State Counsellor receives Minister of International Department of PRC Communist Party

STATE Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi received Mr. Song Tao, Minister of the International Department of the Communist Party of the People’s Republic of China, at her residence in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon. Present with the State Counsellor at the meeting were Union Minister for State Counsellor’s Office U Kyaw Tint Swe, Union Minister for Electricity and Energy U Win Khaing, Union Minister for International Cooperation U Kyaw Tin and other officials. The Minister of the International Department of the Communist Party of the People’s Republic of China was accompanied by Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Hong Liang. After the meeting, the State Counsellor hosted a dinner for the visiting Minister at her residence.—Myanmar News Agency

Residents urged to take precautions against smoke from garbage fire

THE Ministry of Health and Sports has pointed out the health hazards caused by smoke and carbon monoxide after several people suffered from coughing and choking after inhaling noxious smoke produced by a fire at a dumpsite in Hlainethaya Township. SEE PAGE-12

President U Win Myint to visit Singapore

AT the invitation of His Excellency Mr. Lee Hsien Loong, Prime Minister of the Republic of Singapore, U Win Myint, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, will leave for Singapore in the near future to attend the 32nd ASEAN Summit.—Ministry of International Cooperation

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Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat meets with Ambassador of the Czech Republic Mr. Jaroslav Dolecek in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat receives Czech Ambassador

PyITHU Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat received Ambassador of the Czech Republic to Myanmar Mr. Jaroslav Dolecek at the Pyithu Hluttaw guest room, Pyithu Hluttaw Building, Nay Pyi Taw, yesterday morning.

During the meeting, they discussed and exchanged views on matters related to bilateral friendship and cooperation, investment and bilateral economic development.

—Myanmar News Agency

Local, foreign media personnel visit reception, transit centre

By Myo Myint

LOCAL and foreign media personnel who wished to check the ground situation in Rakhine State for stability, peace, security and development, as well as observe the reception of displaced persons in the Maungtaw region, visited Nga Khu Ya reception centre and Hla Phoe Khaung transit centre yesterday and interviewed a family of five who had returned from Bangladesh.

On arriving at the Maungtaw District General Administration Department from Sittwe in the morning, the media personnel were briefed by Deputy District Administrator U Ye Htoo on the arrangements made for the media personnel to collect news about the terrorist acts that occurred in 2016 and 2017 and the current UEHRD work processes. The media personnel also raised questions about several matters.

Next, they arrived at Nga Khu Ya reception centre, where officials explained the process of issuing the national verification card (NVC) to returnees and replied to questions raised by the media personnel.

Later, they went to Hla Phoe Khaung transit centre to ensure its construction was completed.

They then returned to the Maungtaw District General Administration Department, where they interviewed a family of five who had returned from the other country separately.

Deputy District Administrator U Ye Htoo interviewed by journalists in Maungtaw. PHOTO: HAN LIN NAING

Cash donation for UEHRD

U TIN TUN OO, Vice-Chairman, Trusty E-Commerce (Trusty Family Company Limited), donated Ks100 million to the Union Enterprise for Humanitarian Assistance, Resettlement and Development in Rakhine (UEHRD) to carry out its development works.

The donation was made at the office of the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement yesterday morning and was accepted by UEHRD Deputy Chairman Union Minister Dr. Win Myat Aye, who in return presented a document of honour to U Tin Tun Oo.—Myanmar News Agency

Anti-Corruption Commission Chairman U Aung Kyi receives Simon PEH Yun LU

MYANMAR Anti-Corruption Commission Chairman U Aung Kyi received Simon PEH Yun LU, Commissioner of Independence Commission Against Corruption (ICAC), and his delegation from Hong Kong at the Anti-Corruption Commission Office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the meeting, U Aung Kyi discussed matters related to the commission’s future actions, including the 2018 Action Plan and the law and policy development. Daw Myat Myat Soe, member of the commission, also presented the commission’s background information and performances through a PowerPoint presentation.

The member of the ICAC then discussed about assisting the commission with anti-corruption courses, education programmes and cooperation between the two organisations in anti-corruption works.

Present at the meeting were secretary of the commission U San Win, and members of the commission U Zaw Win, U Han Nyunt, Daw Myat Myat Soe, U Aung Linw and U Myo Myint.—Myanmar News Agency

Myanmar, Viet Nam artistes to give joint performance

ARTISTES from Myanmar and Viet Nam will hold a joint performance titled “Honouring brands in cultural activities and international integration” at the National Theatre of Yangon on 28 April from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m.

The performance will be held under the Cultural Cooperation Programme (2017-2020) signed between the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and Socialist Republic of Viet Nam.

Admission is free.—Myanmar News Agency

UERHD Deputy Chairman Union Minister Dr. Win Myat Aye accepts cash donation from U Tin Tun Oo, Trusty Family Company Limited Vice Chairman yesterday. PHOTO: MNA
I will carry out the implementation of the priority goals of the Union Government which are as follows:
1. Rule of law and improvement of the socio-economic life of the people,
2. National Reconciliation and internal peace,
3. Amending the Constitution which is the foundation for building a Democratic Federal Republic

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

Let me solemnly thank all our friends at home and abroad, who have helped us and are still helping us; organizations, business entrepreneurs, people from academia and professionals, and especially our people who have supported and assisted us with understanding and empathy. Those who have helped us once, we should never forget. Those who have helped us again and again are our real friends; they bring fulfillment to our lives.

(Excerpt from the speech by State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi on the 2nd Anniversary of NLD Government on 1st April 2018)

Union Minister U Kyaw Tint Swe receives Mr. Song Tao

At the invitation of Union Minister for State Counsellor’s Office U Kyaw Tint Swe, a delegation led by Mr. Song Tao, Minister of the International Department of the Communist Party of the People’s Republic of China, arrived in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

The Chinese Minister met U Kyaw Tint Swe at the Ministry of the State Counsellor’s Office in Nay Pyi Taw. Also present at the meeting were Director-General of International Organizations and Economic Department U Kyaw Moe Tun, Director-General of the Protocol Department U Thant Sin, Director-General of Political Department U Soe Han and Director-General of State Counsellor’s Office U Win Kyaw Aung, as well as Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Hong Liang, Director-General of Bureau One International Department of Communist Party of China McYuan Zhihing and other officials.—Myanmar News Agency

Signing of financing agreement, refinancing agreement for second phase KfW grant fund

A SIGNING ceremony for the financing agreement and refinancing agreement for the second-phase German KfW Development Bank grant fund of 10.85 million euros was held at the Ministry of Planning and Finance, Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

According to the terms of the financing loan, the participating bank will be given a loan at an interest rate of 3.5 per cent per annum, with 12 years grace period and three years repayment period. The bank will be permitted to charge five per cent management and bank charges while providing loans to small and medium enterprises (SMEs) at 8.5 per cent interest per annum.

Co-operative Bank Ltd (CB Bank) and Myanmar Apex Bank will provide loans to the SMEs. The refinancing agreement was signed by Ministry of Planning and Finance Deputy Minister U Maung Maung Win on behalf of the Myanmar government, Managing Director Daw Naw Eh Hpaw on behalf of CB Bank and board of directors member Director Daw Thida Myo Aung on behalf of the Myanmar Apex Bank.

The financing agreement was signed by Treasury Department Director-General Daw Si Si Pyone on behalf of the Ministry of Planning and Finance. German KfW Development Bank Director Eva Schneider on behalf of the German government, Managing Director Daw Naw Eh Hpaw on behalf of CB Bank and board of directors member Director Daw Thida Myo Aung on behalf of Myanmar Apex Bank.

The German government had provided 4.45 million euros as the first-phase grant fund for SME development in Myanmar; and this is the second phase grant fund.

This fund will enable low interest loans for SMEs that will support their development.—Myanmar News Agency

Director-General Daw Si Si Pyone and German KfW Development Bank Director Eva Schneider exchange documents at the signing ceremony in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

Union Minister U Kyaw Tint Swe shakes hands with Mr. Song Tao, Minister of the International Department of the Communist Party of the People’s Republic of China in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA

PHOTO: MNA
Region gov’t plans to distribute water to Dala after monsoon

By May Thet Hnin

The Yangon City Development Committee (YCDC) will start distributing water in Dala Township after this year’s rainy season, according to Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein. The project has reached the water purification stage.

The YCDC will carry out the distribution of water with the use of water browsers, as it has to implement the project in a short period. We will lay water pipes in the rainy season and then distribute the water. The YCDC is implementing the water supply project in cooperation with a private company. The water supply project will use water from Toe River.

The company will carry out the water supply project in cooperation with a private company.

The YCDC will distribute it.

The YCDC will carry out the water supply project in cooperation with a private company.

The company will carry out the water supply project in cooperation with a private company.

Residents collect drinking water from a lake in Dala Township located outside Yangon city. PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE

Entrepreneurs welcome relaxing of closed fishing season restriction

By May Thet Hnin

Entrepreneurs have welcomed the Fisheries Department’s decision to allow 20 per cent of the fishing vessels to operate during the closed fishing season. Initially, the department had imposed a blanket ban on fishing with offshore fishing vessels during the spawning season.

“The ministry has decided to allow 20 per cent of the fishing vessels to operate. I am thankful to the Hluttaw MPs for taking the decision by observing the current economic situation. It is better than banning fishing completely,” said U Maung Maung Soe, chairman of the Myanmar Marine Fisheries Association.

This year, the closed season is from 16 May to 15 August. Last year, the department allowed 30 per cent of the fishing vessels to operate. However, this year, the department had banned fishing completely. The fishery enterprises then requested the government to allow a few fishing vessels like last year. They also submitted a list on how the ban would affect the fisheries sector.

“We submitted the disadvantages to the fisheries sector, on how the ban can affect the fisherman’s livelihoods. The factors that are connected with the fisheries sector will have to shut down. The price of the fish is also likely to increase. It can also trigger illegal fishing,” said U Maung Maung Soe.

Some 70 per cent of the labourers will get back their jobs if the department allows 20 per cent of the fishing vessels to operate. During this period, the price of fisheries produce is likely to rise by 20 per cent, he added.

By allowing 20 per cent of the fishing vessels during the closed fishing season, the government will help overcome the scarcity of fish and avert a price rise. A blanket ban should be imposed only when the fisheries sector is developed in Myanmar, said Daw Toe Nandar Tin, vice chairperson of Myanmar Fisheries Federation.

Although the department has allowed 20 per cent of the fishing vessels during the closed fishing season, the department has still banned some kinds of fishing equipment.

In 2013, the fishing period was closed for 45 days, with 75 per cent of the fishing vessels allowed to operate. The closed season was extended to 60 days, with 65 per cent of the fishing vessels authorised to operate for 90 days in 2014, while 50 per cent of the fishing vessels were authorised in 2015. The authorised fishing vessels were reduced to 40 per cent in 2016 and 30 per cent in 2017 during 90 days of the closed season.
Dry fish businessmen piling up stock for closed fishing season

AMONG its ASEAN trade partners, Myanmar’s trade value was the highest with Thailand at US$443.3 billion, as of a month prior to the end of the 2017-2018 fiscal year (FY), according to statistics released by the commerce ministry online.

Between 1 April and the end of February last FY, Singapore stood second with trade value worth some $3.47 billion. Malaysia was listed third with trade value worth some $3.47 billion, as of a month of the end of February last FY, according to a report in Myawady Daily.

Straw mushrooms fetched $17,000 per viss in the pre-Thingyan period, and the prevailing price is around Ks3,000 per viss. Local consumers have changed their taste and consumption of Enokitake, resulting in the low price of mushrooms, which reap high yield, leading to the decline in price. Locally produced edible mushrooms are healthy and safe, but they cannot compete with exported mushrooms in quality and price, owing to the high transport and input costs. The Agriculture Department is providing training to mushroom growers to help them produce high-quality mushrooms. — GNLM

Thailand tops in bilateral trade with Myanmar

The country mainly exported agricultural products, fishery products and minerals, while food and beverages, electronic tools, motor vehicles and consumer goods were imported into Myanmar.

Apart from its main trade partner China, Myanmar’s external trade is mostly carried out with regional partners. Trade with countries of the European Union still cannot compare with regional trade. — Ko Htet

Straw mushroom price falls due to oversupply

The price of straw mushrooms has dropped by more than 50 per cent owing to a glut in the market, according to a report in Myawady Daily yesterday.

