New homes for residents in Maungtaw, Rakhine State

RAKHINE State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu inspected reconstruction of villages for ethnic people and returnees from Bangladesh in Maungtaw District.

Together with Maungtaw District Deputy Commissioner U Ye Htut and other departmental officials, he inspected the status of the reconstruction of ethnic villages first.

The officials explained about the progress in the construction in Owe Htane, Thit-tonena Gwa Sone, Khon Daing, Myawady and Mingyi (new) villages.

The Chief Minister said that the villages must be completed on time and meet the required standards. He also coordinated the requirements submitted by the local populace. The villages will resettle displaced ethnic nationals from Rakhine, Mro, Khami, Daing-net and Thet.
Pyithu Hluttaw discusses banking, education sectors

Myo Myint
(MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY)

THE seventh session of the second Pyithu Hluttaw held its 22nd-day meeting at the Pyithu Hluttaw meeting hall of the Hlut- taw building in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

At the meeting, a question each on the banking sector and election, as well as four questions on the education sector, were asked and answered, a motion on health tabled and the Hluttaw informed about a bill.

First, U Myint Oo of the Bago Region’s Thanathpin constituency raised a question about whether the Development Affairs committees (municipal committees) in regions and states have a plan in place to disburse the shares to shareholders and asked the Central Bank of Myanmar if it was legal to use the funds of the committees to establish private or public banks, as such funds are owned by the government.

Deputy Governor of the Central Bank of Myanmar U Soe Thein said banks were formed with shares, and if there is a profit in a year, the profit is shared according to the shareholders.

Aye Aye Thant
(MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY)

Rakhine State, Ayayawady Region to get healthcare ships

Aye Aye Thant
(MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY)

THE seventh session of the second Amyotha Hluttaw held its 22nd-day meeting at the Amyotha Hluttaw meeting hall yesterday morning, where asterisk-marked questions were asked and answered and a report read.

At the meeting, U Maung Kyaw Zan of Rakhine State constituency (9) raised a question on the plan to deploy at least one ‘swimming doctor’ (doctors on boat) vessel in the coastal regions of Rakhine State. Union Minister for Health and Sports Dr. Myint Htwe replied that a swimming doctor or mobile team is useful in areas where travel is difficult and the security situation is good. It should be deployed in areas where healthcare is poor and where it is difficult to open a health care centre when there is an epidemic.

Mobile teams are an important initiative of the Ministry of Health and Sports, and a mobile team is ready for deployment on a vessel. There is a plan to deploy mobile teams on two vessels in Rakhine State and the Ayeyawady Region in the 2018-2019 fiscal year (FY), not ed the Union Minister.

Next, U Myo Win of Mon State constituency (8) asked whether there is a plan to provide government subsidies for electricity in Ye Township, where the price is high, as it is not yet connected to the national grid. He also asked when the national grid would reach Ye Township. Deputy Minister for Electricity and Energy Dr. Tun Naing replied that Ye Township was being provided electricity through diesel generators operated by the Myat Thura Company. To increase the power supply before the national grid reaches Ye Township, the Mon State government is planning to construct a 30-megawatt furnace oil or fuel oil (FO) generator in Ye Township, Thanbyuzayat Town, and provide electricity to nearby villages. The Mon State government has already given permission to Bedok Construction and Engineering Co., Ltd. to construct the FO generator, said the Deputy Minister.

For the development of the electricity sector in Mon State, the ministry is spending Ks9.8 billion to build a turnkey system of more than 40 miles of Mawlamyine-Thanbyuzayat 66 kilo volts (KV) power lines, three transformers and a substation. The power line is 33 per cent complete, while the substation is 80 per cent complete. Both will be completed in 2018. Once the Thanbyuzayat substation is completed, 60 miles of Thanbyuzayat-Ye power line and the 66/11 KV 5MVA Ye substation project will be constructed, with a fund of Ks1.274 billion earmarked for this purpose in October and September, respectively, during the 2018-2019 FY period. The Deputy Minister said the construction will take two years, and by the 2019-2020 FY, the national grid will reach Ye Township.

From the Thanbyuzayat-Ye power line, 0.5 miles of 66 KV power line will connect to Anin Village, Thanbyuzayat Township, where a substation will be constructed in the 2019-2020 FY.

In Lamaing Township, Khaizwa Town, a substation will be built during the 2021-2022 FY period. All of these are part of a five-year plan, and once the substations are completed, the ministry will cooperate and coordinate with the Mon State government to distribute electricity to nearby villages, explained the Deputy Minister.

U Soe Thein of Loei constituency asked whether there was a plan to open an examination centre in Mongpan to enable students from Mongpan Basic Education High School to take the matriculation examination. Union Minister for Education Dr. Myint Htwe explained that there were 133 students from Mongpan Basic Education High School taking the 2018 matriculation examination, and an examination centre is to be opened in Mongpan.

U Soe Rae of Loilem constituency asked whether there is a plan to provide government subsidies for electricity in Ye Township, the Mon State constituency. The Deputy Minister replied that Ye Township is being provided electricity through diesel generators operated by the Myat Thura Company. To increase the power supply before the national grid reaches Ye Township, the Mon State government is planning to construct a 30-megawatt furnace oil or fuel oil (FO) generator in Ye Township, Thanbyuzayat Town, and provide electricity to nearby villages. The Mon State government has already given permission to Bedok Construction and Engineering Co., Ltd. to construct the FO generator, said the Deputy Minister.

