MSME products exhibition launched in Ayeyawady Region

S
mall and Medium Enterprises Development Committee (SMEDC) Chairman Vice President U Myint Swe attended the opening ceremony of the exhibition and display (2018) of Ayeyawady Region products produced by local micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) held in the town hall, Pathein Town, Ayeyawady Region, yesterday morning.

Present at the ceremony were SMEDC Vice Chairman Union Minister U Khin Maung Cho, Ayeyawady Region Chief Minister U Hla Moe Aung, Region Hluttaw Speaker, representatives of Pyithu Hluttaw, Amyotha Hluttaw and Region Hluttaw, Deputy Minister; region ministers, Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI) President and members, work committee members, departmental officials, technicians, experts, MSME business owners and officials. While addressing the ceremony, SMEDC Chairman Vice President U Myint Swe said this was the third MSME local regional products exhibition and competition being conducted, with the aim of developing MSMEs in Ayeyawady Region, raising the quality of products and long-term competitiveness.

KIA/TNLA attack in Muse kills 19, injures 27

NINETEEN people were killed and 27 injured when a combined KIA/TNLA armed group attacked security stations and houses in Muse Township, northern Shan State, yesterday.

Starting early morning, some 30 armed men from KIA and TNLA armed groups attacked the Muse Township’s police force and Namkham Myoma militia (local) stationed at Pan Khan Bridge, Muse Town, from the south east.

Some 30 armed men also attacked the vicinity of the home of Namkham Myoma militia (local) leader U Aik San from the south east, while some 10 armed men attacked the Muse Township police personnel and Namkham Myoma militia (local) stationed at Man Wein gate.

Naungyan Village near Pan Khan Bridge was hit by small arms fire, as well as heavy shells.

The attackers retreated south after they were repulsed. In the attack, a police, four militia, 14 innocent civilians (12 men and two women) were killed, while a total of 27: three Myanmar Police personnel, six militia personnel, 18 innocent civilians (17 men and a woman) were wounded, according to the Office of the Tatmadaw Commander-in-Chief.

—Myanmar News Agency
Compensation given to families of Maesot car accident victims

MYANMAR workers, who were victims of a car accident that occurred just outside of Maesot, Thailand, on 9 April, were presented with compensation out of sympathy for the workers. All workers are, in their own way, supporting our country’s development, and thus, this is a loss for the country as well. The compensation totalled Ks18,295 million (Thai Baht 19,300), which includes Ks5 million from the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population; Ks2.4 million from the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement; Ks4.905 million and Baht19,500 from Myanmar Overseas Employment Agencies Federation; and Ks5.8 million from Golden Royal Mandalay Co. Ltd. The compensation was accepted by the family members of the six workers who passed away and the 12 that were injured in the accident.

Ma Zar Chi Hlaing from Mandalay Region Pyaywbye Township said, “My sister was killed in the accident. We received Ks1.2 million today. Earlier in Myawady, we received Ks1.3 million. We will make a donation in memory of our sister so that she gains merit from it. The government has been providing assistance since the accident occurred. I learnt that there will be more compensation money.”

Golden Royal Mandalay Services Co. Ltd. Managing Director U Than Htut Oo said, “We did the best we could as persons responsible for sending the workers there. They will receive insurance money later. This is being done under the Thai process and procedure. Each victim will receive more than Baht700,000. Travel arrangements (passport, visa etc.) for a family member or next of kin to receive the insurance money are being made. Once the other side is ready, they can go and accept it. Of the 12 who were hurt in the accident, only one is still in the hospital. The rest were discharged from Tak Province hospital and are getting outpatient treatment in hotels or clinics near the factory where they are working.”

Golden Royal Mandalay Services Co. Ltd. arranged for the workers to work at the Sukhonavason Co. Ltd. work site. A car carrying 51 workers developed a flat tyre just outside of Maesot and fell into a ravine on 9 April, where six female workers were killed and 12 were hurt.

On 10 April, the Myanmar military attacked to Thailand Brig-Gen Khin Zaw, Myawady District chief administrator, labour attaché, officials from Myanmar Overseas Employment Agencies Federation, Myanmar army, Thai agency, a Lt-Gen from the Thai military, Tak Province Administrator and officials inspected the accident site and visited the hospital where the victims were being treated.

For the families of the six workers killed in the accident, Myawady District chief administrator provided Ks100,000 each and Golden Royal Mandalay Services Co. Ltd. provided Ks1.2 million each in Myawady, it is learnt.

Officials had made arrangements for the families of the workers killed in the accident to receive insurance money, while workers hurt in the accident were being provided with follow-up health care treatment until their full recovery. Officials are coordinating with the Thai government in order to prevent such accidents from recurring, it is learnt.—Zaw Gyi
MSME products exhibition launched in Ayeyawady Region

FROM PAGE 1

The first exhibition and competition jointly organized by MSMEs from Mandalay Region and Kachin State was held in Mandalay on 23 February 2018. The second exhibition and competition jointly organized by MSMEs from Magway Region, Chin State and Rakhine State was held in Magway on 24 March 2018.

The third was being held in Ayeyawady Region and after this, exhibitions of MSME products and Regional Award competitions will continue to be held state- and region-wise. In the Regional Award competition, first, second and third prizes will be presented according to business sizes: micro, small and medium. At the final closing ceremony of the competition, winners of the Regional Awards will be presented with a union-level recognized Regional Award.

With regards to the economy, the State economic policy includes supporting and assisting MSMEs that create jobs and support economic development, in addition to the State privatizing enterprises that could be reformed. For the development of MSMEs, an SME Development (SMED) central committee, a work committee, an SME agency; a work review reporting group and a fund management group were formed, and as per the duties and works of the groups, SMED was being conducted all over the country with increasing momentum. For the development of the 99 per cent of SMEs in the country, state- and region-wise SME agencies and SME loan assessment committees were formed with all stakeholders participating for the development of SMEs.

With the State conducting this sort of exhibition and competition, consumers could evaluate MSME products and MSMEs would know of the continuous efforts put in by other MSMEs, copy and imitate, promote creativity and innovation, cooperate with other related MSMEs along the whole supply chain, uncover the culture and traditional foods of ethnic nations that are near extinction, enable cooperation and coordination among regions, resulting in them stepping up to reach international level.

As SMED development agency meetings were being held during the current exhibition and competition period, practical assistance and support for the development of MSMEs in the region could be done through discussions and coordination between stakeholders and MSME businesses.

MSMEs needed to strive to produce value-added products with international standard packing and designs. Furthermore, by conducting research, innovation and increasing of sales through cooperation with relevant departments, quality marketable products should be produced. Relevant departments would also assist and support in creating new markets.

In accordance with policies set up by the Union Government for SMED, all are obliged to strive for MSMEs to develop, thus creating job opportunities, raising the socio-economic life of the people and from expanding the local market, aims towards producing priority products for export, said the Vice President.

Later, SMEDC member Ayeyawady Region Chief Minister U Hla Moe Aung spoke about the exhibition and competition.

After this, SMEDC vice chairman Union Minister U Khin Maung Cho, Ayeyawady Region MSMEs products exhibition and competition is jointly organized by the Ayeyawady Region government and Ministry of Industry and will be held for three days.

At the exhibition and competition, 86 MSME owners are exhibiting and selling local products including traditional foods, drinks, beauty products, industry products, handicrafts, electrical and IT products in 161 booths.

After the event, the Vice President and party went to the Small & Medium Industrial Development Bank (SMIDB), Pathein branch, and attended the opening ceremony of the SME Centre and a ceremony on giving out agriculture loans.

From there, the Vice President and party went to the Forest Department, Myanma Reeforestation and Rehabilitation programme at 17 milepost of Pathein-Ngweesaung road where Myanmar Timber Enterprise Managing Director U Saw John Shwe Ba spoke about the camp.

The Vice President commented that Ayeyawady Region and Rakhine State had many forest areas and was a place where the wild elephant population was the highest. The wild elephants were to be systematically maintained and contact with relevant departments and ministries needed to be made to prevent killing and poaching of wild elephants. The Vice President and party then fed the elephants and planted teak saplings in the camp.

Next, the Vice President and party went to the Aureum Palace Hotel at Ngweesaung Beach and attended the briefing and explanation on the status of managing coastal natural resources and the status of the hotel and travel sector development.

At the event, Ayeyawady Region Chief Minister U Hla Moe Aung, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation Permanent Secretary Dr Khin Zaw and Ministry of Hotels and Tourism Permanent Secretary U Yi Mon gave briefings. — Myanmar News Agency

Vice President U Myint Swe feeds the elephants at Ngweesaung elephant camp on Pathein-Ngweesaung Road, Ayeyawady Region yesterday. PHOTO: MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY

Chief Minister U Hla Moe Aung, and Deputy Minister U Aung Htoo accepted donations for the third exhibition and display of regional products produced by MSMEs and presented documents of honour to the donating companies.

Following the opening ceremony, the Vice President and party visited the exhibition. The third MSMEs products exhibition and competition is jointly organized by the Ayeyawady Region government and Ministry of Industry and will be held for three days.

At the exhibition and competition, 86 MSME owners are exhibiting and selling local products including traditional foods, drinks, beauty products, industry products, handicrafts, electrical and IT products in 161 booths.

After the event, the Vice President and party went to the Small & Medium Industrial Development Bank (SMIDB), Pathein branch, and attended the opening ceremony of the SME Centre and a ceremony on giving out agriculture loans.

From there, the Vice President and party went to the Forest Department, Myanma Reeforestation and Rehabilitation programme at 17 milepost of Pathein-Ngweesaung road where Myanmar Timber Enterprise Managing Director U Saw John Shwe Ba spoke about the camp.

The Vice President commented that Ayeyawady Region and Rakhine State had many forest areas and was a place where the wild elephant population was the highest. The wild elephants were to be systematically maintained and contact with relevant departments and ministries needed to be made to prevent killing and poaching of wild elephants. The Vice President and party then fed the elephants and planted teak saplings in the camp.

Next, the Vice President and party went to the Aureum Palace Hotel at Ngweesaung Beach and attended the briefing and explanation on the status of managing coastal natural resources and the status of the hotel and travel sector development.

At the event, Ayeyawady Region Chief Minister U Hla Moe Aung, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation Permanent Secretary Dr Khin Zaw and Ministry of Hotels and Tourism Permanent Secretary U Yi Mon gave briefings. — Myanmar News Agency

I would like the people to assist and support the peace efforts of our Union Government. I would especially want the youth to look to the future and join in this effort. I have observed that youth have been participating in these efforts.

