State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi takes part in ASEAN-Australia summit

STATE Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi attended the ASEAN-Australia Special Summit in Sydney, Australia, yesterday, along with other ASEAN and Australian state leaders and prominent government figures.

Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull welcomed the guests, followed by the opening address by Singapore Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong, who is the 2018 ASEAN chairman.

The State Counsellor then engaged in discussions with the ASEAN and Australian leaders on collaborations, bilateral business cooperation and counter-terrorism.

The ASEAN-Australia summit first began in 1974 as the ASEAN-Australia Economic Cooperation Programme (AAECP). Myanmar celebrated the 40th-year anniversary of the ASEAN-Australia relations in Nay Pyi Taw and agreed to hold the ASEAN-Australia summits once every two years. The recent summit aims to enhance regional security and prosperity.

The State Counsellor then attended a formal lunch hosted by Governor-General of Australia Sir Peter Cosgrove, AK (Knight of the order of Australia), MC (Military Cross), and his wife. She then took a commemorative photograph with other ASEAN and Australian leaders.

Later, the State Counsellor attended a private meeting with ASEAN and Australian leaders at the Governor-General’s Admiralty House. Australian Prime Minister Turnbull and Singapore Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong acted as joint chairpersons at the meeting. State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi discussed Myanmar’s development progress, its challenges, international relations and regional situations with other participants.

The leaders then affirmed the Sydney Declaration in a joint statement from the ASEAN-Australia summit. Daw Aung San Suu Kyi then visited Canberra on the Prime Minister’s invitation.

The State Counsellor arrived in Fairbairn Airport in Canberra around 6 p.m. and was greeted by Australian Assistant Minister for Science, Jobs and Innovation Senator Zed Seselja, Australian Ambassador to Myanmar Nicholas Coppel, Myanmar Ambassador to Australia U Tha Aung Nyun, his wife, and other officials.

The State Counsellor and her entourage then left for the Hyatt hotel at the end of the day.

— Myanmar News Agency
Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Office of the President

Message of Greetings sent by President U Htin Kyaw on the occasion of the 44th Anniversary Mon State Day Celebration

Dear esteemed ethnic brothers and sisters living in the Mon State,

ON the auspicious occasion of the 44th Anniversary of Mon State Day which falls on 19th March 2018, I send good wishes and greetings for the good health and happiness of all ethnic nationals and Union nationals living in the Mon State. I am very happy and honored to have this opportunity to send this Message of Greetings to the Mon State Day celebrations which is a very significant day for all ethnic Mon brothers and sisters.

After independence, for the purpose of preserving and protecting the ethnic Mon racial groups and Mon literature and culture and to implement these objectives on a larger scale, an enquiry commission to grant self-administration according to region was formed on 5 October 1948. Furthermore the Union of Burma Advisory Committee for National Unity was formed on 4th December 1968, and steps were initiated for the formation of Mon State. On 20 June 1972, the former Tanintharyi Division was reconstituted as Tanintharyi Division (1) and Tanintharyi Division (2). According to Article (30) Section (C) of the 1974 Constitution of the Socialist Republic of the Union of Burma, Tanintharyi Division (1) was designated as Mon State. Thus 19th March, the date on which the term Mon State was first recognized and used in the 1974 Draft Constitution was designated as Mon State and we have been celebrating this day annually ever since. We have now reached the 44th year.

In Mon State, the majority of the people living here are Myanmar and Mon races. Other ethnic races such as Kayins, Rakhines, Chins, Kachins, Shans and Pao’s are living together in friendship and in peace. This state is blessed with good climate, green forests, rivers and streams and beautiful coastlines. The Kyaik Hti Yo pagoda which enshrines the hair relics of the Buddha and which is revered by all Buddhists is located in this area.

In the past, although there have been disunity among our ethnic brothers for various reasons, the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA) was signed by the New Mon State Party on 13 February 2018 thus making a new historic milestone for peace in Mon State. They are also making plans to continue participating in the different stages of the political dialogues. As peace begins to take firm roots, economic enterprises such as tourism, fisheries, agriculture, agro-based industries, trade and commerce will develop. I am very pleased to learn that currently the ethnic armed groups are working hand in hand with the Mon State Government to participate in regional projects for all round development. All Mon State nationals, both men and women alike, are now waiting with high hopes for Development, now that they have Peace.

I urge all our Mon ethnic brothers and sisters to participate with unity and concerted efforts for national reconciliation, Union peace and efforts for modernization and development. I urge you to work together, hand-in-hand in unity not only for the present generation but also for your sons and grandsons, to promote the development of Mon State and to continue working hard in the task of building the future Democratic Federal Republic in unity.

Sd/-
(dHtin Kyaw)
President

Union Minister for Home Affairs visits Lao PDR for bilateral talks

UNION Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Kyaw Swe departed for Vientiane from Yangon by air early yesterday morning at an invitation of Police Major General Somkeo Sylavong, Minister of Public Security of the Lao People’s Democratic Republic.

The Union Minister was accompanied by senior officials including the chief of Myanmar Police Force, the Director General of the Bureau of Special Investigation and the Director General from the Department of Immigration.

The Union Minister and his entourage were seen off by Laotian Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Lyting Sayaxang, Laotian Military Attaché Col Bounmyvieng, Vienghouthathasat, the secretary of Yangon regional government and high ranking officials from the Ministry of Home Affairs. During the visit, Myanmar-Lao ministerial meeting on security and the rule of law will be held, focusing on border affairs between the two countries, according to the Ministry of Home Affairs.—MDN

Religious title conferred on highest monk of the Shwe Kyin Order

YANGON Region government held a ceremony to pay respects to and confer Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru title on Sayadaw Bhaddanta Vijota, the highest principal monk of the Shwe Kyin Order by the State at a monastery in Yangon yesterday.

Sayadaw Bhaddanta Vijota administered the Five Precepts to the congregation led by Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture Thura U Aung Ko. A Sayadaw read out the biography of Sayadaw Bhaddanta Vijota and Chief Minister of Yangon Region U Phyo Min Thein supplicated on religious matters.

The Chief Minister then conferred the Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru title on the Sayadaw and donated K 5 million for him. He also presented K 100,000 each to 36 members of the Sangha attending the ceremony.

Chancellor of Sitagu World Buddhist University Sitagu Sayadaw Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Dr Bhaddanta Nyanisara delivered a sermon and pious deeds were shared. —Myanmar News Agency
Complete socio-economic policy is a must

DEPUTY Minister for Planning and Finance U Set Aung attended the Crans Montana Forum on Africa and South-South Cooperation in Dakhla, Morocco, on 17 March.

He is part of the delegation led by Vice President U Myint Swe, who is also in Morocco.

During the meeting, the attendees discussed two topics titled “International Conference on Urban Global Management” and “Migration: Development and Opportunity Factor”.

On Migration: Development and Opportunity Factor, the deputy minister pointed out that to create opportunities without threatening migration, it is not enough to have a policy on migration but a complete socio-economic policy is a must.