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The 23rd-day meeting of the seventh session of the second Amyotha Hluttaw will be held on 27 February.
President U Htin Kyaw accepts credentials of the Ambassador of the Republic of Korea

H.E. Mr. Lee Sang-hwa, the newly-accredited Ambassador of the Republic of Korea to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, presented his Letter of Credence to U Htin Kyaw, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, at Presidential Palace, Nay Pyi Taw at 2.30pm yesterday. Present on the occasion were Union Minister for the Office of the Union Government U Thaung Tun and Director-General U Thant Sin of the Protocol Department.—MNA

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Joint Bill Committee holds coord meeting

A joint bill committee coordination meeting to discuss the National Tax Bill was held yesterday morning in Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Building D, second floor meeting hall. The meeting was attended by the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker, Joint Bill Committee and Public Account Joint Committee chairman U Aye Tha Aung, Joint Bill Committee and Public Account Joint Committee deputy chairmen, secretaries, joint secretaries and committee members, Deputy Minister for Planning and Finance U Maung Maung Win, Legal Affairs and Special Cases Assessment Commission members, officials from the Ministry of Commerce the Union Attorney General Office, business persons from the Union of the Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry, members of the NLD economic committee, officials from the Myanmar Construction Entrepreneur Association and the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Office.—Myanmar News Agency

MMK 500 million donated for UEHRD

The donation was handed over in a ceremony yesterday at the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement and was accepted by the Union Minister and UEHRD Vice-Chairman Dr. Win Myat Aye who gave commemorative certificates in return.—MNA

President State Chief Minister inspects construction of homes for ethnic people, returnees

Also, the Rakhine State Chief Minister and his delegation inspected the land preparation work conducted in Ward 4, Maungtaw Town, where Hindus will be resettled, and then inspected the construction of houses near Zawtikayone monastery, and the construction of a school and houses in Kaingyi, Kyaunkpau and Inndin villages. He again said that the construction must be completed on time and meet the required standards, and then coordinated the requirements submitted by the local populace. Later, the Chief Minister and his delegation arrived at Asia World Company in Angumaw and enquired about the building of the Maungtaw-Angumaw road, where officials from the Road Department and the company provided explanations. After commenting on their explanations, the Chief Minister left Angumaw by boat for Sitway.—Hein Htet Zaw

FROM PAGE 1

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New War Nat elephant resort camp to be opened near Mandalay

NEW War Nat elephant resort will be opened near Mandalay at the end of March in order to develop tourism industry, said U Huay Aung, the manager of the Myanmar Timber Enterprise (Mandalay Region).

The elephant camp will be opened five miles and three furlongs on Ye Ywar road in Pyin Oo Lwin, Mandalay Region. There will be two elephant camps in Mandalay Region after opening the new elephant camp,” he added.

The recent Dee Doke elephant camp is opened near Three-Step falls, nine miles and three furlongs from Kyauk Chaw-Ye Ywar road in Pyin Oo Lwin.

“The new elephant camp will keep six elephants in the camp. Now, the buildings are being constructed in the camp. We are also decorating too many things for the elephant camp. Now, everything is fine and we planned to open the elephant camp the end of March,” he added.

The services elephant are only 15-year old elephants. They are considered tame. The elephant camp has the creel. Therefore, the authority will make arrangement for the visitors to pay with the water.

“The six elephants are from the Katha and will arrive at the end of this month. On riding elephants, safe and secure services will be given. The camp will provide riding elephant for half hours,” he added. Fees for riding elephants are designated at Ks3,000 plus the entrance fee of Ks1,000 for Myanmar citizens, while Ks20,000 plus the entrance fee at Ks2000 have been designated for foreign travellers.—Khine Set Wai

Negotiation meeting held to boost the fuel oil quality

MYANMAR Fuel Oil Importers and Distributors Association held a negotiation meeting with Consumers Protection Association (CPA) to set the fuel quality in line with international standard according to a report yesterday in the Myawady Daily.

In the international market, sulphur content of Asia-Pacific region diesel fuel has been reduced to 10 ppm this year. If Myanmar also use diesel with low sulphur content, it will help reduce the environmental impact.

At the present, many countries use ultra-low diesel or premium diesel to minimize the fuel's environmental impact.

Previously, Myanmar uses diesel with 5,000 ppm sulphur content that was later reduced to 250 ppm. Premium diesel with 10 ppm is also being imported and distributed in the domestic market. The usage of premium diesel has increased from 10 to 30 per cent. “Using only premium diesel with 10 ppm is good for the country but we worry that commodity price will be affected. Actually using premium diesel with 10 ppm is good not only for the environment but also for health of people,” said U Win Myint, the secretary of the Myanmar Fuel Oil Importers and Distributors Association.

“Now, they are working in Mandalay. We should conduct awareness campaigns to encourage the public to consume premium diesel,” said an entrepreneur from Myanmar Fuel Oil Importers and Distributors Association.—GNLM

Two people took legal action for leading 52 people to work in China

Police have filed charges against two people who are leading 52 people from the villages in Myingyan Township, Mandalay Region on 21 February at 16 mile gate of Ohon Chaw village, according to Mandalay Region police station.

Acting on a tip-off, a combined team comprising officers and staff from Mandalay Region police station and anti-trafficking police stopped a passenger vehicle heading to Muse from Myingyan at 16 mile gate of Ohon Chaw village and found 44 men and eight women who are onboard the passenger vehicle.

According to the investigation, Kay Soe Lin, 31, from Ku village called 26 people by taking 52,000 each for the transportation charges and Aung Lin, 38, from Maghyathmyin village called the remaining 26 people by taking 55,000 each for the transportation. Both of them are currently working at furniture factory at Ton kwan town in China.

“Now, they are working in China. They receive good salary in China. That is why; they called the people around their villages. The villagers are also followed with them because they want to get the good salary,” said police inspector Aung Hswe Lin from Mandalay police station.

“We cannot take action against both of them with trafficking law because the villagers are going with their own decision. That is why, we have filed charges with another law. We have also provided the awareness education to the villagers, he added.— Min Htet Aung (sub-printing house)
LOCAL BUSINESS

24 FEBRUARY 2018
THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Bilateral trade with China reaches $8.5 billion this FY

THE value of Myanmar’s trade with China from April to December of the current fiscal year totalled US$8.51 billion, including $4 billion in exports and $4.49 billion in imports, according to figures released by the Commerce Ministry.

Meanwhile, Myanmar’s regional trade with ASEAN countries showed the highest growth, closely followed by its bilateral trade with China.

The border trade with China performed better than trade via sea. Myanmar conducted $3.7 billion worth of trade with China, while the value of border trade reached $4.7 billion.

The value of bilateral trade with China was some $10.8 billion in the 2016-2017 FY, $10.9 billion in the 2015-16 FY, $9.7 billion in the 2014-2015 FY, $7 billion in the 2013-2014 FY, $4.95 billion in the 2012-2013 FY, and $5 billion in the 2011-2012 FY.

Rice, various types of peas, sesame seeds, corn, fruits and vegetables, dried tea leaves, fishery products, rubber, minerals and animal products are exported to China, whereas machinery, plastic raw materials, consumer products and electronic tools flow into Myanmar.