(Excerpt from the speech by State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi on the 2nd Anniversary of NLD Government on 1st April 2018)
Attempts on to export Myanmar avocado legally to China market

PLANS are underway to export the Myanmar avocado to the China market legally, in cooperation with the Ministry of Commerce and the Myanmar Avocado Producer and Exporter Association, according to a report in Myawady News Daily yesterday.

“We are trying to export the Myanmar avocado to China legally. Also, we are preparing to cultivate and grow the Myanmar avocado systematically. The avocado market is likely to be good if we can legally export the fruit when the avocado fruits pick up,” said U Lin Thant Aung, secretary of the Myanmar Avocado Producer and Exporter Association. Although Myanmar has exported avocados to the China market in the past, the exports were illegal.

Therefore, we are making arrangements to export avocados legally to build a strong market in China. “To export avocados to China legally, China’s agricultural experts will come and check our avocado farms. If they recognise our farming system, they will give us a certificate. Recently, we have been working on our farms. When we are ready, we will invite them to check our farming,” he said.

“For the development of the avocado cultivation sector, we are planning to purchase avocado seeds from America to be cultivated in Myanmar,” he added.

There are some 20,000 areas of avocado cultivation in Myanmar that produce over 10,000 tonnes of avocados annually.—GNLM

Mangosteen production declines this season

OWING to high temperatures, the production of purple mangosteen, a delicious tropical fruit having great nutrient value, has declined drastically during this harvest, resulting in higher prices for the fruit, according to a report in Myawady Daily on Friday. The low yield has impacted the market. The domestic prices of mangosteen are currently rising in the market. Retailers are selling mangosteen at Ks250 per fruit. The price was only Ks150 per fruit last May, growers said.

U Khin Oo, owner of a mangosteen farm in Paung Township, Mon State, said mangosteen production dropped by half compared to the previous year when growers had a good harvest early April. This year, growers are getting only five to 10 fruits per tree, as the majority of still not fully matured fruit was destroyed in the high temperature. Whole-salers in the same township said that locally produced mangosteen fruits are mostly sent to big cities such as Mawlamyine, Yangon and Mandalay. The fruits are also available along the highway between Yangon and Mawlamyine.—GNLM

Police arrest man with unlicensed flintlock rifle in Kachin State

THE police on Saturday arrested a middle-aged man in Man-si, a town in Bhamo District of Kachin State, after he was found in possession of a cache of yaba pills and opium powder, plus a flintlock rifle and related accessories, according to a police report. During the operation, a special task force comprising police, ward administrators and members of the fire service department, force stopped a suspected motorbike being driven by Tun Aye, 41, near the forest in Kachin State at some 7.30 a.m. on 12 May. Authorities found 214 yaba tablets, opium powder weighing 55 grams, a four-feet-long unlicensed flintlock rifle and related accessories.

According to investigators, the suspect currently resides in Mayawady Ward in the same town. The suspect has been charged under the existing laws. Mansi Township police is carrying out further investigations to apprehend others involved in the case.—District IPRD

Eight killed, 20 injured in bus accident early Friday morning

EIGHT people, including a 13-year-old girl, were killed, and 20 others injured in a fatal accident on Yangon-Pyay Road early Friday morning, according to a police report. The accident occurred between milepost nos. 153/5 and 153/6 at 1 a.m. on May 11. An express bus carrying 48 passengers and driven by Ko Phyo, also known as Phyo Lay, 23, was travelling towards Yangon from Taungwngyi, at full speed when it overturned suddenly. The driver managed to escape unhurt. The accident killed eight people, including five men, two women and one girl, whereas 20 others who received injuries are undergoing emergency treatment at Inna Hospital. “Speeding is the main reason the vehicle overturned,” a township police officer said. The police are still investigating the accident and have filed charges against the driver under Section 304 (a), 337 and 338 of the Penal Code for reckless driving.—Phyo Ko Lynn (Nyaungswaing)
Prices of pulses and beans increase because of India’s bean import policy

By May Thet Hnin

PRICES of pulses and beans have significantly increased after the announcement of India’s bean import policy on 4 May and 11 May.

After India announced on 4 May that it would import 150,000 tonnes of mung beans and green gram each, the price of mung beans has increased over Ks80,000 per tonne. Imports will also be restricted to 200,000 tonnes of pigeon beans. And, the price of pigeon beans has also increased over Ks80,000 per tonne within a day, said U Min Ko Oo, secretary of Myanmar Pulses, Beans & Sesame Merchants Association.

In the first week of May, the price of mung beans increased to Ks310,000 per tonne from Ks380,000 per tonne. The price of pigeon beans also increased to Ks480,000 per tonne from Ks350,000 per tonne.

“Af...
Coordination meeting held to publish 100 Myanmar Classics

A COORDINATION meeting to publish a series of 100 Myanmar Classics was held at the Printing and Publishing Department meeting hall, Theinbyu Street, Yangon, yesterday afternoon.

At the meeting, Union Minister for Information Dr. Pe Myint discussed conducting a book introduction after the first three series of the 100 Myanmar Classics are ready, status of producing the first three series and urged everyone to suggest and discuss the production of the follow-up series.

Later, 100 Myanmar Classics publishing committee members U Tin Hlaing (Ledwinta Saw Chit), U Maw Lin (Maw Lin), U Aye Maung (Aye Maung Kyaw), U Khin Maung Soe, (Maung Thanyana), U Myo Nyunt (Sarpay Lawka), U Win Cho (Dwun Sarpay), U Ye Nyunt (Nan Dewi Sarpay), U Than Ohn (Maung Zeya), and officials from the Ministry of Information discussed the novels selected for inclusion in the series, preparations made for the book cover, publishing of the first three series by July 2018 and the timely publishing of the follow-up series.

The 100 Myanmar Classics series will include novels, short stories, poems, essays, plays and many literature sectors; a group of experts was formed to arrange its publication.

—Myanmar News Agency

Ministry of Commerce urges farmers not to grow pigeon bean on commercial scale this season

By May Thet Hnin

THE Ministry of Commerce has urged bean cultivators not to grow pigeon beans on a commercial scale this bean cultivation season, said U Toe Aung Myint, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Commerce.

“This year, India also produced a lot of pigeon beans. It is hard to find a market for Myanmar pigeon beans because other countries are also exporting pigeon beans. So, I want our local bean farmers to cultivate pigeon beans only for regional needs,” he added.

Last year, Myanmar exported 200,000 tonnes of pigeon beans to India, which is only 30 per cent of market demand.

Myanmar exports 90 per cent of its pigeon bean production to India. There are only a few other markets for pigeon beans.

So, local farmers are urged to cultivate small acres of pigeon beans.

Among the mung beans imported by India, 70 per cent of mung beans are from Myanmar. Also, Myanmar exports green gram to Malaysia, Indonesia, China and Europe. Therefore, we don’t need to worry about markets for mung beans and green gram, he added.

“Pigeon beans are not likely to earn a good profit next bean season because our bean export market is being compared with Africa, even though India has been permitted to import 200,000 tonnes of pigeon beans. So, we urged local farmers to cease cultivation of pigeon beans,” said U Min Ko Oo, secretary of Myanmar Pulses, Beans & Sesame Merchants Association.

Pigeon beans are mainly cultivated in the central region of Myanmar, as well as in Shan State.

The pigeon bean market looks uncertain in the next season. So, local farmers should cultivate corn and other edible oil crops, which can earn a good profit this year, said U Toe Aung Myint, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Commerce.

The government will make an announcement for local farmers to cultivate profit-yielding crops in time.

Following the religious ceremony to start work on construction of the Eternal Peace Pagoda, Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture Thura U Aung Ko, Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman Dr. Myo Aung and officials drove the stakes and bored piles to start work on construction of the pagoda.

The Eternal Peace Pagoda will be built on the 1.3 acres of land and it will be 54 ft high when completed.

At the ceremony, the congregation received the Nine Precepts from the State Ovadacariya Sayadaw Abhidaja Maharathaguruk Bhaddanta Kavisara of Maha Witthayama Zegon Monastery and presented the religious objects for the ceremony to the Members of the Sangha.—Myanmar News Agency

Work on construction of Eternal Peace Pagoda starts

A CEREMONY to drive stakes and bored piles was held in the compound of Yananaungyin Shwe Latt Hla Pagoda in Nay Pyi Taw Dakhinathiri Township yesterday.

Following the religious ceremony to start work on construction of the Eternal Peace Pagoda, Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture Thura U Aung Ko, Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman Dr. Myo Aung and officials drove the stakes and bored piles to start work on construction of the pagoda.

The Eternal Peace Pagoda will be built on the 1.3 acres of land and it will be 54 ft high when completed.

At the ceremony, the congregation received the Nine Precepts from the State Ovadacariya Sayadaw Abhidaja Maharathaguruk Bhaddanta Kavisara of Maha Witthayama Zegon Monastery and presented the religious objects for the ceremony to the Members of the Sangha.—Myanmar News Agency

Advancement of Southwest monsoon over Southern Myanmar areas expected

THERE will be an advancement of the Southwest monsoon over Southern Myanmar areas in the next two days as weather is partly cloudy over the Andaman Sea and South Bay and a few clouds are seen elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal, according to the Myanmar Daily Weather Report issued by Department of Meteorology and Hydrology yesterday.

The forecast for Nay Pyi Taw, Mandalay and neighbouring areas for today is rainfall or thundershowers and the degree of certainty is 80 per cent, whereas for Yangon and neighbouring areas, it is isolated rain or thundershowers and the degree of certainty is 100 per cent.

Seas will be slight to moderate in Myanmar’s waters. The wave height will be some three to five feet off and along Myanmar’s coasts. —GNLM
We’ll ensure rule of law. If anything is against this, we’ll remove it: Northern Command Commander

By Ye Kaung Nyunt

Members of the news media who visited Kachin State met with the head of Northern Command Maj-Gen Teza Kyaw on 11 May and enquired about the reason for conducting military operations in Kachin State, the view of the Tatmadaw and the status of assisting villagers temporarily displaced from their homes.