Three years ago, Enokitake, a thin and white mushroom used in Asian cuisine, entered the domestic market, and its consumption has increased every year since. This type of mushroom is known in the cold season, but it is difficult to grow it locally, said agriculturists. Local consumers have changed their taste and consumption of Enokitake, resulting in the price decline, said a grower.

After the paddy harvest season, many growers plant straw mushrooms, which reap high yield, leading to the decline in price. Locally produced edible mushrooms are healthy and safe, but they cannot compete with exported mushrooms in quality and price, owing to the high transport and input costs. The Agriculture Department is providing training to mushroom growers to help them produce high-quality mushrooms. — GNLM

Foreign demand may push up price of low quality rice

The high price of rice is not related to the civil service salary adjustment announced recently. In addition to setting the basic price of paddy, the cultivation of marketable paddy leads to an increase in demand.

The price will go up in the coming monsoon season, said U Than Oo.

Some 3.5 million tonnes of rice were exported in the 2017-2018 fiscal year via sea, as well as through the border gates, according to the Myanmar Rice Federation. — GNLM

Canada to buy Ywangan coffee this year

Canada will buy Ywangan coffee produced in southern Shan State this year, according to a report in Myawady Daily yesterday.

Canadian coffee shops and enterprises will reportedly buy the Ywangan coffee beans at international prices.

The prevailing price of Myanmar’s coffee beans is US$400 per tonne in the export market.

Representatives from three foreign countries, including Canada, have met Ywangan coffee producers. According to the agreement with Canada, Ywangan coffee will be shipped by mid-2018. "We will continue to explore more foreign markets," said Ma Hsu Hsu Aung, manager of Amar Co. Ltd. from Ywangan Town.

Four coffee companies from Canada will buy Ywangan coffee. China and the United States are loyal customers of Ywangan coffee beans. With Myanmar’s coffee quality improving, there are more than 6,600 acres of coffee plantations in Ywangan Township. Some 50 per cent of the coffee production is meant for the export market.

The Ywangan coffee beans, globally recognised as speciality coffee, are in high demand. Myanmar’s Arabica is exported to some 10 countries, including Thailand, Malaysia, China, the United States and Taiwan.

Myanmar’s coffee is mostly produced in Ywangan area, Pyin Oo Lwin Town, and Nayargkho and Mogok townships. — GNLM
Two-year-performance of Yangon Region Government

By Han Ni Win

Yangon Region Government has carried out the works for both local and foreign investors to be able to start their operation at the industrial zones in Yangon with a view to increase the job opportunities. In order to achieve all-round development in all socio-economic sectors in accordance with economic policy set by the State, the Yangon Region Government is undertaking the works to support and encourage the small and medium scale enterprises, the development of health and education sectors, and conservation of natural environment.

Yangon’s Urban Planning

The Yangon Region Government is now striving to put the budget spending system up to the international norms and to bring about the collective effort of government and community for the development of health and education sectors in Yangon.

As for the Yangon Region Government, efforts are being made to promote the socio-economic status of the people in the city. Compared to Yangon City, some townships which are outside of Yangon have lagged behind in living standard.

Arrangements have been made to set up the Yangon City development plan focusing on the following four issues: Urban flooding, Drought, Pollution and Water scarcity.

The development of this plan will make Yangon City more resilient for natural disasters, climate change and potential sea level rising.

Moreover the regional parliament had already approved Ks 32 billion for the construction of bridges in Yangon.

The Yangon Region Government is trying to revise Yangon’s urban planning and make into a more livable city by conserving heritage building and green spaces.

Industrial Sector

As Yangon’s industrial sector has expanded the land available for the agricultural sector has become less and less and added there is also less labour available for agriculture. Thus there is a need for a master plan that can help ensure the best yields with the labour and land available.

With the aim of educating the people who are leading Small and Medium Enterprises (SME) in terms of business and to put at their disposal the required resources to successfully develop and grow their companies. Along with education, access to financial resources and credit is the priority for economic development.

The Yangon Region Government has made an effort to support SMEs and facilitate their relationships with investors for them to take advantage of more business opportunities.

Plans are under way to provide local businessmen with financial resources and to facilitate their access to credit, which is probably the main handicap today that is slowing the growth of SMEs.

This is the first priority for the immediate future and it is important to grant access to credit as well as to create a new division in the administration to work with companies and assist them whenever they require guidance. The second point is education; it is important to lead these companies in terms of business development and show them how to put in practice a viable business plan.

For this reason, we have decided to create an education plan for the SMEs sector.
Addressing squatter issues

The Yangon Region Government is making an efforts to address the resettlement issue for the squatters and is compiling a list of squatters that will aid them in choosing an area of land for the resettlement programme.

The number of squatters trespassing in development committee lands was initially thought to be around 300,000 people however a survey revealed there are over 400,000 squatters.

Electricity

Yangon will get an around-the-clock supply of electricity in the Yangon Region with the help of over 430 megawatts which will be produced by three power plants next year. It is estimated that Yangon is consuming some 1,190 megawatts of electric power a year, which is about half of the total consumption of the whole country: Its electricity demand has increased yearly by 15 per cent.

The commercial city of Yangon has 29 industrial zones and more than 6,200 small-and-medium-sized enterprises, all of which hike up electricity demands compared to other regions and states.

Investment Sector in Yangon

Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein said that 100 per cent Yangon Region Government-owned New Yangon Development Company Limited was under way to implement the projects.

As a first stage it is conducting infrastructure and industry work as a priority. Yangon Region Government had invited local and international businesses to participate in these projects. The Yangon Region Government had invited local and international businesses to participate in the projects in Yangon. The Yangon City needs to be in the form of a green economy which can be prevented from becoming a dumping ground for businesses that damages the environment.

Thus investments are coming in and interested investors from ASEAN region countries, South Korea, Japan and China are currently discussing and negotiating with the regional government for investing in road construction works, power, housing construction and factories. Moreover western entities such as the United States and the EU are interested in technology service industry.

That is why, qualified local and international businesses that can provide quality work will be given priority, while incentives will be provided for businesses that create more job opportunities.