During this FY, China invested capital of $1.2 billion in 50 projects, according to statistics provided by the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration.—Ko Htet

Bilateral trade with South Korea tops $571 million this FY

THE value of bilateral trade between Myanmar and South Korea reached US$571 million in the current financial year; according to the monthly statistical report of the Ministry of Commerce.

Over the first nine months of this fiscal year, Myanmar’s exports to the East Asian country exceeded $200 million, while its imports were valued at $362 million. Bilateral trade, in December alone, was more than $60 million, with more than $189 million in exports and $321 million in imports.

Myanmar imports cosmetics, food products, electronic equipment, mobile devices and other goods from South Korea and exports agricultural products, including cashew nuts, mangoes, rice, beans and pulses.

The trade between the two countries in the last fiscal year (FY) was valued at $666 million. The value of trade between the two countries was $666 million in the 2011-2012 FY; $623 million in the 2012-2013 FY; External trade with South Korea reached a record high of nearly $1.6 billion in the 2013-2014 FY. Trade between the two countries declined to $862 million in the 2014-2015 FY and $656 million in the 2015-2016 FY.

South Korea’s investments in Myanmar in the current fiscal year reached $237.141 million, according to a report of the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration. Its investment in Myanmar last fiscal year was worth $66.428 million.—Rhine Khant

North East India Myanmar EXIM conclave, business cooperation signing ceremony held

THE North East India-Myanmar EXIM conclave and a horticulture, handlooms and handicrafts fair were held jointly by the Ministry of Commerce, Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI) and North East India Chamber of Commerce at the meeting hall of the Mandalay Chamber of Commerce and Industry at Yadanapon Super Centre in Chanayethazan Township, Mandalay Region, yesterday.

During the conclave, a signing ceremony for business cooperation in various fields was also held.

Union Minister for Commerce Dr Than Myint, the Indian ambassador to Myanmar, U Aung Than Win, vice president of the UMFCCI and U Kyaw Min, president of Mandalay Chamber of Commerce and Industry, addressed the conclave.

The North East India Chamber of Commerce and Industry introduced the authorities and other concerned officials to the Indian businessmen from Manipur state and explained the business cooperation activities.

The Union Minister for Commerce and officials then had a look at the horticultural and handicraft items on display at the fair.

Later in the afternoon, officials from the Mandalay Chamber of Commerce and Industry and businessmen from Manipur discussed matters of business cooperation.—Thih Ko Ko (Mandalay)
7th State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee holds 6th meeting

THE 6th meeting of the 7th State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee began at Maha Pathana Cave in Thiri Mingalar Kaba Aye Hill in Yangon yesterday.

The first-day meeting was presided over by Chairman Sayadaw of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Abhidhaja Maharattha Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotika Bhiamo Sayadaw Dr Bhaddanta Kumarabhivamsa.

Joint Secretary Sayadaw of the committee Agga Maha Pandita Dwipitakadhara Bhaddanta Agga Dhamma acted as the Master of Ceremonies.

In his opening speech at the meeting, Sayadaw Dr. Bhaddanta Kumarabhivamsa expressed his delight for the government’s planning to promote the monastic education schools nationwide.

The Chairman Sayadaw also called for establishing monastic education schools and for encouraging the Members of the Sangha who are taking part in the education system.

Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture Thura U Aung Ko suggested to hold meetings of ward/village/township/region/state level Sangha committees annually and to hold meeting Sangha Nayaka Committee every three months to be able to work closely between the bottom and top level committees.

Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Sandima Bhivamsa supplicated annual report of work done by the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee.

A total of 397 Members of the Sangha attended the meeting. — Myanmar News Agency

MSMEs from Mandalay, Kachin exhibit products

Vice President U Myint Swe inspects the intake channel of the Myogyi Dam in Ywagan, southern Shan State. PHOTO: MNA

A panoramic view of the Myogyi Dam in Ywagan, southern Shan State. PHOTO: MNA

FROM PAGE-1

The Vice President also reiterated the government’s commitment to provide technology to the MSMEs, so that they can produce value-added products with superior packaging designs.

He urged the entrepreneurs to expand their markets, in accordance with the rules and policies laid down by the Union Government, to produce export products.

In accordance with the ASEAN strategic action plan for the development of MSMEs, known as the ASEAN SAP SMED 2016-2025 plan, Myanmar is also working for the growth of the country’s MSMEs.

The three-day exhibition was formally opened by Vice President U Myint Swe; Union Ministers U Khin Maung Cho, Dr. Than Myint and U Kyaw Win; Magway Region Chief Minister Dr. Aung Moe Nyoe; Mandalay Region Chief Minister Dr. Zaw Myint Maung; and Kachin State Transportation, Electricity and Industry Minister U Win Nyunt.

Following the opening ceremony, Vice President U Myint Swe went to Ywagan in southern Shan State and inspected the Myogyi Dam.

U Kyaw Myint Hlaing, director-general of the Irrigation and Water Utilisation Management Department, reported on the current irrigation plan for farmlands, the Meiktila plain greening project, as well as on the plan to generate electricity and distribute it to the national grid.

Following the report, U Myint Swe urged officials to work for the development of eco-tourism based on the dam, in cooperation with the departments concerned.

Thanks to the Myogyi Dam, some 55,000 additional acres have been planted for cultivation of peas and pulses. The dam is irrigating more than 33,000 acres on the Meiktila plain.

During his visit to the dam, Vice President U Myint Swe inspected the intake channel for the dam and the generation of electricity at the dam.—Myanmar News Agency
Geotechnical investigation being conducted to construct small airport in Lailenpi, Chin State

By May Thet Hnin

MISSION Aviation Fellowship (MAF) International, an international non-governmental organisation, is conducting a geotechnical investigation to construct a small airport in Lailenpi Town in Matupi Township, Mindat District, southern Chin State.

This small airport can accommodate high performance short takeoff and landing aircraft, with a seating capacity of 13 people and a length of 800 metres.

The small airport will be constructed with some US$2.2 million provided by MAF. MAF will support the operations of up to three aircraft depending on demand, after receiving the requisite approval of the government, said Chad Tilley, Country Director of MAF Myanmar.

The government approved the construction of the MAF-funded small airport in July 2017. Currently, a geotechnical investigation is being carried out. Construction will begin in November, delayed due to the current unfavourable weather conditions. The airport is expected to be completed by April 2020, and it is slated to open in May 2020.