Thus, development and migration will connect to convert brain drain to brain gain, he added. Ministries from various dialogue partner countries of Morocco, deputy ministers, mayors and other high-ranking officials attended the meeting.—Myanmar News Agency

Dr Shwe Hlwan attends Myanmar-Japan scouts fund raising bazaar

THE Myanmar Girl Scouts Association and Osaka Girl Scouts Association organised a fund raising bazaar for a friendship trust fund at Yangon Education University in Kamayut, Yangon, yesterday morning.

Dr Shwe Hlwan, wife of Vice-President U Henry Van Thio, Chair of Osaka Girl Scouts Association Ms Keiko Irisawa and Chief Scout of Myanmar Girl Scouts Association Dr Tin Hla Kyi formally opened the festival.

Next, Dr Shwe Hlwan praised the accomplishments of the Myanmar girl scouts. Ms Keiko Irisawa and Dr Tin Hla Kyi also gave speeches. Dr Shwe Hlwan, Ms Keiko Irisawa and the accompanying delegation then took photographs and visited the booths.

At the ceremony, seven Myanmar girl scouts, including a leader, were invited to attend the 70th anniversary of the Osaka Girl Scouts Association camping ceremony to be held in Japan. The funds collected at the festival will be used for the trip.—Zaw Min Latt

Ceremony to protect orphans held

IN commemoration of the 2018 International Women’s Day, a ceremony to protect orphans was held at the People’s Park in Yangon yesterday morning.

The function was teeming with students, youngsters and their parents.

Dr. Myat Sander Thant from Single Mother Foundation, said, “Our foundation has launched a booth to disseminate knowledge about sex to the youth. We are educating youths who pass our booth.”

The ceremony serves as a link between the government and orphanage groups. Sadly, public interest is still low, she added.

Similarly, Daw Mar Mar Lwin, a visitor from Thingangyun Township, said, “My children had a long summer vacation, and we got a chance to visit this place. We frequently hear about children being abandoned in Yangon. This ceremony will educate the youths.”

At noon, the Ministry of Health and Sports gave educational talks on health and held musical shows to entertain the various orphanage groups. —Myanmar News Agency

Correction

A photo caption on Page 6 in the 17 March edition of The Global New Light of Myanmar contained an error. In the story headlined “Documentary on Rakhine State discussed”, the photo caption should read, “Union Minister Dr. Pe Myint addresses the meeting on shooting documentary movie and film of ethnic people lifestyles in Rakhine.” —Editors
Two MASHAV Israeli demonstrators the use of family irrigation kit

TWO MASHAV experts from Israel, Dr Mollie Sacks and Ms Shelley Ganz were in Shan State conducting an advance Irrigation in Vegetable Cultivation Training from 12th to 16th of March, 2018.

During the field trip, they visited villages in Shan State and did family irrigation kit installation in vegetable gardens and demonstrated the use of it. The training was done in cooperation with MASHAV –Israel Agency for International Development and MEDA, a Canada Aid organization as part of IMOW project (Improving Market Opportunities for Women) of MEDA.—GNLM

Earthen pots selling well in pre-Thingyan period

EARTHEN pots produced in Meiktila Township, Mandalay region, are selling well in the pre-Thingyan period, with growers earning a handsome profit for their work, pot makers said.

Numerous earthen pot manufacturers can be found in Theepingon Village, Nyaung-khon village-tract, Meiktila Township, for whom the craft is a traditional family business. The village has been engaged in the production of earthen pots for many years.

Mr Aye Win Naing, a pot maker, said, “We run this kind of business on a manageable scale throughout the year. We normally produce large quantities of pots between March and May during the traditional festivals.”

During these days, hand-made earthen pots produced from the village are in high demand in the domestic market, especially in the hilly regions, including Kalaw, Aungban and Taunggyi towns in Shan State, he added. “We send some 7,000 earthen pots on an average to the hilly areas per consignment, selling them at the rate of Ks100 per pot in the wholesale market.”

Traditional pottery business owners can be found not only in Theepingon village but also in nearby villages, such as Kukkokyin, Khontha and Thitatkan.—Chan Tha (Meiktila)

Capital goods imports decline by $341 million this FY

THE total value of capital goods imports this fiscal year amounted to US$6,981 billion while consumer goods were $4.063 million. Despite a decrease in imports of capital goods, the country’s total import value went up by $1.643 billion in the current FY, according to the ministry’s statistics.

Before the end of 2017-2018 FY, the country’s imports value of intermediate goods reached $632 million, which showed a slight increase in value of $6 million.

The private sector imported US$5,301 billion worth of capital goods from overseas traders, which saw a decrease in value of $347 million, whereas the government’s imports of the similar products reached $632 million, which showed a slight increase in value of $6 million.

Myanmar conducts trading mainly with ASEAN members, EU member states, some island nations, Asian and African states, and some western countries. The overall trade value between Myanmar and international traders totalled $30,192 billion as of 3 March.—Shwe Khine

A woman prepares for making earthen pot. PHOTO: SUPPLIED
Lime growers reap healthy profits this summer

FARMERS growing limes in Kya In Seikgyi Township, Kawkareik District, Kayin State, say they reaped a handsome profit, as there is an increasing demand for limes in the domestic market.

Local growers have said, “The demand for the crop continues to increase in the local markets.”

Seasonal lime plants thrive in some villages in Kya In Seikgyi Township, including Kyakhetchaung, Kyaingyi, Khotkhwa, Tagay, Meelaungchaung, Tulegon and Thameinlit villages.

One local grower noted, “Based on the size and freshness, fresh lime fruits are sold for 80 kyats per fruit in the hot season. Last monsoon, the prices of a lime fruit was worth only two kyats. Thanks to good transportation, the fresh crops were transported to the markets in cars.”

The lime, the small citrus fruit, is fresher and more fragrant than the lemon. It has light green flesh and is approximately 6 cm in size. Lime is also used as an ingredient in cooking, and when used in drinks and sauces it creates a fresh and “zingy” taste.

Lime plants can be seen throughout the country. The fruits grown in Kya In Seikgyi Township are often sent to nearby markets.

Also, lime is famous among the public, as it helps in weight loss and increases immunity from diseases.

Merchants estimate that the crop will likely continue to sell well in the local market throughout this season. Growers and exporters are considering manufacturing finished goods from locally-produced lime fruits, in anticipation of healthy exports.—Myo Min Oo (IPRD)

Individual exports from borders top nearly Ks4.5 billion this FY

EXTRACTIONS which used individual trading cards (ITCs) at border crossings reached almost Ks4.5 billion during the current fiscal year, whereas individual imports exceeded Ks36 billion, according to the latest report from the Commerce Ministry.

At the nation’s 15 active border crossings, Myanmar exported a wide variety of goods through seven border crossings, including Tamu, Myawady, Tachilek, Kanpaittee, Reed, Mawtaung and Kengtung.

At those border points, individual exports at the Tamu border gate ranked first, both in its volume of trade and value, reaching over Ks2.2 billion; followed by Mawtaung at Ks1.6 billion; Tachilek at Ks1.15 million; Kengtung at Ks160 million; Reed at Ks134 million; Kanpaittee with Ks26 million and Myawady with Ks6 million.