In Yangon Region from 1994-1995 to the end of January 2018, Myanmar Investment Commission has permitted the investment of 582 Myanmar-owned and 846 foreign-owned businesses. As of February 2018, Myanmar-owned businesses invested more than Ks708 billion, while foreign investment totalled US$2.84 billion according to the data.

Thilawa Special Economic Zone (SEZ)

The Thilawa Special Economic Zone (SEZ) being located on the outskirts of Yangon is the first Special Economic Zone (SEZ) built in Myanmar. It is also a monumental project strongly supported by the governments of Myanmar and Japan. As for the government, arrangements are being made to carry out 2400 hectares in the Thilawa SEZ and the opening ceremony of this project has been held on September 23, 2015.

As a successful project, investments were made at the amount of US$1.2 billion in the Zone A (Phase A), and 96 per cent of plots of land had been leased, and the remaining 4 per cent is under negotiation. Many giant companies come here and we have granted 90 kinds of business to 16 countries. Many factories and workshops including 40 kinds of business are being operated currently. Among them, some four factories export goods at the moment.

(Translated by Win Ko Ko Aung)
Safe food will improve health, alleviate poverty of farmers

By Maung Tha
(Archaeology)

M YANMAR went through the Stone Age, the Copper Age, the Bronze Age, the Iron Age and the Byaung and Buey with scholar s and modern technolo gists, who are conducting systematic archaeological investigations. The project is a joint initiative by the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Commerce, to promote the development of tourism in Myanmar.

The project aims to preserve and promote Myanmar’s historical and cultural heritage, and to create job opportunities for local communities through the development of sustainable tourism.

Byaung and Buey is a small town located on the Irrawaddy River, about 120 km north of Mandalay. The site was first discovered in 1999 by a team of archaeologists led by Professor Oo Naing, and is now being excavated by a team from the University of Oxford.

The Byaung and Buey site is significant because it is the oldest known site in Myanmar with evidence of human occupation dating back to the late Neolithic period. The site is characterized by a series of stone buildings, including a large temple, and a number of stone tools and pottery pieces.

In addition to the main site, the team is also excavating several smaller sites in the area, including a settlement from the early medieval period.

The project is expected to be completed by 2024, and will provide a unique opportunity for students and researchers to study the history of Myanmar.

Online skin trade fuels Myanmar elephant slaughter

A n emerging online market for elephant skin in Thailand is threatening Myanmar’s last remnants of the species, conservationists warned Thursday.

With an estimated 3,000 elephants in Myanmar, the country’s conservationists had been monitoring online sales for years. The signs of alarm as the number of slain elephants found in the country’s forests rises each year, with many blamed on the legal trade in the skin’s byproducts.

The biggest market for the products is in China, where the skin is ground up and used to treat skin or scalp conditions, mainly as a treatment for ailments believed to be caused by colds and other infections.

According to conservationists, more than 20 online websites sell elephant skin products, many of them advertised on search engines and social media platforms.

Out of eleven online sellers who said they know the product origin, nine cited Myanmar and two Laos.

One China-based trader who claims to have invented “invasive” skin products said he gets the material from a Myanmar park, referring to the so-called “long term and set up” process.

The report said that two 3,000 wild elephants in Myanmar are thought to be in the same condition as the rest of their species.

But a combination of weak laws and now overseas criminal trade in the skin is making the situation worse.

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But a combination of weak laws and now overseas criminal trade in the skin is making the situation worse.
Performance of Kayah State Government in Second Year in Office

By Shin Min

Two years have passed since Kayah State government has been serving for the interest of brethren living in the state focusing on regional development. The state is home to nine tribes of Kayah stock – Kayah, Kayan, Kayaw, Gaekho, Gaebar, Yinbaw, Vintale, Manu Manaw and Kayan Lahta – and also living together with them are Shan, Inntha and Bamar.

During the second year in office, the government paid attention on development of tourism industry.

“It is known to local people that the number of tourists visiting to the state is more than the previous year’s total number. There is a great potential for increasing the number. As it is said attention is paid on tourism, here arises a question: What is the initiation the state government made? The first step is opening border trade camp and introducing border trade. The second step is signing of MoU on sister-city between Mae Hong Son District and Loikaw, Kayah State.” said Kayah State Chief Minister U L Phaung Sho.

“We want the people know how job opportunities are created and how to earn livelihoods by promoting tourism industry through cooperation.” he said.

As accessibility is a must in promoting tourism industry, the state government has been taken necessary measures to ensure good transportation upgrading road networks in the state.

State Transportation and Electricity Minister U Khin Maung Phyu said, “All the roads constructed by the Road Department under the Ministry of Construction are tarred roads. Roads in towns are now in the process of covering Asphalt Concrete. All the bridges in the states are concrete ones. Regarding electricity, the state enjoys 35% out of the whole country which covers 70% in the state.”

“This is aimed at emerging a good foundation for generations to come. We are now trying our best for them and they have to shoulder the duty by themselves in the future.” he said.

To attract tourists at home and abroad, a water route from Hekhon to Inle via Moeybe was made in addition to sightseeing on board motorboats along Bilu creek and opening of Naungya Lake night bazaar.

These are the performances made during the second year in office of the state government.

State Hluttaw Chairman U Hla Htwe made comments on these undertakings saying, “Thanks to these efforts, dwellers of Kayah state have a chance to take a rest and other visitors can enjoy the beauties of our state.”

One of the locals expressed his feelings saying, “I’m very glad to witness developments in our state. I’ve noticed that there are many more visitors from abroad as well as from home. I’m also pleased to know our state government is taking measures to create job opportunities and resort centers for us.”

According to state government, Loilimlay and Nanthpekhone villages were upgraded into a town levels during the second year of its in office.
The chief minister said that he believed all the villagers in the two villages would be happy for upgrading their villages into towns; that it was not enough to satisfy with the result, that the state government would fulfill all the needs including supplying water and electricity and building roads; that people, for their part, are to maintain these facilities for their sustainability; and that it was pleased to create Balu creek water route for tourism promotion but this was not the end, inns and bungalows are to be built. The chief minister admitted that there were pros and cons in implementing road projects, supplying water and electricity and promoting tourism industry and thus he and his government members are trying to promote the strong points by reducing the weak points.

As accessibility is a must in promoting tourism industry, the state government has been taken necessary measures to ensure good transportation upgrading road networks in the state.