Lailenpi has a population of 40,000. The far-flung town is not easily accessible. It can be accessed by road only between January and April, and hiking is the only option during the other months. The construction project will resolve the town’s transport problems by opening up access via air.

The road trip to Lailenpi takes some five days from Yangon, while it is only 90 minutes away by air.

The airport will help tackle emergency problems, boost tourism development, attract investors and enhance trade. It will help implement the government’s regional development activities and execute the government’s programmes for balanced development across the country by narrowing the gap between rural and urban development growth, said Chad Tilley.

Once the government’s approval is received, all types of aircraft will be allowed to land at this small airport.

“It (Lailenpi) received a rural road only three years ago. The local people mostly travel by motorbike, but this is not possible in the rainy season. As a result, the local people find it difficult to access education and health services. Some have lost their lives on the way to the public hospital. The airport can save people’s lives,” said Hiva, a resident of Lailenpi.

The town is rich in natural scenic beauty. If transport facilities improve, tourism sites will emerge, said the locals.

MAF is providing humanitarian and regional development assistance. It has provided 135 small aircraft to more than 30 developing countries.

After this project, MAF will continue to seek approval from the government to build more small airports in other far-flung areas.

UPDJC, JICM to resume meetings on 27 and 28 Feb

THE Union Peace Dialogue Joint Committee (UPDJC) and Joint Implementation Coordination Meeting (JICM) will be resumed on 27 and 28 February, according to the meeting between the Peace Commission and signatories to the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement yesterday in Yangon.

The work coordination meeting also called on organisations which have not yet held national-level political dialogues to step up efforts to clarify unclear matters related to resolutions of the national-level political dialogues.

The participants of the meeting also decided yesterday to discuss the Joint Monitoring Committee’s matters at the UPDJC, as they reached beyond the framework of UPDJC and submitted them to the Joint Implementation Coordination Meeting (JICM) after discussion, he added. At the meeting, they also agreed on several issues to be jointly coordinated by both sides during the period from the signing NCA to reaching Union Agreement.

The JICM also agreed to form working groups during the period and JMC agreed to settle the disputed issues including demarcation between the Tatmadaw and the RCSS.

Both sides also agreed to make more efforts for inclusiveness of the non-signatories in the NCA.

The date for the third meeting of the Union Peace Conference-21st Century Panglong will be revealed after the meetings on 28 February.

Currently there is The New Mon State Party (N MSP) and Lahu Democratic Union (LDU) have signed the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA) including ten signatory groups, at the Myanmar International Convention Centre.

MOU signed to increase election administration

The Union Election Commission (UEC) signed a memorandum of understanding with the Association of World Election Bodies (A-WEB), and Mitsubishi Research Institute Inc. (MRI) yesterday to increase capacity for election administration processes.

Chairman U Hla Thein said at the ceremony that the UEC is collaborating with MRI for the first time but has collaborated with A-WEB before in sending participants to workshops on election topics, and sending participants on observation trips to presidential elections.

This new MoU is connected to using ICT technologies to count votes and announce poll results.

Next, Ms. Tomoki Takashashi, Deputy Director-General of MRI, said that the company was guided by the Japan Government to sign the MoU. A-WEB’s Director-General Mr. Sang Rock Bae said the shift to ICT is to build trust with voters and to motivate more people to vote. He said they plan to carry out this work for the next three years.—Myanmar News Agency

Correction

The headline of the story on Page 7 of the Friday, 23 February edition of the Global New Light of Myanmar contained an error. The correct title should read: JPN gov’t five UN agencies sign Exchange of Notes on Grant Aid to Rakhine State. The GNLM regrets the error.—Ed
Don’t rush planning laws

National interests and controversial issues on freedom of press

BY AUNG KYAW AYE CHAN

MINYARK PRESS is happy about the changeover to civilian rule which is assumed to have started in 2011 as it has been a little well over two years in power now. With the support by the majority of the people, the democratically elected government has been trying to solve the problems — some normal and some critical — after taking power in 2011.

In addition to national peace and reconciliation, mass protests and conflict in Rakhine State happen to become expanded with human rights and freedom of press.

Freedom of press

Here I would like to present some facts to my readers what I have observed in connection with freedom of press as it is well known, Myanmar has been gradually struggling for civilian rule of independence and democracy.

A decline in the US

Freedom of press has also declined in the United States where a lot of human rights organizations and news agencies are based.

President Donald Trump has attacked the media with harsh words, thereby bringing down the freedom of press gradually to the 16th position in 2017 and issues of press freedom are a key concern in the country.

A decline in freedom of press in the whole Southeast Asia

Freedom of press in the whole Southeast Asia has declined, according to the annual report of Freedom House in Asia-Pacific Review.

In his article freedom of press is divided into three categories: complete freedom, partial or no freedom at all. No freedom of press for 51% of a billion population in Asia; partial freedom for 44% and 5% complete freedom of information. Myanmar falls in the category of partial freedom. China stands at 179th position and Laos and Viet Nam stand at 179th and 153rd respectively and finally North Korea stands at 184th position.

Freedom of press in ASEAN community has declined considerably. Thailand ranked 64th position in 2006 but in 2017 it was 124th position; the Philippines declined from 89th position to 127th position where 52 journalists were killed between 2002 and 2018. According to the statistics of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights, the number of journalists killed in the country increased from 2000 to 2016.

In her opening statement, UN Under-Secretary-General and Executive Secretary of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) Dr. Shamshad Akhtar stressed “if we link peace and development, we will see the light of the New Global Light of Myanmar.”

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Don’t rush planning laws

National interests and controversial issues on freedom of press
Myanmar Parliamentary Union Meeting 2/2018 held

Myanmar Parliamentary Union (MPU) Meeting 2/2018 was held at Hluttaw Building, Zabuthiri meeting hall yesterday afternoon in Nay Pyi Taw.

In his opening speech, MPU Chairman, Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than said the law pertaining to the MPU was enacted and this law was not meant to influence and control the State and Regionsparliaments. Every organization had their own law and the enactment of a law is to conduct their works properly. It is to enable and increase communication and coordination between the union, states and regions parliaments. MPU members are to follow the coordination and decision of the parliamentary union and must report back to the parliamentary union.

