Message of Greetings sent by President U Win Myint to the International Anti-Corruption Day celebrations

(7 December 2018)

ON the occasion of International Anti-Corruption Day and the 15th Anniversary of the UN Anti-Corruption Convention, I send this Message of Greetings and good wishes on behalf of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar:

For protection against corruption and combatting corruption regarding the role of the UN Anti-Corruption Convention, in order to raise awareness, 9th December has been designated as the International Anti-Corruption Day and events have been organized annually, all over the world, to mark this day.

Myanmar signed the Convention on 2005 to become a member and ratified it in 2012. In 2013 the Anti-Corruption Act was enacted and in accordance with this law the Anti-Corruption Commission was established in 2014. Since then the task of combatting corruption was carried out as a national duty. During the tenure of the People’s Government, with the aim of bringing forth a clean government with a system of good governance, the Anti-Corruption Act was amended to meet international standards. The Commission has been given additional duties and powers to combat corruption and protect against corruption with full force and momentum. At the same time, it has been permitted to conduct investigations, take action and initiate legal proceedings.

When I took the oath of office as President of the Union on 30th March 2018, I said “we need to take more forceful action to combat corruption”. Furthermore, in my speech to the Union on the first day of the Myanmar New Year (ME 1380), with regard to combatting corruption, I pointed out that corruption has become deeply embedded like an accepted custom in most departments; and in taking more forceful actions to combat corruption, there was a need to undertake a reassessment to ensure that there was proper balance between rights and benefits and duties of public service personnel. This was to be done by each individual department by taking responsibility. In addition to the Anti-Corruption Commission, the media and the people need to seek out and report truthfully.

SEE PAGE-3

State Counsellor, French Ambassador discuss promotion of bilateral relations, cooperation

DAW Aung San Suu Kyi, State Counsellor and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs, received Mr. Christian Lechervy, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the French Republic to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, at 10:00 am on 6 December 2018 at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw.

During the meeting, they cordially exchanged views on matters pertaining to the promotion of bilateral relations and cooperation between Myanmar and France, particularly in agriculture, water resource management, vocational training and energy sectors. — MNA

State Counsellor holds talks with French Ambassador Mr. Christian Lechervy in Nay Pyi Taw Yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

President of Republic of India and wife to visit Myanmar in near future

AT the invitation of U Win Myint, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and wife Daw Cho Cho, His Excellency Shri Ram Nath Kovind, President of the Republic of India and wife Smt. Savita Kovind will pay a State Visit to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar in the near future.—MNA

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SEE PAGE-3
Seventh-day meeting of tenth regular session of Second Pyidaungsu Hlutaw held

THE Second Pyidaungsu Hlutaw tenth regular session held its seventh-day meeting at the Pyidaungsu Hlutaw meeting hall yesterday.

Replacement of Pyidaungsu Hlutaw Joint Bill Committee member

At the meeting Pyidaungsu Hlutaw Speaker U T Khun Myat announced the Hlutaw’s agreement and confirmation of replacing Pyidaungsu Hlutaw Joint Bill Committee member Daw Kyin Ngaik Man of Chin State constituency 7 with U Soe Moe of Ayeyawady Region constituency 1 after Hlutaw’s agreement was obtained.

Hlutaw approves Traditional Medicine Council Bill

Next Pyidaungsu Hlutaw Joint Bill Committee joint secretary Dr. Myat Nyana Soe tabled a motion on clauses in Traditional Medicine Council Bill in which the two Hlutaws are in disagreement. Dr. Than Win of Mandalay Region constituency 7 obtained the Hlutaw’s decision clause by clause.

Discussion on second six month tax collection and finding of Joint Public Account Committee Reports

Afterwards Hlutaw representatives discussed Fiscal Year 2017-2018 second six month tax collection and finding of Joint Public Accounts Committee Report (11/2018). Daw Nan Htwe Thu of Pasawng constituency, U Khin Cho of Hlaingthe constituency, Naw Chris Tun @ Dr. Arkar Moe of Kayin State constituency 7. U Kyaw Myo Min of Monyo constituency, U Maung Maung Oo of Ayeyarwady region constituency 5, U Yan Lin of Kayal constituency, U Khin Win of Magway Region constituency 2, U Khin Myo Win of Taninthayi Region constituency 12, U Zaw Hein of Taninthayi Region constituency 7, Dr. Khun Win Thaung of Kachin State constituency 11, U Than Soe @ Than Soe (Economic) of Yangon Region constituency 4, Daw Shwe Shwe Sein Latt of Bago Region constituency 3, U Kyaw Tint of Tihlon constituency, U Kyaw Swe of Magway Region constituency 11, Dr. Sein Mya Aye of Dala constituency and U Naing Htoo Aung of Natogyi constituency discussed the matter and obtained the Hlutaw’s decision clause by clause.

Pyidaungsu Hlutaw Deputy Speaker meets Norwegian Auditor General

THE Pyidaungsu Hlutaw Deputy Speaker and Joint Public Accounts Committee Chairman, U Tun Tun Hein, met with the Auditor General of Norway, Mr. Per Kristian Foss, at the Thabin Hall of the Hlutaw Building in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

At the meeting, they discussed matters related to the strengthening of bilateral friendship and cooperation, assistance for Myanmar’s democratic transition, peace, and development, the Joint Public Accounts Committee’s contribution to the audit reports of the Auditor General’s Office, cooperation between the auditor general offices of Norway and Myanmar, and reviews and suggestions from Norway on audit laws that are in keeping with the international norms.

The Pyidaungsu Hlutaw Joint Public Accounts Committee Vice Chairman 1, U Aung Min, Vice Chairman 2, U Saw Than Htut, and officials from the Pyithu Hlutaw Office were also present at the meeting.—MNA (Translated by Zaw Min)
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FROM PAGE-1

It is also very important to make reports on cases where people with positions and power become involved by trying to intervene and interfere. These cases should be reported with full facts and supporting evidence. I have also urged that in combatting corruption with increased momentum, the Anti-Corruption Commission should work harder than before by formulating plans. When I met the Anti-Corruption Commission on 11 April 2018, with regard to the duties of the Commission, I underscored the need for the Commission to take effective and clear-cut actions in accordance with the law regardless of name, position or social strata.

In order for the people to realize that corruption is a despicable erosion of moral character and to also realize and understand the evil effects of corruption, we have encouraged stepped-up efforts for educating and mobilizing the people by conducting numerous workshops to make them realize that corruption is a dangerous disease which has taken deep roots in Myanmar society. We have permitted the conduct of workshops with the theme “Let’s take responsibility to increase efforts to combat corruption” attended by representatives from government departments, entrepreneurs, and CSO – Civil Society Organizations. I have also given permission for the setting up of CPU’s – Corruption Prevention Units.

We are also taking necessary actions to raise our status in the World Bank index for good management in combatting corruption. This is being done by reducing the loss of public funds through transparency, responsibility and accountability. Furthermore, with regard to corruption which has been rampant among public sector organizations like a well-entrenched system, action is being taken to reduce the incidents of corruption significantly. In addition, the Union Government will take effective administrative steps to rectify the weak areas so that the index for assessment of combatting corruption will improve.

The Union Government has been working to improve sectors such as administrative, legislative, judiciary, political affairs, and economic affairs during our transition to democracy. As we make our efforts to build a modern and developed country, we understand and realize that corruption is a major obstacle. Corruption can harm our economic development, the living standard of our people, poverty reduction, and the smooth flow of foreign investments. That is why we have made a solemn vow to combat corruption with determination and zeal and with very strong political will.

Our Union Government has been working strenuously to combat corruption as a national duty; we are working also for the emergence of a clean government with good governance; for more transparency, responsibility and accountability; to prevent the wastage or loss of public funds; to protect the public interest; to raise the knowledge level and character of the people; to take effective action against corruption; and for the emergence of a society free from corruption. As we intensify our efforts to combat corruption and protect our society from the dangers of corruption, we need the collective strength of government organizations, non-governmental organizations, CSO’s – civil society organizations, the media and the people. Our Union Government has urged this point already.

On this auspicious occasion of International Anti-Corruption Day and the 15th Anniversary of the UN Anti-Corruption Convention, I wish to reaffirm the solemn pledge made by the Republic of the Union of Myanmar with regard to the aims and principles of the said convention. Furthermore, I send this Message of Greetings by expressing our solemn desire to work hand in hand and cooperate with other member countries as expressed in the United Nations motto “Let’s Unite to Combat Corruption.”

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw representatives hold ‘Nibbana Market’ charity festival in Nay Pyi Taw

REPRESENTATIVES of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw held a traditional charity festival called “Nibbana Market” in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

The charity food festival was graced by First Lady Daw Cho Cho, Former President U Htin Kyaw and wife Daw Su Su Lwin, Speaker of the Amyotha Hluttaw Mahn Win Khaing Than and wife Daw Nant Kyin Kyi, Union Minister for Ethnic Affairs Nai Thei Lwin, Chairman of the Nay Pyi Taw Council Dr. Myo Aung and wife, Member of the State Constitutional Tribunal Daw Khin Htay Kywe and Hlut-taw representatives.

In the festival, Hluttaw representatives served the guests with food while Hluttaw representatives from ethnic areas treated the guests with traditional drinks and entertained with traditional dances. —MNA

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Lin)
VP U Myint Swe attends 8th coord meeting of Private Sector Development Committee

VICE President U Myint Swe who is also the Chairman of the Private Sector Development Committee attended and addressed the 8th coordination meeting of the Private Sector Development Committee held in the meeting room of the Ministry of Commerce yesterday morning.

Present at the meeting were committee Deputy Chairman Union Minister Dr. Than Myint, committee members Union Ministers Dr. Aung Thu, U Thant Sin Maung, U Win Khang, U Soe Win and U Han Zaw, Union Attorney General U Tun Tun Oo, Deputy Minister U Aung Htoo, Central Bank of Myanmar Deputy Governor U Soe Thein, chairmen and vice chairmen of five work committees, Permanent Secretaries, Directors-General, President of Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI), Myanmar Industries Association (MIA) Chairman and departmental officials.

At the meeting Vice President U Myint Swe said the Private Sector Development Committee led by the Vice President with 20 members was formed more than two years ago and five work committees were formed to implement five tasks.

The committee’s first meeting was held in November 2016 and this is the eighth meeting. From the first to the seventh meeting 55 decisions have been made out of which 50 were implemented with 5 remaining to be implemented. The remaining five are urgent to be implemented by setting a time frame.

To support the private sector development works monthly meetings with businesses have been conducted to help resolve the difficulties they were facing.

As of November 2018, 21 meetings have been held and up to the 20th meeting a total of 297 difficulties faced by the businesses were submitted and all were resolved and responded back to the business owners.

Illegal imports through the border is threatening the existence of micro, small and medium enterprises and special illegal trade prevention and control groups were formed in nine states and regions. The groups were found to be reasonably effective and in October there were a total of 59 cases of detaining illegal goods worth about Ks. 1.3 billion.

According to Doing Business 2019 Report published by World Bank on 31 October 2018, Myanmar ranking remains at 171 but more points were received. To increase Ease of Doing Business Ranking, a 14 member Ease of Doing Business Ranking Promotion Working Group led by Deputy Minister for Commerce was formed. Everyone knew that ten support groups for each “ease of doing business indexes” were formed.

More points were received in starting a Business section and ranking increased by 3. In Getting Electricity section too, more points were received and ranking increased by 7. Although more points were received in Dealing with Construction Permits section, the ranking decline by 8. In the Registering Property section, there were no changes in points received but ranking declined by 5. Protecting Minority Investor section too had no changes in points received but ranking declined by 2. The same goes in Paying Tax section where there were no changes in points but ranking declined by 1. Trading Across Borders section also saw fewer points as points increased while ranking declined.

In Enforcing Contract section and Resolving Insolvency section saw no changes in both the points and rankings. Total points (Distance to Frontier-DTF) were 44.72 which is an increase of 0.51 but ranking remains at 171.

When the ten indices of the ten most progressing countries in the Doing Business 2019 Report were studied, it was found that reforms were carried out in at least 5 to 7 indexes. Through studying these ten countries, appropriate reforms will be formulated and implemented for our country.

Furthermore, when doing reforms, to raise the Ease of Doing Business ranking, a minimum of at least 3 reforms were required to be conducted in each indicator. Reform works were to be conducted by systematically drawing up Action Plans, said the Vice President. Only five months remain to be included in the Doing Business 2020 Report. Therefore, relevant departments were to make the best use of the remaining five months and conduct priority reform works while it is to be continued in a sustained way in the following years.

In addition to this, Public Awareness needs to be raised in a wide ranging manner so that private sector knew about the reforms correctly and answer questions sent by the World Bank to raise the points and the ranking. UMFCCI and MIA are to cooperate and participate together in the Public Awareness programs.

Meeting attendees are urged to discuss and suggest openly on future works, said the Vice President.

Next, committee Deputy Chairman Union Minister for Commerce Dr. Than Myint explained and discuss about status of works conducted for private sector development.

Afterwards, committee secretary Permanent Secretary U Yan Naing Tun explained about implementation of decisions made at the seventh meeting.

Work committee wise works and future works were explained by the respective work committee chairman and deputy chairman.

Private Sector Development Committee members in attendance also explained, discussed and suggested on various matters relating to private sector development.

Finally, Vice President U Myint Swe gave advice and comments to ensure coordination on explanations, discussions and suggestions made and concluded the meeting after delivering a closing speech.”

(Translated by Zaw Min)
VP U Henry Van Thio attends ceremonies to return lands in Bhamo, Mohnyin

Vice President U Henry Van Thio, Chairman of the Central Committee for Scrutinizing Confiscated Farmlands and Other Lands attended ceremonies to return land and presenting of Temporary Land Use Permit Form 3 and Farmland Work Permit Certificate (Form 7) to farmers who were original owners in Bhamo and Mohnyin towns yesterday.

The Vice President accompanied by Deputy Ministers Rear Admiral Myint Ngwe, Maj-Gen Than Htut and U Kyaw Lin, Permanent Secretaries U Tin Myint and U Win Khant and officials arrived in Myitkyina from Nay Pyi Taw at 9:40 a.m. and were welcomed by Kachin State Chief Minister Dr. Khet Aung, State Chief Judge U Tu Ja, state ministers, State Advocate, State Auditor, ethnic national cultural troupes and officials.

From there the Vice President and party accompanied by the State Chief Minister and state ministers reached Bhamo town by Tatmadaw helicopters and attended a ceremony for returning land and presenting Temporary Land Use Permit Form 3 and Farmland Work Permit Certificate (Form 7).

At the ceremony, the Vice President said 100 acres in Bhamo Township released by an artillery battalion of the Ministry of Defence to 5 farmers, 289.21 acres in Dawhpawon Township released by six regiments of the Ministry of Defence to 6 farmers, 72.8 acres in Mansi Township released by a regimen of the Ministry of Defence to 23 farmers will be returned together with Temporary Land Use Permit Form 3 and Farmland Work Permit Certificate (Form 7).

Returning agricultural lands back to the farmers in our agricultural based country where farming is the main job of 70 per cent of rural people will result in more development and support socio-economic development. As such relevant departments and organizations that had confiscated lands and other lands urged the farmers to return released land and transfer the land back if the lands are not used.

The Central Committee for Scrutinizing Confiscated Farmlands and Other Lands was formed to quickly return the released land back to the farmers who were original owners and committees were formed in the Nay Pyi Taw Council, States, Regions, districts, townships, wards and village tract level. Matters must be handled individually in small plots of lands.

Aung explained about works conducted toward releasing and returning farmlands and other lands in Kachin State. Afterwards, representatives of the Ministry of Defence and General Administration Department transferred documents relating to released land to Bhamo District Administrator U Htway Myint.

State Chief Minister Dr. Khet Aung, Deputy Ministers Rear Admiral Myint Ngwe, Maj-Gen Than Htut and U Kyaw Lin, state minister U Mya Thein, Ministry of Home Affairs Permanent Secretary U Tin Myint and Ministry of Transport and Communications Permanent Secretary U Win Khant presented Temporary Land Use Permit Form 3 and Farmland Work Permit Certificate (Form 7) to the farmers.

On behalf of the farmers who received the lands, farmer U Than Oo spoke words of thanks. After the ceremony the Vice President cordially greeted the ceremony attendees.

Later, Vice President U Henry Van Thio and party arrived in Mohnyin town by Tatmadaw helicopters and attended a ceremony to return released land in Mohnyin District to farmers and presenting of Temporary Land Use Permit Form 3 and Farmland Work Permit Certificate (Form 7).

At the ceremony Chairman of the Central Committee for Scrutinizing Confiscated Farmlands and Other Lands Vice President U Henry Van Thio said the day’s ceremony was to release 114.23 acres of land in Mohnyin District, Mohnyin Township to 13 farmers by two regiments of the Ministry of Defence, releasing 81.86 acres of land in Mogau Township to 10 farmers by four regiments of the Ministry of Defence, releasing 137.48 acres of land in Phakant (Kamine) Township to 14 farmers by the Ministry of Defence and presenting of Temporary Land Use Permit Form 3 and Farmland Work Permit Certificate (Form 7).

A total of 39 farmers were given back 333.57 acres, said the Vice President.

As benefits can be gained rapidly if land confiscated for various reasons that were not used were returned by relevant departments and organizations to the farmers who were the former owners as quickly as possible, the government has established transparent and sustainable long term development policies and work processes to conduct this systematically.

While striving to return the released land, the Central Committee for Scrutinizing Confiscated Farmlands and Other Lands and States, Regions, districts, townships, wards and village tract level committees were formed to systematically and legally into and resolve complaints and protests against land confiscations, said the Vice President.

Land resources are limited, and are a basic, most valuable and essential. When these resources are utilized, care must be taken that there is no affect to the natural environment and must be sustainable. Only then will the farmer have sustainable resources for livelihood.

Farmers are to invest and develop the land so that following generations can benefit from it. They are to work on it not only for their food sufficiency but to produce more and export, said the Vice President.

Next, State Committee for Scrutinizing Confiscated Farmlands and Other Lands Chairman State Chief Minister Dr. Khet Aung explained about works conducted towards releasing and returning farmlands and other lands in Kachin State.

Afterwards, a representative of the Ministry of Defence transferred documents relating to released land to Mohnyin District Acting Administrator U Nyunt Ngwe. This was followed by State Chief Minister Dr. Khet Aung, Deputy Ministers Rear Admiral Myint Ngwe, Maj-Gen Than Htut and U Kyaw Lin, state minister U Mya Thein, Permanent Secretaries U Tin Myint and U Win Khant who presented Temporary Land Use Permit Form 3 and Farmland Work Permit Certificate (Form 7) to the farmers.

On behalf of the farmers who received the lands, farmer U Than Swe spoke words of thanks.

After the ceremony the Vice President cordially greeted the ceremony attendees. The Vice President and party then left Mohnyin town for Myitkyina by Tatmadaw helicopters.—MNA (Translated by Zaw Min)
Union Minister U Thaung Tun meets with Russian Security Council Secretary Mr. Nikolay Patrushev

Union Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations and National Security Advisor U Thaung Tun visited the Russian Federation from 2 to 5 December 2018 as Special Envoy of the State Counsellor. The Union Minister met with Mr. Nikolay Patrushev, Secretary of the Security Council of Russia in Moscow on 3 December.

They discussed issues related to Myanmar-Russia Security cooperation as well as cooperation in international fora. The Union Minister apprised the Secretary on Myanmar government’s efforts for national reconciliation and peace as well as the latest developments in Rakhine State.

The Union Minister also met with the Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Mr. Igor Morgulov on 4 December. At the meeting they exchanged views on bilateral relations and a wide range of issues including cooperation within the UN. The Union Minister also received Mr. M.A. Dmitriev, President and Senior Vice President of the Russian-Myanmar Association for the Friendship and Cooperation at the Myanmar Embassy on 5 December. — MNA

International Anti-Corruption Day Forum held in Yangon

Fourth steering committee meeting for projects on rule of law, human rights held

THE fourth steering committee meeting to discuss projects on rule of law and human rights was held at the Union Attorney General’s Office yesterday. The meeting was co-chaired by the Union Attorney General U Tun Tun Oo and the Ambassador of the Kingdom of Denmark to Myanmar, Mr. John Nielsen.

The Union Attorney General’s Office and the embassy of the Kingdom of Denmark signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on 1 December, 2016, to draw up yearly schemes of work and to carry out the implementation of the schemes.

In his opening speech at the meeting, the Union Attorney General said that drafts of strategic plans for the rule of law and judicial affairs had been drawn up for the coordination team and would be released soon, after taking suggestions from relevant organizations.

“arrest corruption is the backbone and essential strategy to eradicate Systematic Corruption that permeated throughout the entire country and there are four stages in it said Mr. Aung Kyi in his opening remark at the forum.

First is to consistently monitor and evaluate your own department’s corruption free conducts and to take responsibility toward improving it. Recognition and award to be made when there are no progress. Penalties and punishments to be made when there are no progress. Here, it is important to amend and reform the way works is conducted, processes, rules and regulations in corrupt departments and reduce the numbers of offenders. Second is to listen to the voices of the public, business, media and civil service organisations. There ought to be a mechanism in the department to accept and resolve complaints made by victims. Corruption in the department to be analyzed and reviewed. Comments and advices against corruption coming from third parties need to be accepted and considered.

Third is to bring in an outside agency to audit, monitor and review the department’s performance. It is not a shameful matter or a shameful matter to invite public organisations and third parties to review and assess your department. In fact it is firm assurance that there is transparency and responsibility and thus is an honorable thing to be proud of.

Fourth is the fact that corruption is not something that occurs impulsively or a spur of a moment thing but is a crime of calculation. We all need to accept and believe in this and institutional leaders themselves need to lead and tackle it to change the situation. As we all understand that people who have more income are liable to corruption when they have the authorities and rights to do things, people are taking calculated risk on whether to take bribe or not depending upon the value of the bribe, whether the bribery can be discovered and punished meted out rather than he/she had low or high income in the first place. Leaders who want to eradicate corruption and want reform are to ensure that no one is set-free without punishment for any act of corruption. Only then can there be no corruption. It is important to monitor so that information is obtained at the earliest possible time, take effective action as soon as information is obtained, provide incentive depending upon individual’s ability or take effective action. The forum is jointly conducted by Myanmar Anti-Corruption Commission, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and will be held for two days it is learnt. Anti-Corruption Commission Chairman said there is no country in the world where corruption and intimidation for bribes are permitted by law. However, it is not possible to sue and take action against everyone who did this and we do not expect them to realize their wrongs and stop doing it. That is why we need to make people who conduct Systematic Corruption lost their balance. The Commission alone could not do this. All need to form an Integrity Pact and eradicate it in a unified momentum.

In the first part of forum economist U Myint, Dr. Aung Tun Thet, U Khin Maung Nyo (economics), Dr. Tin Maung Than (Thint Ba Wai) discussed under the titles “corruption cause, affect and remedy,” “Stop Corruption,” “The Role of Political Institution to Promote Accountability” and “Towards Accountability Program” respectively.

In the afternoon session a talk circle under the title “Enhance Accountability to Prevent Corruption” was moderated by Dr. Aung Tun Thet with panelists consisting of Directorate of Investment and Company Administration Director General Aung Naing Oo, National Education Policy Commission Director General (Retired) Dr. Khaing Mye, The Voice Journal editor U Zeya Thu, UMFCCI joint secretary general Daw Khine Khine Nwe, Max Myanmar Chief Executive Officer U Chris Tun, A2JII Vice Chairman U Thwin Lin Aung and MATA Coordinator U Ye Lin Myint.

The forum today was attended by Yangon Region Chief Minister, Yangon Region Hluttaw Speaker, Yangon Region ministers, Hluttaw affairs committee chairmen and secretaries, representatives from UNODC and UNDP partner organisations, state/district level departmental officials, officials from civil service organisations, post graduate students from Ministry of Education, university students and media. The theme of this year International Anti-Corruption Day is “United Against Corruption.” — Ye Gaung Nyunt (Translated by Zaw Min)

To commemorate the International Anti-Corruption Day that falls on 9 December a 2018 International Anti-Corruption Day Forum was held under the theme “Enhance Accountability to Prevent Corruption” at the Rose Garden Hotel, Yangon yesterday morning.

Increasing the responsibility against corruption is the backbone and essential strategy to eradicate Systematic Corruption that permeated throughout the entire country and there are four stages in it said Mr. Aung Kyi in his opening remark at the forum.

First is to consistently monitor and evaluate your own department’s corruption free conducts and to take responsibility toward improving it. Recognition and award to be made when there are no progress. Penalties and punishments to be made when there are no progress. Here, it is important to amend and reform the way works is conducted, processes, rules and regulations in corrupt departments and reduce the numbers of offenders. Second is to listen to the voices of the public, business, media and civil service organisations. There ought to be a mechanism in the department to accept and resolve complaints made by victims. Corruption in the department to be analyzed and reviewed. Comments and advices against corruption coming from third parties need to be accepted and considered.

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The forum today was attended by Yangon Region Chief Minister, Yangon Region Hluttaw Speaker, Yangon Region ministers, Hluttaw affairs committee chairmen and secretaries, representatives from UNODC and UNDP partner organisations, state/district level departmental officials, officials from civil service organisations, post graduate students from Ministry of Education, university students and media. The theme of this year International Anti-Corruption Day is “United Against Corruption.” — Ye Gaung Nyunt (Translated by Zaw Min)
The Central Sweets
YANGON, MYANMAR

GRAND OPENING
18th Dec 2018

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Invest in Ayeayawdi, reap good returns

WE Union and regional governments are working hard to attract much-needed foreign investment into the country. In connection with the new Investment Law that was enacted, there were 4.5 foreign investors in the Ayeayawdi Region and now there are 5.5. This is due to the medium term gone by. Nine months, 13 mark points would be awarded if the things are done during the three months. The ground inspection is to be carried out by concerned government departments, not through the single team. In this regard, we think that the government should be a role model in this aspect.

The Union Government has designated a strategic plan to attract investments as far as 2020 and is working in line with the national investment promotion strategy to implement each stage. The recent investment round in the Ayeayawdi Region will show positive results in the future and will help attract more foreign investment. We hope the Ayeayawdi Region will lay more concrete roads to Yangon in the future. We are sure that the much-needed electrical projects and economic zones will be set up. This is not only the region but the entire country.

In fact, the delta region has investment potential for oil and natural gas ventures, recreational areas, tourism industry, and in many other areas. The Ayeayawdi Region also has several regional projects including housing projects and economic zones. We can say that foreign investment will bring the industrialization and development in the region. The Union Government and regional government are working with Japa- nese organizations to attract more foreign investors. This will help the international community learn more about the region and encourage them to conduct business there.

The Peacein Economic Zone has been set up in the region to attract investors. The government has identified more domestic investors than foreign investors.

The Ayeayawdi Region has resources for investment and we are ripe to invest in the delta region. We are confident that investments in the Ayeayawdi Region will bring good returns to you, and.

By Shin Min, Photo: Aye Than

MRTV aired a live program on talks under the Theme—National Development through simple ways—in which Deputy Minister for Commerce U Aung Htoo, General Manager of YCDC Daw Hlaiang Maw Oo, and Executive of UMFCCI U Zeya Thura Mon were the speakers.

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Police seize K4.9 bln worth of Yaba pills in two cases in Maungtaw Township

THE Union Minister for Information, Dr. Pe Myint, attended the workshop on “Public Broadcasting Service—An Opportunity for Myanmar?” at Ministry of Information in Nay Pyi Taw at 9 a.m. yesterday.

Deputy Minister U Aung Hla Tun, Hluttaw representatives, officials from DW Akademie, international media experts, and guests attended the discussion entitled, ‘Public Broadcasting Service - An Opportunity for Myanmar?’

In his opening speech at the workshop, Union Minister Dr. Pe Myint discussed emergence of private media in Myanmar during the country’s transition to democracy, lack of relevant law and bylaws thus causing implementation of broadcasting effectively;

To Public Service Media or for turning the state-run media into Public Service Media; legal point of views for transforming the state-run MRTV into Public Service Media.

He also urged the participants of the workshop to discuss how to overcome the challenges.

The Head of Department from DW Akademie, Mr. Michael Karhausen, also delivered the opening remarks.

The discussion at the workshop focused on topics, including possible steps towards public service broadcasting, setting up a public service television and broadcasting board, securing public service television and broadcasting funds, and transforming public service television and broadcasting.

The workshop was co-hosted by the Ministry of Information and the DW Akademie. A broadcasting expert from DW Akademie, Mr. Hendrik Bussiek, the deputy director of Thai PSB, Mr. Anupong Chaiyariti, and Mongolia Public Broadcasting Managing Director, Dr. Batzori Tovuu, took part in the discussion. — MNA (Translated by Win Ko Ko Aung)

17 Bangladeshis handed over to Bangladesh after jail time in Myanmar

SEVENTEEN Bangladeshis were handed over to the Bangladesh authorities on 5 December after they served jail time in Myanmar.

At a flag meeting between the two countries held at the No.1 exit/entry post (POE), a Myanmar delegation led by U Hein Lin, Deputy Director of the Maungdaw District Immigration Department handed over the prisoners to Bangladeshi side led by Lt-Col MD Asadud-Zamman Chowdhury of Bangladesh border guard force.

Among the seventeen Bangladeshis, who were arrested over various crimes, three others who were arrested over various crimes. They were brought back to Bangladesh after serving jail time in Myanmar.

Silver Muse cruise ship with 425 tourists docks at Thilawa Port

THE Silver Muse vessel with 425 cruisers from the United States and Australia and 404 crews made her call at Thilawa Port in Yangon yesterday, according to Myanmar Port Authority.

She is the eighteenth cruise ship to call at Myanmar this year and the tour packages are arranged by Myanmar Voyagers Travels & Tours.

The Silver Muse cruise ship called Yangon through the Phuket port in Thailand for its second time in this open season. Langkawi in Malaysia is her next port of call.

In 2019, about cruise ships are expected to call at Yangon Port and mega cruise will also call southern coast areas of Myanmar.— MNA (Translated by Win Ko Ko Aung)

Police seize K4.9 bln worth of Yaba pills in two cases in Maungtaw Township

POLICE in Maungtaw seized 2,525,250 Yaba pills in two cases in Maungtaw Township, Rakhine State, yesterday, according to police source.

Acting on a tip-off, the anti-drug squad searched the house in Kyehhoepyin Village in Maungtaw Township and confiscated K1.17 billion worth of 585,000 Yaba pills hidden in three bags. Authorities are continuing their investigation into the case under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.

 Likewise, acting on a tip-off, the authorities stopped a vehicle on Buthidaung-Maungtaw road and seized K3.8 billion worth of 1,940,250 Yaba pills, hidden in the noodle packages yesterday.

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Ten companies shortlisted for building Yangon Elevated Express Way Project Phase-1

THE Ministry of Construction yesterday announced the names of 10 companies that have been shortlisted to build the elevated express way in Yangon. The Ministry of Construction and the Yangon Regional Government last year announced plans for a tendering process, which will be conducted via the public private partnership (PPP) model.

The prequalified bidders will be invited to access relevant data and documentation related to the project and participate in the tender and submit bids,” stated an announcement from the Ministry of Construction.

Four Chinese companies, one company each from France, Japan, and Korea, a Thailand-Japan-Myanmar joint venture company, a Thailand-China joint company, and a China-Myanmar joint venture company have been included in the shortlist, it said.

The next step in the tender process is the issuance of Request for Proposals (RFP) and draft concession agreements to prequalified bidders.

The Yangon Elevated Expressway is being given priority by the Government. The project aims to alleviate the severe traffic congestion in Yangon and improve connectivity for businesses and communities in the country’s commercial hub.—GNLM

Rice worth $479 mln exported

THE volume of Myanmar’s rice and broken rice exports from 1 April to 23 November has been estimated to be 1.39 million metric tons, worth US$474 million, said the Myanmar Rice Federation.

Over the last eight months, Myanmar has shipped over 1 million metric tons of rice to 46 countries, earning $398 million. The country has exported over 209,500 metric tons of broken rice, worth $80.9 million, to 21 countries.

Trade on the border has been comparatively higher than sea, accounting for 52.7 per cent of the total rice exports. The export of rice and broken rice through border checkpoints have earned an estimated $258 million. Exports over sea have fetched $215.7 million. Since the second week of October, China has tightened controls on importation of rice, sugar, and corn through the Muse checkpoint, resulting in suspension of trade. As a result, FOB prices of low-quality rice have declined, according to the Bayintnaung market. Over 100,000 bags of rice are entering the Bayintnaung market daily. In the 2017-2018 Fiscal Year, Myanmar exported 3.6 million tons of rice and broken rice, worth $1.13 billion. —GNLM (Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Exports of finished goods up $477 mln in current FY

MYANMAR exported finished industrial goods worth US$1.17 billion between 1 October and 23 November in the current fiscal year, an increase of over $477.7 million from the same period last year, according to data released by the Ministry of Commerce.

During the same period last year, Myanmar’s exports stood at $693 million. Myanmar’s manufacturing sector largely comprises garment and textiles businesses, which make products on a cut-make-pack (CMP) basis. CMP has emerged as a promising industry in the export sector.

While the value of CMP exports was only $850 million in the 2015-2016 Fiscal Year, it tripled within two years to touch $2.5 billion in the 2017-2018 FY, according to the Myanmar Global Investment Forum 2018 held on 12 September.

In the last mini-budget period (April-September this year), exports of clothes made under the CMP system totalled $2.27 billion, doubling in value over the last year. Over $160 million worth of CMP products were shipped in the current fiscal year.

Garment producers are eyeing Myanmar for investment because of inexpensive labour, although the issue of payments has at times led to conflicts between garment factory owners and labourers, said market watchers.

Japan is Myanmar’s largest apparel market, followed by the European Union. Local entrepreneurs have expressed concern over a possible revoking of the EU’s Generalized Scheme of Preferences as it can harm the manufacturing industry. There are currently over 400 garment factories in Myanmar employing over 300,000 workers.

The manufacturing sector is likely to maintain its top position in attracting FDI’s in the current fiscal year. —GNLM (Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Demand from China drives red corn sales

SALES of red corn have risen this year on account of an increase in demand from China, according to domestic traders.

“Red corn started to be harvested in early November. At the time it entered the Mandalay pulses and beans market, it fetched Ks43,000 per three-basket bag. At present, the prices stay low at Ks30,000 due to plentiful supply,” said U Soe Win Myint, a depot owner from Mandalay. “Red corn fetched only Ks30,000 during this period last year. This year, both demand and price have risen. In spite of China suspending imports of rice, sugar, and corn through the Muse checkpoint, resulting in suspension of trade. As a result, FOB prices of low-quality rice have declined, according to the Bayintnaung market. Over 100,000 bags of rice are entering the Bayintnaung market daily. In the 2017-2018 Fiscal Year, Myanmar exported 3.6 million tons of rice and broken rice, worth $1.13 billion. —GNLM (Translated by Ei Myat Mon)
CO₂ emissions up 2.7%, world ‘off course’ to curb warming: study

PARIS — Global emissions of carbon dioxide mainly from fossil fuel burning will rise 2.7 per cent in 2018, scientists said Wednesday, signalling a world “completely off course” in the fight against climate change.

Last year, CO₂ pollution increased by 1.6 per cent after a three-year hiatus that raised hopes manmade greenhouse gas emissions had finally peaked despite an expanding world economy.

“This growth in global CO₂ emissions puts the goals set out in the Paris Agreement in jeopardy,” lead author Corinne Le Quere, director of the Tyndall Centre of Climate Change Research at the University of East Anglia, said in a statement.

“It is not enough to support renewables,” she added. “Efforts to decarbonise need to be expanded throughout the economy.”

The findings, co-authored by a team of nearly 80 scientists, were published in the journal Open Access Earth System Science.

Rapid deployment of solar and wind power, along with gains in energy efficiency, have been outpaced by growth in demand for energy and electric vehicles, this is currently too small to impact the onward march of fossil fuels.

The UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has said that CO₂ emissions must drop 50 per cent by 2030 — and reach “net zero”, with no additional leakage into the atmosphere — by 2050 if the rise in Earth’s temperature is to be checked at the safer limit of 1.5°C.

The uncertainty range for the 2.7 per cent increase is 1.8 to 3.7 per cent.

Fluctuations in global emissions over the last five or six years have tracked changes in coal consumption, the study revealed.

In particular, “the trends have a lot to do with the ups and downs of coal use in China,” Le Quere told journalists in Paris.

Globally, coal-fired power accounts for 40 per cent of CO₂ emissions, and more than two-fifths of the world’s electricity.

Oil and gas use have grown almost unabated over the last decade.

China’s emissions accounted for 27 per cent of the global total, and will likely show growth of 4.7 per cent in 2018.

Smell the coffee

Coal is likely to dominate the Chinese energy system for decades, even if the skyrocketing growth of the mid-2000s is unlikely to return, the researchers said.

The United States will account for 15 per cent of CO₂ pollution in 2018, an increase of about 2.5 per cent. Most of that growth can be traced to an exceptionally hot summer and cold winter.

Despite attempts by Donald Trump to revive a moribund domestic coal industry, US emissions are expected to resume their downward trend in 2019 as cheap gas, wind and solar power continue to displace coal.

India’s emissions, six per cent, with growth continuing their upward spiral, increased by 3.6 per cent year on year.

The European Union is set to see a small decline in 2018, and will account for about a tenth of the total.

CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE

MV MCC MERGUI VOY. NO. (1833/1834)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V MCC MERGUI VOY. NO. (1833/1834) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 7-12-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P.M.I.T--T where it will be at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT

MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY AGENT FOR: M/S MCC TRANSPORT (S’PORE)

PTE LTD

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE

M.V XIN YI HAI 55 V. 04

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V XIN YI HAI 55 V. 04 are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 7-12-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.TT-F 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: MS COSCO (HK) INVESTMENT & DEVELOPMENT CO., LTD.

Phone No: 2301928

CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE

M.V SENTA HELENA V. 59

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V SENTA HELENA V. 59 are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 7-12-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P 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.

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SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT

MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY AGENT FOR: MS WILHLMSEN SHIP SERVICES PTE LTD.

Phone No: 2301928
NEW YORK (United States)— Pop star Ariana Grande’s sugary new music video for the hit “Thank U, Next” is now the fastest to rack up 100 million views on YouTube, the platform told AFP Wednesday.

After dropping Friday, the clip needed little more than three days to eclipse South Korea’s Psy, whose video for “Gentleman” took a few hours longer to hit 100 million views in 2013.

Grande, 25, had teased the video—which recreates scenes from several 2000s-era teen films including “Mean Girls” and “Legally Blonde”—for weeks after releasing the break-up anthem on November 5. “Thank U, Next” also broke the record for most views in the 24 hours after its YouTube release with 55.4 million, smashing the previous record of 45.9 million views held by Korean boy band BTS for “IDOL.”

In the song, Grande reflects on former loves including rappers Big Sean and Mac Miller—who committed suicide in September—as well as the comedian and actor Pete Davidson, with whom she had a brief but heavily publicized engagement.

The track earned Grande, who launched her career acting in a series for the youth network Nickelodeon, her first number one spot on the Billboard Hot 100, a music industry standard chart based on sales along with online streaming and radio play.

The pop artist will release an album—also titled “Thank U, Next”—at a yet unannounced date.—AFP

Hollywood awards season kicks off with Golden Globes noms

LOS ANGELES (United States)— Hollywood’s annual carnival of awards shows begins Thursday with the nominations for the Golden Globes—the starting gun in the race for the Oscars.

The announcements, which come a week before the influential Screen Actors Guild nominations, are the first major bellwethers of momentum going into the Academy Awards, which take place in February.

Awards analysis website Gold Derby predicts that music romance re-boot “A Star Is Born” and “If Beale Street Could Talk”—a tale of black love adapted from a James Baldwin novel—will top the nominations with nine each.

“A Star Is Born” stars Bradley Cooper, who also directed the film, and Lady Gaga, who are also expected to pick up nominations for their portrayal of a aging rocker and the young ingenue who unite on stage and in life.

“A Star Is Born should dominate with nominations at the Globes and Oscars,” Gold Derby managing director Chris Bea chum told AFP.

“Beale Street”—the latest film from Barry Jenkins, who directed the best picture Oscar-winning “Moonlight”—tells the story of a young black couple in love in 1970s Harlem, and the obstacles in their path.

Beyond the frontrunners, a slew of biopics are in the mix—“First Man,” the intimate recounting of Neil Armstrong’s moon landing; Dick Cheney film “Vice”; and “Bohemian Rhapsody” about Queen frontman Freddie Mer cury.

Spike Lee’s “BlacKkKlansman,” the true story of a black police officer who infiltrated the Ku Klux Klan with the help of a white partner, is also expected to receive recognition in the drama categories.

Another theme this season is the ravages of addiction, with “Beautiful Boy” star Timothee Chalamet — an Oscar and Globe nominee for “Call Me By Your Name” (2017), tipped to earn a nod for playing a meth addict.—AFP
**Brazil researchers crunched as science spending collapses**

RIO DE JANEIRO (Brazil) — In her Rio de Janeiro lab, biologist Michelle Klautau paid for the $1,400 photo machine, two air conditioning units, most of the chairs and even the paint and tiles from her own pocket. The professor is one of several Brazilian scientists who warn the sector is teetering on a precipice after losing two-thirds of state funding between 2010 and 2017. “We are reaching a point where it’s becoming impossible,” said Klautau, who specializes in marine sponges at the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro (UFRJ). “Researchers can’t continue financing research with their salaries,” she told AFP. The rapid decline in funding—which researchers say has forced them to personally finance projects or see them terminated—parallels de-funding in other areas, notably culture.

“When I saw the National Museum in Rio in flames on the TV I started to cry,” said Professor Luiz Davidovich, a respected physicist and president of the country’s Science Academy, referring to a September 2 blaze that gutted South America’s most important natural history museum. In UFRJ labs, he said “researchers are paying out of their pocket to buy material or genetically modified mice to do their research into Zika.”

**Ambitions curtailed**

“We are already cutting the number of students in our laboratories, the number of projects, and often the scale of them,” Klautau added. One of her student assistants, Marcio Franca, pointed out a petty-cash box the team pays into to buy water, coffee and toilet paper. Brazil has traditionally been a national security. “Engines stabilized rocket spiraled, then stabilize, then crash sideways into the water. Dispatched.” Later, Musk posted the full video from on board the rocket, showing the Falcon 9 rocket landed just out to sea,” CEO Elon Musk said on Twitter. “Appears to be undamaged and is transmitting data. Recovery ship dispatched.” Later, Musk posted the full video from on board the booster, showing the rocket spiral, then stabilize, then crash sideways into the water.

“Engines stabilized rocket spin just in time, enabling an intact landing in water! Ships en route to rescue Falcon,” he wrote. It was the first time SpaceX ever failed to land a booster on solid ground, following a string of 12 straight successes. Ocean platform landings have proven a bit trickier, but structure created. But then a record-busting recession hit, while Lula’s protege Dilma Rousseff was in charge. After her 2016 impeachment, Rousseff’s vice president Michel Temer took over and froze government spending for 20 years, including in the non-priority science sector.

**Brain drain**

“Brazilian science is under threat from lack of funds,” warned Professor Marcos Fracisco, at the UFRJ’s biomedical sciences department. —AFP

**SpaceX launches cargo, but fails to land rocket**

TAMPA (United States)—SpaceX on Wednesday blasted off its unmanned Dragon cargo ship, loaded with supplies, science experiments and food for the astronauts living at the International Space Station but failed to successfully land its booster afterwards.

“We have had a great liftoff,” said SpaceX commentator John Insprucker, as the Falcon 9 rocket soared into the sunny, blue sky over Cape Canaveral, Florida at 1:16 pm (1816 GMT), carrying 5,600 pounds (2,500 kilograms) of gear. The mission was SpaceX’s 16th mission for NASA as part of a long-term contract to ferry supplies to space. The Dragon cargo ship successfully made it to orbit, which was the primary goal of the launch. But the tall portion of the rocket missed its goal of securing an upright landing on solid ground at Cape Canaveral's Landing Zone 1. After separating from the second stage, and firing its engines to return to Earth, a video camera on board showed the first stage spinning. “Grid fin hydraulic pump stalled, so Falcon landed just out to sea,” CEO Elon Musk said on Twitter. “Appears to be undamaged and is transmitting data. Recovery ship dispatched.” Later, Musk posted the full video from on board the booster, showing the rocket spiral, then stabilize, then crash sideways into the water.

“Engines stabilized rocket spin just in time, enabling an intact landing in water! Ships en route to rescue Falcon,” he wrote. It was the first time SpaceX ever failed to land a booster on solid ground, following a string of 12 straight successes. Ocean platform landings have proven a bit trickier, but structure created. But then a record-busting recession hit, while Lula’s protege Dilma Rousseff was in charge. After her 2016 impeachment, Rousseff’s vice president Michel Temer took over and froze government spending for 20 years, including in the non-priority science sector.

**Brain drain**

“Brazilian science is under threat from lack of funds,” warned Professor Marcos Fracisco, at the UFRJ’s biomedical sciences department. —AFP

Researchers examined the extent that exposure to certain neighborhoods supported or inhibited academic achievement among African-American teens in 7th and 8th grades. The sample included 723 African-American families who completed surveys. Nearly 60 per cent of parents reported that they were married.

Caregivers described their neighborhood based on safety, such as racial tensions, vandalism and drug use; informal social control, which involves the perception that neighbors would intervene to stop bad situations; cohesion and trust, such as sharing similar views with others; and resource availability, including after-school programs.

Youths in the cohesive and supported environments had higher academic achievement than counterparts living in a mixed neighborhood of low safety but positive relationships, the study indicated. The study has been published in the Journal of Black Psychology.—Xinhua

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**Positive social relationships in neighborhood tied to high academic results**

CHICAGO—A study by researchers at the University of Michigan (UM), Pennsylvania State University and California State University-Northridge suggests a complex relation between neighborhood social dynamics and a change in youths’ grade point average during middle school.

Neighborhoods rich in resources and cohesion may transfer similar positive processes to the schools. That is, teens living in the most “positive” neighborhoods had better grades than counterparts living in risky neighborhoods, the researchers said. Researchers examined the extent that exposure to certain neighborhoods supported or inhibited academic achievement among African-American teens in 7th and 8th grades. The sample included 723 African-American families who completed surveys. Nearly 60 per cent of parents reported that they were married.

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A student of the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro works at a biology laboratory. PHOTO: AFP

In this still photo from NASA TV, SpaceX launches its unmanned Dragon cargo ship to the International Space Station—the mission is SpaceX's 16th mission for NASA, as part of a long-term contract to ferry supplies to space. PHOTO: AFP

SpaceX has managed to stick the landing, whether on land or sea, 32 times in all. The effort is aimed at reducing the cost of launches by re-using expensive components, instead of jettisoning them in the ocean after each mission.—AFP
Man Utd fight back again but Arsenal extend unbeaten run in four-goal thriller

MANCHESTER (United Kingdom)—Jose Mourinho accused his Manchester United players of shooting themselves in the foot as he saw his under-strength team gift Arsenal two goals in a 2-2 draw that extended their wireless Premier League run to four games.

United, who started with Paul Pogba and Romelu Lukaku on the bench, showed great spirit to twice come back, with equalisers from Anthony Martial and Jesse Lingard earning a much-needed point.

But, after a defeat at Manchester City and dispiriting draws with Crystal Palace and Southampton, United are now 18 points behind leaders City and actually closer to the relegation positions than they are first place. United also trail Chelsea and Arsenal, who are now unbeaten in 20 games, by eight points in the battle for a place in the top four. And Mourinho, who saw a bad David de Gea error and Marcos Rojo own goal twice hand Arsenal the lead, believes the performance continued their run of self-inflicted harm.

“We scored four goals and we drew 2-2,” joked Mourinho.

“But we scored four goals and even in matches like today where we play well, we always shoot ourselves. “Sometimes we miss chances with an open goal, other times defensive mistakes but tonight there was a fantastic spirit, good performances.

“Our problem is finding a performance like this without the mistakes we made and we had very good performances where we make mistakes and we are always punished.”

Mourinho’s frustration was especially understandable given that Arsenal’s opening goal, after 26 minutes, featured that rarest of collector’s items, a mistake by his Spanish international goalkeeper David de Gea. Chris Smalling slipped at Lucas Torreira’s 26th minute corner, allowing Mustafi the space to send a free header bouncing into the ground and goalwards.

Rojo tackled him from behind and succeeded only in turning the ball into the six-yard area where Martial was on the by-line and turning it into the six-yard area where Martial was able to convert. That dramatic pattern would be repeated after 68 minutes when Arsenal regained a lead they could only hold, on this occasion, for 74 seconds. Lacazette played a one-two with fellow substitute Henrikh Mkhitaryan and advanced into the area where he played well, we always shoot ourselves. “Sometimes we

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Icardi eyes Ronaldo match-up as Inter bid to halt Juventus

MILAN (Italy)—Mauro Icardi said he was relishing the chance to measure himself against Cristiano Ronaldo for the first time as Inter Milan travel to Turin on Friday looking to inflict the first defeat of the season on Italian champions Juventus and keep the Serie A title race alive. Juve

ventus have set a frenetic pace this season since signing Ronaldo.

The Serie A title race is alive. Juve

do, making a record start with 40 points after the first 14 games in Serie A. Napoli are second—eight points behind Juventus—with Inter Milan 11 points adrift of the champions in third. A defeat for Inter in the ‘Derby D’Italia’ between the two northern giants would likely be a killer blow to their ambitions and leave Juventus free to claim an eighth consecutive title: “I’ve played Juventus many times but this is the most important since I’ve been here,” said Icardi. “I won’t settle for a draw. We must go there without fear. “I can’t wait to play against Cristiano Ronaldo, it will be a pleasure to have him up front. But he’s not my problem, (defender) Stefan de Vrij and Milan Skriniar are there.”—AFP

Tickets for Dave Leduc vs Tun Tun Min match to be sold in advance

TICKETS for the Air KBZ Grand Final match between the current lightweight Lethwei World Champion, Dave Leduc, and former champion Tun Tun Min will be sold in advance, according to the Myanmar Lethwei World Championship (MLWC) organizers.

The final Lethwei bout will take place at the Thein Phyu Lethwei Stadium in Yangon on 16 December. The Lethwei championship being supervised by the Ministry of Health and Sports and the Myanmar Lethwei World Championship (MLWC) organizers.

The championship will feature six main bouts, including the match between Dave Leduc and Tun Tun Min. The bouts will also feature Out Chin Lay (Myanmar) vs Inn Thar (Myanmar), Saw Dar Wait (Myanmar) vs Mahmoud (Iran), Byat Kha vs Wittaya (Thailand), Tun Min Latt vs Tokeshi (Japan), and Voro Nika (Myanmar) vs Tongtao (Thailand).—Lynn Thit(Tgi)

Viet Nam beat Myanmar 2-1 in AFC U-20 Futsal Championship

MYANMAR LOST to Viet Nam by a narrow 2-1 score in the AFC U-20 Futsal Championship ASEAN Zone qualifiers at Haamark Indoor Stadium in Bangkok, Thailand yesterday.

Indoor Stadium in Bangkok, Thailand yesterday.

It was a closely fought match with both Myanmar and Viet Nam scoring a goal within the first eight minutes.

At the 14 minute-mark, Viet Nam secured the winning goal by taking advantage of some hesitation in Myanmar’s defense line.

Although team Myanmar fought back hard in the second half, they missed all their goal chances.

Nam secured the winning goal by taking advantage of some hesitation in Myanmar’s defense line.

Although team Myanmar fought back hard in the second half, they missed all their goal chances.

In an earlier match on Wednesday, Myanmar lost out to Malaysia. Myanmar has just two more matches left to play against Thailand on 7 December and against Indonesia on 8 December. The matches are crucial as they will decide whether Myanmar will make it to the next stage of the championship.

Viet Nam will continue their qualifying campaign on Saturday against Thailand.—Lynn Thit(Tgi)

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Survey shows rise in Ayeyawady dolphin population

AN annual survey carried out jointly by the government’s Fisheries Department and the Wildlife Conservation Society (Myanmar) has found that the population of the Ayeyawady dolphin, which is an endangered and rare species, has increased from last year, despite deaths reported recently.

“Three to four deaths in a year can be considered normal. Meanwhile, dolphin births have been recorded in the river. So, the number of dolphins has increased from last year,” said U Han Win, a conservationist who took part in the annual survey.

The survey to assess the population of the endangered species is conducted in February every year. According to the surveys, there were 69 adult dolphins, three babies, and three deaths in 2017; and 76 adult dolphins, eight babies and five deaths in 2018.

The government has taken measures to conserve the endangered species through patrols in the Ayeyawady River and to take action against electro-fishing, which is considered the main threat to the Ayeyawady dolphins.

Up till mid-November, the authorities have seized 15 boats and arrested fishermen for illegal fishing.—Khun Haet Wai

(Translated by JT)

A MEDICAL team comprising 15 doctors, including physicians, pediatricians, and eye specialists, from Thailand’s Department of Medical Services provided free treatment to patients from 29 November to the first week of December. This was the first time a medical team from Thailand provided treatment in Myanmar.

The medical team offered the free service, treating about 200 patients every day, in collaboration with the Public Health Department of Rakhine State under the Ministry of Health and Sports.

The team treated 1,136 patients at the Kyauktan rural health centre, the Saythamargyi relief camp, the Yawchaypinpye rural health centre, and the Ahmyint Kyaung rural health centre.

“Most of the patients were elderly people with complaints of knee and back pain. We also saw some children suffering from malnutrition,” said a Thai doctor from the medical team.

The health team, led by the Public Health Department Deputy Director-General, Dr. Thaung Hlaing, also included officials from Rakhine State’s Public Health Department and Sittway Township’s Public Health Department.

The free treatment was organized with the aim to promote the public health as well as strengthen the friendship between the two countries.—Zin OO (Myanma Alinn)

(Translated by Hay Mar)