“We conducted military operations in the region. The aim was to control the region. The KIA (Kachin Independence Army) was conducting sneak attacks on our forces doing administrative works in Tanai region resulting in some casualties on our side. That is why we conducted the military operation to clear the area. In addition to this, they entered the Kasoni side and the Nanti, Mogung, Mohnyin areas and collected extortion money. They abducted people. In fact all the fighting was started by the KIA. We responded by clearing the area. When conducting the clearance operation, there was news about civilians being wounded. A villager from Awng Lawt was reported to be killed. In fact, that villager was in KIA Brigade 2 camp. I think the answer is quite clear whether a person killed is a villager or from the armed group if that person is staying together with the armed group in KIA Brigade 2 camp.”

The commander said the Tatmadaw had evidence that the KIA had contact with some religious organisations and, in the future, action will be taken in accordance with the law.

“We saw that some villagers were intimidated in the presence of some religious groups. News media people know that there were no damages in Awng Lawt. Nothing was destroyed. When there is fighting, we don’t shoot into the village. We only shoot, even then with some constraint, toward the enemy position. Roman Catholic monks from Tanai came and cooperated to re-settle the villagers in Tanai. But when it’s another religious group, the villagers do not go. State government sent a group to check if the villagers can stay in Tanai. But on their way, they were shot at. The other side denied that they shot at the group. The aim of the KIA is to create displaced persons and make accusations of human rights violations,” added the commander.

Responding to whether there were air-attacks and how many, the commander said, “The principle of fighting a battle is not to fight lightly, but with overwhelming force. Only then can there be the least damage and losses to our men and material. In any air-attacks, we make sure where our side is, where they are and where the villagers are. We directly attack the enemy position. We avoid the villages. If we are not sure if it is the enemy or villagers, we don’t attack or shoot. We don’t assume the enemy’s position. We attack only when we are sure.”

The commander added, “You, media delegation was in Awng Lawt. In fact, Awng Lawt was not under the control of the state government. The village had a KIA court and education office. Our aim is to have stability and peace in the country and have rule of law. Areas should be under the control of the government. On the way to Awng Lawt, you will have seen Nyaung Yan camp. We attacked that place. Anyone staying near KIA battalion headquarters must be relatives or related, but we don’t attack them. The houses remain undamaged. But they took away the people.

“We said that we will help and allow them to stay. The village is not damaged. But they didn’t come. But those who were not among such people came back. About 200 had come back. We said we are making this place stable and peaceful. We will ensure rule of law in Kachin State. If anything is acting against this, we’ll remove it. KIA needs to return to the NCA path. If not, they’ll be considered as rebels conducting armed rebellion and we will remove them. Whenever they face difficulties, they attack the cities. An example would be the bombing in Lashio. We will prevent such incident from occurring.

If the displaced people are not related or connected to KIA, we will not do anything. If they are reporting to KIA or KIA is hiding as villagers, we will expose and take action. Soldiers, civilians, and religious persons need to abide by the law. If not, action will be taken against them. Tatmadaw also have to abide by the law. Tatmadaw abides by the law enacted by the government as well as the military law. Tatmadaw could not break any.

Trapped persons are people abducted or forced by the KIA or are their people. Ordinary villagers live peacefully in their own places. If they could not, they stay in temporary place. And once they can, they return to their own places,” said Maj-Gen Teza Kyaw.

Women in Kayah State provided with cash

UNION MINISTER for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Win Myat Aye presented cash assistance to women who are leading their households and handicapped people in Dimawhso Township, Kayah State, yesterday.

At the ceremony, a local ethnic woman expressed her thanks for cash assistant of Ks 24.5 million provided for handicapped people and Ks 16.8 million provided for woman head ed households in Dimawhso Township. The Union Minister cordially met with the people attending the ceremony and took commemorative group photo.

The Union Minister and party then attended the cash assistant ceremony held in Prsho Township. The Union Minister inspected the site where the Department of Social Welfare office is to be built and the status of constructing a kindergarten in Dimawhso Township and provided necessary coordination for the earliest opening of the kindergarten.

Following this, the Union Minister met with fourteen civil society organizations in Loikaw Town, kindergarten.

After this, the Union Minister and party discussed about opening ‘mother circles’ for the people in Loikaw, Shadaw, Bawlake, Pasawng townships at Kayah State. Loikaw Town, town hall and attended the cash assistant ceremony of Ks 11.6 million for handicapped persons, Ks 19.3 million for woman headed households and Ks 970,000 to expand ‘mother circles.’ A total of Ks. 131,788,100 cash assistant was provided for Kayah State in fiscal year 2018-2019.

Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye also held a meeting with Kayah State Chief Minister and state ministers in State Government office and discussed about development and rehabilitation works that supports the achieving of peace in Kayah State, policies and work processes of SWRR Ministry while the Deputy Minister, Department of Rehabilitation Director General and Department of Social Welfare Deputy Director General explained about department wise cooperation matters. State Chief Minister and state ministers submitted requirements for state development and the Union Minister and officials coordinated on it.

The Union Minister then inspected the site where a new State Social Welfare Department office will be built. — Myanmar News Agency.

PHOTO: MNA
By Maung Muditar

R

A person residing in conflict areas, especially in the Kachin State, is required to abide by the already existing laws and also to hold a Citizenship Identification Card (CIC) or some sort of Identification Card.

CIC means the Identity Card for National Verification for a person who is to undergo for scrutinization for citizenship. Before the issuance of the CIC, the Temporary Citizenship Identification Card known as White Card was being issued to the same purpose.

In accordance with the stipulations enshrined in the 1945 Union Citizenship Residency Regulations Act (1) and the 1951 Union Myanmar Residency Registration Regulation By Law (2), the Temporary Identification Cards were being issued by the Government of the Union of Myanmar. On 11 February 2015, the Office of the President of Myanmar issued a Notification No. 19/2015 declaring that the validity of Temporary Identification Cards expired on 31 March 2015 and that cards were to be surrendered not later than 31 May 2015.

Nevertheless, NV Cards were issued to those who were residing at the conflict areas were evacuated and sent to four different areas to observe the situation. The Kachin State Government formed four working committees and sent them to the homes of their respective residents to receive information from the people.

The Kachin State Government, the Red Cross and social and religious organizations have helped the residents as much as possible.

To evacuate and assist the residents in the conflict areas, the Kachin State Government formed four working committees and sent them to four different areas to observe the situation. Depending on the security situation, it also permitted rescue groups to help evacuate the people trapped amid the armed conflicts.

But the situation remains dangerous, in large part because there are landmines in the conflict areas. The Kachin State Government has begun to manufacture bombs to take part in the conflict areas.

We cannot say that there are no people who are trapped amid the armed conflicts. Some areas of the Kachin State are empty due to the conflict with the Myanmar State government’s administration.

Some of the people trapped in the conflict areas were evacuated and sent to the homes of their relatives of their own volition. Others are being sheltered temporarily at monasteries and churches due to security concerns.

Violations committed by the victors can harm their short for period. That is the case with the Rakhine State, where lives on both sides, and citizens are innocent victims.

The rule of law includes elimination of illegal drugs. Without this, no one can fully carry out their duties. This is one of the reasons why elimination of the drug trade is necessary.

To evacuate the civilians, the voices of the people are very important. The evacuation committees of the Kachin State Government are working to evacuate the people once they have received information from the people.

The Union Government is committed to cessation of armed conflicts which have lasted for more than 70 years and to laying down a foundation for building a democratic federal republic. People’s organizations which have not been organized to cooperate for the flowering of new thoughts and new plans and join hands to build a democratic federal republic in unity

The NV Card holders have the equal rights similar to others who are holding recognized identification cards in their departure for international waters (including the fishery business).

The NV Card is a proof to its holder having the citizenship of the Union of Myanmar. The Authori-

By Maung Muditar

A person residing in conflict areas, especially in the Kachin State, is required to abide by the already existing laws and also to hold a Citizenship Identification Card (CIC) or some sort of Identification Card.

CIC means the Identity Card for National Verification for a person who is to undergo for scrutinization for citizenship. Before the issuance of the CIC, the Temporary Citizenship Identification Card known as White Card was being issued to the same purpose.

In accordance with the stipulations enshrined in the 1945 Union Citizenship Residency Regulations Act (1) and the 1951 Union Myanmar Residency Registration Regulation By Law (2), the Temporary Identification Cards were being issued by the Government of the Union of Myanmar. On 11 February 2015, the Office of the President of Myanmar issued a Notification No. 19/2015 declaring that the validity of Temporary Identification Cards expired on 31 March 2015 and that cards were to be surrendered not later than 31 May 2015.

Nevertheless, NV Cards were issued to those who were residing at the conflict areas were evacuated and sent to four different areas to observe the situation. The Kachin State Government formed four working committees and sent them to the homes of their respective residents to receive information from the people.

The Kachin State Government, the Red Cross and social and religious organizations have helped the residents as much as possible.

To evacuate and assist the residents in the conflict areas, the Kachin State Government formed four working committees and sent them to four different areas to observe the situation. Depending on the security situation, it also permitted rescue groups to help evacuate the people trapped amid the armed conflicts.

But the situation remains dangerous, in large part because there are landmines in the conflict areas. The Kachin State Government has begun to manufacture bombs to take part in the conflict areas.

We cannot say that there are no people who are trapped amid the armed conflicts. Some areas of the Kachin State are empty due to the conflict with the Myanmar State government’s administration.

Some of the people trapped in the conflict areas were evacuated and sent to the homes of their relatives of their own volition. Others are being sheltered temporarily at monasteries and churches due to security concerns.

Violations committed by the victors can harm their short for period. That is the case with the Rakhine State, where lives on both sides, and citizens are innocent victims.

The rule of law includes elimination of illegal drugs. Without this, no one can fully carry out their duties. This is one of the reasons why elimination of the drug trade is necessary.

To evacuate the civilians, the voices of the people are very important. The evacuation committees of the Kachin State Government are working to evacuate the people once they have received information from the people.

The Union Government is committed to cessation of armed conflicts which have lasted for more than 70 years and to laying down a foundation for building a democratic federal republic. People’s organizations which have not been organized to cooperate for the flowering of new thoughts and new plans and join hands to build a democratic federal republic in unity

The NV Card holders have the equal rights similar to others who are holding recognized identification cards in their departure for international waters (including the fishery business).

The NV Card is a proof to its holder having the citizenship of the Union of Myanmar. The Authori-
US to help N Korea economy if it “quickly” denuclearizes: Pompeo

WASHINGTON — US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo offered on Friday to help improve North Korea’s sanctions-hit economy if the country “quickly” dismantles its nuclear weapons programme.