MPU Vice Chairman Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Win Myint said parliaments need to be strong in practicing a democracy system. Parliament is formed with elected representatives of the people and is the foundation of the country. The aim of the MPU law is to make the conduct of each parliament correct, raise the quality and to enable cooperation with organizations. Cooperation will be stronger if states and regions parliaments cooperate with multi-national organizations and international organizations. MPU members need to study and be well versed in the constitutional law, parliament law and rules.

Next, MPU secretary Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Aye Tha Aung explained about the decisions made at MPU Meeting 1/2018 and the reason for enacting the MPU organization law.

Afterwards, MPU member and Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U T Khan Myat explained that the MPU bill was submitted to Pyithu Hluttaw and Hluttaw Rights Committee and was done for the success of the federal democracy.

MPU Office Head, Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Office Director General U Kyaw Soe then explained about the current organization of parliament offices and their staff matters.

This was followed by speakers and deputy speakers of State and Region parliaments attending the meeting explaining about each parliament’s matters and status of works conducted by each parliament.

Finally, Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker and Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker commented and clarified the discussions made and ended the meeting by delivering a concluding speech.

The meeting was attended by Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker and Deputy Speaker, Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker and Deputy Speaker, 12 States/Regions Hluttaw Speakers and 12 Deputy Speakers and officials from each Hluttaw offices.—Myanmar News Agency

Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker receives Cuban Ambassador

SPEAKER of Amyotha Hluttaw Mahn Win Khaing Than received Bangkok-based Cuban Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Hector Conde Almeida at the guest hall of Amyotha Hluttaw in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

At the meeting, they cordially discussed matters related to bilateral friendship, health, education and economic cooperation between the two countries. Also present at the meeting were Deputy Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw U Aye Tha Aung and officials of the Office of Amyotha Hluttaw.—Myanmar News Agency

Ceremony on conclusion of Civil Service Training

A ceremony at the conclusion of the Civil Service Training, jointly organized by the Ministry of Information and Panna Institute, Konrad Adenauer Stiftung, was held at the Ministry of Information assembly hall in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

In his speech at the ceremony, Ministry of Information Deputy Minister U Aung Hla Tun said the training course was conducted with an aim to increase the quality of civil servants, saying it was a very important course for the country, as modern civil administration and management subjects were taught.

The knowledge and experience gained from attending the course should be effectively utilized in actual works and it should also be spread to those colleagues who did not attend the course. Much thanks is owed to the Panna Institute and Konrad Adenauer Stiftung for supporting and assisting in the course, added the Deputy Minister.

Also, the course teacher U Htaw Win Naing presented the course conclusion certificates to trainees, and one trainee delivered a speech of appreciation.—MNA

Brunei Embassy observes 34th National Day, 25th anniversary Diplomatic Relations between Brunei and Myanmar

Union Minister for International Cooperation U Kyaw Tin and wife Daw Lwin Lwin Hman are welcomed by Ambassador of Brunei to Myanmar Mr. Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Pahlawan Colonoel (R) Dato Paduka Haji Abdu’r Rahmani bin Dato Paduka Haji Basir and wife as they arrive the reception to mark the 34th National Day of Brunei Darussalam and 25th Anniversary of the Diplomatic Relations between Brunei Darussalam and Myanmar at Sule Shangri-La Hotel in Yangon 23 February 2018.—Myanmar News Agency

Ministry of Information Deputy Minister U Aung Hla Tun addresses the ceremony at the conclusion of the Civil Service Training. PHOTO: MNA
Interagency Commission recommends crews for new ISS mission

ZVOZDNY GORODOK — The Interagency Commission at a meeting of the Gagarin Research & Test Cosmonaut Training Center recommended the main and backup crews for a new mission to the International Space Station, the center’s press service told TASS on Thursday.

“The Interagency Commission recommended the crews to continue flight preparations at the Baikonur Cosmodrome,” the Center said.

The main crew for a Soyuz MS-08 features Roscosmos cosmonauts Oleg Artemyev; NASA astronauts Andrew Feustel and Richard Arnold. The backup crew includes Alexey Ovchinin (Roscosmos) and Nick Hague (NASA). The final crew compositions will be given the go-ahead by the state commission at Baikonur a day before the launch which is scheduled for 21 March.

The meeting of the Interagency Commission was held after a two-day review session. The cosmonauts handled all training contingency situations operating precise copies of the Russian ISS segment and the Soyuz MS spacecraft. The medical commission also recognized them as qualified for flight.

Artemyev will make his second voyage to the ISS, Feustel will go there for the third time and Arnold for the second time.

Chinese scientists find how bats carry viruses without getting sick

WASHINGTON — Chinese scientists have identified the secret of bats that harbor highly pathogenic viruses like Ebola, Marburg and SARS coronavirus but do not show clinical signs of disease.

In a paper published on Thursday in the journal Cell Host & Microbe, scientists at the Wuhan Institute of Virology in China find that in bats, an antiviral immune pathway called the STING-interferon pathway is dampened, so bats can maintain just enough defense against illness without triggering a heightened immune reaction.

“We believe there is a balance between bats and the pathogens they carry,” said the paper’s senior author Zhou Peng.

“This work demonstrated that in order to maintain a balance with viruses, bats may have evolved to dampen certain pathways,” Zhou said.

According to researchers, in humans and other mammals, an immune-based over-response to one of these and other pathogenic viruses can trigger severe illness. For example, in humans, an activated STING pathway is linked with severe autoimmune diseases.

SpaceX launches Falcon 9 with 1st broadband internet satellites

LOS ANGELES — SpaceX completed another launch of its Falcon 9 rocket early Thursday with first two prototype satellites of its global broadband internet-in-space project, Starlink, successfully deployed in orbit.

‘First two Starlink demo satellites, called Tintin A & B, deployed and communicating to Earth stations,’ SpaceX CEO Elon Musk tweeted.

‘Successful deployment of PAZ satellite to low-Earth orbit confirmed,’ the California-based company confirmed.

According to the mission description, equipped with an advanced radar instrument, PAZ will cover the entire globe in 24 hours, serving both commercial and government needs. Designed for a mission life of five and a half years, PAZ will orbit Earth 15 times per day, covering an area of over 300,000 square kilometers from an altitude of 514 kilometers and a velocity of seven kilometers per second.

However, Pauz was not riding alone on the recycled Falcon 9. Quietly on board were SpaceX’s two experimental broadband satellites, Microsat-2a and Microsat-2b, a big first step in SpaceX’s long-term plan to create satellite internet over the next decade.