Greening the environs is one of the undertakings carried out by Kayah State government. “To recover the deforestation during the past decade, reforestation measures are being taken putting teak on 50 acres land, and firewood plantations on 35 acres in Loikaw, Dimawsho, Prusho, Bawlake, Hpaasaung and Maeese Townships. There only left two townships-Shardaw and Ywathit. For this achievement, we heard that headquarters in Nay Pyi Taw has a plan to award prizes.” the chief minister said. “One of the weak points is receiving a small budget. The plantations have been destroyed by cows and buffaloes of nearby villages. But according to rules, if 65 out of 100 is survived it is a success.” said State Minister for Natural Resources and Environmental Conversation U Teerei.

Conducting vocational training courses for villagers is one of the performances carried out by the state government. Regardless of graduated person or not, courses on weaving, making jams, soap, shampoo, and sewing machine, basic mechanical courses, welding courses are conducted to reach right down to villages. Animal reproduction is relayed for villagers. Before sending the animals, methods how to apply is provided. Regarding farm products, high yield strains are distributed to farmers. Three billion kyat is earmarked for implementing water supply project on Nantabet and Pun creeks. As the task depends mainly on budget received, it cannot be carried out with might and main. But, within five years, the project can be completed to supply water to remote villages facing water scarcity, said the chief minister.

To conserve traditional heritages of Kayah people, Literature and Culture Office is set up in Loikaw. This programme will expose the rights of ethnic people, and promote their literature and culture. “Now it is witnessed that many encouragements are being made to promote the birthrights of ethnic people. Kayah Hluttaw approved Kayah Sate Museum and Library Law, Certificate Law and Awarding Law. It also approved curriculum drawn by National Literature and Culture Committee. “It is very much important to serve the interest of farmers. In that regard grab land are returned to owners.” said the chief minister. Hlut-taw representative Dr. Khin Sithu said, “I want people to put their trust on us as well as on the Tatmadaw. Not paying lip service, but walking one’s talking would surely win their trust. This will be achieved through the efforts of the people, the Tatmadaw and the government. Kayah State government is trying its best to fulfill the needs of people by carrying out regional development undertakings.” (Translated By Wallace)
Union Minister Thura U Aung Ko meets ministry’s staff in Yangon

Union Minister Thura U Aung Ko meets the staff from Department for the Promotion and Propagation of Sasana and International Theravada Buddhist Missionary University. PHOTO: MINA

UNION Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture Thura U Aung Ko yesterday afternoon urged the departmental staff of the Religious Affairs and Culture Ministry to follow the New Year messages of the heads of state in his meeting with the staff.

The Union Minister met with staff from the Fine Arts Department, Archaeology and National Museum Department, Historical Research and National Library Department, and National Culture and Fine Arts University (Yangon) at the National Theatre of Yangon in Dagon Township.

During the meeting, the union minister urged the staff to follow the New Year messages of the heads of state in which he pointed out matters relating to Myanmar’s current situation and relationship with other countries. He also urged all ethnic people of Myanmar to live in unity, protect the nation, eliminate the drug problem as a national duty, live honestly in accord with rules and disciplines without corruption, to be loyal to the nation and to use the state budget systematically without waste. Present at the meeting were Directors-General, rectors, pro-rectors, deputy directors-general, professors and departmental heads, officers and officials from Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture.

Earlier in the day, the Union Minister met with the staff from Department of Religious Affairs, Department for the Promotion and Propagation of Sasana and International Theravada Buddhist Missionary University at the Wizaya Mingalar Dhamma Hall in Kaba Aye Hill in Yangon. —Myanmar News Agency

FROM PAGE 1

The fire started on 21 April, and the foul-smelling smoke from the burning garbage has affected several townships in western Yangon.

The ministry’s announcement has alerted the people to take precautions against the poisonous carbon monoxide, urging them to seek help from local authorities to escape from dense smoke when necessary.

The statement also mentioned the health problems caused by the smoke and fumes, which should be treated at a hospital immediately.

Residents urged to take precautions against smoke from garbage fire

So far, about 15 people have been sent to hospital and more than 60 received health care from mobile health care vehicles, according to the Myanmar Alumni daily in its 24 April issue, quoting U Zaw Oo, Ward 20 Administrator of Hlinethaya Township. —GNLM

Fourth coord meeting, second donation programme for Bogyoke Aung San documentary movie held

THE fourth coordination meeting to produce the Bogyoke Aung San documentary movie and the second donation programme for the production and screening of the movie were held at Yangon National Theatre on Myoma Kyaung Road yesterday afternoon.

Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture Thura U Aung Ko delivered a speech on the occasion.

The union minister said the documentary about national leader Bogyoke Aung San would depict the history of Myanmar, as well as the history of the Taungadaw. The opportunity to produce this documentary is an honour akin to performing the national duty, he stated.

The union minister spoke about the importance of ensuring the film was historically accurate, Myanmar historians being in attendance and completing the script in June. Later, it will be submitted to the fifth coordination meeting.

The production of the documentary will be completed in 2019, and it will be screened in 2020. For the successful completion of this important work, the various departments will coordinate in the best possible manner, said the union minister.

At the meeting, Work Committee Secretary Permanent Secretary U Tun Ohn, Joint Secretary U Lu Min and Director Min Htin Ko Ko Gyi discussed the status of the concluded works, the arrangements made to produce the movie and the status of the script writing.

Each sub-committee and the attendees then joined in a general discussion, following which the union minister gave a concluding speech.

Next, the second donation programme for the production and screening of the Aung San movie was held, where the Aung San movie organising group screened the trailer of the movie, followed by the union minister delivering an opening speech. The donors then donated some Ks74 million in cash, which was accepted by Union Minister Thura U Aung Ko, U Lu Min and Director Min Htin Ko Ko Gyi. The donors were presented with documents of honour. —Yi Yi Myint

THE Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation is fulfilling the regional development, agriculture and livestock-breeding requirements of farmers across the country.

Union Minister Dr. Aung Thu met farmers from Hpa-an Township in Kayin State on 20 April to explain and discuss the need for farmers to cooperate and work together, the assistance the ministry would provide to help farmers form a cooperative according to the law, the ways in which farmers could own and use farm machinery, and the expansion of the work on distributing modern agricultural techniques and methods.

In the evening, the union minister and his delegation arrived in Hpa-an Township to inspect the Tayote Hla river water pumping project.

The project official explained that with the distribution of water from Tayote Hla, Bar Cup, Zathapyin and Than Hlay river water pumping projects, some 1,106 acres of summer crops were benefitting from the project during the 2017-2018 fiscal year.

Further, some 43 tube wells were dug from October 2016 until March 2018 to support the regional water requirement. The union minister asked the officials and the local populace to maintain the project works that are benefiting the region.

On the morning of 21 April, Union Minister Dr. Aung Thu, Kayin State Minister for Planning, Finance and Development Affairs U Than Naing and State Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation U Saw Myint Oo went to the Hpa-an Town water distribution Ba Me Taung project and Kayin State handloom and vocational training school, where officials and the union minister and the state ministers coordinated over and discussed the various requirements. The Kayin State Handloom and Vocational Training School is conducting short-term courses, such as value adding for basic crops, bamboo handicrafts, handloom, basic welding, motorcycle repair and other maintenance courses. In the 2017-2018 fiscal year, some 269 trainees were being trained. They then arrived at Agriculture Science Institute (Hpa-an) and observed the training courses conducted there.

In his discussion after the observation, the union minister said that Agriculture Science was producing many mid-level agriculture experts.

Agriculture Science must not only train, but also spread information on agricultural techniques and observe continuously the latest international agricultural methods and research, said the union minister.

The union minister then met farmers attending the information session conducted by the Agriculture Department in Hpa-an Township, Wa Su village, and coordinated and helped fulfil the farmers’ requirements.
Terrorism an enemy of basic human rights: Swaraj at SCO Foreign Ministers’ meet

BEIJING — External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj on Tuesday said that terrorism is an enemy of the basic human rights and the fight against it should also identify States that encourage, support and finance the menace and provide sanctuary to terror groups.

Swaraj, during her address at the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Council of Foreign Ministers here, raised the issue of global terrorism and protectionism. “There are a number of challenges that are being faced by the world today, foremost being the threat of global terrorism and the imminent need to build a strong security architecture to combat it,” the minister said.

“Terrorism is an enemy of the basic human rights: of life, peace and prosperity,” Swaraj said. “Protectionism in all its forms should be rejected. Efforts should be made to discipline measures that constitute barriers to trade. “India is committed to working with the SCO to strengthen our economic and investment ties. We believe that economic globalization should be more open, inclusive, equitable and balanced for mutual benefits,” Swaraj added.—PTI

Online skin trade fuels Myanmar elephant slaughter: conservation group

BANGKOK — An emerging online market for elephant skin in China is threatening the survival of the creatures in neighbouring Myanmar as poaching intensifies to meet demand, conservationists warned on Tuesday.

Myanmar has watched with alarm as the number of slain elephants found in the country’s forests rises each year, with many blaming the trade in blood-red beads and perfumes or sold as an ingredient in traditional medicines. “Myanmar is losing too many elephants,” Stewart-Cox. “Myanmar is the region after Thailand. But a combination of poaching intensifies to meet demand, the parallel rise in skin product sales was directly linked to the rise in poaching, the parallel surge leaves few other explanations,” the report said. The researchers also documented the sale of elephant skin powder through China-based pharmaceutical platforms, though it remains unclear whether African or Asian elephants were used in the goods.—AFP

The items are increasingly being targeted and sold on the internet, according to the UK-based charity Elephant Family, which outlined the findings in a new study called “Skinned: The growing appetite for Asian Elephants”. Unlike poaching for ivory, the skin trade does not discriminate between genders and ages in elephants, making them far more vulnerable.

“This means that no elephant is safe,” said the group’s acting conservation director Belinda Stewart-Cox. “Myanmar is losing too many elephants too fast.”

Elephant Family monitored multiple internet forums and interacted with traders — without making purchases — to learn more about the supply chain.

Out of eleven online sellers who said they knew the product origin, nine cited Myanmar and two Laos. One China-based trader who claims to have “invented” elephant skin beads said she gets the material from a Myanmar border town, calling the sourcing “long-term and nonstop,” the report said.

Some 2,000 wild elephants are thought to be left in Myanmar, the second largest population in the region after Thailand. But a combination of weak oversight and lawless border regions outside central government control has made Myanmar a key hub in the global wildlife trafficking trade.

Last year 39 elephant carcasses were found in the wild, a jump from four in 2010, according to government statistics cited by the report. While the NGO said it was hard to prove with certainty whether the rise in skin product sales was directly linked to the rise in poaching, the parallel surge leaves few other explanations.

The researchers also documented the sale of elephant skin powder through China-based traditional medicine and pharmaceutical platforms, though it remains unclear whether African or Asian elephants were used in the goods.—AFP

TRADEMARK CAUTION

TRADEMARK CAUTION

REG. No. 4/3238/2018 (4 April 2018)
In respect of Stationery; writing instruments; ball-point pens; pens; pencils; mechanical pencils; markers; fountain pens all included in International Class 16. Fraudulent or unauthorised use or actual or colourable imitation of the Mark shall be dealt with according to law.
Daw Khin Myo Myo Aye, H.G.P
For PENTEL KABUSHIKI KAISHA,
C/O Kelvin Chia Yangon Ltd.,
Level 8A, Union Financial Centre (UFC),
Corner of Mahabandoola Road and Thein Phyu Road,
Botahtaung Township, Yangon, Myanmar.
Dated 25th April 2018

REG. No. 2195/2018
In respect of Class 43: Hotel services; motel services; temporary accommodation; accommodation exchange services (time shares); hotel management services; services for providing food and drink; restaurant and snack bar services; bar services; cocktail lounge and nightclub services, café services; catering services for food and drink; self service restaurants; reservation services for hotel accommodation and for other accommodation; holiday information and planning relating to accommodation; provision of conference, meeting and exhibition facilities; hotel check-in and check-out services; electronic information services relating to hotels; advisory and consultancy services relating to the aforesaid services.
Daw Mye Thwe Hlaing, L.B., L.L.M., (H.G.P.)
For MHG IP HOLDING (SINGAPORE) PTE. LTD.
Dated 25th April 2018
**Madonna loses bid to stop auction of intimate items**

NEW YORK — Madonna lost on Monday a nearly year-long bid to stop an auction of intimate items, including a breakup letter from rap legend Tupac Shakur.