“If North Korea takes bold action to quickly denuclearize, the United States is prepared to work with North Korea to achieve prosperity on par with our South Korean friends,” Pompeo said as the two countries prepare for what will be the first bilateral summit on 12 June in Singapore. He called for “robust verification” in ridding Pyongyang of nuclear weapons as part of an effort to achieve the permanent and irreversible denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula.

Pompeo made the remarks during a joint news conference with South Korean Foreign Minister Kang Kyung Wha after their talks in Washington.

White House Press Secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders said US President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un are planning for “a full day of meetings on the 12th, with some time reserved to carry over, if necessary,” suggesting talks could extend into the following day.

“Certainly, the best outcome would be an agreement for complete and total denuclearization,” Sanders said at a press briefing. Pompeo called for “a robust verification program” so as to “ensure that North Korea doesn’t possess the capacity to threaten not only the United States, but the world with nuclear weapons.”

Such a program should involve partners around the world, such as South Korea and Japan, according to the chief US diplomat. The Pompeo-Kang talks came ahead of a meeting between Trump and South Korean President Moon Jae In on 22 May at the White House at which the two leaders are expected to ensure close coordination ahead of the Trump-Kim summit.

Referring to his meeting on Wednesday with Kim in Pyongyang, Pompeo said he referred to the possibility that the United States would assure Kim of his regime’s security in exchange for full denuclearization.

Pompeo said he discussed “challenges, the strategic decision that Chairman Kim has before him about it is he wishes to proceed and if he is prepared in exchange for the assurances that we’re ready to provide to him if he is prepared to fully denuclearize.”

Kim is chairman of the North’s ruling Workers’ Party of Korea. Kang said the international community will not ease or lift sanctions on North Korea until the world sees visible and meaningful action by Pyongyang toward denuclearization.

Rather than merely words or promises from North Korea for denuclearization, “we very much hope to see further steps, more concrete steps toward denuclearization being produced at the US-North Korea summit,” Kang said.

“So we’re not talking about sanctions relief at this point,” he said.

Kang dismissed speculation that a drawing down of the 28,500 American troops stationed in North Korea could be part of a deal on ending Pyongyang’s nuclear weapons ambitions.

“We would like to emphasize again that the US military presence in Korea is a matter for the ROK-US alliance first and foremost,” she said, referring to the acronym for South Korea’s formal name, the Republic of Korea.

She said the US military presence in South Korea “has played a crucial role for deterrence and peace and stability of the region.” — Kyodo News

White House slams Iran for ‘reckless actions’ against Israel, Saudi Arabia

WASHINGTON — The White House on Friday slammed Iran for its “reckless actions” that it warned pose a “severe threat” to stability in Middle East.

The statement came after Iranian forces in Syria were accused by Israel of launching some 20 missiles into the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights, prompting Israeli strikes against positions held by Iran’s Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) inside Syria.

“The White House said that Iran “pours resources into exporting destabilizing influence throughout the Middle East, even as the Iranian people are victims of a struggling economy.”

“Already this week, the IRGC has fired rockets at Israeli citizens, and Iran’s proxies in Yemen have launched a ballistic missile at Riyadh.

“These actions are further proof that the Iranian regime’s reckless actions pose a severe threat to regional peace and security.” —AFP

Catalan lawmakers vote on new regional separatist leader

BARCELONA — Catalonia’s parliament will vote Saturday on whether to appoint hardline independence supporter Quim Torra as regional president, after deposed leader Carles Puigdemont stepped aside from the running.

Torra, a 55-year-old father-of-three, is an independence advocate cut from the same cloth as Puigdemont who picked him and has asked him with continuing his fight with Spain’s central government to achieve independence.

On Friday, Torra said his government would march on with its “process of construction of a republic” in a sign that the secession crisis is far from over even if Catalonia does finally get a regional government after months of political limbo. Still, he is not expected to get enough support during Saturday’s parliamentary vote of confidence, which requires an absolute majority that he doesn’t have.

He will get another opportunity in a second round, likely to take place on Monday, where he will only need a simple majority — although even that is not assured. There are currently 70 lawmakers in the regional parliament who are pro-independence, against 65 who are not.

But four of the 70 are from the radical anti-capitalist, separatist CUP party which has said it will vote for Puigdemont — and no one else.

If they decide to abstain, Torra will scrap through in the second round with a simple majority. But if they vote against, he will not succeed.

Catalonia has been in political limbo since Spain’s conservative central government imposed direct rule on the semi-autonomous region after it unilaterally declared independence on 27 October, sacking Puigdemont and his cabinet. Regional elections were held in December, which separatist parties won again.

But since then, every candidate picked by the separatist camp has fallen flat.

Puigdemont is abroad in self-exile and faces jail if he returns, while other candidates such as civic leader Jordi Sanchez are in prison, charged with rebellion for their role in the independence drive.

Tensions in separatist camp

Antonio Barroso, deputy research director at Teneo Intelligence, told AFP that Torra — an editor who also held high positions within pro-independence associations — will likely act as Puigdemont’s “surrogate”.

He will be faced with deep divisions in the separatist camp, composed of the CUP/ERC party and Puigdemont’s Together for Catalonia grouping, he added in a research note.

“The problem is that separatist parties continue to disagree on what to do next,” he wrote.

“ERC wants to execute a ‘moderate shift’ to keep secessionists politicians out of legal troubles, avoid direct rule by Madrid, and try to garner long-term support for independence.”

“In contrast, Puigdemont’s strategy is to continue using every opportunity... to continue challenging the Spanish authorities and keep the secessionist momentum alive.”

Oriol Bartomeu, politics professor at the Autonomous University of Barcelona, told AFP Torra had in his career shown “a pretty clear inclination towards the sector of the independence movement that is not really in favour of political normalisation.”

In March he gave a rousing speech to the regional parliament calling on separatists to keep up their campaign against the central government. “Do not think about the public opportunity... to continue challenging the Spanish authorities and keep the secessionist momentum alive.”

Puigdemont stepped aside after deposed leader Carles Torra as regional president, in independence supporter Quim Torra as regional president, after deposed leader Carles Puigdemont stepped aside from the running.

Torra, a 55-year-old father-of-three, is an independence advocate cut from the same cloth as Puigdemont who picked him and has asked him with continuing his fight with Spain's central government to achieve independence.

On Friday, Torra said his government would march on with its “process of construction of a republic” in a sign that the secession crisis is far from over even if Catalonia does finally get a regional government after months of political limbo. Still, he is not expected to get enough support during Saturday’s parliamentary vote of confidence, which requires an absolute majority that he doesn’t have.

He will get another opportunity in a second round, likely to take place on Monday, where he will only need a simple majority — although even that is not assured. There are currently 70 lawmakers in the regional parliament who are pro-independence, against 65 who are not.

But four of the 70 are from the radical anti-capitalist, separatist CUP party which has said it will vote for Puigdemont — and no one else.

If they decide to abstain, Torra will scrap through in the second round with a simple majority. But if they vote against, he will not succeed.

Catalonia has been in political limbo since Spain’s conservative central government imposed direct rule on the semi-autonomous region after it unilaterally declared independence on 27 October, sacking Puigdemont and his cabinet. Regional elections were held in December, which separatist parties won again.

But since then, every candidate picked by the separatist camp has fallen flat.

Puigdemont is abroad in self-exile and faces jail if he returns, while other candidates such as civic leader Jordi Sanchez are in prison, charged with rebellion for their role in the independence drive.
Iraq to vote in first nationwide poll since IS war

Baghdad, Iraq — Iraq on Saturday holds its first parliamentary election since declaring victory over the Islamic State group, with the country hoping to shore up a fragile peace as it looks to rebuild.

The vote comes as tensions surge between key players Iran and the United States over the nuclear deal, sparking fears of a destabilising power struggle over Iraq.

Roughly 24.5 million voters face a fragmented political landscape five months after the jihadists were ousted, with the dominant Shiites split, the Kurds in disarray and Sunnis sidelined.

Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi — who took over as IS rampaged across Iraq in 2014 — is angling for a new term, claiming credit for defeating the regime and seeing off a Kurdish push for independence.

But competition from within his Shiite community, the majority group dominating Iraqi politics, should divide the vote and spell lengthy horse-trading to form any government.

Whoever emerges as premier will face the mammoth task of rebuilding a country left shattered by IS, with donors already pledging $30 billion.

Over 15 blood-soaked years since the US-led ouster of Saddam Hussein, disillusionment is widespread with the same old faces from an elite seen as mired in corruption and sectarianism.

More than two million people remain internally displaced and IS — which has threatened the polls — still poses a major security threat.

Iraq has long been a crucible for the rivalry between Iran and the US, with Tehran exerting influence over Shiite politicians and Washington deploying troops to fight IS.

Shiite rivals

Overall, just under 7,000 candidates are standing and Iraq’s complex system means no single bloc should get anything near a majority in the 329-seat parliament. Abadi — who has balanced off the US and Iran — is facing two leading challengers to his Victory Alliance.

Ex-premier Nuri al-Maliki is widely reviled for stirring sectarianism and losing territory to IS, but draws support from hardliners.

Hadi al-Ameri — a former transport minister — led Iran-backed paramilitary units that fought IS alongside Baghdad’s troops and heads a list of ex-combatants.

Votes in the Sunni heartlands once dominated by IS — including Iraq’s devastated second city Mosul — are up in the air as traditional alliances have been shredded by the fallout of jihadist rule.

Political forces in the Kurdishish community — often seen as potential kingmakers — are also in disarray after a September vote for independence backfired spectacularly.

The Kurds look set to lose some of their clout on the national stage after Baghdad unleashed a battery of sanctions and seized back disputed oil-rich regions.

A senior security official told AFP that some 900,000 police and soldiers are on high alert to protect the vote, with airports and borders shut for the day.

Polling stations are open from 7:00 am to 6:00 pm (0400-1500 GMT) and initial results are expected in three days. —AFP

Syria fight against IS in Damascus stalls, dozens dead: monitor

BEIRUT — At least 86 pro-regime fighters were killed in Syria over the past week in battles against the Islamic State group as regime forces push to clear jihadists from their last stronghold in Damascus, a monitor said on Saturday.

The jihadists have lost 57 fighters in the clashes in the Hajar al-Aswad district on the outskirts of Damascus since 5 May, according to the Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights.

Since mid-April, forces loyal to Syrian President Bashar al-Assad have pounded IS in its last Damascus bastion.