The company has been relatively mum about the debut of its Starlink satellites, and about the entire program itself.—Xinhua

India successfully test-fires Dhanush missile

NEW DELHI — India successfully test-fired indigenously developed Dhanush missile Friday from a port in its eastern state of Odisha, officials said.

“The indigenously developed Dhanush missile has been successfully test-fired from Paradeep Port of Odisha this morning,” India’s state-run broadcaster All India Radio (AIR) said.

The missile according to officials was fired from a warship to surface and it successfully hit the target. Officials said the missile is naval version of Prithvi-II missile with a capacity of hitting the target within 350 km with payload of 500 kg. “This is the second test after 2015 and now, Dhanush can hit the target from surface-to-surface and sea-to-surface also,” AIR said.

The test was carried out by strategic force command of Indian army as part of a user trial. Strategic force command has been conducting trials of the missiles as part of regular training exercise to reconfirm its readiness.

On Thursday it successfully conducted night trial of its indigenously developed surface-to-surface nuclear capable Prithvi-H missile.—Xinhua
Three-year-old child dies, 16 injured in Cairo building collapse

BUJUMBURA — Three women died and six other people seriously injured after a church building collapsed on Monday in the Burundian southwestern Rumonge province, the governor of Rumonge said Tuesday.

The incident happened in the Kagongo village in the Kizuka zone around 6 p.m. during heavy rains mixed with a violent wind, said Juvenal Bigirimana.

“During prayers, the Kagongo Pentecostal church building collapsed while worshippers were inside. Walls fell on them and three women died on the spot, six other people were seriously injured,” said Bigirimana.

He said violent wind first unroofed the church building before walls could collapse, adding that the two actions were almost simultaneous.

Besides human casualties, over 300 houses were damaged during those heavy rains hitting Kagongo, said the governor, adding that an unknown number of hectares of crops were also destroyed by the rains.

Homeless victims were Monday night sheltered by their neighbors whose houses were not affected by the disaster, said the governor, who also called on charitable people and organizations to assist the victims in terms of food and iron sheets in rehabilitating their houses.

Humans can reach Mars but unknown radiation may turn out lethal, Russian scientist warns

MOSCOW — The current level of science and engineering as it is, humans can reach Mars in principle, but no means exist at the moment of protecting them from radiation there, the chief of the space plasma physics section at the Russian Academy of Sciences’ Space Research Institute, Anatoly Petrukovich, told TASS.

“As far as the technical possibility of flying to Mars is concerned, it does exist. For instance, we may launch Proton rockets [with space vehicle components] several times, then assemble them in orbit the way the railway engine and cars are coupled on the ground and then push the spacecraft towards Mars somehow. The odds are it will reach its destination and may even deliver some crew there. The question is what the chances of getting back will be, bearing in mind the level of radiation,” Petrukovich said.

The effects of unknown types of radiation on biological species are not very well studied at the moment, but it is already clear they may cause heavy damage to the human body.

Alongside safety matters there is the fund-raising problem that will have to be addressed.

“Flight to Mars may require investment identical to what the world spends on space research these days. Possibly, there should be some international project,” Petrukovich said. — TASS

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CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE

**M.V HOANG HAI 88-ALCI V.0118**

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V HOANG HAI 88-ALCI V.0118 are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 26-02-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of BSW-2 where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S RK SHIPPING & TRADING PTE LTD**

Phone No: 2301928

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**M.V PACITA VOY. NO. ( )**

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V PACITA VOY. NO. ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 24-2-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MITI/AIPT where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S REGIONAL CONTAINER LINES**

Phone No: 2301185

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**M.V TAN BINH 89**

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V TAN BINH 89 are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 19-02-18 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of AIPF-3 where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S BEN LINE AGENCIES PTE LTD**

Phone No: 2301928

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**M.V SIMA PERFECT VOY. NO. ( )**

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V SIMA PERFECT VOY. NO. ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 26-2-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of HPT where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S NEW GLODEN SEA SHPING LINE**

Phone No: 2301185
WHO urges to expand access to testing, treatment for TB prevention

GENEVA — The World Health Organization (WHO) called on Thursday for scaling up access to testing and treatment for TB infection, especially among groups who are particularly at risk, such as children and people living with HIV. The WHO has updated the guidelines for programmatic management of latent TB infection, which expands access to testing and care for people with latent TB infection who may develop active TB in the future if without appropriate treatment.

Health practitioners have previously prioritized testing and treatment of people living with HIV and children under the age of five who have been in contact with people who have TB.

The WHO has now identified HIV-negative children aged above five, adolescents and adults who are contacts of TB patients, as well as contacts of patients with multidrug-resistant TB, as additional high-risk groups. It also recommends expanding the testing options for latent TB infection in both high and low TB burden countries. Treatment options should also be expanded, the WHO said, recommending two new shorter treatment regimens to treat latent TB infection.

“Together with our partners, we urge governments to implement the new guidelines and increase access to latent TB screening for high-risk groups,” Dr. Michael pelczar, WHO global tuberculosis director said in a statement. “By doing so, we can significantly reduce the number of TB cases and deaths, and bring us closer to ending the TB epidemic.”

Recently, the World Health Organization (WHO) has updated the guidelines for programmatic management of latent TB infection, which expands access to testing and care for people with latent TB infection who may develop active TB in the future if without appropriate treatment.

The new approach to latent TB management was presented at the World Health Assembly in Geneva.

WHO says it is particularly important to identify and treat people at high risk of developing active TB, such as people living with HIV, children under the age of five, and adolescents and adults who have been in contact with people who have TB.

The WHO recommends expanding the testing options for latent TB infection in both high and low burden countries. Treatment options should also be expanded, the WHO said, recommending two new shorter treatment regimens to treat latent TB infection.

The new guidelines will help to ensure that countries have the necessary systems in place to provide latent TB screening and treatment to high-risk groups.

“Together with our partners, we urge governments to implement the new guidelines and increase access to latent TB screening for high-risk groups,” WHO said. “By doing so, we can significantly reduce the number of TB cases and deaths, and bring us closer to ending the TB epidemic.”

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Social

Haitian director Raoul Peck: ‘We’ve lost the big picture’

LOS ANGELES — Still basking in acclaim for his visceral documentary on African-American social critic James Baldwin, Raoul Peck has turned his creative energies on another of history’s indispensable political minds — Karl Marx.