A judge ruled that the Material Girl had directed her legal action against the wrong target in going after Darlene Lutz, a New York art dealer who helped Madonna build a collection before falling out with her.

Lutz had been the main source for 22 items, including love letters, cassettes and a hairbrush, that were up for sale by auction house Gotta Have Rock and Roll until a judge issued an injunction in July.

New York Judge Gerald Lebovits, in a ruling based on narrow legal grounds rather than on Madonna’s claims of violations of privacy, agreed with Lutz, who said that her disputes with Madonna were settled by a 2004 legal agreement between the former friends.

Lebovits, in a decision dated last week but made public Monday, also questioned why Madonna was pursuing Lutz and not the singer’s assistants, who Madonna said had handed items to the art dealer.

“If plaintiff’s allegations are accepted as true — that Lutz received the letters through inadvertent actions of the plaintiff’s assistants,” Lebovits wrote, then her case against Lutz is “time-barred and improper.”

The auction house said it would press ahead in July with the sale of Madonna merchandise including the offending letter from Tupac.

In a statement, Gotta Have Rock and Roll said it had been confident about the case and had done “substantial due diligence” before first announcing the auction.

Judd Grossman, a lawyer for Lutz, called the court decision “a total win.”

“Ms Lutz is now free to do with her property as she pleases without any continued interference by Madonna,” Grossman said. A lawyer for Madonna did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

**Private letter from Tupac**

The items up for auction — part of a collection of some 100 pieces — included the 1995 letter from Tupac, who would be shot dead a year later. Madonna has only recently spoken publicly about their then-secret relationship.

In the letter breaking up with Madonna, Tupac said his image would suffer by dating a white woman and voiced pain at an interview in which the singer said, “I’m off to rehabilitate all the rappers and basketball players.” Madonna, in winning a temporary block of the auction in July, told the court that her celebrity status “does not obviate my right to maintain my privacy, including with regard to highly personal items.”

Lutz’s lawyers accused Madonna of a “personal vendetta” and mocked her appeals for privacy, noting that the auction included a pair of underwear she had mailed to a lover.—APF

**Shania Twain apologizes for saying she ‘would have voted for Trump’**

LOS ANGELES — Singer Shania Twain has apologized for her comments in a recent interview, in which she said she would have voted for current US President Donald Trump if she had the option.

The 52-year-old singer, who is a Canadian citizen, took to Twitter to clear the air, saying she was caught off guard by the question and said she did “not hold any common moral beliefs with the current President”.

“I would like to apologize to anybody I have offended in a recent interview with the Guardian relating to the American President. The question caught me off guard. As a Canadian, I regret answering this unexpected question without giving my response more context.

“I am passionately against discrimination of any kind and hope it’s clear from the choices I have made, and the people I stand with, that I do not hold any common moral beliefs with the current President," Twain said in a series of tweets.

“The ‘Up!’ singer, who was criticised for favouring Trump, one of the most controversial political leaders today, said her response does not reflect her “values”.

“I was trying to explain, in response to a question about the election, that my limited understanding was that the President talked to a portion of America like an accessible person they could relate to, as he was NOT a politician.

“My answer was awkward, but certainly should not be taken as representative of my values nor does it mean I endorse him.

I make music to bring people together. My path will always be one of inclusivity, as my history shows,” she said.

Twain had caused furore by saying she had been eligible to vote in the US election, she would have supported Trump.

“I would have voted for him because, even though he was offensive, he seemed honest. Do you want straight or polite? Not that you shouldn’t be able to have both. If I were voting, I just don’t want bullish. I would have voted for a feeling that it was transparent. And politics has a reputation of not being that, right?” she had said in the interview.—PTI
Obama to deliver Mandela lecture in S Africa in July

JOHANNESBURG (South Africa) — Former US president Barack Obama will deliver the annual Nelson Mandela memorial lecture at a 4,000-capacity arena in Johannesburg in July, South African organisers announced on Monday.

Obama, who met with Mandela in 2005 and who made an emotional address at his funeral, will speak at the lecture marking 100 years since the anti-apartheid icon was born.

“The AFP will work with partner agencies to review the current operating procedures, to ensure this type of incident does not occur again,” an AFP spokesman said in a statement.

The family had previously visited Bali on holiday and Emma said her son had already tried to book flights there on his own but had been knocked back by airlines because he did not have a letter from her.

“We screamed, we begged for help (from Australian authorities) for weeks on end,” Emma added. “When the first attempt to Indonesia took place, we were told his passport was going to be flagged.”

The boy, who “wanted to go on an adventure”, said he was told by airline staff this time that the boy might try to leave the country on 8 March, before being told he might be in Bali on 17 March.

“The boy was found by Indonesian police the following day. His parents then flew to Bali to take him home.”

The New York Times said that Obama would spend five days in Johannesburg holding meetings, workshops and training for 200 young people in his most significant international project as an ex-president.

In his funeral address, Obama said Mandela “makes me want to be a better man” and hailed him as “the last great liberator of the 20th century”. —AFP

Obama and former prime ministers David Cameron of Britain and Denmark’s Helle Thorning Schmidt pose for a selfie at Mandela’s memorial service. PHOTO: AFP

Britain’s Prince William and Kate return home with newborn son

LONDON — Britain’s Prince William accompanied his wife Kate as she left hospital on Monday evening after giving birth to a baby boy, the couple’s third child who is fifth in line to the British throne.

The boy, weighing eight pounds and seven ounces (3.8 kilograms), was born at 11:01 am (0901 GMT) with William, the Duke of Cambridge, present for the birth, Kensington Palace announced.

“The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge and their son will travel home to Kensington Palace,” it said.

Their Royal Highnesses would like to thank all staff at the hospital for the care and treatment they have received.

“They would also like to thank everyone for their warm wishes,” the palace added in a statement.

The couple stepped out of St Mary’s Hospital in central London around 6:00 pm to cheers from a crowd of supporters and global media outlets gathered outside.

Their two other children — Prince George, aged four, and two-year-old Princess Charlotte — had met the latest addition to the family earlier in the afternoon, before returning home to Kensington Palace ahead of their parents.