Retaking the area, which includes Hajar al-Aswad and the Palestinian refugee camp of Yarmuk, would place the regime in full control of the capital and its surroundings for the first time since 2012.

“The clashes continue. Despite its firepower, the regime has been unable to achieve any significant advance on the ground for a week,” Observatory director Rami Abdel Rahman said.

“IS is entrenched in tunnels and underground shelters and it has been conducting counter-attacks since Saturday.”

At least 203 pro-government fighters have been killed along with 159 IS jihadists since 19 April, according to the Observatory.

Government forces have taken 60 per cent of Hajar al-Aswad, but jihadists still control 80 per cent of Yarmuk, the monitor said. Once a thriving district home to some 160,000 Palestinians and Syrians, Yarmuk’s population has fallen to just a few hundred people. The regime continued to pound the area with air strikes and artillery fire on Saturday, the Observatory said.

IS has been expelled from most of the country since it declared a “caliphate” across large swathes of Syria and neighbouring Iraq in 2014.

But it still holds around five per cent of Syrian territory, in eastern and central desert holdouts and on the edge of Damascus.

Syria’s war has killed more than 350,000 people since it started in 2011 with the brutal repression of anti-government protests before spiralling into a complex conflict involving world powers and jihadists.—AFP

Armed group kills 26 ahead of Burundi referendum

NAIROBI — An armed group has killed 26 people in north-west Burundi, the security minister said on Saturday, days ahead of a constitutional referendum that could see President Pierre Nkurunziza rule until 2034.

Alain Guillaume Bunyoni said that the attackers were “terrorists” from neighbouring Democratic Republic of Congo.

“The terrorists coming from and returning to Congo shot and burned: 26 dead and seven wounded,” the minister said in a statement.

The attack came as tensions rise days ahead of a constitutional referendum on 17 May that could allow Nkurunziza to stay in power for 16 more years.

The government has in recent weeks deployed soldiers to border areas after accusing exiled opposition groups of seeking to disrupt the vote.

Witnesses told AFP of an hours-long orgy of violence that began around 10:00pm (2000 GMT) on Friday in a village in Cibitoke province bordering Congo and Rwanda.

“They said a group, armed with guns and knives, killed dozens of people and also set fire to buildings.

“These criminals went house to house and committed real carnage,” said a local official speaking on condition of anonymity. He said he was “horrified” by the violence.

“Some of the victims were stabbed, others were shot, there is even a whole family that was burned alive in their home.”

The perpetrators and their motive are not yet known but local residents said the attackers crossed into DR Congo after carrying out the raid.

“For now, these criminals have not been identified, but an investigation is underway to determine their identity,” said a police officer, who did not want to be named.—AFP
Nervy Europe watches on as Italian populists, far-right continue govt talks

ROME — Italian anti-establishment and far-right leaders are inching closer to a deal over a joint government under the watchful eye of Europe as they meet on Saturday to hash out a deal that could be announced as soon as Sunday. Matteo Salvini, leader of the League's hardline nationalist party, and Luigi Di Maio are set to meet in Milan on Saturday to continue talks over a "German-style" government contract, which both hope to sign "as soon as possible.” They may report on the progress of their talks as early as Sunday to President Sergio Mattarella, who could then nominate the new prime minister on Monday. That person is unlikely to be either Salvini or Di Maio. On Friday Italian media reported Di Maio's political advisor Vincenzo Spadafora speaking of "talks that may need to go deeper. "We have the numbers, but no names have been revealed. The composition of the government team will be influenced by the number of seats held by M5S, which is more than Salvini now that he will take part in this proposed government separately from the right-wing coalition that won 37 per cent of the vote on 4 March. "Significant progress" On its own, the League picked up 17 per cent, while the M5S is by far Italy's largest single party after conquering nearly 33 per cent of the electorate. "We are making significant progress on the government programme by bridging the points of convergence on issues that are important to Italians," said Di Maio after meeting Salvini in the lower house Chamber of Deputies on Friday. Italian media reported that both parties agree on rolling back increases to the age of retirement, while the M5S is willing to follow the League's hardline anti-immigration policies.— AFP

Invitation for Price Quotations

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar has received financing from the International Development Association (IDA) towards the cost of the Electric Power Project (EPP). The IDA No. of the financing agreement is No. 5306 MM. The Electric Power Generation Enterprise (EPGE) of the Ministry of Electricity and Energy in its role as implementing agency of the EPP, intends to apply the portion of the proceeds of this credit towards eligible payments under the contracts for which this invitation for Quotation is issued.

MOEE now invites eligible suppliers to express the interest in supplying the following items:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item No.</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
<th>Units</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. G-03</td>
<td>Digital Gas Meter &amp; skid Accessories</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>Sets</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. G-04</td>
<td>(a) 33kV Energy Meters</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>Nos</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(b) 33kV Current Transformer</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>Sets</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. G-05</td>
<td>(a) 66kV Energy Meters</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>Nos</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(b) 66kV Current Transformer</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>Sets</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. G-06</td>
<td>(a) The Universal Relay Test Set and Commissioning Tool</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Sets</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(b) Double Stage Vacuum Transformer</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Sets</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Oil purifier</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Sets</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. G-07</td>
<td>(a) 125V Battery Bank (300Ah) &amp; Battery Charger Complete with DC Distribution Board</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Sets</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(b) 230V Battery Bank (300Ah) &amp; Battery Charger Complete with DC Distribution Board</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>Sets</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Eligible Suppliers having expressed interest will receive a Request for Quotation by E-mail, sealed Quotations will be submitted to the address below at the latest at the dead line (Friday, 8th June 2018, at 2 P.M. Myanmar time), after which no Quotations will be accepted.

Suppliers will be selected following the shopping Method as per the "Guide for procurement of Goods, works and non-consulting services under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits & Grants by world Bank Borrowers dated January 2011. Please submit sealed Quotation to: U Khin Maung Win, Managing Director, Electric Power Generation Enterprise Office No. (27), Nay Pyi Taw, for detailed information please contact U Han Zaw, Chief Engineer, Gas Turbine section, mobile phone +95942631026 and U Aung San Win, General Manager, Procurement section, mobile phone +959457733044 or Office phone +95678104319, E-mail: procurementepge.wb@gmail.com. Please indicate your E-mail address as only electronic copies of the RFQ will be send.

Malaysia’s Najib quits as head of coalition, party after poll loss

KUALA LUMPUR, MALAYSIA — Malaysia's defeated leader Najib Razak on Saturday quit as head of the Barisan Nasional coalition and its main party after leading the coalition to a shock loss. "I have taken the decision to step down as president of UMNO and chairman of Barisan Nasional (BN) immediately," he told a press conference, surrounded by senior party members.

The United Malays National Organization (UMNO) is the main party in the coalition.

An opposition alliance headed by new Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad, 92, inflicted a shock defeat on BN in Wednesday's election, ejecting the co-alliance from power for the first time since 60 years of unbroken rule.

"If the party failed in the general election, the leader has the moral obligation to step aside. So based on this principle I have decided to give up both positions," Najib said.

Ahmad Zahid Hamidi, the former deputy prime minister, would take over as UMNO president, he said.

"I urge all UMNO members to unite and support the new leadership.”

Earlier, Najib was banned from leaving the country with his wife after speculation mounted that they were about to flee, in a possible bid to avoid prosecution over the 1MDB case. He insisted he was only planning to take a short break and return to Malaysia next week.— AFP

INVITATION FOR PRICE QUOTATIONS

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar has received financing from the International Development Association (IDA) towards the cost of the National Community Driven Development Project (NCDDP). The IDA No. of the financing agreement is No. 1H814MM. The Department of Rural Development (DRD) of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation, in its role as implementing agency of the NCDDP, intends to apply a portion of the proceeds of this financing towards eligible payments under the Purchase Order/Contract G-109 for the supply of Spare Parts for HONDA high ground clearance motorcycles and under Purchase Order/Contract G-122 Spare Parts for TOYOTA vehicles. DRD now invites eligible suppliers to express their interest in supplying the following items:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reference No.</th>
<th>Lot No.</th>
<th>Item N°</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>G-109</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1-33</td>
<td>HONDA Motorcycle Spare Parts and Repair Kits</td>
<td>33 items</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G-122</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1-16</td>
<td>TOYOTA Vehicle Spare Parts</td>
<td>16 items</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Supply to

Yangon Regional Department of Rural Development Office, Pobataung Township, Yangon

Expressions of Interest must be submitted in a written form to the email address below and clearly indicate the reference number above. Eligible suppliers having expressed interest will receive an INVITATION TO QUOTE (ITQ). Sealed Quotations will be submitted to the address below at the latest at the dead line of Friday 8 June 2018 at 11 am Myanmar time, after which no Quotations will be accepted.

The goods will be contracted in two separate numbers. Suppliers will be selected following the Shopping Method as per the “Guidelines for Procurement of Goods, Works and non-Consulting Services under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits & Grants by World Bank Borrowers” dated January 2011.

Please submit your Expression of Interest for receiving the Invitation to Quote (ITQ) to: U Kyaw Soe, Deputy Director General, Department of Rural Development, Office No.(14), Nay Pyi Taw. For detailed information please contact U Kyaw Swa Aung, Director, Procurement and Logistic Section, Mobile phone 094343333 or office phone 067409071. Email: unioncddprocurement@gmail.com. Please indicate your e-mail address as only electronic copies of the ITQ will be send. For more information on the NCDD Project please also visit Website: www.cdd.drdmyanmar.org.
Nepali ruling, opposition party leaders meet visiting Indian PM

KATHMANDU — Nepali ruling and opposition party leaders met with visiting Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi here on Saturday, with both sides expressing willingness to foster relations between the two countries. The Indian prime minister held separate meetings with Chairman of ruling CPN Maoist (Centre), Pushpa Kamal Dahal, President of major opposition party Nepali Congress Sher Bahadur Deuba and Rashtriya Janata Party-Nepal President Mahanth Thakur in the Capital, according to spokesman at the India’s Ministry of External Affairs Raveesh Kumar. “Prime Minister Modi is engaging across the political spectrum in Nepal. During these meetings, the two sides exchanged views on strengthening bilateral relations between the two countries,” the spokesman tweeted. Also on Saturday, Modi performed special worship in Mukti Nath and Pashupatinath, the two venerated temples in Nepal. Modi arrived in Nepal on a two-day state visit on Friday at the invitation of his Nepali counterpart KP Sharma Oli. He is scheduled to return home later in the day.—Xinhua

Sacked Philippine chief justice to appeal her ouster

MANILA — The ousted top judge of the Philippines will appeal against the decision to sack her, after she battled with President Rodrigo Duterte over his deadly drug war, her spokesman said on Saturday.

