Union official: the real Rakhine

Union officials explain cause for exodus, ARSA threats, repatriation obstruction

A press conference on developments in Rakhine State including an update on the repatriation effort and clarifications on illegal settlements on the border between Myanmar and Bangladesh was held in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

In opening address at the press conference, U Aung Hla Tun, the Deputy Minister for Information, said the major reasons for the mass exodus of mostly Muslim residents of northern Rakhine State to Bangladesh were fear of arrest, and also threats from the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA), which attacked border guard outposts in August 2016, sparking a military response. ARSA has been termed a terrorist organisation.

“According to information from reliable sources on the ground, most of these people fled in panic just after the military operation following the terrorist attacks, for fear of being arrested for their involvement or on suspicion. The second reason was threats by ARSA and its supporters. The third reason was many of them were persuaded to flee by the expectations such as chances of resettlement in a third country or better livelihood in the camps in Bangladesh”, said U Aung Hla Tun. Since that time, officials said, concerted efforts at repatriation have been made by Myanmar, but delays have occurred due to documentation and misinformation, U Aung Hla Tun said.

Union Minister U Kyaw Tint Swe and Bangladesh Foreign Minister Abul Hassan Mahmood Ali signed an agreement in Nay Pyi Taw on 23 November, 2017 that allowed repatriation of displaced residents who could produce proof of residency in Myanmar.

“So far as I understand, ‘proof of residency’ is very liberal. It can be citizenship identity cards, national registration cards, temporary registration cards, business ownership documents, school attendance certificate as well as the name of the village, etc.”, Deputy Minister U Aung Hla Tun said.

Myanmar has been ready to receive verified returnees from Bangladesh.

SEE PAGE 6
Pyithu Hluttaw debates relocation of IDPs to Yangon

THE 28th day of the second Pyithu Hluttaw being convened in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

The 28th day of the second Pyithu Hluttaw was held yesterday. The MPs discussed asterisk-marked questions, the Myanmar Investment Rule and the resettlement of 55 households from Rakhine camps to Yangon in 2017.

Some 18 MPs debated a motion by U Maung Myint from Min-gin Constituency to review the union government’s decision to relocate 55 Kaman families from three camps in Yanbye, Kyaukpyu and Pauktaw townships in Rakhine State.

Tatmadaw MP Lt-Col Aung Kyaw Moe said the union government had ignored the final report of the Advisory Commission of Rakhine State (recommendation 25), which noted that the government should try to ensure internally displaced persons (IDPs) return to their places of origin.

He said relocating them to Yangon would set a poor example for others. 

He said relocating them to Yangon would set a poor example for others.

Regarding permission given to open more private banks, the Deputy Governor said 24 private banks were operating in the country and those that have permission to open more private banks are effective and can reach areas that the incumbent government had a plan to give more private banks permission to operate and about the situation of leasing loans from private banks to SMEs in the country.

According to statistics up to December 2017, private banks granted Ky319.229 billion in loans to the agriculture and livestock breeding sector, making up 1.73 per cent of the total loans granted to the private sector.

Regarding permission given to open more private banks, the Deputy Governor said 24 private banks were operating in the country, and the CBM was scrupulously one another five banks that had applied for permission to operate. The number of private banks currently operating in the country and those that have applied are enough to operate the CBM’s financial services, he added.

Besides this, mobile banking services are becoming popular in Myanmar, and the banking sector is developing, he noted.

As mobile banking services are effective and can reach areas where no banks have been established, the CBM has suspended granting of permissions to open more private banks now,” said U Soe Thein.—Myo Thu Hein, Hnwe Kyu Zin (Myanmar News Agency)
VP U Myint Swe to attend Crans Montana Forum on Africa and South-South Cooperation in Morocco

A Myanmar delegation, led by Vice President U Myint Swe, departed for Morocco by air early yesterday morning to attend the Crans Montana Forum on Africa and South-South Cooperation. The Crans Montana Forum on Africa and South-South Cooperation is scheduled to be held in Dakhla, Morocco, from 15 to 20 March.

The Vice President was seen off at Yangon International Airport by Chief Minister of Yangon Region U Phyo Min Thein, regional ministers and officials yesterday.

The delegation then arrived at Atlas Airport Hotel. —Myanmar News Agency

VP U Henry Van Thio attends ceremony to return confiscated land to farmers

Speaking on the occasion at the City Hall in Taunggyi, the Vice President said he was delighted to return the land to their owners.

At the ceremony, of the 1,969 acres abandoned by the Ministry of Defence in Taunggyi District, Shan State, 622.48 acres were returned to 356 farmers, and some 1,347 acres were handed over to the Shan State government.

Since the central committee was formed, the Ministry of Defence has abandoned more than 29,900 acres in Shan State, and of them, more than 12,791 acres were handed over to government departments, while more than 17,127 acres were returned to farmers in the state.

He also urged farmers who received the land to grow high quality paddy to ensure they can find a market for their produce. Myanmar’s rice exports this fiscal year were more than 3 million tonnes, the highest in over 70 years. Myanmar is one of the region’s top rice exporters.

In his address, the Vice President also urged all the departments and institutions responsible to abandon confiscated land.

Following the ceremony, U Henry Van Thio visited Sao San Tun Hospital and spoke to patients receiving treatment there. —Myanmar News Agency
30 Myanmar roofed turtles released in upper Chindwin River

Some 30 Myanmar roofed turtles, a critically endangered species, have been released into the upper Chindwin River, Kani District, Sagaing Region.

The roofed turtles have been released into the compound that was built inside the Chindwin River in two months through a soft release programme. After two months, the turtles will be released into the Chindwin River.

The Forest Department undertook the Myanmar roofed turtles conservation programme in cooperation with the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) and the Turtle Survival Alliance (TSA).

Myanmar released some 10 roofed turtles into the river in 2007, seven in 2011 and 60 in 2013. Now, it is planning to release some 30 turtles in 2018, said Myo Min Win, who is in charge of the Myanmar roofed turtles conservation camp.

The Myanmar roofed turtle is an endemic species that only survives in Myanmar. Earlier, Myanmar roofed turtles were found in the Ayeyawady, Chindwin, Sittaung and Thanlwin rivers. However, they are now found only in the upper Chindwin river, as rampant fishing has destroyed turtle eggs that get caught in the fishing hook.

According to the Protection of Wildlife and Conservation of Natural Areas Law (1994), people who catch and smuggle roofed turtles shall be slapped with a seven-year imprisonment term or fined. — Nyi Two

YCDC to accept pandal applications from third week of March

THE Yangon City Development Committee (YCDC) will accept applications for the construction of pandals in the Yangon Region from the third week of March, said an official from the Engineering Department (Road and Bridge) of YCDC.

“YCDC has not decided the amount of deposit for the pandals yet. The YCDC will grant permission to pandal constructors, and is still considering the size and location for the pandals. We will also announce the amount of fine for violation of regulations,” the official added.

The Yangon Region is likely to see a large number of pandals this year, as the government has lifted its ban on pandals.

Farmers receive land compensation for Yangon Myothit project

THE Yangon Region government has started paying compensation to farmers for the new Yangon Myothit project, said Dr Kyaw Zin Oo, Hluttaw representative from Twantay Township Constituency-1.

Apart from some 15 farmers, most farmers in Twantay Township have agreed to the land compensation. Currently, land compensation is being paid to local farmers. The regional government will compensate farmers for two acres, even if they have only one acre.

After the payment of compensation, they can be used as urban lands. As a result, land price will increase, and there will be more opportunities for farmers.

“Now, the regional government has started working on land confiscation. The union government is also looking into a few cases for the new project. It is sure to implement the project. We have carried out 11 of the 17 land confiscation steps,” Dr Kyaw Zin Oo added.

In addition to the Myothit project, which will be implemented on the other side of Yangon, the government will establish special economic zone and deep sea port projects soon. The Japan International Cooperation Agency has already prepared the projects to be completed by 2040. The regional government is developing all the projects on a 17-acre plot as a pilot project. —GNLM

9 million euros allocated for rural electrification project in Shan State (South)

THE government is planning to spend 9 million euros on the electrification project for 253 villages in Shan State (South), said Dr Soe Soe Ohn, project manager for the electrification project.

The project is part of the National Electrification Plan. The Rural Development Department will develop it in the 2018-2019 fiscal year period with the assistance of German Development Bank. The government will choose villages and invite tenders for the project.

The project aims to install home solar systems in houses. Seven of the nine million euros will be used for the implementation works and the rest for technical assistance.

The department will choose villages in 15 townships. The project will electrify more than 10,000 houses. —GNLM
High consumption of Shwebo Pawsan encourages growers to expand cultivation

By May Thet Hnin

THE cultivation of Shwebo Pawsan, a superior variety of local rice, is likely to expand in the coming years on account of high consumption and demand, said U Min Aung, chairman of Shwebo Pawsan Producers and Exporters Association.

“Normally, Shwebo Pawsan is out of stock by the end of April. However, it was nearly out of stock in September itself, resulting in the soaring price in the market. This means the consumption of Pawsan is high. Sometimes, we get a purchase order even from the Pawsan-producing Ayeawady Region,” he added.

Shwebo Pawsan is cultivated in Shwebo, Wetlet, YeU, Singu, Tabayin, Taze and Kanbalu townships. Of the 800,000 acres of monsoon paddy cultivation, more than 310,000 acres are devoted to Shwebo Pawsan cultivation. An acre produces 65 to 80 baskets on an average.

Shwebo Pawsan matures during the middle term, taking some 145 days. Farmers start cultivating this variety in July and harvest the rice in December.

Some 50 per cent of the Shwebo Pawsan is sent to the Yangon market and also distributed to markets in southern and northern Shan State, and the Taninthayi, Magway, Mandalay, Bago and Ayeawady regions.

“Some growers cultivate the Ayeawady variety during Shwebo Pawsan’s growing season. However, the demand for this variety is low this year. Therefore, farmers are likely to turn to Shwebo Pawsan in the coming paddy season,” said U Soe Tint, a Shwebo Pawsan grower.

The high consumption and demand have led to a decrease in the stock. While 100 paddy baskets previously fetched some Ks1.2 million, the price has now soared to Ks1.6 million. Similarly, the price for a bag of Pawsan has also increased. This year, the opening price for Pawsan was some Ks1.2 million per 100 baskets in January. The price gradually rose, starting from February. The prevailing price ranges from Ks1.4 to 1.5 million per 100 baskets.

The soaring price last year was attributed to the current high price. However, the price will remain steady, and there will be no significant rise, stated U Min Aung.

Farmers are expecting a high yield of Shwebo Pawsan this year, along with a high price.

Thai-Myanmar border trade increases by $90 million this FY

TRADE through the Thai-Myanmar border gates from 1 April to 2 March of the current fiscal year (FY) was worth some US$1.33 billion, which is some $90 million more than the trade value achieved during the same period last FY.

Of the seven Thai-Myanmar border gates, Myawady gate is the major trading point, but the value of trade at this gate decreased by $29 million compared with last FY. Similarly, Tachileik also showed a slight decline in trade. The other five border gates recorded an increase in trading activity. Exports via the Kawthoung and Myeik checkpoints significantly surpassed imports. Border trade was worth $78 million at Tachileik, $816 million at Myawady, $179 million at Kawthoung, $242 at Myeik, $12.5 million at Hteekhee, $6.3 million at Mawtaung and $60.6 million at Maesot.

Large volumes of fishery products are exported daily through the Myawady gate.

The import of vehicles through the checkpoint ceased owing to changes in the automobile policy. Industrial machinery, trucks, agricultural equipment, tractors, motorcycles, cars, food and beverages, cosmetics, fuel, oil, fertilisers, cement, construction materials and sugar for re-export are imported through the Myawady gate. Fish, prawns, crabs, onions, sesame, turmeric, herbs and forestry products are sent to Thailand.

Jade price falls in Mandalay market pre-Thingyan

THE price of jade has declined in the domestic market before the Thingyan New Year celebrations, according to merchants in the Mandalay Region.

In Mandalay, only local traders buy raw jade from the Jade and Gems market in Mahamsone Township to make the finished products.

“The demand for jade at the jade and Gems market is cooling, even though Chinese buyers are back after the Chinese New Year,” said a local jade dealer.

The supply of raw materials entering the market from the Phakant region, considered the land of jade, has decreased. Phakant is famous for its high-quality stones. Although the Chinese currency has been stable in the market before the water festival, jade collectors are making money by selling their products to local buyers at a reduced price.

The market is expected to be active again after the water festival, said the merchants. — Maung Pyithu (Mandalay) ■
Union officials explain cause for exodus, ARSA threats, repatriation obstruction

FROM PAGE-1
“In the middle of February, Bangladesh government sent back over 8,000 forms to us. However, the forms were lacking essential information and all important requirements for biometric verifications. We are doing our best to make this process a success and we sincerely hope Bangladesh government will reciprocate in the same manner.”

U Aung Hla Tun added that discussions are ongoing with the UNHCR and UNDP for their involvement in assisting the government in the repatriation process.

U Myint Thu, the Permanent Secretary for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, said Myanmar has been ready to receive verified returnees from Bangladesh.

U Myint Thu said there have been problems involving prospective returnees and the people illegally living on the border between the two countries. “We have explained intensively to those people that they cannot lawfully occupy and inhabit the area between the boundary line and the 150 feet from it. We also told them that in line with the physical arrangements, Myanmar will repatriate them after verification process. At that time, they said that they would abide by the laws and wanted to return to the places of origin. While Myanmar authorities decide to address their reasonable concerns, they came back with demands with pre-conditions”, U Myint Thu said.

“We must stress here that the area occupied by them, under Border Treaty and Law, cannot be inhabited by anyone. More importantly, it will be extremely dangerous as this area is bound to become a foothold of ARSA terrorist”, he said.

There are many areas where the international community can play a constructive role in the endeavours in Rakhine State, U Myint Thu said.

“We call for a constructive approach and understanding on the complexity of the challenges in Rakhine State. We also seek support from the international community to help our efforts in finding a durable solution.

The international community can best help us by understanding the prevailing situation and supporting the long-term reconciliation and sustained socio-economic development in Rakhine State”, he said.

As part of that effort, Myanmar authorities met with the UNHCR Representative and UN Resident Coordinator in Nay Pyi Taw on 23 February.

The agreement signed on 23 November 2017 between Myanmar and Bangladesh states that “the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar agree that the services of the UNHCR could be drawn upon as needed and at the appropriate time”.

“We consider that the appropriate time is now to invite the UNHCR and UNDP to get involved in the repatriation and resettlement process of displaced persons as well as in carrying out livelihood development for all communities in Rakhine State”, U Myint Thu said.

Dr. Aung Tun Thet, Chief Coordinator of the Union Enterprise for Humanitarian Aid, Resettlement and Development in Rakhine State.

Regarding the question on the three hundred people coming back and arrangement for them and when they are coming back, the Director-General replied that as we’ve mentioned before, the Bangladesh side gave us forms that did not have fingerprints or mention of former residences or individual photos, they simply give us the family photo so we cannot easily verify them. The Bangladesh side has said they will report back using the forms that both sides have agreed to use, so I hope that answers your question.

We’ve already sent to the Bangladesh side that these 374 are verified and they can immediately start their repatriation at their own convenience, he added.

Regarding the question on how the government will provide security and safety for returnees who tell the media that they are not willing to go back because they are afraid, U Myint Thu replied that actually they are not refusing to return due to fear. There are high expectations that have lured them into that and there also expectations from ARSA and their supporters. Concerning their security, we have done all we can but we are alone are not responsible to take care of their security.

SEE PAGE-7
The dialogue was held with a view to promote foreign investment and trade, according to an announcement made by UMFCCI.

An IP law plays a crucial role in attracting Swiss companies to invest in Myanmar, said Marc Engelhard, Southeast Asia country manager of Economiesuisse, a Swiss corporate union. Some 25 companies are working in Myanmar, and more are interested in making investments, said Livia Leu, Switzerland’s Ambassador to Myanmar. These companies are waiting for the development of an IP law, Engelhard maintained.

Officials from UMFCCI explained the drafting of the IP law and other legislations, in cooperation with the government and private sectors. If Swiss companies invest in Myanmar, the country will get technology-sharing opportunities besides jobs, said U Thaung Tin, Vice President of UMFCCI.

Myanmar businessmen and the Swiss delegation, led by the Switzerland ambassador, discussed matters concerning industrial manufacturing, electricity and power, insurance, food production and healthcare services. Additionally, they also discussed the signing of the Bilateral Investment Treaty.

This dialogue is the third meeting between Myanmar and Switzerland in five years. Bilateral trade between Myanmar and Switzerland in the first nine months of this fiscal year was worth US$14 million.

—GNLM

WITH the completion of two water supply projects, the Yangon City Development Committee (YCDC) will be able to supply more than 300 million gallons of water in the region.

The Kokkowa river water pumping project is expected to be completed by 2024, and the La Gun Pyin water supply project will be completed in the 2020-2021 fiscal year, said U Myo Thein, deputy chief of Water and Sanitation Department of YCDC.

“We are implementing these projects to supply sufficient water to the Yangon Region. Also, we are surveying fresh water sources in and around Yangon Region,” he added.

The La Gun Pyin water supply project will be able to supply more than 40 million gallons daily to South Dagon, North Dagon, East Dagon, Dawbon and Thilawa Special Economic Zone. Also, the Kokkowa river water pumping project will be able to supply 60 million gallons of water daily to Hlane-thaya township, as well as six other townships, such as Aolon, Kyimin dine, Sanchaung, Kamayut, Bahan, Dagon and Mingalar Taung nyunt.—GNLM

Union officials explain cause for exodus, ARSA threats, repatriation obstruction

‘We consider that the appropriate time is now to invite the UNHCR and UNDP to get involved in the repatriation and resettlement process’

Because it is ARSA who tried to interrupt the process by setting off explosions like landmines while we were starting our repatriation process.

Regarding the questions on responsibility to be taken by the government, Deputy Minister U Aung Hla Tun said I don’t think the international media did enough to make our correct narrative known. Instead of blaming the international media, I’d rather say our media wasn’t strong enough to make the proper narrative among the international community.

Chief Coordinator of the UEHRD Dr Aung Tun Thet said there are two things. For security what we can guarantee is that anyone who comes back will have a secure an environment as anywhere else in the country. It’s always the perception and therefore when you asked the second question about the narrative, I think there is a three part narrative in this sequence of events.

The first part is the insurrection or the attacks on the outpost by the extremists. The second part of the narrative is the response from the armed forces. The third part is the actions taken after this for resettlement, repatriation, reconciliation, harmony and peace. What is very tragic is that although there is a three part narrative, in the international media you only hear of the second part; the part where the armed forces’ response as disproportionate and as robust, these are the acquisitions made. But if you want the whole narrative then I hope emphasis is given to all the three parts. We are not saying ignore the second part, we are saying please put into consideration the first part which is equally very important for us, as well as the third part where we want to reestablish harmony and reconciliation between the two communities.

So I implore the media to get the whole narrative rather than cherry picking and choosing those that are very sensational and can be put in headlines but please try to put in more balanced views and that is all we can hope and that is the purpose of this press conference.

Regarding a question on the government’s response to rumors of malnutrition of children being linked to slow ethnic cleansing, Permanent Secretary of Ministry of Health and Sports Prof. Dr Thet Khaing Win said that the accusations on Muslim children lacked sound data and the ministry is conducting nutritional statistics survey and micro nutrient survey for children in the whole nation. He said that Rakhine State is not the only area with low nutrition levels for children.

He said they have been giving prioritized nutrition programs to Rakhine State such as supplying food with help from the World Food Programme (WFP), supplementary programs, vitamin programs, and micro-nutrient programs. He also said that malnutrition is caused by contagious diseases, infestations, and infections which would be the responsibility of the concerned media to provide vaccinations for. He said all the ministries concerned are working together to address this situation and they are also providing surveys for the returnees.

Regarding the question on the government’s response to western media labeling the Rakhine situation as ethnic cleansing and genocide, Dr Aung Tun Thet stated there is no ethnic cleansing and it is a serious accusation.

Also present at the press conference were permanent secretaries and heads of departments of the ministries, diplomats and local and foreign journalists.—Myanmar News Agency (Full Text of the speeches delivered by Deputy Minister U Aung Hla Tun and Permanent Secretary U Myo Thu are available at www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com)
History, not the UN, will be final judge on Rakhine

The territorial attacks by the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA) in Rakhine State in August 2017 allegedly changed the state of affairs in northern Rakhine and made restoration of law and order a priority, which led to the displacement of people internally in Rakhine State and across the border.

Since then, there have been misleading, presumptuous and unfounded accusations against Myanmar. The latest of these accusations is that authorities were building the ground to build military installations on sites that once were the homes of members of the Muslim community in northern Rakhine.

In reality, the authorities are preparing to construct new structures for returns as part of the repatriation process.

“What the government does should not be viewed with a preconceived mind and double-edged eyes”, U Htin Lynn, the Permanent Representative of Myanmar to the UN in Geneva, told the 33th session of the Human Rights Council currently meeting in Geneva. Instead of criticism, the Permanent Representative said he hoped for support.

“Myanmar hopes that the international community will constructively contribute to the successful demilitarization process and promote and protect human rights in line with the country’s circumstances and aspirations for peace”, U Htin Lynn said.

“The passage of time may be the only way to cut through the rancour and clear the fog of misinformation surrounding the situation in Rakhine. The truth behind what is happening in northern Rakhine.

History, not the United Nations, will be the ultimate judge of what has occurred in Rakhine State.

With regard to alleged human rights violations, the government shall never condone impunity and action will be taken against any perpetrators in accordance with the law if there is concrete evidence. Myanmar strongly objects the use of preconceived mind and doubtful eyes”, U Htin Lynn, the Permanent Representative of Myanmar to the UN in Geneva.

Mogok City to celebrate Festival of Founding 800th Anniversary

Mogok is a city in the Pyin Oo Lwin District of the Mandalay Region and located 22.92 latitude and 96.51 longitude and situated at elevation 1162 meters above sea level. Mogok is also renowned as a Ruby Land of Myanmar and is a home to Myanmar, Shan, Palaung, Lisu, Chin, Kokant, Gurkhas Pa-O and other ethnic races.

Mogok City to celebrate Festival of Founding 800th Anniversary

Mogok is a place steeped in history and legend, and its story is one that has caught the imagination of visitors for centuries. The town has been the site of numerous battles, and its history is filled with tales of love and war.

It is a place where stories of romance and adventure intertwine, and where the past and present coexist. This is why Mogok is such a popular destination for tourists from all over the world.

The Mogok region is home to some of the world’s finest rubies and sapphires, and the Mogok gems are highly prized by collectors and gemologists around the world.

Mogok is a place where the past and present coexist, and where the stories of love and war are told in the language of rubies and sapphires.

It is a place where the Mogok gems are a symbol of love and beauty, and a reminder of the stories of the people who have lived here. Mogok is a place where the past and present coexist, and where the stories of love and war are told in the language of rubies and sapphires.
External trade exceeds expected amount in first week of March

The value of Myanmar’s trade with foreign countries through the sea route and border gates reached the expected target of US$30.19 billion as of 2 March of the current fiscal year (FY).

Last year, its international trade value registered the highest record. Foreign trade was expected to hit some $30 billion by the end of this FY, said U Yan Naing Tun, director-general of the commerce ministry.

From 1 April to 2 March this FY, exports were worth $13.2 billion, while imports were valued at $16.97 billion, registering a deficit of $3.76 billion. The figure is much higher than the expected deficit amount of $1 billion.

The trade deficit was $91.9 million in the 2012-2013 FY, $2.5 billion in the 2013-2014 FY, $4.9 billion in the 2014-2015 FY, $5.4 billion in the 2015-2016 FY and more than $5.5 billion in the 2016-2017 FY, respectively, according to statistics released by the Central Statistical Organisation (CSO).

Agro products such as rice, various types of pulses, corn and others; animal products; fisheries; forest products; minerals; finished industrial goods; and other export products are shipped to foreign countries, while capital goods such as auto parts, vehicles, machines, steel, airplane parts; raw materials such as petroleum-based products and plastic raw materials; and consumer products, including pharmaceuticals, cosmetics and palm oil are imported into the country. – Mon Mon

Antique palm-leaf manuscripts at a monastery in Sagaing Region

Manuscripts over 150 years and made from old palm leaf are kept in iron containers at the Taguandaing monastery in Indaw Township, Sagaing Region.

The manuscripts were written in 1222 according to the Myanmar Buddhist calendar, which makes the manuscripts 157 years old. It was in 1861 according to the western calendar.

They are kept in a five ft. long iron container which is also more than 150 years old. The containers are kept in a bookcase at the monastery.

“These manuscripts are the writings that were submitted to kings more than a century ago. That’s why we keep them carefully and systematically in the containers,” said U Wilar Thagga, abbot of the Taguandaing monastery.

There used to be seven villages in the region where the monastery is located, now two of them are gone. Village headmen from these seven villages had to offer presents to Mya Taung Prince, the daughter of King Boe Daw Min Tayar.

