation for Democracy

Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U T Khun Myat received Mr. Antony Smith, Chief Executive officer of WFD. During the meeting, they discussed matters relating to cooperation for the development of Hluttaws, courses for representatives of Hluttaw, law-making sectors, and conducting courses and workshops for the Hluttaw’s future plans for implementation.—Myanmar News Agency

A workshop to discuss plans to improve tourism in the Bagan Region was held in Nay Pyi Taw’s Horizon Lake View Resort yesterday morning.

While U Yee Mon, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Hotel and Tourism, explained the finished processes and the challenges and opportunities for technological entrepreneurs, U Khin Myint Naung from the JICA expert team explained how JICA will use the results of the Bagan tourism project to guide them in carrying out a similar project in Mrauk-U, Rakhine State. Takayuki Miyoshi from the JICA expert team explained the key components of the strategy used to implement sustainable tourism in Bagan and provided a general summary of the plan, as well as future plans for implementation.—Myanmar News Agency

Workshop to improve tourism in Bagan held in Nay Pyi Taw

Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U T Khun Myat holds talks with Mr. Antony Smith, Chief Executive officer of WFD. PHOTO: MNA

Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U T Khun Myat received Mr. Antony Smith, Chief Executive officer of Westminster Foundation For Democracy (WFD) in the office of the Pyithu Hluttaw in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

During the meeting, they discussed matters relating to cooperation for the development of Hluttaws, courses for representatives of Hluttaw, law-making sectors, and conducting courses and workshops for the Hluttaw’s future plans for implementation.—Myanmar News Agency

A workshop to discuss plans to improve tourism in the Bagan Region was held in Nay Pyi Taw’s Horizon Lake View Resort yesterday morning.

While U Yee Mon, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Hotel and Tourism, explained the finished processes and the challenges and opportunities for technological entrepreneurs, U Khin Myint Naung from the JICA expert team explained how JICA will use the results of the Bagan tourism project to guide them in carrying out a similar project in Mrauk-U, Rakhine State. Takayuki Miyoshi from the JICA expert team explained the key components of the strategy used to implement sustainable tourism in Bagan and provided a general summary of the plan, as well as future plans for implementation.—Myanmar News Agency
SYDNEY — Virtually all of Australia's shellfish reefs have disappeared, making them the country's most threatened ocean ecosystem, scientists said on Thursday, calling for more investment to rescue the important marine habitats.

While recent global focus has been on the destruction of coral reefs, a study led by the Nature Conservancy found that between 90 and 99 per cent of shellfish reefs have vanished since British colonization 230 years ago.

The reefs, formed by millions of oysters or mussels clustering together, used to occur in bays, estuaries and nearshore coastal waters in both tropical and temperate regions across every state in Australia.

They are complex living structures that provide food and shelter for a range of other invertebrate and fish species, while aiding water filtration and shoreline protection.

"We already knew shellfish reefs were in bad shape globally with 85 percent of them lost or severely degraded," said study leader Chris Gillies, marine manager at The Nature Conservancy.

"Our study confirms the situation for these important marine habitats in Australia is even worse, with less than one per cent of flat oyster and 10 per cent of rock oyster habitats remaining."—AFP

Japan's Minister for Economy, Trade and Industry Toshimitsu Motegi said the current expansion was solid. PHOTO: AFP

Japan economy grows for 8th straight quarter, longest since 1980s

TOKYO — Japan's economy grew for the eighth straight quarter at the end of 2017, government data showed Wednesday, its longest period of expansion since the “bubble” boom days of the late 1980s. Gross domestic product figures fell short of expectations and represented a slowdown from the previous quarter, but analysts forecast continued growth nonetheless.

GDP expanded just 0.1 per cent in the last quarter of 2017, the Cabinet Office said, far cry from the 0.6 per cent figure for July-September.

