President U Win Myint met with Union Chief Justice U Htun Htun Oo and Supreme Court Justices at the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday at 2 p.m.

During the meeting, the President discussed the work that needs to be accomplished to firmly establish the judiciary sector.

President U Win Myint also called for the conducting of responsible management at all levels, from the region and state to the township level.

The President further said there needs to be stricter regulations in maintaining court evidence, as loss and damage costs must be paid through the national budget.

He noted that greater amounts of foreign investment will flow into the country and the country’s economy will develop only when there is rule of law and the country is free from corruption.

President U Win Myint said that skilled and truly capable persons must be assigned positions in the judiciary to strengthen the sector. He noted that the Chief Justice has the responsibility to strengthen the entire country’s judiciary sector and to properly guide judiciary officials at the state and regional level.

President U Win Myint urged Union Chief Justice U Htun Htun Oo and Supreme Court judges to work to strengthen the judiciary sector with the help and support of organisations that provide legal aid and rule of law centres.

Union Chief Justice U Htun Htun Oo briefed the President about the judiciary processes, management of court evidence, challenges faced by courts, responsibilities taken by the Supreme Court of the Union, the number of court proceedings being conducted, and the status of reforming the organisational structure for employees.

Also present at the meeting were Deputy Minister for the President’s Office U Min Thu, as well as Supreme Court Judges U Thar Htay, U Mya Thein, U Myint Aung, U Aung Zaw Thein, U Mya Han, U Myo Tint, U Soe Naiing, and U Khin Maung Kyi. —Myanmar News Agency

President meets Chief Justice and Supreme Court judges

Mro ethnic villagers receive new houses

RAKHINE STATE authorities handed over new houses to Mro ethnic people at the Thittonna Gwason Village-tract in Maungtaw Township yesterday.

The 86 houses were funded by the Ayeyawady Region Government and Mandalay Region Government, and handed over to Mro ethnic families from Karuchaung, Myatkhauntaung, Panchaung and Inn Chaung villages from Thittonna Gwason Village-tract in Maungtaw Township.

The authorities also delivered a set of solar panels and a family kit, each donated by the Ministry of Industry to Mro ethnic families who lost their homes in terrorist attacks last year.

“We are delighted to stay in the new house in the plains area, instead of in the hills where we used to live,” said U Aung Phaw, a Mro ethnic man. Following the ceremony, another 30 houses donated by Daw Khin Kyi Foundation and 10 houses by the Department for Development of Border Areas and National Races, were also handed over to Mro ethnic families from Kantaing Village. Authorities assisted ethnic people who moved into the houses and, along with solar panels and family kits, provided household utensils.

SEE PAGE-11
Development of elephant conservation-based tourism

May Thet Hnin
THE Myanma Timber Enterprise (MTE) is planning to develop an Elephant Conservation-Based Tourism (ECBT) in time for the September tourist season in cooperation with the tour agencies.

Officials from the MTE discussed ECBT with officials from the tourism industry at the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Travel Association office and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs office on 9 April.

The enterprise has opened 18 elephant camps across the country, with some 265 elephants. The MTE has explained the operation for the local and foreign visitors. The entrepreneurs also shared their opinion on MTE’s explanation.

“In 2016-2017, MTE suspended its logging operations for one year. Therefore, we have implemented ECBT for the conservation of more than 3,000 elephants and elephant mahouts job opportunities”, said an official from MTE.

Local and foreign tourists can feed, ride and wash the elephants. The visitors can also observe the elephant dancing at the camps. The visitors can also observe other significant places and other plantations which are very close to the elephant camp area. The elephant camps are also equipped with children’s playgrounds and restaurants.

To attract the tourists, an elephant museum has been constructed inside some elephant camps. Some camps have also planted gardens to enhance the green environment. The MTE is planning to construct more places for the visitors to take a rest.

“There are thousands of tourists who visit the elephant camps in foreign countries every month. Therefore, we would like to suggest that we should build some small tents for the tourists to stay in and sell traditional foods. We also suggested to change the price. We have to make more decoration in this rainy season to attract more tourists”, said U Min Thein, deputy chairman of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Travel Association.

The entrepreneurs have proposed reducing entrance and riding fees for elephant camps.

“We will make a decision at the regular meeting of the enterprises”, said U Moe Myint, Deputy General Manager of MTE.

“The admission fee for foreigners is Ks20,000 and the fee for riding an elephant for foreigners is Ks20,000. Therefore, nobody will ride the elephant. So, the entrance fees need to be changed for foreigners,” said an entrepreneur who attended the meeting.

ECBT is conducted with the aim to implement elephant conservation and ecotourism at the same time, to create job opportunities for local people and mahouts, and to earn the country income from the tourism industry. In 2016-2017 fiscal year, more than Ks120 million was earned from elephant camps. In 2017-2018, the income has increased to more than Ks300 million.

Thirteen elephant camps out of 18 have been opened in the time of the new government. The MTE has also planned to open more elephant camps other states and regions. There are more than 6,578 elephants in Myanmar, including 3,078 of MTE’s elephants, 2,000 privately owned elephants and over 1,500 wild elephants. The MTE is conducting the elephant conservation effort in cooperation with international organisations.
Today at this time, we are witnessing the transformation of an era and a system in accordance with democratic principles. This is just the beginning of the democratic transition. To make this transition process smooth and successful, it is very important for our peoples, government employees and civil servants to change their dogmatic mindset and habits. Those government institutions which are lagging behind in the transformation process will need to be put under tight management controls. The country’s weak judiciary system would need to be strengthened. More efforts need to be exerted to stamp out corruption. More efforts need to be exerted to prevent human rights violations. More efforts need to be exerted to crack down illegal drug trade. We need to manage public funds properly so that there is no wastage. Measures need to be taken to return confiscated farmland to farmers and to give compensation to farmers for losses they have suffered in accordance with the law. We also need to improve the socio-economic life of farmers, improve the lives of workers and ensure that students gain access to higher education.

(Excerpt from the speech by President U Win Myint at the ceremony to take oath of office at Pyidaungsu Hluttaw on 30th March 2018)

President U Win Myint meets with Anti-Corruption Commission

PRESIDENT U Win Myint yesterday urged the Anti-Corruption Commission to perform its duties with more conscientiousness and increased reach as part of a nationwide effort to reduce cronyism, bribery and malpractice in the country.

“Freedom from corruption is the sine qua non for building a clean government and good governance, and it is also connected with foreign investment and the image of our country,” said President U Win Myint at the meeting with the commission at the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Yesterday’s meeting, which was attended by U Aung Kyi, Chairman of the Anti-Corruption Commission and its members, is a sign that the new President, who assumed office last month, is making anti-corruption a priority in his administration.