The project comes with the Haitian filmmaker at the peak of his powers, having won best documentary at Sunday’s BAFTAs — Britain’s version of the Academy Awards — for “I Am Not Your Negro,” his meditation on Baldwin’s racial philosophies.

The 64-year-old was still directing the Oscar-nominated documentary — his 15th feature-length release — when he began work on “The Young Karl Marx,” a dramatization of Marx’s early years that hits US theaters on Friday.

A cerebral retelling of the birth of communism, it also works as a high-minded bromance between Marx and radicalized manufacturing heir Friedrich Engels that flourishes in the pubs and cafes of 1840s Paris.

“The Young Karl Marx,” says Peck, aims at a realistic worldview in which complex problems require rigorous solutions rather than the short-term thinking the director sees in US President Donald Trump. “Any problem you can throw at him, it’s an easy problem. It’s either the fault of certain people or a certain person and you can get rid of the person and the problem goes away,” Peck told AFP.

“No, it doesn’t work that way. That’s why we are in a time of populism, of simplification, of very individualistic reactions. It’s because we’ve lost the big picture.” Before they were 30, Marx and Engels had helped alter society with the publication of their clarion call to the working class, The Communist Manifesto, one of the most widely-read and influential texts of all time.

- Rabble-rousing -

Played by German actor August Diehl (“Inglourious Basterds”), Marx is introduced as a rabble-rousing Young Turk in his mid-20s, recently married to the aristocratic Jenny von Westphalen, portrayed by Vicky Krieps (“Phantom Thread”).

In 1844 Paris they meet the dandyish Engels (Stefan Konarske), son of a wealthy German mill owner with factories in Manchester, who rebels against his father’s mistreatment of his workers.

Amid censorship, police raids and political upheavals, they preside over the development of the makeshift, disorganized labor movement into the most coherent revolution in political thinking since the Renaissance.

Peck, who co-wrote with veteran French screenwriter Pascal Bonitzer, is the first director to helm a film about the early years of a man known mostly through the iconic image of the elder statesman with the wild, gray beard.

Peck says the last thing he wanted was to make a film about a “somewhat surly but somewhat kindly, tired-looking Marx, speaking in English through his bushy beard in a vague political context while shedding a few tears at the successive deaths of his children, and cheating on his wife.”

Rather than relying on the glut of biographies and academic texts out there, Peck and Bonitzer researched their story by going straight to the horses’ mouths, via their characters’ mutual correspondence.

“These letters are very vivid, very alive. They have humor; they are funny,” Peck told AFP.

“They of course speak about theory and history, but also about their friends, their next voyage, the difficulties of finding a home, organizing et cetera.”

Legacy

Born in Haiti, Peck was raised in the Congo, the US and France, serving as Haiti’s minister of culture in 1996 and 1997.

In 2001, Human Rights Watch gave him a lifetime achievement award for his work, most notably Lumumba (2000), which dramatized the rise and assassination of the Congo’s first democratically elected leader.—AFP

Snapchat parent’s stock plummets after Kylie Jenner tweet

LOS ANGELES — Snapchat’s parent company lost some $1.3 billion in market value on Thursday after reality star Kylie Jenner tweeted that she was no longer using the messaging service.

“sooo does anyone else not open Snapchat anymore? Or is it just me... ugh this is so sad,” Jenner tweeted.

She later followed up with “still love you tho snap... my first love,” but the damage may already have been done.

Snap Inc.’s shares fell by over six percent in Thursday trading, a loss of about $1.3 billion in market capitalization.

Jenner has huge followings on various social media platforms, including Twitter and Instagram.

She gave birth to a daughter this month, and her Instagram post announcing the pregnancy quickly became one of the most liked posts of all time on the social media platform.—AFP

Hong Kong harbour gets star attraction with sculpture park

HONG KONG — Hong Kong’s harbourfront is known for glittering skyscrapers and the sight of containerships navigating busy shipping lanes — but a new art project has added a giant pumpkin, a map of the stars and a pair of disembodied legs to the famous skyline.

The Harbour Arts Sculpture Park, which officially opened on Thursday, is a collection of works by 19 local and international artists including Britain’s Antony Gormley, Tracey Emin, Japan’s Yayoi Kusama, as well as Jenny Holzer and Hank Willis Thomas from the United States.

The series of installations aims to increase public access to art in a city known more for its exclusive high-end galleries and lucrative auctions.

“I think public art is a unique place to make a statement and I wanted to make a work that people could inhabit and basically become a part of,” said Willis Thomas, perched inside a large metal speech bubble.

The work, “Ernest and Ruth,” is one of two of his sculptures in the project, which was organized by the nonprofit Hong Kong Arts Centre in collaboration with local partners.

On the harbourfront, intrigued visitors had already begun taking pictures of themselves with Kusama’s oversized pumpkin sculpture on Thursday afternoon, while children played among the other works dotted on the grass.

Hong Kong artist Kacey Wong, whose angular golden artwork “Asteroids & Comets” is a constellation of three-dimensional star maps, said younger visitors were the quickest to engage with the art.—AFP
In China’s eSport schools students learn it pays to play

Jinan — Most teachers would not be impressed to discover a student playing video games in their class. But at a school in eastern China it is mandatory, part of a drive to train eSport champions and tap into the booming industry.

“Dammit, I’m dead!” explains one student at the Lanxiang Technical School in eastern Jinan province as dozens of his classmates are still in the game and continue to furiously bash their keyboards.

Once associated with teenagers stuck in their bedrooms, eSports — where players square off in lucrative video game tournaments — are growing fast. Chinese internet research company iResearch estimates 260 million people are already playing eSport games or watching competitions in the country, with the biggest bouts playing out to thousands of spectators in stadiums and many more online.

The growth shows no signs of slowing. Market research firm Newzoo estimates that the eSport industry will be worth $906 million in global revenues in 2018, a 38.2 per cent increase from last year.

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Newzoo estimates that the eSport industry already employs some 50,000 people in China, according to local data firm CNG, but they estimate the demand is there to employ a further 200,000 across the country.