“The growth rate for the last quarter was very low compared with the bubble period but the economy is solid enough," said Takeshi Minami, chief economist at Norinchukin Research Institute.

“The slowdown was due primarily to inventory adjustments and a decline in the contribution of net exports due to strength in imports,” added analysts at Barclays in a report.

“As such, it did not imply a pull-back in the momentum of economic recovery,” analysts Tetsufumi Yamakawa, Yuichiro Nagai and Yukito Funakubo wrote.

At an annualised rate, the world's third largest economy grew 0.5 per cent, also missing expectations.

There are lingering worries over consumption but we can expect the economy to pick up further if ‘shunto’ wage hikes are better than the previous years," said Minami, referring to collective wage negotiations between labour and management held every spring.

“The current expansion could be extended further,” he told AFP.

For the calendar year 2017, the economy grew 1.6 percent, against 0.9 per cent in 2016. Japan's Minister for Economy, Trade and Industry Toshimitsu Motegi said the current expansion was solid compared with the more volatile “bubble” boom in the 1980s, according to Bloomberg News.

Speculative investment in land and stocks on low interest rates, pushed the Nikkei stock index to almost 40,000 in 1989 — nearly double its current level. But the bubble burst at the start of the 1990s, ushering in a period of low or no growth known as the “lost decades”.—AFP

Shellfish reefs: Australia’s untold environmental disaster

SYDNEY — Virtually all of Australia's shellfish reefs have disappeared, making them the country's most threatened ocean ecosystem, scientists said Thursday, calling for more investment to rescue the important marine habitats.

While recent global focus has been on the destruction of coral reefs, a study led by the Nature Conservancy found that between 90 and 99 per cent of shellfish reefs have vanished since British colonization 230 years ago.

The reefs, formed by millions of oysters or mussels clustering together, used to occur in bays, estuaries and nearshore coastal waters in both tropical and temperate regions across every state in Australia.

They are complex living structures that provide food and shelter for a range of other invertebrate and fish species, while aiding water filtration and shoreline protection.

“We already knew shellfish reefs were in bad shape globally with 85 percent of them lost or severely degraded,” said study leader Chris Gillies, marine manager at The Nature Conservancy.

“Our study confirms the situation for these important marine habitats in Australia is even worse, with less than one per cent of flat oyster and 10 per cent of rock oyster habitats remaining.”—AFP

Virtually all of Australia’s shellfish reefs have disappeared, making them the country’s most threatened ocean ecosystem, scientists say. PHOTO: AFP

Shellfish reefs: Australia’s untold environmental disaster

Virtually all of Australia’s shellfish reefs have disappeared, making them the country’s most threatened ocean ecosystem, scientists say. PHOTO: AFP

Virtually all of Australia’s shellfish reefs have disappeared, making them the country’s most threatened ocean ecosystem, scientists say. PHOTO: AFP

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR
MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS
MYANMA RAILWAYS
Announcement of Preferred Bidder for Yangon Central Railways Station Area Comprehensive Development Project

1. Myanma Railways, Ministry of Transport and Communications has requested submission of Expression of Interest - EOI from (6.8.2015) to (6.1.2016) and subsequently Request for Proposal - RFP from (6.3.2016) to (18.9.2016), from reputable local, international and joint venture developers to undertake Planning/Design, Build, Finance, Operate including improvement and Transfer (DBFOT) for Yangon Central Railways Station Area Comprehensive Development Project.

2. This is to announce that, the submitted Request for Proposals – RFPs have been evaluated and obtained approval from the Cabinet Meeting (2/2016) of the Union Government to confirm the consortium comprising, Oxley Holdings, Min Dhamma Co., Ltd and Sino Great Wall Co., Ltd as Preferred Bidder.

3. Myanma Railways shall continue to conduct negotiation meetings with the Preferred Bidder and subject to the completion of negotiations and legal arrangements, shall make necessary announcement in due course.