It seems that members of the royal court of successive kings would visit the monastery. The monastery allows people to see these palm leaf manuscripts.

Local visitors and tourists can go and visit the monastery, located just eight miles from Indaw Town, to see the manuscripts.—Myanmar Digital News

Thura U Shwe Mann receives Italian Ambassador

CHAIRMAN of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw’s Commission for Legal Affairs and Special Cases Assessment Thura U Shwe Mann received Ambassador of Italy to Myanmar Pier Giorgio Aliberti at the Hluttaw building (I-1) at some 9.40 a.m. yesterday. During the meeting, they cordially discussed legal issues, peace and development and the democratisation processes—MNA

Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U T Kun Myat receives technical cooperation programme manager of IPU

Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U T Kun Myat received Norah Babic, technical cooperation programme manager of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA

Amyotha Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Aye Tha Aung receives technical cooperation program manager of IPU

AMYOTHA Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Aye Tha Aung received technical cooperation program manager Norah Babic of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) yesterday afternoon at the Amyotha Hluttaw building (J) in Nay Pyi Taw. During the meeting, they cordially discussed assistance from IPU for UNDP/IPU and the involvement of the Myanmar Hluttaw in the IPU.—Myanmar News Agency
MANILA — President Rodrigo Duterte said on Wednesday he was pulling the Philippines out of the treaty underpinning the International Criminal Court, which is examining his deadly drug war.

The outspoken leader, who is accused of stoking the killing of drug suspects with inflammatory statements, has fiercely pushed back since the Philippines became the first southeast Asian nation put under “preliminary examination” by the court’s prosecutors. The ICC announced last month it was launching a study of the killings, which Philippine police put at 4,000 but rights groups say is actually triple that number.

Officially quitting the court requires a year’s notice and experts say pulling out does not preclude an investigation of the deaths, which have drawn international concern.

“It is apparent that the ICC is being utilised as a political tool against the Philippines,” Duterte said in a statement, adding the ICC examination was “unduly and maliciously created”.

“I therefore declare and forthwith give notice... that the Philippines is withdrawing its ratification of the Rome Statute effective immediately,” he added.

Opened in 2002, the ICC is the world’s only permanent war crimes court and aims to prosecute the worst abuses when national courts are unable or unwilling.

The Philippines, under previous President Benigno Aquino, ratified in 2011 the Rome Statute which underpins the ICC, giving the tribunal authority to investigate crimes on its soil.

Rights advocates and attorneys said quitting the court would not eliminate the possibility of a case before it.

“The Philippines’ intention to walk away from the International Criminal Court is unfortunate, but it doesn’t shut the door on the prosecutor’s scrutiny of the government’s horrendous track record of grave abuses,” said Param-Preet Singh of Human Rights Watch.

‘Unprecedented, outrageous attacks’

Celeste Mallari, a professor at the Philippines College of Law, said the court can “investigate any acts that have been done from the time the Philippines became a member of the ICC... until one year after we gave our notice of withdrawal”.

However, should the Philippines fully withdraw from the court it would not be the first to do so, as Burundi became the first ever nation to leave in October 2017.

In a wave of unprecedented defections, other African nations — Zambia, South Africa, Kenya and Gambia — have also made moves to quit or expressed interest to withdraw as they accused the court of being biased against Africans.

Russia in 2016 dealt the ICC another blow by withdrawing its signature from the Rome Statute.

Philippines' Duterte moves to quit International Criminal Court

Duterte is infuriated the ICC has opened a preliminary investigation into his deadly drug war. PHOTO: AFP

Erdogan hopes Afrin will be ‘totally encircled’ by evening, not seized: presidency

ANKARA — President Recep Tayyip Erdogan hopes Turkish forces will have completely encircled Afrin by Wednesday evening, a presidential source said, clarifying his earlier comments in a speech indicating the Kurdish-held Syrian city would fall by then. “In the president’s speech the sentence ‘I hope that Afrin will have completely fallen by the evening’ should be understood as ‘the encirclement will have been completed by the evening’,” said a presidential source in a message to media, asking not to be named.

Erdogan had earlier stated in a speech at the presidential palace in Ankara that Afrin would fall by the evening to the Turkish army and Syrian allies, a claim rejected by the Syrian Kurds. “We have got a little bit closer to Afrin. I hope that Afrin will, God willing, have completely fallen by the evening,” Erdogan said in the speech. Afrin city is the key target in Turkey’s seven-week operation Olive Branch launched on 20 January and aimed at ousting the Kurdish People’s Protection Units (YPG) from the Afrin region of northern Syria. A YPG spokesman accused Erdogan of “daydreaming” in the speech. The Turkish army and its Syrian allies, who had been looking to complete the encirclement in a two-pronged movement from the east and the west, had Afrin city surrounded on Monday, the army said on Tuesday. “The routes used to the east by the terrorists to enter and go out of the region will be closed today or tomorrow, God willing,” Erdogan added in the speech.

Turkey regards the YPG as a terror group and a branch of a Kurdish militant movement in Turkey that has waged an insurgency for decades. But the YPG has been a key ally of the United States in the fight against jihadists in Syria and Turkey’s operation against it has raised tensions with Ankara’s NATO allies in Washington and Europe. Erdogan has repeatedly said that after taking Afrin, Turkey’s offensive would expand to key border towns controlled by the YPG right up to the Iraqi frontier. These would include Kurdish-held towns such as Manbij where US forces have a presence, raising the risk of a confrontation with Turkey’s NATO ally. “We will cleanse Manbij and then in the same way will cleanse east of the Euphrates right up to the Iraqi border,” he said. Erdogan also raised the prospect of a cross-border operation in northern Iraq where the outlawed Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK), which has waged a decades-long struggle against the Turkish army, has its rear bases. “We are surveying the terror nests in northern Iraq at present,” he said.

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Russia’s new generation ICBM Sarmat to enter duty after old missile’s life cycle expires

MOSCOW — The Russian armed forces will get the new generation inter-continental ballistic missile Sarmat by the moment the life cycle of the current missile Voyevoda is over, Deputy Defence Minister Yuri Borisov told the Russian army daily Krusnya Zvezda in an interview. “There can be no doubts we will have the new missile Sarmat by the time Voyevoda’s service life is over. It is expected that in contrast to its predecessors this missile will be armed with hypersonic warheads, which will make it far harder for defence systems to intercept it,” Borisov said. Russian President Vladimir Putin in his message to the Federal Assembly on 1 March briefed the nation on some latest achievements in research into new weapon systems unparalleled in the world. The new inter-continental ballistic missile Sarmat is one of them.—Tass

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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.
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Phone No: 2301928

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SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY AGENT FOR: M/S INTERASIA LINES
Phone No: 2301185
Singapore launches public hearings on ‘fake news’

SINGAPORE — Singapore on Wednesday launched public hearings on possible legislation to combat “fake news” which critics said could be used to curtail free speech.

A 10-member parliamentary committee was set up in January to tackle false online information which the government says could threaten national security. The wealthy city-state is among the countries looking to introduce legislation to rein in fake news but critics have cautioned this could be used to exert further control over the media. Some 164 people have written to the committee, including academics, technology and social media companies such as Facebook and Google, and civil activists to give their inputs. The committee will call 79 individuals and organisations to testify over eight days after which it is expected to make recommendations to lawmakers within months.

“Deliberate online falsehoods are a serious global problem... It is a complex problem, affecting us in many different ways,” said committee chairman and parliamentary deputy speaker Charles Chong at the opening of the hearing.

Several academics were called to testify on the first day, including cyber-conflict expert Michael Raska, who noted that cyber attacks and false information online could have the same political impact as a military strike.

“How does Singapore deter (these attacks) and respond militarily? These attacks can happen far away where a conventional response is not viable,” he said. Singapore already has tough laws in place to prevent the incitement of racial and religious discord, as well as legislation covering libel, public protests and dissent.

“The possibility of more regulation in what is seen as a curb on free speech has some big technology companies worried. But the Singapore government has said curbing what it calls online falsehoods is necessary and denied it was aimed at curtailing free speech.

“In fact, one of the purposes of dealing with deliberate online falsehoods is to protect free speech and enhance free speech,” Law and Home Affairs Minister K Shanmugam, who is on the committee, said during Wednesday’s hearing.

Singapore is ranked 151 out of 180 in the World Press Freedom Index by non-profit group Reporters Without Borders.—AFP

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The Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Myanmar Investment Commission
Notification No. 5/2018
14th Waving of Taboung 1379 ME
(28 February , 2018)

Stipulation of the Definition of the Commercial Livestock Farming

In exercise of the power conferred under section 100 (b) of the Myanmar Investment Law, the Myanmar Investment Commission stipulate the definition of “the Commercial Livestock Farming”, which is prescribed in investment activities to obtain the approval of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation under Myanmar Investment Commission Notification 15/2017 section 1 (d), means “the Commercial Livestock Farming with investment capital amount over 5 million or MMk 6 billion.”

(Kyaw Win)
Chairman

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EXPORT MARKETING & MILLING DEPARTMENT
INVITATION FOR OPEN TENDER

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- TEAK CONVERSION ABOUT (361) TONS
- HARDWOOD LOGS (2017-2018 EXTRACTION YEAR)
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Public Tendering Announcement

Population Services International Myanmar (PSI/ Myanmar) is a non-profit, non-political, non-governmental and non-religious organization. PSI/ Myanmar has been implementing health programs throughout the country for the past twenty years. Now PSI/ Myanmar plans to hire vehicles include drivers for six months contract to work more smoothly of PSI projects.

1) Yangon (Downtown/ Trip) - (4) to (7) Seat – (13) Nos
   Light Truck – (3) Nos

2) Mandalay (Downtown/ Trip) - (4) to (7) Seat– (8) Nos
   Light Truck – (2) Nos

Tender closing date : 22.03.18 (4:00 PM)

Interested vendors/ suppliers can collected detailed information at PSI/ Myanmar Procurement Unit, No.16, West Shwe Gone Dine 4th Street, Bahan Township, Yangon.

If any query, contact Saw Wai Htun Aung, Ph: 01 375854– 58 Ext 509

Email: swhaung@gpsmyanmar.org

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LONDON — Renowned British physicist Stephen Hawking, whose mental genius and physical disability made him a household name and inspiration across the globe, has died at age 76, his family said on Wednesday.

Propelled to superstardom by his 1988 book “A Brief History of Time”, which became an unlikely worldwide bestseller, Hawking dedicated his life to unlocking the secrets of the Universe.

His genius and wit won over fans from far beyond the rarified world of astrophysics, earning comparisons with Albert Einstein and Sir Isaac Newton.

Hawking died peacefully at his home in the British university city of Cambridge in the early hours of Wednesday morning.

“We are deeply saddened that our beloved father passed away today,” professor Hawking’s children Lucy, Robert, and Tim said in a statement carried by Britain’s Press Association news agency.

“He was a great scientist and an extraordinary man whose work and legacy will live on for many years.”

Hawking defied predictions he would only live for a few years after developing a form of motor neurone disease in his early 20s. PHOTO:AFP

A titan of science

Born on January 8, 1942 — 300 years to the day after the death of the father of modern science, Galileo Galilei — Stephen William Hawking became one of the world’s most well-regarded scientists and entered the pantheon of science titans.

His death was announced on the 190th anniversary of the birth of Albert Einstein.

Inside the shell of his increasingly useless body was a razor-sharp mind, with an enduring fascination with the mysteries of black holes.

His work focused on bringing together relativity — the nature of space and time — and quantum theory — how the smallest particles behave — to explain the creation of the Universe and how it is governed.

“My goal is simple,” he once said. “It is complete understanding of the universe, why it is as it is and why it exists at all.”

But he was also a beloved figure in popular culture, with cameos in “Star Trek: The Next Generation” and “The Simpsons”, while his voice appeared in Pink Floyd songs.

Tributes began pouring in from scientists around the world, lauding him as an inspiration.

American astrophysicist Neil deGrasse Tyson tweeted his condolences, with a characteristic cosmological reference.

“His passing has left an intellectual vacuum in his wake. But it’s not empty. Think of it as a kind of vacuum energy permeating the fabric of spacetime that defies measure,” the scientist said.

Stephen Toope, vice-chancellor of the University of Cambridge, called Hawking “a unique individual who will be remembered with warmth and affection not only in Cambridge but all over the world.”

NASA issued its own Twitter eulogy, publishing a video of the scientist grinning as he soared into weightlessness on a zero gravity flight at the Kennedy Space Centre in Florida, escaping his wheelchair for a brief period of time.

“His theories unlocked a universe of possibilities that we & the world are exploring. May you keep flying like superman in microgravity, as you said to astronauts on @Space_Station in 2014.”

His death even drew mourning from celebrities not normally associated with the intricacies of astrophysics.

American singer Katy Perry said there was “a big black hole in my heart”.

Meanwhile, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi said Hawking had “made the world a better place,” calling his death “anguishing”.

‘Not afraid of death’

Hawking’s first marriage to Jane Wilde in 1965 gave him three children and was immortalized in the 2014 film “The Theory of Everything”.

The couple split after 25 years and he married his former nurse, Elaine Mason, but the union broke down amid allegations, denied by him, he was being abused.

Hawking became one of the youngest fellows of Britain’s most prestigious scientific body, the Royal Society, at the age of 32.

In 1979 he was appointed Lucasian Professor of Mathematics at Cambridge University — a post previously held by Isaac Newton — where he had moved from Oxford University to study theoretical astronomy and cosmology.

Hawking was an outspoken commentator on life back on earth, voicing his disapproval in recent years of both the election of Donald Trump in the United States, and Britain’s vote to leave the European Union.

He was unafraid of ruffling the feathers of the religious, dismissing the concept of an afterlife in a 2011 Guardian interview.

“I have lived with the prospect of an early death for the last 49 years. I’m not afraid of death, but I’m in no hurry to die. I have so much I want to do first,” he said at the time.—AFP

LOS ANGELES — She’s not known for histrionics, but Queen Elizabeth II would surely struggle to maintain her famous poise if she knew the actress playing her on “The Crown” earned less than the man portraying her husband.

Producers admitted on Tuesday that Matt Smith, Prince Philip on the hit Netflix drama, negotiated a better deal than Claire Foy because of his perceived higher profile.

They did not reveal either salary — Foy’s was put at $40,000 an episode by Variety last year — but told a panel event in Jerusalem that Smith’s 2010-2013 starring role on the BBC’s “Doctor Who” had been the decisive factor.

The explanation has not appeased critics who argued that the discrepancy should only have shown up in the first season, before Foy was garlanded with awards and acclaim.

Foy, 33, was already making a name for herself in British costume drama, with roles in “Upstairs Downstairs” and “Wolf Hall,” when she was tapped to play the queen. The part has earned her a host of award season nominations, including at the BAFTAs, Golden Globes, Emmys and Screen Actors Guild awards. She has won two SAGs and a Globe. Suzanne Mackie, one of the show’s producers, told the Jerusalem audience the discrepancy was being resolved for the third season but that will not benefit Foy. “The Crown,” which costs $7 million an episode to produce, is replacing its leads for the start of filming in July, with Olivia Colman stepping in as the queen pen of Peter Morgan, who first lifted the veil on the private world of Elizabeth II in “The Queen” (2006), which was directed by Stephen Frears and earned Helen Mirren an Oscar in the title role.—AFP
Glenstone to become one of America’s biggest private art museums

WASHINGTON — Glenstone, the museum of modern and contemporary art just outside Washington, announced on Monday a massive expansion set to open October 4 that would make it one of America’s largest such private institutions.

“Tucked away on more than 230 acres (90 hectares) of rolling meadows and woodlands in Potomac, Maryland, Glenstone first opened to the public in 2006 with funding from billionaire Mitch Rales and his wife Emily.

The former fox hunting estate’s natural setting is meant to encourage contemplation for visitors, who can marvel at the art and architecture for free.

Dubbed the Pavilions, the new 204,000-square-foot (18,559-square-metre) building designed by architecture firm Thomas Phifer and Partners features a ring of gallery rooms arranged around a large central water court.

An extra 100 acres of land-scaping by PWP Landscape Architecture include two recently installed outdoor sculptures.

It’s a dramatic expansion from the original, 30,000-square-foot building that increases gallery space by nearly six times and can boost visitor capacity from 25,000 to 100,000 per year, though the number of daily visitors will be limited to ensure a more intimate experience with the art.

Nestled in the landscape, the Pavilions looks like a traditional hill town rising out of the earth.

“Throughout this transformation, we’ve maintained a single mission: to create a seamless integration of art, architecture and landscape and make it available free of charge to all who wish to visit,” Glenstone founder Mitch Rales said in a statement.

Visitors can get a sneak peek at the ongoing construction in May — the exact opening date is unknown for now — with a show featuring work by Paris-born French American artist Louise Bourgeois, known for her giant metal spiders that have spun their webs across the globe.

- Experience unlike any other -

That show will take place in the original building — the Gallery. The entire museum will be closed in September before the grand reopening the following month. At the Pavilions, 13 different spaces will present works from the Rales collection. While some of the rooms will show single-artist installations, others will include temporary exhibitions of pieces by various artists.

Among those set to participate in the inaugural installations are Bourgeois, Michael Heizer, Roni Horn, On Kawara, Brice Marden, Lygia Pape, Martin Puryear and Charles Ray.

Most of the work was created after World War II and spans a wide range of media, from paintings and photographic prints to sculptures and installations.

“We’ve worked carefully to create a visitor experience unlike any other, providing each visitor with an unhurried, contemplative engagement with the artworks,” said Emily Wei Rales, the museum’s co-founder and director.

—AFP

Malaysia’s honey hunters defy angry bees to harvest treetop treasure

ULU MUDA (Malaysia) — On a moonless night deep in the Malaysian rainforest, two men perched precariously on high branches use a smoking torch to draw thousands of bees from a treetop hive, braving the angry swarm to collect their prized honey.

The honey hunters, as they are known, are rag-tag groups of villagers who head to remote corners of the jungle every year in search of the rare nectar, hidden in towering tualang trees.

“This is the real thing,” said Abdul Samad Ahmad, 60, who has been harvesting honey in this way for more than 20 years.

“There’s a lot of nutrition in this honey. You can make it into medicine, for your cough or cold.”

Like New Zealand’s manuka honey, also hailed for its supposed medicinal qualities, Malaysian tualang honey is expensive, fetching 150 ringgit ($38) a kilo — a huge amount for people from poor, rural communities.

But the generations-old practice faces myriad threats, from environmental destruction and falling bee numbers to a lack of interest among the young.

The die-hard hunters remain optimistic — for them, there is no greater buzz than climbing trees 250 feet (75 metres) tall to gather honey made by bees gorged on sweet nectar from exotic jungle flowers.

‘Sting until your body is swollen’

The honey-collecting season in northern Malaysia’s Greater Ulu Muda forest runs from February to April, when giant honey bees arrive from other parts of Asia to make their hives in the trees that stretch high above the rainforest canopy.

On a recent trip, Abdul Samad and six others travelled far into the forest, boarding two small boats and sailing across a lake to reach a tualang. They nailed branches up its trunk a few feet apart to create a makeshift ladder, replacing old ones from the previous year.

—AFP

Ice bridge in Argentine glacier collapses, no witnesses

BUENOS AIRES — An ice bridge that was part of a glacier at the tip of Argentina has collapsed in the dead of night, thwarting thousands of tourists who had hoped to watch the spectacle.

The natural arch in Los Glaciares National Park in the Patagonia region came crashing down overnight Sunday during a storm while the park was closed, park authorities said on Monday.

An arch forms regularly in a glacier called Perito Moreno as the water flow from a canal eats away at the ice.

For the first time in 16 years, the bridge fell in 2004 and since then it has come down every four years so.

“It is always spectacular. The thing is, this time more water accumulated than in the last three or four times,” Luciano Bernacchi, director of an ice museum called Glaciarium, told TN television. The Patagonia glacier is a UNESCO world heritage site.

—AFP
Dzeko strikes to take Roma into Champions League last eight

ROME — Roma reached the Champions League quarter-finals for the first time in 10 years as Edin Dzeko edged them past Shakhtar Donetsk 1-0 at the Stadio Olimpico on Tuesday and allowed the Italians to win the tie on away goals.

The Bosnian striker’s 52nd-minute goal proved enough after a 1-1 first-leg loss in Ukraine, with 10-man Shakhtar failing to find the late strike they needed after Ivan Ordets was sent off late on.

Cengiz Under’s goal in the first leg last month ultimately proved crucial for Roma, but Dzeko was the hero on the night and also proved instrumental in Shakhtar defender Ordets being shown a straight red card with 12 minutes left.

That sending-off led to tensions spilling over, with Shakhtar’s Facundo Ferreyra picking up a booking for showing a ballboy over an advertising board.

Eusebio Di Francesco’s side are the second Italian team to advance to the quarter-finals after Juventus, with the draw for the last eight taking place on Friday.

“The standing ovation is not for me but for everyone, we are deservedly in the quarter-finals,” said Dzeko of the applause which accompanied him off the pitch.

“We managed to do something Roma hadn’t in 10 years, so going forward to play against the best makes us all very proud.

“We are among the eight best sides in Europe.”

Roma did not concede a goal at home in the group stage and hammered Chelsea 3-0 at the Stadio Olimpico, so the home fans in the crowd of 47,693 would have been confident their side could get the job done.

The Ukrainians dominated early possession though, and there was a scare for the hosts when Alessandro Florenzi nearly nodded a free-kick into his own net. Ferreyra then came close after Federico Fazio lost the ball just outside his own box, before Roma struck seven minutes into the second half.

Kevin Strootman sent Dzeko through as Shakhtar tried without success to play the offside trap, and the Bosnian forward prodded a shot through the legs of goalkeeper Andriy Pyatov and into the net for his fourth goal in the Champions League this season.

Dzeko was then brought down by Ordets who got a straight red card for his troubles, making Shakhtar’s task that bit harder.

Roma pounce on mistake

“We knew that sooner or later they would make a mistake and we’d pounce on it,” said Roma coach Di Francesco.

“If we face any opponent with this attitude and determination, we can go far.”

“Roma made the most of a single moment,” said Shaktar coach Paulo Fonseca.

“Dzeko of course was a key player, but apart from his goal they didn’t have a chance, we had possession. If we had finished off the chances we had in the first leg the match would already have been over.”

Roma held on, and after Italy’s shock failure to qualify for the World Cup, their progress to the last eight along with Juventus is a boost for the country.

There have not been two Italian clubs in the quarter-finals of the Champions League since 2006/07, when Roma joined eventual winners AC Milan in the last eight. There will also be at least three Italian coaches in the quarter-finals — Di Francesco, Massimiliano Allegri of Juventus and Vincenzo Montella of Sevilla.

Di Francesco added: “I spoke with Montella a few days ago and we said we’d meet in the final.”

Antonio Conte could make that four with his Chelsea side facing Barcelona on Wednesday.—AFP

Shan United loses to Filipino club with penalty shot

MYANMAR-BASED Shan United FC was defeated yesterday by Ceres Negros, a team from the Philippines, by a score of 0-1 in AFC Cup Group F play at Thuwunna Stadium in Yangon. A penalty shot by Ceres Negros star Bienvenido Maranon accounted for all the scoring in yesterday’s match. The win preserved Shan Negros’s unbeaten streak in the tourney.

Both teams played very aggressively from the start with 4-3-2-1 lineups employed by each club. Shan had many golden opportunities to score with their stable play and slow pass across the match, but failed to convert. At the 14-minute mark, Ceres Negros’s striker Maranon made no mistake in the penalty shoot to give the visitor team the lead.

Shan was better in the second half, but again wasted too many chances to equalise the score.

Strikers from the visiting team continued to make strong kicks toward the goal, but all were saved by Shan’s keeper, Phone Thitksar Min.

The winning team received yellow cards — to Mike Ott at 90 minutes mark and Manuel Ott at 27 minutes mark respectively, showing they were eager to score more goals.

Nevertheless a single goal was enough for Ceres to take all three points and retain their top spot atop Group F, while Shan’s dream of winning the AFC Cup were seriously blunted with just one win.—KyawZin Lin

AFC “B” Coaching Certificate Course launched in Yangon

WITH the collaboration of Myanmar Football Federation and Asian Football Confederation (AFC) AFC “B” Coaching Certificate Course was launched at the meeting hall of MFF yesterday.

Official U Tun Tun Aung and other responsible officials along with 24 attendees attended the meeting. Malaysian Coach from AFC, Mr. Gopal Krishnan A S Ramasamy is being conducting the courses according to an official from MFF. The course was started from 13 March and will be concluded on 1 April, he added.

The AFC “B” Coaching Certificate is for coaches who already have the “C” Certificate. The course is designed to educate coaches in the advanced techniques and skills of the game, and to help them develop a better understanding of individual or groups of players, tactics and the mental requirements of the game. The course contains more than 167 hours of theoretical and practical contents. The examination focuses on the coaches’ practical coaching abilities, knowledge and understanding of the theoretical contents of the game, in addition to a brief presentation of a dissertation to the class. —Kyaw Zin Lin