Maria Lourdes Seroeno’s colleagues voted on Friday to remove her as Supreme Court chief justice in an unprecedented decision that has sparked global criticism for human rights abuses. The move is likely related to his bloody war on drugs which police say has claimed the lives of around 4,200 suspects in recent years — accusations she categorically denied.

Legal experts, including other Supreme Court judges, have argued that Seroeno’s sacking is a violation of the constitution, which says a justice can only be removed through impeachment in Congress.

In opinions released Saturday, dissenting judge Marvic Leonen called the move “a brutal abomination” while fellow justice Alfredo Benjamin Caguioa said, “This case marks the time when the Court commits seppuku (ritual suicide) — without honour”. Pacingo Aquino, an expert in constitutional law at the University of the Philippines College of Law, told AFP Seroeno’s appeal was unlikely to succeed, saying: “I don’t think any one of the justices will have a change of mind”.

Seroeno, who has urged her supporters to “fight for justice and demand accountability”, is the latest high-profile critic of Duterte to be targeted after speaking out against the president. Other Duterte critics have also been ousted, punished or threatened, including Senator Leila de Lima who has been jailed, the Commission on Human Rights and an anti-corruption prosecutor who investigated allegations that Duterte has hidden wealth.

Duterte has faced global criticism for human rights abuses particularly related to his bloody campaign against illegal drugs which police say has claimed the lives of around 4,200 suspects in nearly two years. Rights groups allege the actual number is three times higher.—AFP

China, Viet Nam to expand cross-border self-drive tours

NANNING — China and Viet Nam have announced plans to expand cross-border self-driving tours to boost tourism in the two countries. In June, China and Viet Nam will launch cross-border self-driving routes from the southern Chinese cities of Guilin and Fangchenggang, to Mong Cai and Ha Long City in Viet Nam.

The original self-driving route was launched between Fangchenggang and Mong Cai in November 2016. Viet Nam has allowed the northern Quang Ninh province to pilot self-driving tours from China to Ha Long city since March.

Self-driving tours through the Viet Nam-China border have become popular after the launch of the Fangchenggang to Mong Cai route. The number of outbound tourists from Fangchenggang rose to more than 3.1 million in 2017.—Xinhua

Myanmar Port Authority “Notice of High Tide”

Exceptionally high spring from 20.10 feet to 20.50 feet high above the chart datum are expected to occur in Yangon River during the period of May 15th to May 18th, 2018.

Please be noted that it is not serious level of tide because the highest tide level have reached up to 22 feet high above the chart datum in year 2014 and 2015, and this notice is normally issued whenever high tide of Yangon River is expected to reach over 20 feet high above the chart datum to inform the high tide to the public living near river foreshore area of Yangon City.

CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE

M.V MATHU BHUM VOY. NO. ( 1054W/E )

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V MATHU BHUM VOY. NO. (1054W/E) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 13-5-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MITT/MIP 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 OCEAN NETWORK EXPRESS LINE Phone No: 2301185

WWW.NEWS.CC

PHOTO: XINHUA

13 MAY 2018
THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR
WORLD 13

PHOTO: XINHUA

13 MAY 2018
THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR
WORLD 13
Eurovision carnival comes to Portugal for first time

LISBON — A peaceful Danish Viking, an Estonian soprano in a giant dress and a gay-themed dance will be on display at Saturday’s Eurovision final in Portugal, which is toning down the trills at the annual song contest.

Favourites include Cyprus’ fiery song “Fuego” by Eleni Foureira and Israeli singer Netta Barzilai’s “Toy”, whose lyrics “I am not your toy” sum up the concerns of many women who have adopted the #MeToo movement against sexual harassment.

The 25-year-old former singer in the Israeli Navy band accompanies the uptempo song with trills, chucking sounds and chicken-like dance moves.

The final gets under way at 8:00 pm (1900 GMT) at Lisbon’s riverside Altice Arena, Portugal’s largest entertainment venue.

Highlights will undoubtedly include Denmark’s red-bearded Rasmussen, whose song is based on a legend about a Viking who refused to fight, and a special dress worn by Estonian soprano Elina Nechayeva which flows down from her waist, beyond her feet and out across the stage.

The dress comes to life with lightning displays and laser effects while she sings.

China ban

Eurovision was first held in 1956 with the aim of uniting Europe after World War II.

Today it has a combined global audience of around 200 million people — more than the Super Bowl in the United States — and has served as a global launching pad for the likes of ABBA and Celine Dion.

This year’s final won’t be seen in China though.

The European Broadcast Union has barred a Chinese video service, Mango TV, from airing the event after it edited out a romantic dance sequence by two men from Ireland’s entry in the first semi-final on Tuesday, and blurred out rainbow flags in the audience.

Ireland made it to Saturday’s final. Despite an ever-increasing number of TV music contests such as Pop Idol, fans say the show — the longest-running international TV competition according to Guinness World Records — is in a category of its own.

“I like the mix of flags, and the singing in the local languages and the mix of people,” Lorenzo Formento, a 40-year-old Italian logistics manager who lives in Madrid and came to Lisbon for the final, told AFP.

“I think it is very cheerful, it is more about this than the songs. Everyone knows the songs are not that good.”

‘Can’t sleep’

Portugal is hosting the event for the first time after its entry, jazzy solo ballad “Amar pelos dois” (“Love for two”) by Salvador Sobral, won the contest last year in Ukraine.

Danish singer Rasmussen’s song is about a peaceful Viking. PHOTO: AFP

Cash-strapped public broadcaster RTP has vowed to stage a more “theatrical” contest that makes less use of flashy electronic visual effects, following in the footsteps of Sobral who said after his win that “music is not fireworks, music is feeling”.

This year’s contest will cost around 20 million euros ($24 million) to stage, the lowest amount since 2008 when it started to have two semi-finals.

Sobral will perform his winning song from last year at the final with his idol, Brazilian music icon Caetano Veloso.

It will be the first time that he hits the stage since he underwent a heart transplant in December.

“I think I will faint. Before I never get nervous and now I can’t sleep. It’s surreal,” he said in an interview published Wednesday in Portuguese daily Publico.

After two semi-finals held this week, 20 countries moved to Saturday’s final while Britain, Italy, Spain, France and Germany got free passes as they are the biggest contributors to the European Broadcasting Union.

Host Portugal also automatically qualified. Viewers and professional juries in all 43 participating countries will pick the winner, with the televoting and juries each representing 50 percent of the outcome.—AFP

Film legend Godard snubs Cannes, again

PARIS — In his now traditional no-show, film legend Jean-Luc Godard failed to turn up for Friday’s premiere of his new movie at the Cannes film festival.

It is the third time since 2004 that the reclusive Swiss-French director has snubbed the world’s top film festival, also staying away in 2010 and 2014.

In contrast, two other contenders for the Palme d’Or top prize from Iran and Russia are desperate to attend but have been banned from travel by their governments.

Four years ago, Godard blamed mysterious “problems of a Greek type” — at the height of the euro crisis — for keeping him away from the premiere of his “Film Socialism”.

His new film, “The Image Book”, has received a decidedly lukewarm response, with New York Times critic Matthew Anderson calling it an “incomprehensible mash-up of poor pictures and choppy sound”.

Godard announced later that he would give a news conference on the film by FaceTime Saturday, a method famously used by the Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan during the failed coup there in 2016. —AFP

LOS ANGELES — Music mogul Jay-Z and music streaming service Tidal are releasing a new posthumous Prince album.

The announcement comes after Prince Estate and Tidal settled their legal dispute, reported Entertainment Weekly.

Jay-Z is working with the Prince Estate to select “previously unreleased music sourced from Prince’s vast archive of Vault recordings” for the upcoming release, which is expected to drop in 2019.

The album will first stream exclusively on Tidal for 14 days and a download will be available seven days after its debut.

A physical release will follow thereafter from the Prince Estate.

“Our only goal is to share Prince’s music with his fans as he wanted. After (a) thoughtful and honest conversation with him, he chose Tidal as his partner for ‘HitnRun’ Phase One and ‘HitnRun’ Phase Two, and we will continue to respect and honor Prince’s enduring legacy and wishes with this new collection,” Jay-Z said in a statement.

Prince’s estate had sued Jay-Z’s Roc Nation, which owns Tidal, in 2016 for copyright infringement over claims Prince’s music had been streamed without permission.—PTI
‘Rick and Morty’ renewed for 70 episodes

LOS ANGELES — Cult hit animated show “Rick and Morty” has been given a massive 70-episode renewal order by Cartoon Network and Adult Swim.

The order is part of a new long-term deal the network has signed with series creators Justin Roiland and Dan Harmon. The show follows a sociopathic genius scientist Rick who drags his inherently timid grandson Morty on insanely dangerous adventures across the multi-verse.

The new deal will more than double the amount of episodes the series has currently aired, reported Variety. Harmon told GQ magazine that the 70-episode deal came after a long negotiation process.

“It was a lot of back and forth, but Justin and I just needed enough episodes and the right kind of deal structure that would give us permission to do what we want to do, which is truly focus on the show. We got all that, and we’re both very excited,” he said.

It is still not clear how the new episodes will be divided into season, or the timeframe for their production and broadcast.—PTI

Rock carving of world’s earliest banknote discovered in China

CHONGQING — A rock carving of a “Jiaozi,” which is believed to be the world’s earliest paper currency, was discovered in southwest China’s Chongqing Municipality, archaeologists said on Friday.

Jiaozi was printed in the Northern Song Dynasty (960-1127) and is regarded by most experts as the world’s first paper currency, according to Dazu cultural research center.

Deng Qibing, archaeologist with the center, said that the carving was found on a stone inscription at the Dazu Rock Carvings, a World Heritage site, in Chongqing.

Beside the Jiaozi carving, more than 40 coins were loosely carved on the stone. Carvings of ancient coins are often found at the site, but this is the first time for archaeologists to discover paper currency carvings.

Deng said that the discovery was valuable to the study of the local history at the time the Dazu Rock Carvings were created.