According to the ministry, the total individual trade at the 12 border entry points, as of March 2, was valued at Ks40.909 billion.

During the last two weeks, individual exports and imports totalled Ks1.198 billion.

As part of its efforts to boost cross-border trade, the Ministry of Commerce has issued ITCs to border merchants since the 2012-2013 FY. From the beginning of the programme, to date, there are some 1,427 ITC holders operating at the border crossings. The trade authorities have issued 163 cards to individual traders this FY.—Shwe Khine

Trade with Denmark exceeds $119 million in current FY

BILATERAL trade between Myanmar and the Kingdom of Denmark, the southernmost of the Scandinavian countries, topped US$119 million in the current fiscal year (FY), according to the official monthly statistics released by the Ministry of Commerce.

Between April 2017 and this January, Myanmar’s exports to Denmark reached $87.925 million, while imports from Denmark were valued at $31.224 million.

Trade relations between Denmark and Myanmar have increased rapidly in the past six consecutive years, though beginning from a very low base.

According to the ministry’s statistics, total bilateral trade was valued at $2.669 million in 2011-12 FY; $4.106 million in 2012-13 FY; $27.150 million in 2013-14 FY; $15.259 million in 2014-15 FY; $32.416 million in 2015-16 FY and $58.657 million in 2016-17 FY.

Several Danish companies are presently looking into expanding their operations in Myanmar. Most business opportunities in the country are in the renewable energy, water, oil and gas, garments, pharmaceuticals and manufacturing sectors.—Khine Khant

Lime trees see with lime. PHOTO: SUPPLIED

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Media interviews Hindus in Rakhine State

By Kyaw Thu Win, Aye Min Thu

THE local and foreign media interviewed Hindu women who returned to Myanmar from Bangladesh after they were abducted by ARSA extremist terrorists, at the General Administration Department in Maungtaw on 17 March.

Ma Fomila, Khamaungseik Village: It was between 8 a.m. and 9 a.m. when terrorists entered our house that day. They tied our hands behind our backs, blindfolded us and ordered us to sit in a row. They beat us with sticks and then murdered all the men. They demanded gold and cash from us, and when they got what they wanted, they took us into the jungle. They ordered eight of us (all women) to sit in a hut. They insulted our religion. They asked us whether we would convert to their religion and marry them. As we were afraid to die, we had to give in to their demands.

The terrorists ordered us to discard our clothes and wear those worn by women of their faith. They then took us to Bangladesh. We reached the other bank at about 11 a.m. the next day. We faced torture and insults from the women of their faith in the other country. To stop them from harassing us, we told them we would convert to their faith and live in love and peace together. The terrorists warned us to tell the media as they had instructed us to do. Or else, they would tell the media that our villagers and the people of our race were killed by the Rakhine people and the military.

One night, they took us to a man named Babu. At that time, more than 1,000 people from their faith were demanding that we be murdered. Babu told the crowd that he would inform the police if we were murdered. We stayed there for some 35 days. We were asked if we wanted to stay back in Bangladesh. We told them we wanted to live on the land where we were brought up under our religion and customs. The government organisations and the ethnic people in Rakhine State never harmed us. We were troubled by the terrorists. So, we told them we wished to go back to Myanmar. With the help of some Hindu religious leaders, we returned to Myanmar on 27 September. Arrangements have been made to provide us with food, clothing and shelter. I have a child. I want a happy life with my relatives at home.

U Ni Maung, Hindu religious leader, Maungtaw region, said: I have interviewed them. The Hindus have told the truth, but we were threatened on the phone. Thanks to the government and welfare organisations, Buddhist monks and donors, Hindus who returned from Bangladesh are leading a secure life in Sittway. Initially, there were only three or four donations when they returned to Buthidaung. They were kept in camps, as it was dangerous for them to live in the wards. The religious groups are protecting them.

Some 102 Hindus were butchered by terrorists. We want the government to protect us to prevent the re-occurrence of such tragic events. We thank the local and foreign media, as we can tell them the truth.

Moderate earthquake rocks in Pyu Township

NO casualties were reported following a moderate earthquake with the magnitude of 5.3 on the Richter Scale with its epicenter inside Myanmar about 26 miles southwest of Pyu, latitude 18.27° N, longitude 96.10° E, depth 57 kilometers about 98 miles north of Kaba-Aye seismological observatory was recorded at 2:29 am yesterday, according to a source from the Department of Meteorology and Hydrology.

Myanmar has had 54 earthquakes during the period from 1 January to 18 March.—Myanmar Digital News
Union Minister Dr Myint Htwe attends Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance Board Retreat Meeting

UNION Minister for Ministry of Health and Sports, Dr. Myint Htwe attended Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance Board Retreat Meeting which was held at Evian-les Bains in France from 14 to 15 March and the Union Minister arrived back home on 17 March. Ministers and officials from donor organisations Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, DFID, Global Fund and World Bank attended the meeting.

The Gavi Board is an organization which is responsible for strategic direction and policy-making, oversees the operations of the Vaccine Alliance and monitors programme implementation. At the meeting the Union Minister discussed provision of effective aids of vaccinations along with effective management to developing countries from the Gavi, the strategic thinking over 5-year plan of the Gavi to solve the difficulties and requirements from the developing countries. The Gavi Board has supported over USD 66 million to Myanmar in 2017. Similarly, Myanmar also supported funds for vaccination to Gavi in 2017-2018 Budget year. The Gavi has also planned to support USD 60 million as other health support apart from vaccination programme in 2018-2020.

In the evening of 16 March, the Union Minister met with Deputy Executive Director Mr. Vicente Yu and responsible officials at the office of the permanent representative in Geneva and discussed prevention of the hazardous microbes along with the agendas of Myanmar as a member of South Center, an intergovernmental organisation. And then, the Union Minister met with the President of All Special Kids, Mrs. Joy Tong and discussed care for children suffering from cognitive development across the nations along with cooperation of government, children’s parents and stakeholders.—Myanmar News Agency

Scoping of EIA Study of Exploration Drilling Campaign in Onshore Block MOGE-3 by PTTEP SA

PTTEP South Asia Limited (PTTEP SA), successfully completed the Block MOGE-3 Seismic Acquisition in 2017. PTTEP SA is now planning to conduct a drilling campaign in order to explore petroleum potential in Block MOGE-3. This drilling campaign consists of 4 exploration drilling wells from 8 selected locations located in Thayet Township, Magway Region, Myanmar. The tentative plan for commencement of drilling will be end of 2018.

Under the Environmental Impact Assessment Procedure of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, PTTEP SA is required to undertake an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Study to obtain an Environmental Compliance Certificate (ECC) for the proposed activity. PTTEP SA with third party EIA/SIA consultants International Environmental Management Co Ltd. (IEM) and Environmental Quality Management Co Ltd. (EQM) are currently undertaking Scoping of EIA Study to define project description, study area, potential environmental and social impacts and relevant stakeholders. The Scoping will be conducted in accordance with the Myanmar EIA Procedure (2015).