Alongside Lanxiang Technical, at least two other universities have opened up eSport courses. Overseas, Britain’s Staffordshire University plans to launch a three year course. Universities in Finland and Moscow already offer such courses, and there is an eSport Academy in France. PHOTO: AFP

Irrational companies -- such as Lanxiang Technical, actively teaching the skills needed for eSport success. Around 50 students signed up for its inaugural eSport course, which launched in September.

“At first, many parents thought it was just about playing video games,” school director Rong Lanxiang told AFP. “In fact, it’s not the case. eSport is developing to a very high degree and it’s become an economic growth driver.”

League of Legends

At the school in Jinan, students focus on improving their skills in some of the most popular eSport games.

League of Legends, one of the world’s most played games, is a strategy driven bout where players fight each other in a digital arena.

First person shooters like Overwatch, Counter Strike and the hugely popular newcomer PlayerUnknown’s Battlegrounds, are also key parts of this unusual syllabus.

“PlayerUnknown’s Battlegrounds was a hobby for me, I was really into playing video games, and it’s a new industry, I think there are good prospects in it,” says Teng Xin, who says he racks up at least 20 hours game time a week.

At 22, the student fears he may be too old to be a professional eSportsman, but feels he could be a coach.

His eSports course lasts a full three years. During the first year, the classes are 50 per cent gaming and 50 per cent theory lessons on succeeding within the industry.

After the first year, the students are divided up. The best gamers focus on becoming professional players while the others are taught accompanying skills including event organisation, promotion, or coaching.

Song Jinze, a shy 16-year-old, says he wants to become a presenter.

Big tournaments attract huge online audiences and, just like any boxing or football match, a good presenter is a key part of the experience.

He says: “When I showed how much I love this and that I would persist with it, my dad agreed to let me come here to learn.”

The annual school tuition fees are around 13,000 yuan ($2,050), a fairly reasonable price for tuition in China. The most talented players who become part of the school team are exempt from paying.

Lanxiang Technical has its sights set on tutoring up to 1,000 eSport students.

Olympic status?

It is all far from the situation less than a decade ago when the government was so concerned about youths spending excessive time on the internet it listed web addiction as a clinical disorder and drafted legislation to limit online time.

Today, China is a key eSport market. In November more than 40,000 fans flocked to Beijing’s Bird’s Nest Olympic stadium to watch the final of the world championships for League of Legends.

eSports are to be included as a medal sport for the first time at the 2022 Asian Games in Hangzhou.

Alongside Lanxiang Technical, at least two other universities have opened up eSport courses. Overseas, Britain’s Staffordshire University plans to launch a three year course next September. Universities in Finland and Moscow already offer such courses, while there is an eSport Academy in Nantes, France.

“I’m not a career path my parents were happy with but he was able to persuade them of his prospects.”

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“In the future, eSports will be present in every family and it’ll be more popular than basketball and football,” predicts Teng Xin.

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Aung La N Sang claims two division world champion with head kick to Machado

KyawZin Lin & Chris

IN the main event of ONE: QUEST FOR GOLD, hometown hero “The Burmese Python” Aung La N Sang scored a quick knockout victory over Alexander Machado to win the vacant ONE Light Heavyweight World Championship at the Thuwunna Indoor Stadium in Yangon yesterday night.

Aung La N Sang needed less than a minute to finish Alexandre Machado to become a two-division champion at ONE: Quest For Gold last night. With his remarkable conquest of Machado, Aung La N Sang now has both the ONE Middleweight World Championship and ONE Light Heavyweight World Championship titles in his possession.

Machado looked significantly bigger but Aung La was much more confident in the early exchanges. He landed a hard head kick which the Brazilian attempted to block with his arms and seconds later, the Burmese fighter launched a head kick.

Once again, Machado tried to use his hand to block, but the force of the kick was too great and it knocked him down. Aung La moved in for the kill, but the referee could see that his opponent had not recovered and he stepped in to stop the fight before the middleweight champion could land any follow-up strikes.

The finish came at the 0:56 mark and earned Aung La N Sang the light heavyweight belt, which had been vacated by Rogelio Gracie. His record moves to 22-10-0-1 and he now holds titles in two divisions, while Machado drops to 8-3.

Aung La’s swift victory was received with mix emotions by the audience. Myanmar applauded Aung La for bringing the world No. 6 to the floor. He is hoping to be back in the cage for the ONE light heavyweight world championship.

Injured Matsuyama to skip Mexico C’ship to prep for Masters

TOKYO — Hideki Matsuyama, who has yet to recover from a left thumb injury sustained three weeks ago, will not compete in the upcoming World Golf Championship-Mexico Championship, his management company said Friday.

The world No. 6 withdrew from the Phoenix Open early this month, ending his hopes of winning the tournament for a third straight year, after he injured the base of his thumb.

The 25-year-old Japanese also missed last weekend’s Genesis Open. The Mexico Championship will be held on March 1-4 in Mexico City.

Matsuyama returned to Japan temporarily to undergo medical tests and is making progress in his recovery, the company said.

He is hoping to be back in time for the 5-8 April Masters at Augusta National where he will be chasing his first major championship.

Yangon still leads the table with beating defending champs

YANGON United played against defending Champion Shan United in Week 7 of the MPT Myanmar National League at the Yangon United Sports Complex yesterday.

Yangon seized victory with a single goal from their player Aee Soe.

The lineup for Yangon United were keeper Kyaw Zin Htet, and players Pyaw Phyo Zaw, David Htan, Kyi Lin, Mg Mg Lwin, Sekou Sylla, Kosuke Yamazaki and Aee Soe.

Shan also used its reliable keeper Thiba Sithu, Asare Patrick, Yan Naing Oo and Zaw Lin.

Yangon could take over the match in the early minutes with its star Aee Soe. The icebreaker and winning goal was scored by Aee Soe’s strong kick at 21 minute far from the net, with the ball entering the net from the left side of the keeper.

The match was heated up after the goal with both teams making substitutions. Min Kyaw Khant from Yangon United attained a direct red card for his rough manner to an opponent at 27 minutes. Yangon United had to play with 10 players along the match.

The Shan team fared much better in the second half after they changed tactics. At the 55 minutes mark Shan’s Lee Hanuk tried to score from the right wing but Yangon’s keeper Kyaw Zin Htet knocked the ball away. There were continuous chances for goals but the Shan team could not convert the chances into goals.

However, Yangon, even with only 10 players on the field, could defend well and the win was maintained even at the final whistle and its fans were cheering for the win.

— KyawZin Lin