Managing Director
Myanma Railways

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR
MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS
MYANMA RAILWAYS
Announcement of Preferred Bidder for Yangon Central Railways Station Area Comprehensive Development Project

1. Myanma Railways, Ministry of Transport and Communications has requested submission of Expression of Interest - EOI from (6.8.2015) to (6.1.2016) and subsequently Request for Proposal - RFP from (6.3.2016) to (18.9.2016), from reputable local, international and joint venture developers to undertake Planning/Design, Build, Finance, Operate including improvement and Transfer (DBFOT) for Yangon Central Railways Station Area Comprehensive Development Project.

2. This is to announce that, the submitted Request for Proposals – RFPs have been evaluated and obtained approval from the Cabinet Meeting (2/2016) of the Union Government to confirm the consortium comprising, Oxley Holdings, Min Dhamma Co., Ltd and Sino Great Wall Co., Ltd as Preferred Bidder.

3. Myanma Railways shall continue to conduct negotiation meetings with the Preferred Bidder and subject to the completion of negotiations and legal arrangements, shall make necessary announcement in due course.

Managing Director
Myanma Railways
Dafoe holds Oscar flag for heart-melting movie about poor kids

PARIS — Willem Dafoe frankly doesn’t give a damn if he misses out on a best supporting actor Oscar for a third time next month.

“That is not what I do this for,” said the dry, self-deprecating star, who was also nominated for Oliver Stone’s “Platoon” in 1987 and for “Shadow of a Vampire” 13 years later.

Yet he will be sore if “The Florida Project”, the break-out low-budget film about poor kids growing up in the shadow of Walt Disney World in Orlando, gets nothing.

Dafoe told AFP he was “disappointed when (its director) Sean Baker didn’t get some love because this is very much his film and he made a beautiful movie.” “I was hoping either the film or him or one of the other performers would get recognised but it didn’t happen.” He was not alone. Critics swooned over the performances Baker drew from the three children he cast — one of whom he found in a supermarket — and first-timer Bria Vinaite, who he spotted on Instagram.

The subtly moving story Baker shot in a cheap motel along the Kissimmee Strip leading to the theme park, using some of its homeless residents as extras, was a surprisingly heart-warming hit and topped many best-film-of-the-year lists.—AFP

Culture minister alarmed at US erotic drama ‘stealing the show’ in Russian cinemas

MOSCOW — Russian Culture Minister Vladimir Medinsky on Tuesday raised concern over the ascendency of Fifty Shades Freed, an erotic romantic drama starring Dakota Johnson and Jamie Dornan, in the country’s movie theaters. “I don’t know what social problems this undoubtedly cinematographic masterpiece is solving but it has stolen 70% of shows in our movie theaters,” Medinsky said urging Deputy Prime Minister Olga Golodets, who is in charge of social issues, and the Federal Anti-Monopoly Service to focus on this matter.

The culture minister complained that the ascendency of Fifty Shades Freed, which premiered nationwide on February 8, led to the failure of a number of Russian movies released at the same time. PHOTO: TASS

Wes Anderson premiere ‘Isle of Dogs’ opens Berlin filmfest

Acclaimed US director Wes Anderson’s new animated feature “Isle of Dogs” will on Thursday kick off the Berlin film festival, which is set to be rocked by aftershocks of the #MeToo movement.

With the global cinema industry in turmoil over allegations of rampant sexual misconduct, the 11-day event will be seeking a delicate balance between Hollywood glamour and frank debate in the wake of powerful producer Harvey Weinstein’s downfall.

Bryan Cranston, Bill Murray, Oscar-nominee Greta Gerwig, Jeff Goldblum and Liev Schreiber, who voice the pack of pooches in Anderson’s movie, are expected on the Berlinale red carpet for the world premiere, with stars including Robert Pattinson, Rosamund Pike, Joaquin Phoenix and Isabelle Huppert also set to present new movies.