More information about the proposed activity can be found on PTTEP SA’s website as follows: www.pttep.com

Questions and comments can also be submitted to PTTEP SA in writing by contacting the following e-mail address: TinNilarSoe@pttep.com

Strong wind destroys houses in Hpakant Township

ROOFS from some houses and a water purifier in Hmawwngyi Village in Hpakant Township, Mohnyin District in Kachin State were destroyed when strong wind and heavy rain struck.

The damage occurred at about 9 pm on 17 March during heavy wind and rain. House roofs were flipped over and around 20 corrugated sheets from a water purifier which belongs to the village damaged.

Arrangements are being made by the township administrator to provide assistance and support to the affected victims.—Win Naing (Kachin Land)

TRADEMARK CAUTION
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THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

NATIONAL / WORLD

7
advancing responsible finance in myanmar

for microfinance institutions and digital players in myanmar, client protection, financial awareness, and transparency in lending policies are imperative for a resilient future

by lory camba opem and ricardo garcia tafur

verything is radically changing in the face of interconnectedness. this seeming to be constant — the pursuit of peace and reconciliation after a conflict. the balkine issue must be solved in accordance with this principle. the balkine issue is a problem arising out from the two communities of humanity with different backgrounds, including choice, race, and religion. it is crystal clear that such problems cannot be solved by a solution by a group of foreign powers. the conflicts in the countries like syria, iraq and libya stand witness to the fact. the military approach after taking into account the given correlation in realizing peace and reconciliation after a conflict. myanmar is working toward a peaceful solution in the states by the rakhine community. the state is threatening international peace and security. in fact, the popular government is working under the new light of myanmar.

we need to promote the knowledge and thinking power of both communities. hence, the union enterprise for humanitarian assistance, resettlement and development-uehrd of the government in office or the popular government is implementing its task in rakhine state.

superficially, the rakhine issue is based on the conflict between the two communities with different religions and racial backgrounds. it is more complex than that. it actually is a result of the movement to demand rakhine state as a region under the name of the rakhine state. this movement is generated by a lot of difficulties that resulted in from different sources of the people. this movement is economically threatened by a lot of immigration in the region. a movement and combat for the sake of the movement and the people. this movement is economically threatened by a lot of immigration in the region. the majority of the rakhine people are earning their living as migrant workers. a movement and combat for the sake of the movement and the people. this movement is economically threatened by a lot of immigration in the region. a movement and combat for the sake of the movement and the people. this movement is economically threatened by a lot of immigration in the region. the majority of the rakhine people are earning their living as migrant workers. a movement and combat for the sake of the movement and the people. this movement is economically threatened by a lot of immigration in the region. a movement and combat for the sake of the movement and the people. this movement is economically threatened by a lot of immigration in the region. the majority of the rakhine people are earning their living as migrant workers. a movement and combat for the sake of the movement and the people. this movement is economically threatened by a lot of immigration in the region. a movement and combat for the sake of the movement and the people. this movement is economically threatened by a lot of immigration in the region. the majority of the rakhine people are earning their living as migrant workers.
UEHRD discussion held in Sittway

VICE Chairman for Union Enterprise for Humanitarian Assistance, Resettlement and Development in Rakhine (UEHRD) and Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr. Win Myat Aye; Union Minister for Labour, Immigration and Population U Thein Swe; and UEHRD Chief Coordinator Dr. Aung Tun Thet led a team to Sittway, Rakhine State, on 17 March to hold a meeting with the Rakhine State government on the UEHRD.

The meeting concerned the repatriation and relocation efforts in Maungtaw District.

The meeting started yesterday at the Rakhine State Htutaw building. Rakhine State Htutaw Speaker U San Kyaw Hla delivered the opening speech, followed by Dr. Win Myat Aye’s explanation on the development works and the establishment of the rule of law in the state. He said the incumbent government has been working on ethnic development, man-made disasters, development of infrastructure, power supply, creation of job opportunities, as well as the development of industrial zones.

Dr. Win Myat Aye said the UEHRD has been working on repatriation, resettlement, humanitarian aid and end of conflicts in Rakhine State.

Later, Union Minister U Thein Swe addressed the audience and said they were listening to the voice of the Rakhine people, while adhering to the 1982 Citizenship Law and the 1993 Repatriation Agreement with Bangladesh.

He also said they were taking strict measures to ensure that terrorists or other such people do not pass the repatriation checkpoints in Taung Pyo Letwe and Ngakayu centres.

Lastly, Dr. Aung Tun Thet said they were trying to address the accusations made by the international community, while working with the local residents of Rakhine State for its development.

This was followed by the attendants asking questions about the repatriation process, to which Dr. Win Myat Aye replied.

Later, the union ministers and their entourage left for In-din Village in Maungtaw District to check the progress made in the security and repatriation efforts. The village will station four teams as border security guards.

The entourage then travelled along the Myinlut-Jin-taw-Tapyaytar-U Daing Maung-taw road to view the villages that were burnt down. They then arrived in Myothuyi Village and inspected the security and regional peace efforts being made there.

Next, the entourage travelled to Kyiinchau Village to inspect the temporary shelters for the returnees.

Also accompanying the union ministers were Deputy Minister U Soe Aung, Rakhine State ministers, Department of Rehabilitation Director-General U Win Naing Tun, Myanmar Police Force Brig-Gen Myo Swe Win, and other officials.

—Myanmar News Agency

EU to assist in environmental conservation exchange programme

May Thet Hnin

WITH the assistance of the European Union (EU), Myanmar will conduct a student and teacher exchange programme on environmental conservation, which will involve three foreign universities and four local universities.

Dr. Sai Sein Lin Oo, a lecturer from Mandalay University and national project coordinator, said, “Students pursuing a master’s in botany, marine zoology and forestry at Myeik University, Mawlamyine University, Mandalay University and University of Forestry in Myanmar, and Germany-based University of Gottingen, University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences in Vienna of Australia, as well as University of Extremadura in Spain, are eligible for the programme.”

The EuMuCAP project will be officially launched in October this year and will run until 2020.

Dr. Sai Sein Lin Oo said, “The exchange programme will provide opportunities for Myanmar students to study abroad and help promote the teaching skills of the faculty members of local universities.

The project is expected to be beneficial to both students and teachers. In our country, a lot of field research in the related subjects is being conducted. However, the country is in a position to publish only a handful of research articles internationally. We hope the programme will produce more professional researchers, who can present their findings internationally.”

U Thein Aung, chairman of Myanmar Birds and Nature Society, said students will be given lessons on wildlife and related plants, including theoretical knowledge, as well as practical works under this programme. “In addition to these, the course will provide knowledge about the habitats of wildlife, including birds, endangered species of animals, administration of national gardens and sanctuaries, illegal trading of wildlife, international organisations working for environmental conservation, as well as domestic and international laws related to the environment,” he added.

U Thein Aung also said, “As a biodiverse country, Myanmar needs to produce professional researchers who can apply their knowledge and experience to the field of biodiversity conservation. Students will enjoy the opportunity to take field trips to forest reserves and wildlife sanctuaries located near the respective universities.”

The European Union has pledged to offer financial assistance and the necessary teaching aids under the three-year project. The detailed curriculum and the procedures for the project will be discussed at the meeting, which will take place in June or July in Mandalay.

Lost Thai speed boat transferred

MYANMAR Tatmadaw (Navy) transferred to the authorities of Thailand the lost speed boat of Phayam Co. Ltd. that was found floating in the Myanmar water Andaman Sea on 17 March.

Phayam Co. Ltd. lost its Speed Boat on 11 March, 2018 and the authorities of Thailand informed Myanmar Tatmadaw (Navy). The Speed Boat was found on 13 March, 2018 near the Shar Island in Andaman Sea.

Commander Kyaw Soe Lwin of Myanmar Tatmadaw hands over the speed boat to the Colonel of Thailand Jirawit Chulakran and party at the Kawthoung Jetty. PHOTO: KYAW SOE (KAWTHOUNG)
Turkish-led forces seize centre of Syria’s Afrin

AFRIN — Turkish-backed rebels have seized the centre of Afrin city in northern Syria, Ankara said Sunday, as they made rapid gains in their campaign against Kurdish forces.

“Units of the Free Syrian Army, which are backed by Turkish armed forces, took control of the centre of Afrin this morning at 8:30 a.m. (0530 GMT),” said President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, who has vowed to oust Kurdish militia from areas along the Turkish border.

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, a Britain-based monitor of the country’s war, said Turkish-led forces had made a lighting advance inside Afrin, taking control of half the Kurdish-majority city.

A civilian inside Afrin said that rebels had deployed in the city centre and that the Kurdish People’s Protection Units (YPG) militia had withdrawn.

Civilians hiding in basements could hear fighting outside and people shouting “God is greatest”, one resident told AFP.

An AFP correspondent in the city said he heard explosions Sunday morning.

The capture of Afrin would be a major victory in Ankara’s campaign against the YPG, which Turkey considers a terrorist group.

Ankara launched Operation “Olive Branch” in Afrin two months ago, saying the area near the Turkish border needed to be secured and the YPG pushed out.

The advance has made steady gains and earlier this week Turkish-led forces largely surrounded Afrin city, leaving a single escape route open southwards to territory still held by the YPG or controlled by the Syrian regime.

At least 200,000 civilians had fled the city over the last week, the Observatory said.

Turkish jets and artillery have been battering Afrin for weeks and ground clashes intensified in recent days, raising fears for thousands of civilians trapped in street-to-street fighting.

At least 27 civilians were killed in Turkish bombing on Friday and Saturday, according to the Observatory, including 16 when a raid reportedly struck the main hospital in Afrin city on Friday.—AFP

Thousands without power, water after “wake-up call” cyclone hits northern Australia

CANBERRA — Tens of thousands of people in Australia’s Northern Territory (NT) have been left without power or drinkable water in the wake of Tropical Cyclone Marcus.

Residents of Darwin awoke to widespread damage on Sunday after the strongest cyclone to hit the city in 30 years swept through on Saturday.

Marcus passed directly through Darwin as a category two storm, bringing winds of up to 130 km per hour and heavy rainfall. The storm, which diminished to a category one after hitting Darwin, has been upgraded to a category two again and is expected to cross Western Australia’s Kimberley coastline on Sunday evening local time. As many as 23,000 homes in Darwin were still without power as the clean-up began on Sunday.

There have been multiple reports of buildings and homes sustaining damage with some having had their roofs ripped off.

Fallen trees crashed through cars and houses but there have been no reports of serious injury. “We do want you to go check in on your neighbours,” NT Chief Minister Michael Gunner told reporters on Sunday.

“There has been a lot of community spirit already. I’m probably asking Top Enders to do what they’ve already done. We are going to get the territory up and running and open for business ASAP but we are operating on safety first.” NT Police regional controller Warren Jackson said that the direct threat of the storm had passed but said that the damage caused should act as a warning for what a stronger cyclone would do. “I think this is a real wake-up call for Darwin given that it was in what we’d say is the lower end but it was a category two.

You can see there was a significant amount of da.m.age,” Jackson said.

—Xinhua

China set to become major global specialty gas supplier

BEIJING — China has been a specialty gas importer for over a decade. Now with its own growing capacity to produce various specialty gases, China is to become more of a producer than consumer.

“China’s integrated circuit manufacturing industry was heavily dependent on imports abroad. We are doing everything we can to make our own specialty gases over the years,” said Guo Jianzeng, the vice director of the 718th research institute of China Shipbuilding Heavy Industry Corporation.

Specialty gases represent rare or ultra-high purity gases, which have unique properties and thus benefit industries such as pharmaceuticals and electronics by helping them to lower costs, improve yields and optimize performance.

Through years of research and technological innovation, the 718th research institute has successfully produced high purity NF3 and WF6 gases, which are important production materials for semiconductor and liquid crystal manufacturers.

“Our product specifications have reached the international level, not only breaking up the monopoly of foreign companies, but giving China an edge in specialty gas production,” Guo said.

According to a report released by the 718th research institute, NF3 and WF6 produced by it have been supplied to nearly all semiconductor factories and most liquid crystal manufacturers in China, and exported to Japan, Singapore, the United States and many European countries, achieving a 50 per cent market share internationally this year.—Xinhua
30,000 civilians evacuate from Eastern Ghouta Saturday

DAMASCUS — As many as 30,000 civilians evacuated from rebel-held areas in the Syrian capital Damascus’ Eastern Ghouta area on Saturday, state news agency SANA reported.

The mass evacuation took place through two crossings, one in the Hamouriyeh area and the other near the Water Resources facility in Harasta area in Eastern Ghouta.

The evacuation is ongoing and is the latest in a series of mass evacuation as the people have fled rebel-held areas in Eastern Ghouta in droves since Thursday.

Earlier in the day, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said Saturday that 50,000 civilians have evacuated Eastern Ghouta over the past 72 hours.

Such process was possible due to the advance of the Syrian army inside Eastern Ghouta, as people said the rebels have prevented them from leaving before and the progress of the army opened this road for them.

The Syrian army said recently it had captured 70 per cent of Eastern Ghouta, after splitting that area into sections to facilitate the battle against various rebel groups there.

Eastern Ghouta, a 105-square-kilometer region consisting of several towns and farmlands, poses the last threat to the capital due to its proximity to government-controlled neighborhoods east of Damascus and ongoing mortar attacks that target residential areas in the capital, pushing people over the edge.

Four major rebel groups are currently positioned inside Eastern Ghouta, namely the Islam Army, Failaq al-Rahman, Ahrar al-Sham, and the Levant Liberation Committee, known as the al-Qaeda-linked Nusra Front.

The UN humanitarian agencies have sounded the alarm about the worsening humanitarian situation for 450,000 people in that region, where activists said around 1,000 people have been killed since last month by the heavy bombardment and military show down.