Charlotte gave a wave to the assembled well-wishers and media as she entered the hospital after William had collected the siblings from school.

Queen Elizabeth II, William’s father Prince Charles, and his brother Prince Harry were said to be delighted with the news. Prime Minister Theresa May led the messages of support saying: “My warmest congratulations to the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge on the birth of their baby boy. “I wish them great happiness for the future.”

Kate, 36, was admitted early Monday to St Mary’s private Lindo Wing, where she had given birth to George and Charlotte. Royal fanatics, who had been camped outside the hospital wing for several days in anticipation, jumped for joy and popped open champagne.

“We’re going to celebrate with fish and chips!” said John Loughrey, who was wearing a Union Jack hat and clutching a plastic doll with a crown. Maria Scott, 46, a housewife from Newcastle in northeast England, has been in place for 15 days.

“It’s really important to show support because they need to know how much they are loved by the people,” she told AFP. —AFP

Australian boy, 12, runs away to Bali using family credit card

SYDNEY — Australian police were on Tuesday investigating how a 12-year-old boy managed to fly alone to the Indonesian island of Bali and spend four days at a resort using his parents’ credit card.

He just doesn’t like the word ‘no’, and that’s what I got, a kid in Indonesia,” his mother, Emma, told Channel Nine in a programme that aired late Monday.

“It’s too easy, it’s way too easy. There’s a problem in our system,” she said, calling for tighter controls on air travel by young people.

The holiday cost his parents Aus$8,000 (US$6,100), according to Channel Nine.

The Australian Federal Police said they were first notified that the boy might try to leave the country on 8 March, before being told he might be in Bali on 17 March.

“The boy was found by Indonesian police the following day. His parents then flew to Bali to take him home.”

The federal police said an alert to prevent international travel had not been placed on the boy, and it did not have the power to cancel or request the cancellation of a passport if there were no suspicions of crimes committed.

“The AFP will work with partner agencies to review the circumstances of this matter and

In general, Australian airlines do not allow children under five to travel alone.

Children between five and 11 must be booked on an unaccompanied minor ticket while those from 12-15 are required to have a permission slip from their parent or guardian. —AFP

The boy, who ran away from his Sydney home after a row with his mother, had previously visited Bali on holiday with his family. PHOTO: AFP

PHOTO: AFP
Saw Ba Oo to fight Arthur Saladiak for world title in WLC

Myanmar’s welterweight lethwei fighter Saw Ba Oo will fight Arthur Saladiak from Poland for the world championship title in the Knockout War Competition in Nay Pyi Taw on 2 June.

Saw Ba Oo is a Myanmar Lethwei fighter from Taung Ka Lay Club. He is a former Lethwei world champion and is competing in World Lethwei Championship and ONE Championship’s lightweight division. Polish fighter Arthur Saladiak is a British K1 (kick boxer) and Muaythai champion. The winner will become WLC’s welterweight (67-71kg) world lethwei champion.

Holder Siegemund aims to be slow and steady in Stuttgart

STUTTGART (Germany) — After winning the Stuttgart Grand Prix title a year ago, and reaching the final in 2018, Germany’s Laura Siegemund is vowing to take it slowly as she returns following a knee ligament injury.

The 30-year-old, ranked 100th in the world, was out from late May — less than a month after lifting the Stuttgart title by beating Kristina Mladenovic in the final — until her return last month in a low-key Italian event where she reached the quarter-finals.

A wild-card entry here, Siegemund told the WTA she is not prepared to push too hard on her knee and plans a step-by-step approach.

“I’m looking forward to the tournament a lot, I love the crowd and the place — I just want to show some good tennis,” said Siegemund, who will face a tough first-round test against Czech Barbora Strycova on Tuesday at the Porsche Arena.

“I have nothing to lose, I’m coming back after such a long time.”

The native of nearby Filderstadt added: “I want to enjoy myself. I was not thinking about a particular tournament to return for, but of course I wanted to be ready for Stuttgart.”

“There are a lot of great players here and I certainly don’t like to think about winning a tournament before I’ve even started it. I go step by step.

“Stuttgart is a highlight for me, but my goal is to stay healthy and come back completely from the injury.” —AFP

Unstoppable Ronaldo the sole survivor of Real’s ‘BBC’

MADRID — Cristiano Ronaldo, Gareth Bale and Karim Benzema were once the un-touchable trio, but only one of Real Madrid’s feted ‘BBC’ can be sure of their place against Bayern Munich on Wednesday.

Ronaldo has dragged Real into the Champions League semi-finals with, even by his standards, an astonishing goal glut that includes 22 in 12 games, and at least one in each of his last 11 matches in Europe.

“It’s impossible to completely stifle Ronaldo, we can only stop him as a team,” Bayern defender Jerome Boateng said on Monday.

“An attacker can not be more complete than him — left foot, right foot, head, he controls everything and in front of the goal, he’s a machine”.

But while Ronaldo has enjoyed a fresh spurt in his new role of predatory centre-forward, his two partners have found their responsibilities reduced ahead of the first leg at the Allianz Arena.

Bale’s decline began first. After returning from injury earlier this year, he was on the bench for both legs against Paris Saint-Germain and the first leg against Juventus. In the second leg, he did start, only to endure the humiliation of being taken off at half-time.

Benzema’s fall has been more surprising given the striker had been Zinedine Zidane’s preferred partner for Ronaldo, his work rate and supply highly valued despite the Frenchman’s lack of goals. But Benzema’s link-up play has slackened, thrusting that dry patch — one goal in 10 games and only four in 24 — more clearly into view.

A little blip

“He does suffer a little bit, when he misses chances he suffers but the solution is easy,” Zidane said. “He has to keep working. It is just a little blip he is in at the moment.”

Bale and Benzema’s dip has coincided with Ronaldo’s golden run, a parallel that may not be entirely coincidental.

Ronaldo in a Real team centred on playing to his strengths is nothing new, but as the Portuguese has grown narrower in his scope, perhaps his team-mates have had to sharpen their focus in providing service to him.

Zidane has often deployed 4-4-2 in the biggest games this season, with Lucas Vazquez and Marco Asensio preferred on the flanks for their defensive discipline and willingness to send crosses into the box.

—AFP