But even before the opening, controversy erupted over the inclusion of award-winning South Korean director Kim Ki-duk, who was fined in December for assaulting an actress on set.

The actress, who has refused to be publicly identified, has accused the festival — traditionally a strong champion of Asian cinema — of “hypocrisy” for inviting Kim to present his latest picture, “Human, Space, Time and Human”.

Berlinale ‘condemns violence’

Festival director Dieter Kosslick said he had excluded a handful of films because of credible sexual abuse allegations against their directors, screenwriters or stars.

But he told AFP he did not bar Kim because sexual harassment allegations by the same actress against him had been dismissed for lack of evidence, adding that he was seeking more information about an appeal in the case.

“Obviously the Berlinale condemns and opposes any form of violence or sexual misconduct,” Kosslick said.

Anderson last opened the Berlinale, which ranks with Cannes and Venice among European film festivals, in 2014 with the world premiere of “The Grand Budapest Hotel”, a box office hit which went on to scoop dozens of awards and an Oscar nomination for best picture.

It will be Anderson’s fourth turn in competition for the Berlinale’s Golden and Silver Bear top prizes following “The Royal Tenenbaums” and “The Life Aquatic with Steve Zissou”.

Tom Tykwer, one of the German directors behind the blockbusting movies “Babylon Berlin” and “The Young Pope”, will lead a gender-balanced jury and China, Channel One head Konstantin Ernst has told reporters at a news conference in TASS.

“The film will premiere in Estonia, a very important territory in Dovlatov’s destiny and life. We have received requests and are now negotiating with Kazakhstan. Full-scale distribution is not being discussed, but a series of screenings will take place,” Ernst said. “A number of other post-Soviet states have also demonstrated their interest in the film.”

“I’m sure that it will be screened in many countries, maybe even in China, if it is approved by the censor there,” he added.

The biopic tells the story of writer and journalist Sergei Dovlatov (1941-1990). It focuses on four days of Dovlatov’s life in 1971. In Russia, it will be screened on 1-4 March 2018.

The film would premiere in the Competition of the 68th Berlin International Film Festival, to be held in the German capital on 15-25 February.—TASS
Chinese New Year, festival of luck and family reunion, gaining popularity in Cambodia

PHNOM PENH — The majority of the Cambodians celebrate Spring Festival, or Chinese New Year, since many of them have Chinese ancestry and others believe that celebrating the festival will bring them good luck in the new year.

The 2018 Chinese Lunar New Year - the Year of the Dog - will fall on 16 February.

Cambodian Prime Minister Samdech Techo Hun Sen has said the Spring Festival has been gaining its popularity in the country from year to year.

“The past, we did not see many people celebrating Chinese New Year, but today there are more and more,” he wrote on his Facebook on 30 January. “When the nation has peace, people have full freedom to choose religious beliefs and to celebrate festivals according to their traditions.”

The prime minister said Cambodia observes three New Year festivals in a year - the Universal New Year, the Chinese New Year and the Khmer (Cambodian) New Year.

BROAD CELEBRATION

Chinese New Year is not an official holiday in Cambodia, but the festival is broadly celebrated and some schools, private companies and institutions are closed on the occasion.

“It’s pretty sure that over 60 percent of the Cambodian people celebrate Chinese New Year,” Thai Norak Sathya, secretary of state and spokesman for the Cambodian Ministry of Culture and Fine Arts, told Xinhua.

KRASNOYARSK — The first ever theater club for children from far-away settlement on the Taimyr Peninsula will open in Dudinka. Children from 7 years of age will learn secrets of theater arts and oratory; they will develop communication skills, as sometimes they face communication problems when living in very isolated environments, the project’s organizers told TASS.

Theater lessons

The project was offered by the Mukistur community of the low-numbered indigenous peoples at Dudinka’s school 1, the project’s head Nadezhda Yeremina told TASS. Under the project, the school will have a class of theater arts and oratory, where professional teachers will be educating children. This is the first ever experience of a project, aimed at working with children from nomadic families on Taimyr:

“We are making all necessary preparations, so that it begins in September, at beginning of a new academic year,” she said.

“We shall teach 35 children from seven years of age, who live in the tundra.” The project’s partner is a White Birds theater club in Dudinka. Its teachers have been working with the youth, and now they will teach Taimyr’s indigenous children, who live in the tundra’s settlements. “Our work would be aimed at developing performance skills, the teachers will organize lessons in stage speech and actor’s skills,” the White Birds’ head Marina Petrokova said, adding children from senior classes would make the theater essentials and costumes.

Developing communication skills and learning traditions

The project’s organizers say the children living in the tundra are special first of all due to their living conditions. Until they are seven, when they begin school studies, together with the families they are wandering the tundra and quite often they would not have any other communication than with the relatives.

“They do not have pre-school education, their oral speech is usually under-developed, they are tough to contact, very often they are not easy to make friends,” Rubashkina said. “By participating in theater performances, the children will learn how to work in a team, how to perform, how to communicate with other people.”

Besides the communication skills, the children will study and then promote their folk arts - many performances would be based on the Northern tales. — TASS

The art of theater: Oratory and communication skills for Arctic children

Chinese designer debuts new collection inspired by art of Dunhuang

NEW YORK — Chinese fashion designer Vivienne Hu on Tuesday debuted her Fall/Winter 2018 line inspired by the 1,600-year-old Dunhuang Mogao Grottoes in northwest China, at the ongoing New York Fashion Week (NYFW).

“They’re beautiful, amazing, and I was so shocked,” said Hu in an interview with Xinhua, when recalling her visit to Mogao Grottoes last year, also known as the Thousand Buddha Grottoes, which has been listed as a world heritage site in 1987.

“I think I had to do that, it would be my first time to have Chinese inspiration,” she added.

Hu also said the new line is “a collaboration of historical and cultural fashion with modern street style.” “We use different elements, for example, the color; most likely, we use red, dark green and golden, and we also use very traditional materials like silk, velvet, Chinese-fashioned fabrics and fur... We try to have some mix of Chinese culture with New York street style” she said.

Hu’s entire design team travelled from New York City last July, to experience the finest examples of Buddhist art spanning over a period of over 1,500 years within Dunhuang’s caves. Hu grew up in China and obtained her bachelor’s degree in Finance at the University of Hohenheim, Germany. Prior to studying Fashion Design at Parsons School of Design in New York, she worked as a financial advisor at a leading investment bank on Wall Street.

After graduation, Hu quickly gained a wealth of professional experience while working with Oscar de la Renta and Yigal Azrouel, both fashion designers, before introducing her own Spring/Summer line in 2012.

Hu was first selected to show at NYFW in September 2014, and has since held seven successful shows on NYFW catwalks.

Her designs combine European elegance with New York street fashion while incorporating exotic Asian elements. At the heart of her design philosophy is the spirit of the independent woman. Her work displays both femininity and individuality in an unique way while creating both comfort and beauty.”
IN one of the Week-2 matches of the MPT Myanmar National League (U-20) 2018, Royal Thanlwin FC defeated Mawyawady FC by a score of 2-1 at Salin football field of Yangon yesterday.

Both teams made brilliant efforts to dominate the match by using speedy play right from the kick-off.

At the 30-minute mark, Mawyawady defenders made a big mistake while blocking the opponent’s attack and paid for it with a goal by Royal Thanlwin.

The first half was led by Royal Thanlwin by a score of 1-0.

In the second half, Mawyawady changed tactics and made an equalizing goal at the 53-minute mark by Nyi Nyi Soe.

The winning goal was scored by Royal Thanlwin’s Si Thu Htet Aung at the 68-minute mark after a good crossing pass and the support of his teammates.

At the final whistle, the players from Royal Thanlwin celebrated their victory as they made a win at yesterday’s match.— KyawZin Lin

Advantage Ronaldo but Neymar warns it’s not over yet

MADRID — Paris Saint-Germain face a huge task to reach the Champions League quarter-finals after Cristiano Ronaldo defied predictions his powers are waning with two goals as Real Madrid won 3-1 in the first leg of their last-16 tie.

Billed as a contest between World Player of the Year Ronaldo and his Brazilian heir-in-waiting Neymar, the 33-year-old Portuguese came out emphatically on top as he became the first player to score 100 Champions League goals for the same club.

On a pulsating evening in the Bernabeu, Ronaldo dragged Real level with a penalty after Adrien Rabiot had given PSG the lead, fed by a cheeky Neymar backheel.

As PSG seemed to be heading for a draw that would have put the French side in the driving seat for the return leg on March 6, Ronaldo turned the match in Madrid’s favour with a scrappy goal that bounced in off his knee.

As Madrid poured forward, Marcelo piled on the pain with an 86th-minute volley to show PSG — who have never won the Champions League — the value of the experience of winning the competition 12 times.

- "We love the Champions League”
- “Real Madrid love the Champions League and as players we can feel that on the pitch.” Ronaldo said after being named man of the match.
- “Today things worked out for me, scoring two goals and helping the team win, but we know the tie is not finished yet.” Neymar, who cut a dejected figure at the end, said his side “committed errors at certain moments”.—AFP

Shiffrin wins giant slalom gold, Japan’s Ishikawa 33rd

PYEONGCHANG, South Korea — Mikaela Shiffrin of the United States took gold in the women’s giant slalom Thursday at the Pyeongchang Winter Olympics, where the sole Japanese entrant, Haruna Ishikawa, finished 33rd.

Shiffrin posted the second-fastest time on the first run and was fourth fastest the second time down the slope, finishing with a combined total of 2 minutes, 30.02 seconds. She is the undisputed queen of the slalom, as the defending Olympic champion, a three-time world champ, and on her way to a fifth World Cup overall slalom title. Silver medalist Ragnhild Mowinckel of Norway finished 0.39 second off the pace, while Italy’s Federica Brignone took bronze after completing the two runs 0.46 second slower than the winner. The 22-year-old Shiffrin, who became the youngest-ever Olympic slalom winner at Sochi in 2014, said that despite a rush of emotions, she felt confident of victory ahead of her second run at the Yongpyong Alpine Centre.

“I don’t know how to explain it. It’s crazy. There’s so much emotion,” Shiffrin said. “I don’t know when it was, at some point today after the first run I thought... I can really win this.” Shiffrin will have just 24 hours before hitting the slopes again to defend her Olympic slalom title. Initially scheduled for Wednesday, the event was moved to Friday due to bad weather: In her first Olympic competition, Ishikawa, 23, finished in 2.28.99.—Kyodo News

Myanmar U-15 team formed for the first time

WITH hopes of competing in the 2018 AFF U-15 Championship in August, a Myanmar U-15 boy’s football team has been formed for the first time, according to an official from Myanmar Football Federation.

There are currently 73 players, from which a final team will be selected in a step-by-step process, said an MFF official. Among the 73 players, 35 are from the Football Academy of Myanmar Football Federation and 38 players are from the respective States and Region football teams which participated in the MFF 100 Plus U-15 Cup 2017 Competition.

The squad will be coached and school in a camp system, said an official from the MFF. The selected U-15 players will be headed by Mr. Taku Ma from Japan and the camping programme will be starting on 18 February.

The Myanmar U-15 boys’ team will also compete in the Jockey Club football tournament in Hong Kong in March in order to gain international experience, according to the MFF.—KyawZin Lin

Royal Thanlwin beats Mawyawady in U20 MNL League

Royal Thanlwin’s striker attempts to shoot the ball over the keeper of Mawyawady. PHOTO: MNL