More than 50,000 individual rock carvings lie in the grottoes of Chongqing’s Dazu District. The carvings date from the 9th to 13th centuries and were placed on the World Heritage List by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization in 1999.—Xinhua

Singapore Airlines Travel Fair 2018

SINGAPORE Airlines Travel Fair 2018 held at Myanmar Plaza in Yangon from 18 to 20 May 2018 will offer customers special deals to over 40 destinations around the world. Attractively priced Business Class, Premium Economy Class and Economy Class promotional fares departing from both Yangon and Mandalay on both Singapore Airlines and SilkAir will be available.

Popular destinations such as Singapore, America, Australia, Europe and Japan will be featured during the travel fair. These promotional fares include at least 30 kg check-in baggage allowance and a choice of in-flight meals. Customers can also enjoy Singapore Airlines’ in-flight entertainment system, KrisWorld, which offers more than 1,900 on-demand entertainment options in all classes.

Partners of Singapore Airways Travel Fair 2018 include MasterCard, CB Bank, Changi Airport Group, Sabre and Singapore Tourism Board, as well as travel agents.

Customers who visit the travel fair will get to enjoy free perks and exclusive gifts, including complimentary SGD 20 Changi Dollar Vouchers and Singapore Explorer Passes. All passengers transiting in Singapore Changi Airport will be entitled to a further SGD 20 Changi Dollar Voucher for spending at the airport.

There will be exclusive benefits for all ticket transactions made via CB Bank cards. Singapore Airlines and SilkAir currently jointly operate 20 weekly services between Yangon and Singapore, while SilkAir operates twice weekly services between Mandalay and Singapore.

Network wide, Singapore Airlines and SilkAir serve 101 destinations across 35 countries and territories.—GNLM

“The Long March” opera to return to China’s prime theater

BEIJING — An opera dedicated to the epic Long March led by the Communist Party of China (CPC) will return to the National Center for the Performing Arts (NCPA) in Beijing this summer.

The NCPA announced that the “The Long March” will show from 28 June to 3 July. Tickets are now available.

The three-hour opera is an original NCPA production, which debuted in July 2016 to mark the 80th anniversary of the victory of the Long March. It is the 11th opera produced by the NCPA featuring Chinese national themes.

The Long March was a military maneuver carried out by the Workers’ and Peasants’ Red Army of the CPC from 1934 to 1936.

During this period, they left their bases and marched through raging rivers, frigid mountains and arid grassland to break the siege of Kuomintang forces and continue to fight Japanese aggressors. Many marched as far as 12,500 kilometres. —Xinhua
Dagon FC beats Kachin United in General Aung San Shield 2018

AFTER a struggle play, Dagon FC beat Kachin United by a score of 3-1 in one of yesterday’s General Aung San Shield 2018 knockout matches at Aung San Stadium in Yangon.

Kachin United lined up with goalkeeper Zaw Htet Lin along with Bo Bo, Bawm Yaw, Zaw Shan, Captain Paw Du Aung, Odalmeji, Chit Hla Aung, Aung Aung Oo, Thu Rein Win, Jonathan and Yan Kha.

Dagon United’s lineup included keeper Kyaw Khine Oo along with Kyaw Soe Moe, Kyaw Kyaw Htet, Khant Min Eain, Soe Myat Thu, Aung Khing Tun, Thawtar Cho Lar, Kyaw Nyein Chan Aung, Zaw Lwin Oo, Zaw Lin Oo and Captain Chit Soe Paing.

Although Kachin United were better in terms of playing and talent, using a mix of local stars with two expatriate footballers, they failed to finish nearly every golden scoring opportunity in yesterday’s match.

At the 5-minute mark, Dagon’s Soe Myat Thu scored the opening goal for his team with the support of his teammate.

At 18 minutes, Aung Khing Tun scored Dagon FC’s second goal, putting the pressure on Kachin United to get on the board and stay in the match.

Kachin’s Pyu Du Aung responded by scoring with a header just before the end of the first half with the help of a good corner kick from a teammate.

The second half was as exciting as the first, with frequent attacks by both teams.

Unfortunately, Kachin United put the ball into its own net at the 75-minute mark due to a huge mistake by Kachin’s midfielder Jonathan, resulting in a 3-1 win for Dagon FC.

With yesterday’s win, Dagon FC advances to the next step of the tourney.—Lynn Thit (Tgi)

South Korean Ambassador’s Cup taekwondo championship launched in Yangon

IN order for Myanmar Taekwondo athletes to achieve more success at international tournaments, an opening ceremony of the taekwondo tournament titled “11th South Korean Ambassador’s Cup Taekwondo Championship” was launched at National Indoor Stadium (1) in Yangon yesterday.

The opening ceremony was attended by South Korean Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Lee Sang Hwa, Chairman of the Myanmar Taekwondo Federation U Mya Han, other officials and taekwondo athletes.

The journey is aimed at teaching taekwondo in Myanmar and South Korea interchangeably, and for Myanmar taekwondo athletes to achieve success internationally, said Mr. Lee Sang Hwa. The ceremony continued with shows of Taekwondo bouts, commemorating the friendship with Korea. After the show, the competitions began.

This year, there were a total of 997 taekwondo fighters; a total of 23 teams from different states and regions will compete.

—Tin Soe (Myanmar Alinn)

Myanmar to play Thailand today in AFF U-16 Girls’ Championship final

THE Myanmar U-16 Girls’ football team will play against Thailand’s U-16 Girls’ team at Bumi Sriwijaya Stadium in Palembang, Indonesia in a match that will decide the winner of the 2018 AFF U-16 Girls’ Championship.

Both teams have done well in the tournament in the past, with Thailand, the defending champion and Myanmar winning the bronze medal in the same year.

Myanmar will be led by head coach Daw San San Thein.

The Myanmar team is comprised of new, fresh and talented footballers, including Myat Noe Khin and Swe Mar Aung.

Myat Noe Khin is the leading scorer of the tourney with 9 goals, while Swe Mar Aung is close behind with 7 goals.

Myanmar will have to contend with Thailand’s relentless attacking, especially with Thailand’s Janista Jinantuya, who has scored 5 goals in the tourney, making her the third top scorer following the Myanmar girls.

As defending champion, Thailand will be a tough opponent for Myanmar. The match has all the makings of a thriller.—Lynn Thit (Tgi)

Brazilian star Neymar apprehensive ahead of return

RIO DE JANEIRO — Brazil’s star striker Neymar admits “fear” ahead of his return for the World Cup after a lengthy layoff following surgery for a broken bone in his foot.

In an interview published on Friday on former Brazil legend Zico’s YouTube channel, Neymar said he is in a race against time to get mentally ready for the tournament in Russia. “Everything’s going well, thank God, but there’s always this fear when you come back and I need to get rid of that fear as soon as possible to arrive at the World Cup,” the 26-year-old, who has been out since the end of February, said. The interview with Zico, a great from Brazil’s 1990s team, took place last week, just before Neymar returned to France, where he is expected to restart training shortly with Paris Saint-Germain. He still hopes to be completely rehabilitated by the 14 June start of the World Cup. Brazil’s opening game is against Switzerland on 17 June.—PTI
Can computer games lead to violent crime?

As internet technology (IT) improves, more people today are using modern devices such as smartphones and tablets that make their lives more convenient. These devices are undeniably useful. Our government is making investments to improve the technology of the country, and are giving scholarships to local residents who want to study technology and are passionate about improving the country with advanced technology. Because of this government’s great performance, you can clearly see that we have quickly developed and modernised technology, much more than in the days of yore.

Consequently, young people these days are mesmerised by these things such as mobile phones, computers or tablets. They have come up with ways to use them since their childhood, starting with playing games, then using social media, and chatting with friends on Facebook or on Skype.

Playing games on mobiles, or on computers are what really fascinate young people because it is obviously different from the real world. It is made up of great and exquisite 3D effects and stimulates users’ mind to be active. They even feel proud of themselves being good team players, because most of these games are played as part of a team. In those games, they use weapons, superpowers, and magical effects to kill others. That is why parents are concerned that this can lead to violent crimes as a result. Owing to their manners and mindset after playing games, some people do not want their children to play intense games like Clash Of Clans (COC), Mobile Legends (ML), Defense of the Ancients (DOTA) and other similar games. Is it really going to lead to violent crimes? Who knows! But surely it will if they act and think this is real life. And furthermore, it takes a very long time to finish a game, so it can possibly be something for parents to worry about concerning their children’s education.

Unfortunately, most latter-day guys (also young boys who were born recently) are thinking that playing games are their lives because not only do they play games on mobiles or on computers, but they also try to argue with friends and partners about how to kill and get awards in games. Some may post their virtual awards hilariously on social media all the time to boast how good they are at it. Most gamers are forgetting that it is only for relaxation, not for life. I see many people my age are busy with phones, seeking ways how to be a winner in a game, not in life. And I hear a lot of swear words used when they are killed in the virtual world because they are so redundantly enthusiastic about it. This is what possibly leads to violent crimes, just because they can not control their mind and continue making nonsensical discussions about games in real life. And a child can get a destructive and malicious mind from this, because the whole game is all about killing and getting virtual awards.

Children from yesteryear, when there was no modern technology and no killing games, were also happy that they played with friends, mostly outside of the house, where they could properly do physical exercise.
Lesson (2) am, is, are, was, were

CONTINUED FROM LAST WEEK

6. There is no place like home.
7. There is no sign of rain today.
8. There is a time and a place for everything.
9. There is a time for every thing – a time to work and a rest to your wear and a time to die.
10. There is plenty of virgin land in this area.

(D) TENSES

(a) Simple Present Tense (was, were)

(b) Present Perfect Tense

(c) Future Tense

(E) Interrogative and Negative Forms

1. He will be in Yangon tomorrow.
2. She will be here soon.
3. They will be at the station at 7 tomorrow morning.
4. The sun will be above our heads in half an hour.

1. Ko Ko is in the dining room.
2. Ko Ko is not in the dining room.
3. There is a clinic near our house.
4. There is not a clinic near our house.

1. Father was in Mandalay last week.
2. We were not in Yangon last summer.
3. The cat was in that room a few minutes ago.
4. They were at the reception last night.

1. Has he been in Yangon for two months?
2. Has she been in Myanmar for two months?
3. Has he been in Myanmar for two months?
4. Has there been a hotel in our town five years ago?