The President urged the commission to openly report on possible interference by those in authority in anti-corruption case and any abuse of power in defending the accused. He also advised the commission on ways to increase the reach of anti-corruption investigations, such as forming sub-commissions in regions and states, collaborating with governmental departments or assigning an in-charge as part of efforts for expanding the works of the commission. Regarding its duties and responsibilities, the commission should carry out its duties decisively and without discrimination, he said.

U Aung Kyi, the Chairman of the Anti-Corruption Commission, clarified about the reform processes and future projects. Also present at the meeting were Deputy Minister for the President’s Office U Min Thu, Secretary of Anti-Corruption Commission U San Win, members of commission U Soe Tint, U Aung Lwin, U Han Nyunt, U Aung Than Myint, U Khin Maung Myint, U Myo Myint, Daw Aye Aye Mu, U Zaw Win and Daw Lei Lei Thwin.—Myanmar News Agency

Union Minister for Health and Sports Dr. Myint Htwe attends Signing Ceremony

UNION Minister for Health and Sports Dr. Myint Htwe attended the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signing ceremony between Ministry of Health and Sports, UNOPS and Save the Children at the Horizon Lake View Hotel yesterday afternoon.

At the ceremony, Union Minister Dr. Myint Htwe, Mr. Michael McGraith and Mr. Sanjay Mathur signed the Memorandum of Understanding on behalf of the Ministry of Health and Sports, Save the Children and UNOPS.

UNOPS Asia Region, Regional Director Sanjay Mathur and Regional Director of Save the Children Michael McGraith expressed their thanks and appreciation.

Global Fund will support Myanmar through UNOPS, with funding of US$ 247.89 million to combat AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria in the 2018-2020 period, as well as with US$90.85 million through Save the Children.

Afterwards, the Union Minister for Health and Sports described the ongoing process, the priority tasks, as well as the strategy and technical sectors of the Ministry at the 12th Myanmar Health Sector Coordination Committee M-HSSC.

Also, officials from UNOPS explained the findings, suggestions and HIV—TB assistance from the Global Fund Office of Inspector General (OIG), along with National Committee on MDR-TB Management Dr. Si Thu Aung, and Deputy Director General Dr. Thandar Lwin explained the proposal for combating TB, while Mr. Orenn Ginzbur reviewed the funding from 3MDG.—Myanmar News Agency
Yangon University to offer fishery science course from December

By May Thet Hnin

THE Yangon University will offer a bachelor’s course in fishery science from December.

“The university will accept more than 30 students for the fishery science subject, which will be a four-year course. The curriculum for first- to fourth-year students was prepared recently, said U Tun Win Myint, Director of Fishery Department (Yangon).”

“Aquaculture has been listed as the top priority in the curriculum, because it is integral to the development of our country. We need more human resources in this sector,” said Daw Toe Nandar Tin, Vice Chairperson of Myanmar Fisheries Federation.

The syllabus for the fishery science course was created by professionals from the Fishery Department and university teachers, in line with the international curriculum. “We have also started providing teachers’ training courses recently. We request authorities not to transfer teachers who have already undergone the training,” she added.

The Fishery Science Department will be set up as a branch under the Yangon University’s Zoology Department. The fishery science course will be taught in other states and regions, depending on the availability of teachers.

“Fish and shrimp breeding will be implemented as the second priority sector in Myanmar,” said Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation Union Minister Dr. Aung Thu during a meeting with entrepreneurs.

More professionals will be available in the livestock breeding sector once the fishery science course is introduced. The subject will benefit our country, said entrepreneurs.

Myanmar exported some 568,227.32 metric tonnes of marine products, worth US$717.717 million, last fiscal year.

Food items from star beans (Sacha Inchi) to be produced in Lashio Township’s villages

FOOD items will be prepared from star beans (Sacha Inchi) in Lashio Township’s villages, according to the star bean cultivators’ network.

“Earlier, more than 20 villages in Lashio Township cultivated star beans for a trial period. As the production was successful, we are planning to produce star bean dry leaves, star bean oil and star bean rice. Then, we will distribute them in the local market,” said U Sai Kyaw Htet, a member of the star bean cultivators’ network.

“Most of the local farmers cultivated organic crops. They also practised mixed farming with pineapples and eaglewood. The cultivation of star beans costs between Ks1 million and 1.5 million per acre,” he added.

A local farmer from Nam Tum village-track in Lashio cultivated between two and six acres of star beans. They have cultivated star beans on a commercial scale, along with pineapples, eaglewood and red sandalwood.

Companies from Shan State (North) imported star bean seeds from Thailand.

The companies then asked the local farmers to grow them as organic crops on a five- or 15-year contract.

Recently, more than 100 acres of star beans were cultivated in the villages of Shan (North), said U Sai Aung Myat Toe, a member of the star bean cultivators’ network.

Local farmers earn profits of some Ks1 million per acre by selling star beans. Star beans food items are exported mainly to China and Thailand.—Zar Lin Thu (AMIA)

Tourist arrivals in Myanmar increase in March

TOURIST arrivals in Myanmar have increased this March, compared with the same period last year, according to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Travel Association (UMTA).

Tourists visit Myanmar through its three international airports, as well as the border checkpoints on bikes or in vehicles.

Some tourists also flock to Myanmar in luxury cruise liners.

Some 77,111 tourists entered Myanmar in March 2018, including some 51,461 tourists with tourist visas, and some 19,753 tourists with business visas, according to the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism.

In the 2016-2017 fiscal year, some 542,599 tourists visited Myanmar with tourist visas, while some 238,432 tourists had business visas.

Some 531,951 tourists had visiting visas, while some 244,412 tourists had business visas in the 2017-2018 fiscal year, respectively.—Myanmar News Agency

Elephant poachers arrested in Rakhine Yoma

AN ELEPHANT poacher who killed an elephant, along with three accomplices, was arrested on 3 April at Kyainali area in Gwa Township, Rakhine State.

Forester U Aung Kyaw Myint and officials conducted an investigation in Rakhine Yoma, after receiving information from Friends of Wildlife (FOW). On 2 April, they discovered the dried tusks, skins, meat and other elephant parts in six visses (over 114 Kg), near a creek in Kyainali.

The following day, 3 April, the elephant poacher was arrested. Police are working to arrest other poachers too.—Nyi Too

FORESTRY Department officials inspect elephant’s parts near a creek in Kyainali. PHOTO: NYI TOO

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Due to limitation of space we are only able to publish ‘Letter to the Editor’ that do not exceed 500 words. Should you submit a text longer than 500 words please be aware that your letter will be edited.
Myawady gate registered highest value of individual trading

BORDER trade with the use of Individual Trading Cards (ITCs) reached its highest record of Ks34.4 billion at Myawady gate during the 2017-2018 fiscal year, according to statistics released by the Commerce Ministry.

Individual trading card holders primarily imported goods through Myawady gate, with exports worth only Ks6.8 million.

The Trade Department issued 168 cards to individual traders between 1st April 2017 and 31st March 2018, and individual trading card holders conducted trade worth Ks53.9 billion. Exports were valued at only Ks3.3 billion, while imports reached more than Ks40.6 billion. The value of trade carried out by individual card holders last FY was registered at over Ks3.2 billion in Tamu, over Ks51 million in Muse, Ks34.4 billion in Myawady, Ks944 million in Taichileik, over Ks6 million in Lwejel, over Ks4 million in Chinshwehaw, over Ks1.71 billion in Kanpeteek, over Ks800 million in Kawthoung, over Ks1.2 billion in Reed, over Ks3 million at Htanllian Township, over Ks3.33 billion in Mawtaung and Ks160 million in Kengtung, according to official statistics from the Commerce Ministry.

The trade values with ITC were reported at over Ks737 million from 21st Nov 2012 to 31st March 2013, over Ks6.6 billion in FY 2013-2014, over Ks69.3 billion in FY 2014-2015, over Ks6.4 billion in FY 2015-2016 and over Ks18.9 billion in FY 2016-2017.

The Trade Department has so far issued 1,432 cards, with 292 cards from 21st Nov 2012 to 31st March 2013, 261 cards in FY 2013-2014, 317 cards in FY 2014-2015, 146 cards in FY 2015-2016, 248 cards in FY 2016-2017 and 168 cards in FY 2017-2018. The Trade Department issued trade cards in a bid to boost border trade. A businessman can trade Ks3 million worth of goods per day using ITC, and then, the Trade Department granted trade values of up to Ks15 million per day, which is a five-day-trade-value.

— Ko Htet

Myanmar has enacted the Myanmar Company Law. It is seen as a positive development to attract foreign investments. Continued efforts towards a more conducive business climate will attract FDI. In a bid to promote investments, Myanmar should exercise best practices of regional countries for screening and approval procedures for foreign investment, foreign equity holdings, control over capital repatriation by foreign enterprises, working processes to seek construction permits, tax incentives and property registries. Government initiatives to formulate a 238 point economic policy agenda, set out in the draft Myanmar Sustainable Development Plan, should keep investors engaged. Building on these initiatives, policy makers should implement reform expeditiously and effectively to buoy investor confidence and attract sizable FDI in the years to come, ADB urged. “We definitely welcome the government’s positive direction in preparing medium term and long term strategy which will guide all of us, not just the public finance sector, but also the private sector players, to decide where investments may be needed or might be encouraged”, said Ms. Yumiko Tamura.

Ministry providing equal rights and opportunities for ethnic nationals

By Mawsi
PHOTO: HTEIN NAN NAW

DURING the term of the incumbent government Ministry of Ethnic Affairs was formed to effectively and speedily implement socio-economic development that includes language, literature, arts, culture, tradition, religion, historical heritage, peace and constitutional rights of ethnic nationals.

Following is the interview conducted with Union Minister and responsible officials on the work conducted by the ministry during the second one year period to strengthen the union spirit and socio-economic development of the ethnic nationals.

Nai Thet Lwin, Union Minister, Ministry of Ethnic Affairs
Q. First explain about the aim of establishing the Ministry of Ethnic Affairs.
A. Myanmar is a country where ethnic nationals live together. Due to past events in the history, doubts and suspicion developed in ethnic nationals for not having equal rights and conflicts occurred. In order to obtain full constitutional rights, the Law on Protection of Ethnic Rights was enacted in 24 February 2015. As per this law the previous government formed the Ministry of Ethnic Affairs and the ministry is now two years old.
Q. Explain about the vision of the ministry.
A. The vision of the ministry is to retain and develop the literature and culture of ethnic nationals. Their rights will be protected. The reason for doing this is to strengthen the union spirit and develop the socio-economic situation of the ethnic nationals. The rights are as set out in the law for ethnic nationals. There is a need to know the duties and responsibilities at the same time as obtaining the rights. Our society will develop only when duties, responsibilities and rights are equally valued.

Q. Explain about works implemented by the ministry.
A. The ministry helped in holding special days of ethnic nationals as enacted in the law. States/regions ethnic affairs ministers also support the ethnic nationals in the states/regions to hold ethnic national events.
Q. What has been done for education sector development of ethnic nationals?
A. Ethnic nationals lived in remote and far-off distant places where access to education was poor. Because of this, they lag behind in education and were exploited and used by some group of people. Now, they are having more opportunities for education. They can use their own language according to education policy and learn. In order for ethnic nationals to prosper in the union and internationally, they need to learn the language used in the union as well as international languages. To enable this, the ministry coordinated with Ministry of Education to employ ethnic national youths as Teaching Assistant (TA) so that ethnic national children can obtain quality learning through their own language resulting in creating job opportunities for ethnic national youths. Coordination will be continued with Ministry of Education so that more can be employed in other required areas.
Q. What has been done for ethnic nationals in coordination with other ministries?
A. Together with Ministry of Health and Sports, the ministry assisted and cooperated in translating information about Japanese Encephalitis vaccination project, EHN bird flu information posters, pamphlets and standard health facts booklets into ethnic national languages.

In response to proposals submitted by ethnic national villages on electrification, the ministry coordinated with Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation, Department of Rural Development to install solar power electrical system in villages that are more than 10 miles away from National Electrification Plan.
Q. Explain about the ministry constructing office buildings in states and regions.
A. Works were assigned to Ministry of Construction to build 80x60 ft. reinforced concrete two storey buildings in Kayin, Kayah, and Mon states, Bago and Ayeyawady regions with fund permitted in fiscal year 2017-2018. The building constructed in Mon State, Mawlamyine was opened on 19 March 2018 in commemoration of 44th anniversary of Mon State Day. Other buildings in states and regions will soon be opened.

Q. What are other additional things done for ethnic nationals?
A. Development and peace co-exist in sustainable development of the lives of the ethnic nationals. If there is peace, there can be development and peace can be maintained only if there is development. That is why the forum on Sustainable Development of Ethnic Nationals was held in Nay Pyi Taw in January 2018. At the forum economic development sector, peace and ethnic national media sector and sharing of ethnic national resources were discussed and 28 points were identified. The outcome was the establishment of Ethnic Entrepreneurs Association in the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Yangon on 17 March 2018.
Q. Comment on what ought to be done between ethnic nationals for ethnic national rights.
A. Ethnic nationals in Myanmar lived in the hill, plain, delta and coastal areas. Due to the different geographical location, the language, literature and culture of ethnic nationals were different but all are human beings. As human beings, ethnic nationals cherish and value themselves while considering other ethnic nationals as their siblings and lived in unity with mutual respect, peace and democracy federal union that everyone yearn for will come into being.

At the present, the government is working hand in hand with ethnic nationals for national reconciliation and peace in the union. All ethnic nationals are urged to cooperate and work together to achieve this end.
Ministry providing ... 

FROM PAGE 6

U Min Aye Ko, Deputy Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Ethnic Affairs Q. Let us know if there is any special accomplishment for ethnic national affairs.

A. According to set procedures and instructions, applications to amend correct ethnic nationality in national identification cards of ethnic nationals can be made to relevant township offices with supporting documents. If the applications are assessed to be true, amendments were being made with the permission of Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population, National Registration and Citizenship Department Director General it is learnt.

In addition to this some ethnic nationals apply to put in prefixes in front of their names (eg. Saw, Sai, Min, Naw, Nan, M) according to their tradition in their personal records and this had been done accordingly. As per application, prefixes in front of the names to identify male or female (such as Saw Hla Maung, Sai Hla Maung, Salai Hla Maung, Min Hla Muang, Naw Hla Hla Yi, Nan Hla Hla Yi, Mi Hla Hla Yi) were also being added in the applicants' national identification cards.

Q. What is the ministry doing to fulfill the basic requirement of obtaining electrical power for the socio-economic development of ethnic nations?

A. In coordination with Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation, Department of Rural Development, solar power electrical systems were being arranged to be installed in villages that are more than 10 miles away from National Electrification Plan (NEP). As per this plan, 43 villages in Yangon Region and Ayeyawady Region will have solar power electrical systems installed in fiscal year 2017-2018 and fiscal year 2018-2019 according to the information from relevant ministry.

Q. How is the ministry organized and what are its duties and responsibilities?

A. The ministry is made up of the Union Minister's office, the Ethnical Literature and Culture Department and the Ethnic Rights Department. A total of 314 officers and staff were appointed.

As per arrangements made by states and regions governments, offices for the two departments under the ministry were being opened in states and regions. Offices were opened in Mawlamyine, Mon State; Monywa, Sagaing Region; Sittway, Rakhine State; Myitkyina, Kachin State; Loikaw, Kayah State, Mandalay, Mandalay Region; Haka, Chin State and Magway, Magway Region.

U Win Naing, Deputy Director General, Ethnical Literature and Culture Department Q. What are the aims of the department and what are its achievements during the two-year period?

A. Strengthening of the national spirit and developing the socio-economic situation of the ethnic nationals are being aimed for by maintaining and raising the ethnic literature and culture.

During the two-year period of the government, poems, articles, books, video records of ethnic national literature, language, culture and historical relics were collected in the department's library. A book on eight ethnic national languages was published within the department.

In addition to this, department's offices were opened in Mon State, Kayin State, Sagaing Region, Rakhine State, Kachin State, Kayah State, Mandalay Region, Bago Region, Ayeyawady Region, Taninthayi Region, Chin State and Magway Region in fiscal year 2016-2017 and fiscal year 2017-2018.

Arrangements were made to publish the Law on Protection of Ethnic Rights in ethnic languages and had been published and distributed in 44 ethnic languages. Health related journals published by Ministry of Health and Sport, notices and posters published by UNICEF were also being translated into ethnic national languages.

Pamphlets describing the history, location, distinguished places, traditional festivals, dances, natural resources, traditional foods etc. of eight main ethnic nationals and 32 sub groups were being published in Myanmar-English languages. Arrangements are being made to publish facts about remaining sub groups. The traditional costumes and apparels of the eight main ethnic nationals, their tools and utensils, musical instruments etc. were being displayed in the ministry's exhibition.

Ministry of Education was coordinated to appoint 5,161 Teaching Assistants to teach ethnic national languages. The ministry also assisted and supported the application of literature and culture groups in states and regions to Ministry of Home Affairs to form literature and culture committees. Teaching of ethnic literature and languages in basic education schools during summer holiday was also being conducted together with Ministry of Education.

Dr. L Tu Mane Gaung, Deputy Director General, Ethnical Rights Protection Department Q. What are the aims and work processes of the department?

A. The aim of the department is to obtain the full rights and opportunities of the ethnic nationals. In doing this, it will be done without affecting the country's security, rule of law, moral of the people and enacted laws.

Another thing is to coordinate and resolve disagreements between ethnic nationals.

Q. What was done by the department during the two-year period?

A. Five offices were opened in states and regions in fiscal year 2017-2018. Staffs were appointed and these staffs were liaising with ethnic national organisations. At the same time, systematic arrangements were being made to work together with more ethnic organisations.

Requirements of the ethnic nationals were being fulfilled. Rules on Protection of Ethnic Rights will soon be enacted and based on it the rights of the ethnic nationals will be protected. Together with protecting these rights, there is a need to ensure that natural security, regional peace and stability are not affected.

Salai Haki, Chin national

It is good for all ethnic nations like us that Ministry of Ethnic Affair was established. Why? Our country is a country that had many ethnic nationals. Our country ought to have a ministry that work for all ethnic nationals.

Law on Protection of Ethnic Rights is also needed. With the enactment of this law, ethnic nationals in ethnic regions can freely obtain the full rights.

Literature is the life of all nationals. Literature is required by all nationals. Without literature, we could not retain sustained existence. There are big and small ethnic nationals. Only through literature can we maintain all. Teaching of literature is the main thing here. If the ministry maintain and develop ethnic literature, we all will welcome the ministry.

Sai Tun Min Latt, Shan national

As an ethnic national, I welcome the establishment of the Ministry of Ethnic Affairs. With the establishment of this ministry, I think ethnic nationals will have their rights. The Law was enacted in 2015. Rules are being drawn up. Once the rules are also enacted, more can be done freely about ethnic literature and culture.

Shan State is huge. Many ethnic nationals are there. I want to say that there are some weaknesses in employing teachers. Some don’t know the subject in depth. Only teachers that know in depth can teach the children well. Literature is the livelihood of a people. If literature disappears, so will the people. That is why literature is important.

It is good that the ministry came into being. Ethnic culture will develop. We will get our full rights while we fulfi our duties and responsibilities. It is important that we do this and achieve peace and development together. (Translated by ZM)
Every citizen has duty to contribute to achieving peace, ending armed conflicts

We all understand fully well that peace is critical to the country’s future, and that peace and development are inseparable. Peace is not just for an individual, for any organization or for an ethnic group, but for the whole Union. Peace is the secret ingredient in the development of all ethnic races which have been living in the country through thick and thin.

But we all need to think deeply on why our country is unable to achieve peace and what we should do to achieve peace. Different ways are necessary to achieve peace, and different people are participating in peace processes.

The path to peace is a long-distance journey based on resolute spirit, faith, desire, with relentless efforts, with a strong spirit and with the wisdom to face the challenges of the rest of the world.

Therefore, it is a meaningful wish for everyone to wonder what roles they can contribute to achieve this. To achieve this peace, we must work hard with strong desire, with relentless efforts, with the wisdom to face the challenges of the rest of the world.

Every citizen has duty to contribute to achieving peace, ending armed conflicts.
17-year-old Myanmar stunt performer wins first prize in Bangkok motorcycle competition

A YOUNG Myanmar motorcycle stunt performer won first prize in the junior competition in the 39th Bangkok International Motor Show 2018 that was held on 6 April in Thailand.

Maung Thet Naung Zaw, who is 17 years old and from Nandawyar ward in Amarapura Township in Mandalay Region, won first prize in the competition which included about 20 other young contenders from Thailand, Indonesia and Myanmar.

“I have been interested in performing motorcycle stunts since I was 14. I used to practice stunts in the Manaw Yamana grounds in Mandalay at that time. These days I am practicing on roads that are not busy or crowded.

One difficulty for me is that there is no exclusive place for me to practice my motorcycle stunts in my country. Furthermore my country does not have any organizations or clubs that support motorcycle stunt riding on a competitive level and there aren’t any kinds of competitions as well,” Maung Thet Naung Zaw said.

In the Bangkok International Motor Show 2018, he performed stunts for three minutes with a Honda MSX 125.

Ko Naung Naung, trainer of Maung Thet Naung Zaw, said “I am glad when I saw a new generation follow the path we paved. What I want to say to younger people is that we welcome youngsters who want to become motorcycle stunt performers if they have the focus and ambition to reach the international level of competition.” —Myanmar Digital News

Water World Amusement Park opens to public in Meiktila

WATER World Amusement Park which includes a water slide and swimming pool was opened to the public beside Yangon-Mandalay Road in Meiktila Township, Mandalay Region yesterday morning.

“Water World Amusement Park was opened to offer better entertainment services for local people who no longer need to go to Yangon, Mandalay and Nay Pyi Taw for relaxation. The park will be open to the public from 9 am to 7 pm daily including the Thingyan festival (water festival). The entrance fee for the park is set at Ks. 2,500 for adults and Ks. 2,000 for kids,” said Ko Zin Min Thaw, a manager of the park.

Water World Amusement Park is located on over 2 acres of land near Kyunphopin Village, Kantha Village-tract in Meiktila Township. Visitors will be offered a wide range of entertainment, from games to aquatic activities.

—IWTV’s ferry services to reduce operations during Thingyan festival

FERRY services run by the Inland Water Transport (IWT) will reduce operations on certain routes during the Thingyan festival, according to a report in Myawady Daily.

Yangon-Dala, Yangon-Kanaungto and War Dan-Dala ferry lines will operate fewer services during the water festival from 13 to 17 April, according to IWT.

Ferry ships running from Yangon-Dala Cherry water ferry are set to operate only 26 times a day, as against their regular service of 47 times per day, during the water festival. Moreover, the Yangon-Kanaungto ferry, which was operating eight routes per day, will now operate only four routes from 13 to 17 April. War Dan-Dala ferry lines will also reduce operations to four routes from 10 per day during the water festival, according to IWT.

Likewise, some ship lines will not operate during the water festival. According to the ferry schedules, the Yangon-Labutta line will depart from Yangon to Labutta on 13 April, and it will resume its service after the water festival.

The Yangon-Kyungmange ferry service will also suspend operations during the water festival.

The Yangon-Bokalay water ferry service will not run from 14 to 17 April, while another water ferry on the Yangon-Labutta route will stop operations from 10 to 17 April.—GNLM

Chaungtha to tighten security during Thingyan festival celebrations

Some 100 security personnel will be deployed on Chaungtha beach during the Thingyan festival, so that visitors can enjoy the festival safely, according to a report in Myawady Daily.

“Security will be the top priority during the festival. The Ayeawady Region police will deploy 40 security personnel in the Chaungtha Hotel Zone. The security forces will adopt security measures, in cooperation with 60 people from the fire brigade and the ward administration office,” said U Naing Win, secretary of Chaungtha Hotel Zone.

Pandals will be set up in front of hotels to serve snacks to people. The walking water festival will also be held along the beach.

The police are tightening security due to the huge arrival of visitors.

Hotel room charges are expected to increase by some 30 per cent.

Chaungtha beach usually receives some 40,000 visitors every month during the peak season. The number of visitors to the beach reaches some 10,000 visitors during the rainy season. During the water festival, the number of visitors to the beach is expected to increase by 35 per cent.—GNLM

Young motorcycle stunt performer competing at the junior event in the 39th Bangkok International Motor Show 2018. PHOTO: MYANMAR DIGITAL NEWS

PHOTO: MYANMAR DIGITAL NEWS

PHOTO: MYANMAR DIGITAL NEWS

PHOTO: MYANMAR DIGITAL NEWS

PHOTO: MYANMAR DIGITAL NEWS

PHOTO: MYANMAR DIGITAL NEWS
Foreign heads of state send congratulatory messages to President

Mr. Aleksandar Vucic, President of the Republic of Serbia, said in his message that he extended his cordial congratulations and best wishes for the successful discharge of President U Win Myint responsible duties, personal well-being and prosperity of the friendly people of Myanmar.

“You may rest assured that I will be ready to invest, together with you, additional personal efforts aimed at further enhancement of the traditionally friendly relations and overall cooperation between the Republic of Serbia and the Republic of the Union of Myanmar,” said Mr. Aleksandar Vucic.

“I would like to take this opportunity to express my deep gratitude for the principled position of the Republic of the Union Myanmar regarding the establishment of a constructive political dialogue, long-term trade and economic ties and cultural and humanitarian exchanges will serve to strengthen bilateral cooperation in the interests of our countries and peoples,” said Mr. Shavkat Mirziyeyev.

“My country is looking forward to working with your government and further deepening the ties of friendship between our two countries, bilaterally and multilaterally. In this framework, your participation to the ASEM Summit which will take place in Brussels in October 2018 would certainly contribute to the success of this important event,” he added. “Finally, I would like to sincerely thank your country for supporting Belgium candidature to the United Nations Security Council,” said King Philippe.

Mr. Khaltmaagiin Battulga, President of Mongolia, says in his message that “it gives me great pleasure to note the successful development of friendly relations and cooperation between Mongolia and Myanmar on the basis of common principles of international relations. Taking this opportunity, I wish to pledge to Your Excellency my full collaboration in further expanding and strengthening our bilateral relations.”

Mro ethnic villagers receive new houses

FROM PAGE-1

Also, the new villages will be provided with water supplies, transportation, clinics and schools, according to authorities.

Ethnic Mro nationals lived peacefully with agriculture and new Khantiing (Mro) village will soon be developed with the full requisite of a village. The Rakhine State government has been building new homes in the Maungtaw Township for the security and social development of ethnic groups, such as Mro, Khantiing, Thet and Daingnet, among others. These groups were earlier living in the mountainous areas.

The government expects that the construction of such villages will improve the livelihood and social conditions of the people.—Tin Soe

A Mro family waves from their new house in Kontaing Village. PHOTO: TIN SOE

Transforming Distributor for Registered Products

Distribution of following pesticides registered by Aslatic Agricultural Industries Pte Ltd (Singapore) is transferring from Aslatic Agricultural Industries Pte Ltd (Myanmar Branch) to Agri’Time Co Ltd. Any objection regarding for this transfer can notify at Co Secretary, Myanmar Pesticide Registration Board, West Yangon, Insein Township within (14) days:

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Aslatic Agricultural Industries Pte Ltd (Myanmar Branch) – Rangon Business Center, Room 209, No. 57, West Shwe Glon Daing Road, Teld.: 01-8605002, 09 5148534

Mro ethnic villagers walk past their new houses in Maungtaw. PHOTO: TIN SOE
Defence Services families hold ordination, novitiation ceremony

THE families of the Defence Services Office (Army, Navy and Air) held their 6th ordination and novitiation ceremony at the Anawrahta Hall of the Commander-in-Chief Office (Army) in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

Present at the ceremony were Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla, Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services, Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice Senior General Soe Win and wife Daw Than Ngwe, Union Minister Lt-Gen Sein Win, Lt-Gen Ye Aung, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Admiral Tin Aung San, Commander-in-Chief (Air) General Maung Maung Kyaw, along with their wives, Tatmadaw officers, officials and their families.

The Senior General and party paid homage to State Ovadacariya Abhiddhaja presiding Sayadaw of Mandalay Maha Wizutayone Monastery Maha Rattha Guru Abhiddhaja Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotikadha Bhaddanta Wisaraina Bhivamsa and Township Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Chairman Kan Oo Monastery Sayadaw Maha Gantha Vaica Pandita Sasanadhaja Dhammakarika Bhaddanta Vilasa. After the ordination ceremony, the Senior General and party offered “soon” (lunch) to the Sayadaws. Also, other communal ordinances were organized at the Mingala Zoney Pai University Monastery and Yadalasan Purayatti Monastery in Pyinuma Town.

Quake awareness raised in Mandalay schools

ABOUT 100 schools in the Mandalay region that have the highest likelihood of being hit by an earthquake were selected to conduct an earthquake awareness training programme in collaboration with the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), said U Aye Min Thu, Director of Mandalay Region Department of Disaster Management.

The project named “Building Resilience in Earthquake-prone areas in Myanmar Through Better Preparedness and Response” consists of earthquake awareness training and related activities. A workshop was held at Hotel Sakura Princess in Chanayethasan Township in Mandalay on 10 April, at which 100 schools in the Mandalay Region were chosen for the training.

“According to seismologists, the Mandalay Region is one of the earthquake-prone regions. If an earthquake were to occur, it could affect public areas and schools. If students do not respond in a positive way and do not have awareness about earthquakes, there will be huge loss of life because of earthquakes. Therefore, we will provide the earthquake awareness and practice how to respond to earthquakes with the assistance of UNDP”, he added. There are three steps that should be conducted if an earthquake occurs when students are in school. They should respond by leaving the classroom, leaving the building and staying in a safe place. “Earthquake awareness training is not enough for the student. If an earthquake happens in reality, nobody knows how to respond. Therefore, we will practice those steps. We will practice with the children on how to respond in the classroom, and then, how to leave the classroom. And then, how to reach their parents, said U Aye Min Thu.

“We have already chosen six states and regions that are situated close to the Sagaing fault line. The project will cover about 500 schools form those six states and regions for earthquake awareness activities. This programme aims to reduce risks during earthquakes”, said Daw Mai May Htar Phwy Bob, project manager of the Building Earthquake Resilience Project of the UNDP. —Aung Thant Khine

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**CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE**

**M.V HUNSA BHUM VOY. NO. ( )**

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V HUNSA BHUM VOY. NO. ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 14-4-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T/A.I.P.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**shipping agency department**

**MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY**

**AGENT FOR: M/S REGIONAL CONTAINER LINES**

Phone No: 2301185

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**CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE**

**M.V MAERSK WELLINGTON VOY. NO. (1811-1812)**

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V MAERSK WELLINGTON VOY. NO. (1811-1812) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 12-4-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T/BSW where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**shipping agency department**

**MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY**

**AGENT FOR: M/S MCC TRANSPORT (S’PORE) PTE LTD**

Phone No: 2301185

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**CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE**

**M.V MAERSK WELLINGTON VOY. NO. (017N/S)**

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V MAERSK STAR VOY. NO. (017N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 13-4-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T/BSW where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**shipping agency department**

**MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY**

**AGENT FOR: M/S CONTINENTAL LINES**

Phone No: 2301185

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**CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE**

**M.V YANTRA BHUM VOY. NO. (1811-1812)**

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V YANTRA BHUM VOY. NO. (1811-1812) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 15-4-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T/A.WPT where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**shipping agency department**

**MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY**

**AGENT FOR: M/S INTER ASIA LINES**

Phone No: 2301185

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**CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE**

**M.V YANTRA BHUM VOY. NO. (1005W )**

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V YANTRA BHUM VOY. NO. (1005W ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 15-4-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MIP/MIT/W where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**shipping agency department**

**MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY**

**AGENT FOR: M/S REGIONAL CONTAINER LINES**

Phone No: 2301185
Rakhine State Thingyan pandals will liven celebration

RAKHINE State Minister for Social Welfare Dr. Chan Tar, who is also chairman of the Rakhine State Maha Thingyan Festival Executive Committee, told reporters that Rakhine State will hold a traditional Thingyan Festival amidst other festivals that will celebrate the Myanmar New Year of 1380.

He said the festivals will include the pandals, a large platform from which water is thrown at Thingyan participants, a competition in the making of Thanaka (Limonia Acidissima) an ancient process that has been handed down the generations, sacred bathing of the images of Buddha, washing of the hair of old women by young ladies, keeping the Sabbath, doing charitable deeds, paying homage to Sangha, doing charitable deeds, and antiphonal chants that include a loud chorus that encourages and entertains the ladies labouring in the grinding of the sandal-wood.

There will also be Rakhine traditional music troupe comprising Rakhine youngsters play Rakhine Thingyan songs and antiphonal chants that include a loud chorus that encourages and entertains the ladies labouring in the grinding of the sandal-wood.

Before the sacred bathing of the Buddha Images, young men and ladies gather at an appropriate place in their village or ward and grind sandal-wood on specially designed smooth stone slabs.

A Rakhine traditional music troupe comprising Rakhine youngsters play Rakhine Thingyan songs and antiphonal chants that include a loud chorus that encourages and entertains the ladies labouring in the grinding of the sandalwood.

There will also be Rakhine musicians to perform on stage.

Dr. Chan Tar said he wished for all the citizens in Rakhine State to celebrate Thingyan with peace and happiness, spreading kindness to each other in this gentle and important traditional festival.

—Myo Myint

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Local people ready to get wet in Traditional Thingyan Water Festival in Rakhine State. PHOTO: HAN LIN NAING

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PHOTO: HAN LIN NAING

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PHOTO: HAN LIN NAING

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PHOTO: HAN LIN NAING
Jingle bells: Japan’s unusual station music

TOKYO — Minoru Mukaiya is one of the world’s most played musicians, with millions of people across Japan listening to his songs every day — but most of them don’t even notice.

Mukaiya is a composer of “Hassha Merodii” or “train departure melodies”, short jingles that whisk commuters on their way at some of the world’s busiest stations.

Almost no one would know his most famous track by name, a catchy electronic ditty broadcast for departures from platforms three and four at Tokyo’s Shibuya station — the world’s third busiest — but millions have it on their brains for hours after their commute.

Asked how many train jingles he has created, the 61-year-old musician, with millions of Twitter followers, performs the ditties at concerts to thousands of screaming fans and is now banned from playing at Ginza station — the epicentre of Tokyo swank — after a live show there sparked pandemonium.

Fans tell him the music is “good for their health, for their work, for walking. It warms them up” after a hard commute to the office, Mukaiya told AFP in an interview in his music room.

“I want them to be happy.”

‘Mountain train’

“Hassha Merodii” started when train operators were looking for ways to make their stations stand out and came up with the idea of a catchy jingle. The songs are capped at seven seconds — the “dwell time” train operators have to cram people into packed commuter trains and still, famously, run on time.

A spokesman for the JR East train company told AFP they were introduced “to prevent passengers from dashing onto the train”.

But despite the short timeframe, Mukaiya says that each ditty packs in a story.

In Japan’s ancient capital Kyoto, “we have a deep respect for culture, so the song sounds more respectful of Japanese culture,” he explained, sandwiched between musical instruments and computer screens.

The rapturous crescendo and rising pitch in Shibuya station’s departure song, on the other hand, is a nod to the train’s uphill journey to the next platform.

“The Toyoko line used to be up the stairs on a very high level. But now the Toyoko line has moved to the subway, and the journey from Shibuya to the next station is a steep slope,” he says.

“So I thought the departure song... needs to make it feel like the mountain train.”

Other jingles nod to local history. The station at Takadanobaba, the home to popular anime series Astro Boy, pays homage to the cartoon with a jingle version of the show’s theme tune.

And Osaka station features a soundbite of “I guess I really do love you”, one of the region’s most famous songs.

One of the distinguishing features of Mukaiya’s work is that the individual tunes at each station along a line can be combined to form a coherent song.—AFP

I do films for entertainment, not for any social purpose, says R Balki

CAMBRIDGE (Massachusetts) — Social issues may be at the centre of R Balki’s films but the director says his main aim is to always create a story that starts a conversation and is entertaining to the viewers.

The director’s latest “Pad Man”, featuring Akshay Kumar, addressed the taboo surrounding menstrual hygiene in India and was based on the life of Arunachalam Muruganantham.

Addressing the students of Massachusetts Institute of Technology during their annual India conference, Balki said, “I never do a film for any social purposes. I do it for pure entertainment. My definition of entertainment is what entertains me.”

“When I was doing ‘Cheeni Kum’, a lot of people told me that India is a young country you are doing a movie with a 64-year-old man and a 32-year-old woman. I said no. I am not doing a film with 64-year-old man and 32-year-old man. I am doing a film with Amitabh Bachchan. They did not get it.” Balki said after the movie, he was approached by many elderly people who appreciated its concept.

“A lot of people are coming and telling me, I really love your film. It has given me hope in life,” he said.

“When you do a concept, which is away from what the people expect entertainment to be, you always ride a different path. But I’ve just done films because I believe in today’s world. The biggest need, the biggest thing to tackle is boredom,” he added. Balki said he has always believes in making life interesting and “keep adding some hope, keep wishing life was like this”.

“The reason I did ‘Paa’ was I got a meeting one day and I saw Amitabh Bachchan for once playing the fool and saying some ridiculous things and Abhishek having a serious look and it brought all the wisdom. So I said, I want to do a film with these guys where their roles are reversed. I wanted him (Amitabh) to play the son and him (Abhishek) the father,” Balki said.

The director said each of his films were an attempt to “see life in the way people would wish it were”.

“I didn’t do this film (Padman) because of a cause, because I wanted to create a conversation. The reason, why I did this film I agreed with Akshay to do this film, only after I met Murugan,” he said.—PTI

Emily Ratajkowski feels camera shy in front of family

LONDON — Actress Emily Ratajkowski has revealed that she is “camera shy” when she is with her family as the moments are “much more intimate” than acting in a film. The 26-year-old model admitted that she gets “super embarrassed and nervous” in front of the camera when it’s modelling, it’s a fantasy world. Even when I’m taking pictures for my Instagram, that’s a specific second of a world; that’s not reality,” she said.

Sometimes, when my friends take a picture of me on vacation, or I’m with my husband, I feel camera shy. When my husband pulls out the camera, I get super embarrassed and nervous, because it’s so much more intimate and honest and really us,” she added.—PTI
Anyone want to buy a dinosaur? Two on sale in Paris

PARIS — The skeletons of an allosaurus and a diplodocus are up for auction in Paris this week, marketed as hip interior design objects — for those with big enough living rooms.

“The fossil market is no longer just for scientists,” said Jacopo Briano of Binoche et Giquello, the auction house that is putting the two dinosaurs under the hammer on Wednesday.

“Dinosaurs have become cool, trendy — real objects of decoration, like paintings,” the Italian expert told AFP, mentioning Hollywood actors Leonardo DiCaprio and Nicolas Cage as fans of such outsize prehistoric ornaments.

Cage, however, did hand back the rare skull of a tyrannosaurus bataar, a close cousin of T rex, that he bought in 2007 after it was found to have been stolen and illegally taken out of Mongolia.

Dinosaur bones are increasingly gracing collectors’ cabinets, with another huge skeleton, that of a theropod, expected to fetch up to 1.5 million euros ($1.84 million) when it goes up for auction in June.

Chinese buyers

“For the last two or three years the Chinese have become interested in palaeontology and have been looking for big specimens of dinosaurs found on their soil, for their museums or even for individuals,” Briano said.

The new buyers are now bidding against multinational corporations as well as ultra-rich Europeans and Americans, the “traditional” buyers of dinosaur skeletons, Briano added.

In 1997, McDonald’s and Walt Disney were among donors stumping up $8.36 million to buy Sue — the most complete and best preserved Tyrannosaurus rex ever found — for the Field Museum of Natural History in Chicago. “Millions of people come to see it, it’s incredible publicity for companies,” said Eric Mickeler, a natural history expert for the Aguttes auction house.

Palaeontologists acknowledge that many fossils that go on the block are of limited scientific interest, but important specimens do go up for auction and can, as in Sue’s case, be bought through acts of patronage.

The market remains small and “isn’t for everybody”, Mickeler said. Only around five dinosaurs are put up for auction around the world every year.

‘People like the teeth’

The allosaurus which goes on sale Wednesday, among 87 lots of natural artefacts, is considered “small” at 3.8 metres (12.5 feet) long. It is expected to fetch up to 650,000 euros, while the diplodocus — despite being bigger at 12 metres long from nose to tail — has a guide price of 450,000 to 500,000 euros.

Carnivores like the allosaurus often fetch more than herbivores. “People like the teeth”, Mickeler said. The price also goes up if the skeleton shows traces of a fight or an incurable illness, as well as if it is considered rare, has a high percentage of verified bones, or a particularly impressive skull. “We recently sold a very beautiful piece to a Venetian family, they have a magnificent big room in which the dinosaur is perfectly at ease,” Briano said.

But Ronan Allain, a palaeontologist at the Natural History Museum of Paris, denounced “completely nonsensical” prices. “It’s the luxury world, it’s not for people like us,” he said.

“We could decide to buy it pre-emptively but for the theropod, for example, that would mean shellling out more than a million,” he said.—AFP
Roma dreaming of Kiev after magical recovery against Barcelona

ROME — Roma have their sights on Kiev and the Champions League final after completing a miracle comeback against Barcelona on Tuesday to overhaul a three-goal first-leg deficit and take their place in the competition’s last four.

The Italian capital came alive after a magical night at the Stadio Olimpico in which Roma — fourth in Serie A and fresh from being booted off in a 2-0 defeat against Fiorentina at the weekend — swept Lionel Messi and co aside in front of a crowd that roared itself hoarse.

Trailing 4-1 after last week’s quarter-final, first leg at the Camp Nou, Edin Dzeko, Daniele De Rossi and Kostas Manolas all scored to take them through to the semi-finals on away goals against all the odds.

“Perhaps the greatest night in Roma’s history,” was how daily Il Fatto Quotidiano described the result on Twitter.

Car horns blared and fans poured into the streets across the Eternal City as supporters hailed an incredible result for a success-starved club.

The last time Roma got so far in Europe’s top competition was back in 1984, when the Gi- allorossi contrived to lose the final on penalties to Liverpool at their own ground.

In the intervening three decades they have won just one league title and four Italian Cups, but after seeing off what winning goalscorer Manolas called “the best team on the planet”, coach Eusebio Di Francesco wants his team to aim for May’s final in the Ukrainian capital.

“Why shouldn’t we believe? If you come all this way and get to the semi-finals, why shouldn’t you believe in getting to the final in Kiev,” he asked reporters after the historic win.

Pride restored

Roma have brought some pride back not just to Rome but to Italian football after the country’s humiliating failure to qualify for the World Cup earlier in the season.

Beating one of the giants from Spain, who hammered Italy 3-0 in qualifying for this year’s tournament in Russia, will be particularly sweet, especially after champions-elect Juventus were bashed 3-0 on their own patch by Real Madrid last week.

“Italy needed a European team, and that’s what we were tonight. Today is a great moment, but it’s not enough,” added Di Francesco.

“This team needs to aim for Kiev. And that’s it.”

Despite their patchy domestic form, which sees them battling with Inter Milan and local rivals Lazio for a space in next season’s Champions League, Roma are through to Friday’s draw — where Liverpool are potential opponents — on merit.

They haven’t conceded a goal at home in the whole competition and on Tuesday restrict- ed Barcelona to just three shots on target despite the potent at- tacking firepower boasted by Ernesto Valverde’s side.

Barca could easily have already been three down by the time De Rossi slotted home the 58th-minute penalty that made it 2-0 on the night and had the Stadio Olimpico dreaming of victory.

Before that, Marc-Andre ter Stegen pulled off a brilliant 37th-minute save from a Dzeko header and off-form club-record signing Patrik Schick wasted two very presentable headed chances.

Instead it was up to Manolas to make Roma fans’ dreams a reality with an 83rd-minute goal, putting the semi-finals within grasp.

The Italian capital will be particularly excited for the European fixture outside of the Eternal City as supporters poured into the streets across Rome to celebrate.

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Instead it was up to Manolas to make Roma fans’ dreams a reality with an 83rd-minute goal, putting the semi-finals within grasp. —AFP

Guardiola blasts referee as Salah sends Liverpool into semi-finals

MANCHESTER (United King- dom) — Manchester City manag- er Pep Guardiola blasted Spanish referee Antonio Mateu Lahoz and lamented decisions that cost his side dear after a 2-1 home defeat by Liverpool on Tuesday sealed a 5-1 aggregate Champions League quarter-final win for the five-time European champions.

Guardiola was forced to watch the second half from the stands after being sent off for his protestations at the break as free-spending City’s dreams of conquering the Champions League for the first time were dashed for another season.

City led 1-0 on the night at that stage after Gabriel Jesus’s second-minute opener, but the hosts felt aggrieved after Leroy Sane had a second goal wrongly disallowed for offside just before half-time.

“It’s different to go in 1-0 at half-time to 2-0,” said Guardiola, who also believed Liverpool’s opener in a 3-0 first-leg win at Anfield last week should have been ruled out for offside.

“When the teams are so equal the impact of these deci- sions is so big.”

Mohamed Salah booked Liv- erpool’s place in the last four for the first time in a decade when he coolly chipped home his 39th goal of the season 11 minutes into the second half before Roberto Firmi- no inflicted a third consecutive defeat on City for the first time in Guardiola’s near two-year reign.

Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp hailed the maturity of his side to see out a first-half on- slaught. “The boys found a solu- tion. We had these two or three moments already at end of the first half so it was easy for me and the boys to see the develop- ment of the game and that we are already through the whirlwind,” said Klopp. —AFP