10 killed when small plane crashes into house in the Philippines

MANILA — Ten people died when a small passenger plane crashed into a house near Manila shortly after takeoff on Saturday, local police said.

All five people aboard the aircraft were killed, as well as five people on the ground, the police said.

The aircraft had just taken off from an airport in Pilar town in Bulacan province, on a flight to Ilocos Norte province in the far north of Luzon, the largest and most heavily populated of the Philippines’ more than 7,000 islands.

The Associated Press reported that the aircraft was a six-seater Piper-23 Apache operated by Lite Air Express, a transport and courier company.

It also reported that all the company’s aircraft had been grounded while investigators try to determine the cause of the crash. — Kyodo News

TRADEMARK CAUTION

Ajinomoto Co., Inc., a company incorporated in Japan and having its registered office at 15-1, Kyobashi 1-chome, Chuo-ku, Tokyo, Japan (the “Registrant”) is the owner and proprietor of the following Trademark:

Reg. No. 4/1533/2018 (21 February 2018)

In respect of “Chemicals; Industrial chemicals; Glutamic acid for industrial purposes; Alanine for industrial purposes; Artificial sweeteners [chemical preparations]; Chemical preparations for scientific purposes, other than for medical or veterinary use; By-products of the processing of cereals for industrial purposes; Activated carbon; Surface-active compounds; Fertilizers; Soil conditioning preparations; Cell growth media for use in scientific research; Nutritional supplements; Dietary supplements; Mineral food supplements; Dietary supplements for animals; Dietary supplement for livestock; Feed additives for dietary supplement purposes; Probiotics [for livestock feed additives for veterinary purposes]; Pharmaceuticals; Medicines for human purposes; Amino acids for medical purposes; Vitamin preparations; Adhesive plasters; Babies’ diapers [napkins]; Powdered milk for babies; Food for babies; Lacteal flour for babies; Cotton sticks for medical purposes; Diapers for incontinence; Tonics [medicines]; Medicines for veterinary purposes; Sanitary pads; Breast-nursing pads; Capsules for medicines; Dietetic foods adapted for medical purposes; Dietetic beverages adapted for medical purposes; Cell growth media for medical use” included in International Class 05:

“Bouillon; Bouillon concentrate; Preparations for making bouillon; Preparations for making soup; Soups; Soup stock; Instant soup mixes; Broth; Meat, preserved; Fish, preserved; Vegetables, preserved; Fruit, preserved; Beans, preserved; Berries, preserved; Frozen meat; Frozen fishes; Frozen vegetables; Frozen fruits; Processed meat products; Processed seafood products; Processed vegetables; Processed fruits; Vegetable salads; Meat; Meat extracts; Meat jellies; Pork; Poultry, not live; Composites; Cranberry sauce [compote]; Eggs; Flavored nuts; Processed nuts; Game, not live; Ham; Jams; Jellies for food; Lard; Liver; Butter; Margarine; Marmalade; Milk; Milk products; Milk substitutes; Almond milk; Almond milk-based beverages; Curd; Yogurt; Edible fats; Oils for food; Olive oil for food; Tomato pastes; Whey” included in International Class 29

“Seasonings; Seasonings having monosodium glutamate as its principal ingredients; Mixed seasonings; Condiments; Cooking salt; Ketchup [sauce]; Tomato sauce; Mayonnaise; Dressings for salads; Sauces [condiments]; Premixed as required; Oyster sauce; Marinade sauce; Teriyaki sauce; Chili sauce; Seaweed [condiment]; Soy sauce; Malt extract for food; Meat gravies; Meat tenderizers for household purposes; Pasta sauce; Sugar; Natural sweeteners; Spices; Vinegar; Mustard; Pepper; Coffee; Coffee-based beverages; Coffee beverages; Coffee flavoring; Preparations for making coffee beverages; Artificial coffee; Cocoa; Coca-based beverages; Cocoa beverages with milk; Milk; Preparations for making cocoa; Tea; Tea-based beverages; Preparations for making tea; Confectionery; Cakes; Cereal bars; Cereal-based snack food; Cereal preparations; Crackers; Bread; Sandwiches; Bread crumbs; Buns; Corn; roast meat; Custard; Honey; Instant confectionery mixes; Pancake mixes; Flavorings, other than essential oils, for beverages; Food flavorings, other than essential oils; Ice cream; Ice cream; Natural or artificial; Bean meal; Macaroni; Noodles; Instant noodles; Noodle-based prepared meals; Ramen [Japanese noodle-based dish]; Fried noodles; Oatmeal; Pasta; Spaghetti; Pizzas; Pies; Ravioli; Rice; Processed rice products; Rice-based snack food; Rice balls; Risotto; Congee; Spring rolls; Sushi; Baozi [steamed buns]; Dumplings; Chinese steamed dumplings [Shumai, cooked]; Wanton; Sumosa; Tacos; Tapioca; Flour; Wheat flour; Vanillin [vanilla substitute]; Baking powder; Baking soda [bicarbonate of soda for cooking purposes]; Yeast” included in International Class 30

“Non-alcoholic beverages; Non-alcoholic beverages flavored with coffee; Non-alcoholic beverages flavored with tea; Non-alcoholic fruit extracts; Preparations for making non-alcoholic beverages; Non-alcoholic beverages in the form of jellies; Protein-enriched sports drinks; Sports drinks; Preparations for making sports drinks; Energy drinks; Isotonic beverages; Juice beverages; Preparations for making fruits juice; Lemonades; Smoothies; Mineral water [beverages]; Syrups for non-alcoholic beverages; Vegetable juices [beverages]; Whey beverages; Powdered drink mix; Beer” included in International Class 32.

Notice is hereby given that the Registrant claims the color “red” in respect of and as represented in the abovementioned trademark at Reg. No. 4/1533/2018 (21 February 2018).

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Daw Khin Myo Myo Aye, H.G.P
For Ajinomoto Co., Inc., c/o Chie Tanaka, Chie Tanaka Ltd., Level 8A, UFC Tower, Corner of Mahabandoola Road and Then Phyu Road, Botataung Township, Yangon, The Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Dated 19th March 2018

kmna@kcyangon.com
At least four dead, 14 injured in ongoing Manila hotel fire

MANILA — At least four people were killed and 14 others injured as a fire swept through a casino in a Manila hotel on Sunday morning, authorities said.

According to Johnny Yu of the Manila Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office, four people, who had been critically injured during the fire, did not make it to the hospital.

Yu said earlier that the four injured were “unconscious” when rushed to the hospital.

The fire gutted the casino’s mezzanine up to the third floor.

The Bureau of Fire Protection in Manila said the fire produced flames and thick smoke plume that engulfed the casino of the Manila Pavilion Hotel and Casino along United Nations Avenue in Manila City. Firefighters were still trying to control the blaze that continued to rage as of past noon. The cause of the fire was still unknown.—Xinhua

Five dead in house fire sparked by lightning strike in NE Bangladesh

DHAKA — Lightning hit a gas pipeline and sparked a house fire in Bangladesh’s Sylhet district some 240 km northeast of capital Dhaka early Sunday, killing five people including three children and two women.

AKM Fazul Haque Shihab, officer-in-charge of Sylhet’s Golapganj Police Station, told journalists that the victims, who were asleep inside the single-storey tin-shed house, were burnt to death on the spot.

He said the fire broke out at around 3:00 a.m. local time in a gas pipeline adjacent to the house of the victims after lightning struck there early Sunday. Two other people were injured in the devastating fire, he added.

Storms accompanied by thunder and lightning are common during this season in Bangladesh.—Xinhua

Airstrikes kill 29 insurgents in South Afghanistan

LASHKARGAH — At least 29 armed militants were killed during air attacks by Afghan air force in Helmand province, south of Afghanistan, on Saturday, Afghan Defense Ministry said in a statement released here on Sunday.

“The air force’s warplanes targeted hideouts of Taliban militants in Gereshk, Nadali, Nahr-e-Saraj, Sangin and Marjah districts of southern Helmand province, on Saturday, killing at least 29 insurgents,” said the statement.

Several hideouts of Taliban militants were destroyed and their arms and ammunition was smashed or seized by security forces during the operations, the statement added.

Taliban militants have not commented about the report so far. —Xinhua

Smoke rises from Pavilion Hotel and Casino in Manila, the Philippines on 18 March 2018. A fire broke out Sunday morning at the hotel in Manila, the Bureau of Fire Protection said. PHOTO: XINHUA

The Republic of Union of Myanmar
Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population
Social Security Board

Open Tenders Invitation for developing and implementation of Social Security Information System

1. Social Security Board (SSB) wants to acquire a comprehensive Social Security Information System in Myanmar Kyats. Any interested domestic, international or joint-venture companies are eligible to submit the tender proposal.

2. The project is to deliver an integrated solution comprises of the following:

   - Data center implementation
   - Development and implementation of SSB core business processes such as employee/employer registration process, contribution collection process, benefits provision process, claims management process, medical services provision process and e-Money services, etc.
   - Setup and operate the SSB smart card printing processes
   - Implementation of software packages such as accounting, human resource management, hospital management, and building and inventory maintenance, among others.

3. The tender forms including Terms of Reference and Tender Discipline can be purchased at the Administrative Department, Social Security Board (Head Office), No. (OU-77), corner of Thitayadanar and Nakyar (8) Street, Ottararhiri Township, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar during office hours starting from 19-3-2018 to 28-3-2018.

4. The closing time to submit tender proposal is 16:30 pm on May 11, 2018 at the above mentioned address. Any tender submitted after the closing time will not be considered.

5. For further information, please visit the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population website http://www.mol.gov.mm and inquire the following address within office hour:

   Information and Communication Department,
   Social Security Board, Nay Pyi Taw
   Phone - 067-3417925, 3417951, 3417952
   Fax - 067-3417926

Tender Invitation and Appraisal Committee
Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population

Dated 19th March 2018

kmmw@kcyangon.com

TRADEMARK CAUTION

KURARAY CO., LTD., a company incorporated in Japan and having its registered office at 1921, Sakazuki, Kurashiki City, Okayama, Prefecture, Japan is the owner and proprietor of the following Trademarks:

Reg. No.4/1928/2018 (27 February 2018)

In respect of “Polyvinyl alcohol fibers not for textile use; Synthetic fibers for textile use; Staple fibers; Ropes, string, nets, tents, awnings, tarpaulins, sails, sacks and bags (not included in other classes); Textile fibers, yarn fibers, textile filaments (fibers); Padding and stuffing materials (except of rubber or plastics); Raw fibrous textile materials” included in International Class 22; and “Threads and yarns; Span yarn; Textile filaments (threads)” included in International Class 23.

KURALON

Reg. No.4/1930/2018 (27 February 2018)

All in respect of “Polyvinyl alcohol fibers not for textile use; Synthetic fibers for textile use; Staple fibers; Ropes, string, nets, tents, awnings, tarpaulins, sails, sacks and bags (not included in other classes); Textile fibers, yarn fibers, textile filaments (fibers); Padding and stuffing materials (except of rubber or plastics); Raw fibrous textile materials” included in International Class 22.

Fraudulent or unauthorised use or actual or colourable imitation of the Marks shall be dealt with according to law.

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Dated 19th March 2018
Zimbabwe holds Miss Albinism beauty pageant to fight stigma

HARARE — Oozing charm and confidence, 22-year-old Sithembiso Mutukura beat 12 other contestants in Zimbabwe’s first Miss Albinism beauty contest aimed at reducing stigma and increasing awareness about the condition.

Friday’s “Beauty Beyond the Skin” pageant was held in a Harare nightclub, making Zimbabwe the second African country after Kenya to host such an event.

Many African countries have a dark relationship with albinism — a genetic disorder inherited from parents who both carry a faulty gene that prevents the skin from making melanin properly and thereby giving it colour.

They are hunted down in some African countries by witch doctors for their body parts which are used in potions to bring good luck or riches. Some are even kidnapped and sold by relatives out to make a fast back.

Mutukura said she entered the pageant to raise awareness.

“The people with disabilities are always looked down upon even in schools. I have gone through a lot but I want people living with albinism to be brave and persevere in life,” the social work student at the University of Zimbabwe told AFP after winning the crown.

“We must continue to advocate for our rights and I hope my win will empower the girl child. People with disabilities must not look down upon themselves.”

The contestants sashayed down the catwalk in gowns and traditional African robes and were asked an array of questions to decide the winner.

Mutukura won a food hamper and $85 (70 euros) — a fair bit of money in Zimbabwe.

Pageant organiser Brenda Mudzimu said she was happy to finally host the event as it was postponed last year due to a lack of funds.

“Sorry, Steven Tyler, Whitney Houston and Michael Jackson — rest in peace — but you couldn’t pique my interest in the same way, because I could already do that.”

“Straddling two worlds” — Meachem who has the strapping frame of a college athlete yet with piercing blue eyes and a natural affability — voiced pride in his North Carolina roots but joked that he came from “the sticks.”

He acknowledged that starring at the Met, the most prestigious US opera house, gave him limited cachet with childhood friends. “I could go home and say, ‘I’m singing at the Met and in Vienna and London and San Francisco and Chicago and then I say that I sang the national anthem at the Rangers game in New York and they say, ‘The Rangers game — that’s something else!’”

With his insight into two worlds, the 39-year-old has taken to writing strikingly forthright essays aimed at aspiring singers.

Devoid of any diva-like pretension, “The Baritone Blog offers everything from advice on taxes (make sure you pay them!) to his thoughts on feeling out of place as an opera singer when he won a Grammy last year.

Elsewhere on the blog, in what could have been a scene from “Les Misérables,” he admitted stuffing his coat with food to survive when he was a student.

He also resorted to calling up food companies to compliment them on their products, leading them to send him packages of samples that would hold him over.

He said his experiences helped in “La Boheme” as he played Marcello, the struggling painter living among Paris bohemians. “Somebody who can’t pay the bills — been there before. Somebody that can’t pay his utility bill, so it’s cold in the house, and he can’t afford firewood — been there, too,” Meachem said.

“There’s a lot of life imitating art in that opera for me personally.” — AFP
**Artist Kyaw Thu Win holds solo show at Gallery 65**

KYAW Thu Win, an artist from Mandalay, is showcasing selected handiworks through a solo exhibition at Gallery 65 in Yangon.

This is Kyaw Thu Win’s third solo event. He introduced his acrylic works during his first solo show in 2013 in his hometown of Mandalay. The second solo event was held in Yangon last year.

The current exhibition, featuring 25 acrylic artworks, started on 17 March (Saturday) and will run until 19 March at Gallery 65, a contemporary art gallery located on Yawmingyi Road in Dagon Township, Yangon.

Based on their size and design, the paintings are worth between US$350 and $700 each.

The art exhibition will be open to the public from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily.

Kyaw Thu Win’s subject matter includes landscapes, historic pagodas and other traditional structures in Bagan Cultural Zone in the Mandalay region and Inle in southern Shan State.

The 30-year-old artist, who studied his craft at the State School of Fine Arts in Mandalay, is known for his trademark drawings and painting style. Since joining the art field, Kyaw Thu Win has held several art exhibitions.

His works can mostly be found through collective art exhibitions. The artist said he planned to participate in at least two group exhibitions of watercolour paintings this year.—Khaing Thanda Lwin

**Jewelry Trade Fair and Miss Competition held for 1st anniversary of Mandalay Yatanar Mall**

AN event of Jewelry Trade Fair and Miss Competition, marking the first anniversary of Mandalay Yatanar Mall was held on Saturday evening at the second floor, promotion areas of Yadanaarbon Super Centre, Mandalay.

A total of 50 beauty pageants from Mandalay and upper Myanmar took part at the Miss Mandalay Yatanar Mall 2018 Competition. Of the 50 beauty pageants, 30 were chosen on Saturday while of the 30 selected pageants, 20 were selected on Sunday.

The winners will be selected today, awarding Ks 2,000,000 (two lakhs) for first winner, Ks 1,000,000 (one lakh) for second winner and Ks 500,000 for third prize.

Public can enjoy free the Miss Competition and entertainments of singers Chit Zwe Thar, Paing Paing and Pyae Phone Kyaw at the event. —Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay)
MGG, UPT and Zombie score big in MFF Futsal Open Cup

Kyaw Zin Lin

MGG, UPT and Zombie notched double digit, lopsided wins in Group (A), (B) and (C) matches of the MFF Futsal Open Cup 2018 yesterday at Thuwunna National Indoor Stadium in Yangon.

In Group (A) matches, Myoma Hla Thida futsal team trounced YeikThar by a score of 14-7, while MGG won big over Monster Hero by a score of 25-2.

In Group (B) matches, MSJ team defeated YGR Star team by a score of 8-2 while Zombie earned a big win over United by a score of 11-1.

In Group (C) matches, RDZ team beat MCY by a score of 9-3 while UPT eliminated the amateur club Family United by a score of 25-2.

The matches played yesterday observed a minute silence for Myo Chit Youth futsal team player Chit Minn Aung who died yesterday morning.

Officials also recognized the standout play of individual players from each game played yesterday.

The man of the match performance awards were garnered by Wai Phyo from Thida team, Hein Min Ko from MGG team, Min KoZin from MSJ team, Myo Myat Thu from Zombie team, HlaingMyoHtet from RDZ team and Moe Thu from UPT team.

Royal Thanlyin, the apple of everyone’s eye in MNL II 2018

Kyaw Zin Lin

AT the end of the Week 6 matches of MPT Myanmar National League II 2018, Royal Thanlyin FC has become an apple of everyone’s eye with standing in the first place with garnering awesome 11 points.

After playing all 5 matches of the tourney, the team has won 3 matches, two draw and no loss.

In the second place of the table, Mawyawady FC has garnered 7 points after playing 4 matches. 2 win, 1 draw and 1 loss.

In the third, Kachin United FC with earning 7 points with goal difference to Mawyawady after playing all 5 matches of 2 win, 1 draw and 2 loss.

Among the all clubs Royal Thanlyin is the most famous clubs to win the League said U Sai Lao Lyian, a Myanmar National League II football fan.

Royal Thanlyin Football Club is a Myanmar football club, founded in 2015. This is the third MNL-2 season of Royal Thanlyin FC. City Stars FC changed their name to Royal Thanlyin and based on Thanlyin, Yangon.

Depleted Super Rugby champions refuse to raid infirmary

WELLINGTON — The defending Super Rugby champions Canterbury Crusaders have ruled out raiding the All Blacks infirmary despite suffering back-to-back losses for the first time in three years. A patched-up Crusaders slipped to third in the New Zealand conference, raising early questions about their chances of a successful title defence, when beaten 25-17 by the Otago Highlanders on Saturday, a week after a 29-19 loss to the Wellington Hurricanes.

The most successful franchise in Super Rugby history have been hamstrung by an alarming injury toll which has put seven All Blacks out of action including team captain Sam Whitelock and All Blacks skipper Kieran Read along with backline general Ryan Crotty.

But assistant coach Brad Moor ruled out Sunday any attempt to pressure players to make an early return. Read, Owen Franks, Joe Moody and Israel Dagg are not expected back until mid-April, Whitelock and Crotty will return when concussion symptoms clear and Richie Mo’unga is unlikely to have recovered from his broken jaw for another month. “The answer is a clear ‘no’,” Moor said when asked if some players could return ahead of schedule. “When they are ready, then we will think about picking them. If a player is injured and unable to play, then that is a medical scenario and we will totally respect it.” —AFP

USA win sledge hockey gold as Paralympics set to end

PYEONGCHANG — The United States beat Canada with a dramatic overtime goal to win sledge hockey gold in Pyeongchang Sunday, a fitting finale to high-octane sporting action at the Winter Paralympics.

The curtain was due to fall on the Paralympics at a closing ceremony in the evening, capping the nine-day Games that have featured sports ranging from vision-impaired skiing to wheelchair curling.

Team USA topped the medals table, with a total of 36 medals including 13 golds. Canada also did well, picking up eight golds while France and Germany won seven each. The Winter Paralympics broke records with ticket sales topping 340,000. Its other standout moments ranged from North Korea’s debut to the many tales of disabled athletes fighting against the odds for sporting glory.

The sledge hockey final was the most hotly anticipated showdown of the Games, as defending Paralympic champions the United States took on reigning world champions Canada.

In the fast and furious sport, athletes with leg impairments are strapped into sledges and use two sticks to get around the rink and shoot. Canada dominated in the early stages of the game. Billy Bridges scored in the first period and it looked like the Canadians were heading for gold as USA were unable to break through their defences. But with just 37 seconds left on the clock, the USA’s Declan Farmer scored to send the match into overtime. Three minutes into extra time, Farmer sliced the puck between two defenders and into the net to carry the USA to a 2-1 victory.—AFP

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