1. Ko Ko is on duty.
2. U Aye is on the air.
3. Father is at work.
4. Iran is at war with Iraq.
5. He is in love with Swe Swe.
Technology allows for quality distance education

Dr. Thazin Lwin
Professor & Head
Chemistry Department
Yangon University of Distance Education

Distance education technology allows students to take advantage of the convenience and flexibility of taking classes at the times and locations they prefer. Although distance education is convenient and can potentially employ rich multimedia materials, there are unresolved issues related to students’ engagement in the learning process. In contrast to the environment in traditional educational settings, distance education instructors and peers are not physically present in a classroom, so students may lack opportunities to interact, collaborate and receive feedback and social support, thus leading to less engagement in learning activities. Moreover, distance education provides students much more freedom in how and when they interact, and therefore, their ability to regulate their own learning seems to be critical. Given the potential limitations associated with limited supervision, monitoring of student progress and opportunities to provide feedback to students, it would be useful for distance education instructors and course designers to have a better understanding of what factors influence student engagement.

Online education is one of the most dynamic and enriching forms of learning that exist today. Online education is a subcategory of distance education, which has been defined as the formal delivery of instruction in which time and geographic location separate students and instructors. The reasons for the advancement of online education are multifaceted. Online education overcomes the time and place constraints that restrict access to instruction in traditional educational settings. Other reasons include the relatively low cost and availability of computer technologies, increased pressures relating to employment, financial and family responsibilities, as well as the high cost of higher education and the limited availability of scholarships.

Online education offers appealing educational alternatives and provides lifelong learning opportunities for those whom a traditional university setting does not work. Educational institutions around the world, whether at the elementary, secondary, or higher levels, offer a wide range of online courses in a wide spectrum of disciplines. For example, in the United States, various universities and business corporations collaborate in establishing online universities that offer a wide variety of online courses in various disciplines. One such collaboration is the Western Governors University (WGU), a joint venture of 19 western states and 16 corporate partners to create a virtual university. WGU has gathered hundreds of distance-delivered courses from institutions across the United States into their online catalog, which is comprised of courses that are offered by different institutions in the same subject area. Prospective online learners can select the course that best suits their needs.

The rapid growth of online distance education worldwide has prompted the need to revise delivery structures and re-think pedagogical practices that were once appropriate. As new technologies emerge, instructional designers and educators have unique opportunities to foster interaction and collaboration among learners, thus creating a true learning community. The existence of distance education relies on the creation of learning communities. Through technology, interaction and collaboration are now attainable in either asynchronous or synchronous learning networks. The emergence of social software, software that enables a group of individuals to collaborate via the Internet, has added a new dimension to online learning. The versatility of social software and other collaboration tools available today support constructivist environments that seek to motivate and cultivate. This article explores the functions and benefits of using emerging social software in distance education. Current trends in the field of distance learning indicate a radical shift in both instructional design and pedagogy. As technology evolves, so will the tools be available to make it happen.

In academic settings, engagement refers to the quality of effort students make to perform well and achieve desired outcomes. Previous research has indicated that several factors, such as the use of course tutors, the quality of technology and motivational factors are positively linked to student engagement levels in distance education environments. The concept of engagement has attracted increasing attention in the research of motivation and student achievement. This study sought to further explore how motivational and learning factors may influence specific types of engagement. The three types of engagement (behavioural, emotional and cognitive engagement) were used to frame the investigation of engagement issues.

Motivation can be a prerequisite of learner engagement. For instance, because of a long-term goal for credentials, learners can be motivated to engage in courses. Motivation can also be a feeling of satisfaction/success when being engaged in worthwhile learning. Either way, student motivation and engagement are closely related elements of student learning that can have an impact on learning outcomes. In spite of the fact that there is no universally accepted definition of what comprises engagement, student and college success, student retention and student motivation are always linked to engagement. For instance, some of the early studies defined engagement in terms of aspects such as interest, effort, time on task and motivation. The online learner engagement is defined as students’ active participation in e-learning activities (i.e. discussion threads, virtual classroom) to achieve learning goals. Motivation is considered an essential element to engage learners and thereby enhance students’ learning experiences. Student motivation is influenced by various factors. The Students’ Motivation Towards Science Learning (SMTSL) survey was developed around these factors after extensive research and observations regarding science student motivation. Factors added in the scope of this study were self-efficacy, performance goals, active learning strategies, task learning values, achievement goals, and learning environment stimulation.

Dr. Thazin Lwin is a professor and the head of the Chemistry Department at Yangon University of Distance Education.
Elephant sanctuaries will also be eco-friendly camps

By Maung Lu Aye

To protect Myanmar’s elephants who no longer need to work in the logging industry, Myanmar introduced the Elephant Conservation Based Tourism (ECBT) programme, which established elephant camps that will attract local and foreign tourists.

Over the last decade, the number of wild elephants has declined significantly. Of the 5,906 elephants owned by the Myanmar Timber Enterprise and private enterprises, some were left idle after the Myanmar Timber Enterprise suspended logging.

Myanmar has the second largest number of domesticated elephants after India. Myanmar has 4,748 registered elephants that are kept as pets, used for timber extraction and other heavy lifting and at tourism sites for elephant rides.

Seventy-two elephants were killed by hunters between 2010 and 2016. Currently, Myanmar has an estimated 2,300 wild elephants in Myanmar’s rainforests. Myanmar signed the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) to protect Myanmar wild elephants and has passed laws against poaching.

The Ministry of Environmental Conservation and Natural Resources is planning to implement mobile elephant clinics to provide treatment to injured elephants and other animals. An elephant medical treatment centre will be constructed in the Elephants Lake camp. Further plans are on to conduct wild elephant and animal conservation, rescue and research, capacity building for the locals and mahouts, upgrade their living standards and increase their income.

To implement the Elephants Lake camp in the Bago Yoma, the Myanmar Timber Enterprise will provide elephants, while the Forestry Department will grant permission to use the land. Mingalar Myanmar will provide social development assistance to the local people and mahouts.

The authorities are planning to conserve some 389 elephants within 10 years. The Elephants Lake camp is being constructed on more than 17,000 hectares in the Ye New forest reserve. Initially, a security department will be constructed. Then, an elephant medical treatment centre will be constructed. On completion of the Elephants Lake camp, the authorities will implement an eco-tourism project to attract local and foreign visitors.

Of the roughly 5,000 working elephants in Myanmar, approximately 2,300 belong to state-owned enterprises, while the remainder are under private ownership. For decades, these elephants were taken from the wild or bred, trained and forced to endure a lifetime of arduous work toppling and carrying heavy loads. Injured, pregnant, disabled, injured and newborn baby elephants. Mingalar Myanmar, a local NGO, is a pioneer project in terms of conservation of animals and forests.

Nationally, Myanmar has set aside 9,205 square miles for elephant sanctuaries. Local and international non-governmental organisations are also planning to expand the amount of land dedicated to wildlife reserves in Myanmar. Up to May, 2018, 18 elephant sanctuaries have been opened nationwide.

Wingabaw Elephant Sanctuary

The Wingabaw elephant camp was established in 2016 on a location 14 miles from Bago City, about 50 miles from Yangon. The camp houses adult elephants, orphaned wild elephants and orphaned baby elephants.

The elephant camp has been open to the public since 3 November, 2016. The 86.2-acre camp is currently has seven orphaned baby elephants and 19 adult elephants.

Mahouts take care of elephants at the Wingabaw Elephant Sanctuary in Bago. PHOTO: TIME THET THUN

Visitors enjoy elephant ride at the Ngaliiketha Elephant Sanctuary in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA

PHOTO: PAUKSA (MINHLA)

PHOTO: MNA

Elephants drink water at natural stream in the Mokkha Elephant Camp in Mohnla, western Bago Region. PHOTO: PAUKSA (MINHLA)

An elephant demonstrates football skills at the Pheikye Myaung Elephant Camp. PHOTO: MNA

PHOTO: MNA
COMICS

13 MAY 2018
THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

SUNDAY COMICS

WELL I DID WANT A MANGO.
THEN I’LL SHOOT ANOTHER ONE FOR YOU.
POP!!
AHHH!
ONE IS ENOUGH.
IF IT HIT MY EYE I’D GO BLIND!

YOU’RE AN ODD DUCK.
WHY? WHAT’S ODD ABOUT ME?

PEOPLE ARE ALWAYS LOOKING AT YOU.
HUH?

THEY TALK TO YOU EAGERLY.
YOU MUST HAVE DONE SOMETHING GOOD TO SOCIETY.

THEY’RE MY DEBT COLLECTORS.
THEY ARE NICE TO ME SO THAT I DON’T RUN AWAY.

SUNDAY JOKE

MOM, PLEASE TALK WITH YOUR DAUGHTER.
WHAT’S THE MATTER?
SHE’S DOING THINGS I DON’T LIKE.

TELL ME EXACTLY WHAT SHE’S DONE?
SHE BROUGHT BACK A GIFT FROM ANOTHER MAN.
WHAT IS THE MEANING OF THAT?

IT MEANS YOUR INCOME IS ONLY ENOUGH FOR EATING.
BYARR.
Can computer games lead to violent crime?

**FROM PAGE 5-1**

They even had more friends because they could communicate well and knew how to blend in conversations. Though those kids played tough games with weapons like plastic guns or plastic knives, those were not going to lead violent crimes genuinely. They might use sarcastic words to losers after games, but I am sure that they would have a mutual understanding between the two sides of teams, for they knew each other very well. And it was a way for children in those days to build good communications skills.

In my opinion, modern technology is essential for improving the country’s standard of living, but we should not abuse that idea. We are obliged to use it in the right way. If someone plays games on mobiles or on computers, it is all right because playing games can reduce stress, but not for a long time because this is NOT the real world. We would be better off living in the real world hanging out with family and friends and giving time and doing things together that can make you become closer with family and your surroundings. We as a country need more great technicians for modern technology, but we should never forget the old saying: “Too much of anything is good for nothing”.

---

**ADVERTISE IN NEW SUPPLEMENT**

The Global New Light of Myanmar is issuing a 24-page Special Supplement every Sunday

Publish your Display Ad, Notice Ad, Trademark Ad, Obituary Ad, Property Ad, classified Ad, and Tender in the Global New Light of Myanmar, the highest circulation English newspaper in Myanmar.

Book your ad with special offer rate in GNLM’s Sunday Special!

Hotline - 09974424848
marketing@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
Our international standard Mitsubishi high-speed offset printing machine is available now for your printing needs under the management of Japanese & Korean experts.

Hotline - 09974424848

The Global New Light of Myanmar Printing Factory at No.150, Nga Htat Kyee Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon.