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THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Vol. V, No. 274, 10th Waxing of Pyatho 1380 ME | www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com | Tuesday, 15 January 2019

If all the ethnic armed groups, participated, and cooperated in the Union peace process fully, Kayah State would be able to enjoy the fruits of peace quickly and to the full extent.

Message of Greetings sent by President U Win Myint on the occasion of the 67th Anniversary of Kayah State Day celebrations (15 January 2019)

Dear esteemed ethnic national Kayah brothers and sisters, citizens,

I deem it a great honor to be given this opportunity to send this Message of Greetings on the occasion of the 67th anniversary celebrations of Kayah State Day. I also send good wishes and Metta to all Kayah ethnic nationals living all across the Union and to all Union nationals to be blessed with good fortune and auspiciousness.

Kayah State Day has been celebrated since 15 January 1952 and we are now celebrating its 67th anniversary. It is a state where nine Kayah ethnic racial groups live. Other ethnic national races also live here in friendship and harmony.

SEE PAGE-2

2019 Union Day coord meeting held

Vice President U Myint Swe, Chairman of the 72nd Anniversary of the Union Day Convening Central Committee, addresses the coordination meeting in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

U MYINT SWE, Vice President and Chairman of the 2019 72nd Anniversary Union Day Convening Central Committee addressed the central committee co-ordination meeting held at the Office of the President yesterday.

The Central Committee Chairman Vice President U Myint Swe said the day's meeting was held for the successful organizing and holding of the 2019 72nd Anniversary Union Day. The 2019 72nd Anniversary Union Day Convening Central Committee was formed with 14 members by the Office of the President on 23 November 2018 to successfully observe the day in accordance with five national aims and full political essence. An 18 member management committee and 14 sub-committees were also formed. The five national objectives of the 2019 72nd Anniversary Union Day are to protect and defend sovereignty for non-disintegration of the Union and unity of ethnic nationals through collective strength of all the ethnic nationals, striving toward establishment of a Constitution that is in accord with a democratic federal union, successful implementation of internal peace process from Union Peace Conference – 21st Century Panglong, strive towards rule of law and for the safety and security of the people through the unity of all citizens and for the people to have good education and adequate health care services.

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If all the ethnic armed groups, participated, and cooperated in the Union peace process fully, Kayah State would be able to enjoy the fruits of peace quickly and to the full extent.

FROM PAGE-1

Internal conflicts erupted in Myanmar for many years after the gaining of independence due to misunderstandings among ethnic nationals; and they had to suffer the brunt of internal conflict more so in the states where they live. As the bad result of these conflicts, State building and development works could not be done with full momentum and as a result, not only did we lag behind neighboring countries in political, economic, social and many areas, our dignity and prestige became tarnished in the international arena.

The Union Government has been working to achieve equitable development in the whole Union. In the Kayah State also, it has been working in many sectors such as transportation, education, health, human resources, electric supply, development of SMEs – small and medium enterprises, and eco-tourism. We built the Pha Saung bridge to cross the Thanlwin river, a border trading post was opened in Mae Sae township, and designated it as a sister town of Maehongsong in Thailand; we are also inviting foreign and domestic investments into this region.

Kayah State not only has the Lawpita hydro-electric power station which is important for national development, it has the Thanlwin river, Baluchaung, and Ngwe Saung dam. Furthermore it has many rivers, streams, waterfalls, mountain streams, and caves; also because it is blessed with such beautiful forests, mountains and scenic beauty, it is a state where eco-tourism enterprises can thrive.

In the past because of internal conflicts, the development of Kayah State has not been strong due to the fact that many difficulties were encountered in building infrastructure and administration.

Now armed conflicts have all but gone. Thus if all the ethnic armed groups, participated, and cooperated in the Union peace process fully, Kayah State would be able to enjoy the fruits of peace quickly and to the full extent.

At this time when freedom and openness prevails, the natural beauty of Kayah State with its forests and mountains has become a more popular and significant destination to local and foreign tourists alike for resting, relaxation and tourism. There are good potentials for increased investments, trade, commerce and tourism to come in from the border trading posts in the east from Thailand. For these good potentials to develop with high momentum, it is necessary to envisage how all of you wish Kayah State to develop, how all of you wish to see it, in the coming 20 years. All Kayah ethnic nationals including all ethnic armed organizations should think about this very seriously. Thus I wish to urge all of you to build peace as quickly as possible.

At this time when the Union Government is walking strenuously on the path of peace and equitable and harmonious development of the states and divisions, all ethnic national brothers and sisters in Kayah State should work hard, hand in hand in unity for the emergence of a peaceful and developed Kayah State. They should also ensure that the good foundations of peace and development already achieved are preserved and maintained. I am thus sending this Message of Greetings by urging all of you to join in with us in building the democratic federal republic which is the aspiration of all ethnic nationals and union citizens.

Sd/-
(Win Myint)
President

Myanmar, India jointly organize Voter Registration Training

OPENING ceremony of a voter registration training course jointly organized by Union Election Commission (UEC) and Election Commission of India was held at UEC Office training room yesterday morning. The event was attended by UEC Chairman U Hla Thein and members, India International Institute of Democracy and Election Management school Senior Consultant Dr. Noor Mohammad and trainers, officials from commission office and trainees.

At the ceremony, UEC Chairman said the day's course is jointly organized by UEC and Election Commission of India is one of the many programs to raise the capacity of staffs in commission office and all levels of sub-commissions. Election Commission of India will be conducting three such courses and this is the second one from 14 to 18 January. As Myanmar's had just started walking down the path of democracy, not only the people but the staff from commission offices lack experience related to election and much knowledge need to be realized in this.

UEC Chairman U Hla Thein delivers the speech at the Voter Registration Training course organized by Union Election Commission and Election Commission of India at UEC Office training room in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

That is why much emphasis had been placed toward raising the capacity of the staff. Although there are many works in an election cycle, preparation of voters list is a very important work.

Course attendees are urged to learn much from the course. Study and learn the strengths and weaknesses of registering voter list in India and use it in the best way in our registration of voter list said the UEC Chairman. Next Dr. Noor Mohammad spoke about the importance of the process of registering voter list.

In addition to having sufficient budget to have a complete and correct voters list, good management of staffs is required as well as for the staff to be skilled in their works. Election Commission of India will be holding five courses in 2019 and this is the third course. The fourth will be conducted in India and the fifth will be in Myanmar. — MNA *(Translated by Zaw Min)*

2019 Union Day coord meeting held

FROM PAGE-1

As the Union Day event was a national level ceremony everything must be complete from all sides and must be held in accord with the national objectives towards the main aims of unity of ethnic nationals and peace. To successfully conduct the 72nd Anniversary Union Day event, management committee and sub-committees are to take lessons from review of last year and work together to make this year the best.

Looking back at history, independence was achieved after Bogyoke Aung San and ethnic national leaders hold the Panglong conference of 12 February 1947 and signed the Panglong Agreement in unity. The Union Day that depicts the unity of ethnic national brothers and sisters have been held every year and this is the 72nd year.

Everyone knew that due to armed conflicts after independence our country lagged behind in development compared to other countries in the region. If we were able to establish internal peace which is the desire of all the people our country can stand proudly in the world for sure.

To create a democratic federal union in the future, Union Peace Conference – 21st Century Panglong has been held for three sessions already.

All are to work together with the Government, Hluttaw, Tatmadaw, ethnic national organizations, armed groups, political parties, civil society organizations and all in the national reconciliation and peace process implemented by the State for the establishment of a peaceful and flourishing democratic federal union.

> The Union Day that depicts the unity of ethnic national brothers and sisters have been held every year and this is the 72nd year.

Myanmar is a union that has many ethnic nationals, languages, culture, traditions and beliefs. Ethnic nationals living in different geographical locations are to maintain their cultural heritages and traditions so that they are not lost.

That is why the cultures and traditions of ethnic nationals were protected, maintained and shown on Union Day for future generation to know and not to be forgotten.

The 2019 72nd Anniversary Union Day event will be held in two parts. The first part, morning session will have flag hoisting ceremony and reading of messages. The evening session will be a dinner party and entertainment programme.

The 14 sub-committees are required to coordinate and conduct their duties and responsibilities systematically so that the two parts are implemented to surpass the implementation of the past years.

For the people to know the essence of the national aims set by the 2019 72nd Anniversary Union Day Convening Central Committee, arrangements are to be made for state-owned media like radio, television, newspaper and periodicals to broadcast and publish entertainment and informative programmes.

Sub-committees are to have Plan A as well as Plan B for all matters related to holding of 72nd Anniversary Union Day. In order to successfully hold the Union Day ceremony with full political essence all are urged to work together to make this year the best based on past years experiences.

Open discussion of committee and sub-committee wise status of works conducted, difficulties faced and suggestions are encouraged said the Vice President in conclusion.

Next 72nd Anniversary Union Day Convening Management Committee Chairman Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman Dr. Myo Aung and committee joint secretary Nay Pyi Taw municipal committee permanent secretary U Myo Aung explained about forming of sub-committees, status of work conducted in previous years and preparations made for this year.

Afterwards, officials from sub-committees explained about sub-committee wise work status. Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman Dr. Myo Aung and Nay Pyi Taw Council member Col. Min Naung provided additional discussions on work processes for successful holding of the 72nd Anniversary Union Day.

The Vice President gave his suggestions and comments to ensure proper coordination after which he gave his closing remarks.

The meeting was also attended by the following persons: Union Minister for Information Dr. Pe Myint, Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture Thura U Aung Ko, Union Minister for Transport and Communications U Thant Sin Maung, Union Minister for Electricity and Energy U Win Khaing, Union Minister for Education Dr. Myo Thein Gyi, Union Minister for Planning and Finance U Soe Win, Union Minister for Ethnic Affairs Nai Thet Lwin, Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman Dr. Myo Aung, Deputy Minister for Education U Win Maw Tun Nay Pyi Taw Council members Col. Min Naung and U Aung Myin Tun, Nay Pyi Taw Command deputy commander Brig-Gen Maung Maung, Permanent Secretaries, Directors General, senior Tatmadaw officers, Deputy Chief of Myanmar Police Force and departmental officials.— MNA ■

Constitutional Tribunal Chairman receives judicial, legal delegation of Japan

CONSTITUTIONAL Tribunal of the Union Chairman U Myo Nyunt received Japan Federation of Bar Associations (JFBA) Chairman Mr. Ikauchi Masatoshi, deputy chairmen and members, and JICA (Japan International Cooperation Agency) Judicial and Legal Project Chief Adviser Mr. Nose Kazunori and party at Constitutional Tribunal of the Union Office meeting hall in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

Constitutional Tribunal of the Union Chairman U Myo Nyunt meets with Japan Federation of Bar Association (JFBA) Chairman Mr. Ikauchi Masatoshi, and JICA Judicial and Legal Project Chief Adviser Mr. Nose Kazunori in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

At the meeting, the two sides discussed organization structure of Constitutional Tribunal of the Union, duties and responsibilities, decision made by the tribunal on submissions, increasing relation between the Constitutional Tribunal of Myanmar and Japan, constitution and legal matters, roles of the lawyers/advocates, JFBA assistant toward spreading legal knowledge to lawyer/advocate organizations and entities and capacity building of tribunal's personnel.

The meeting was attended by Constitutional Tribunal of the Union members U Myint Win, U Tual Cin Paul, Daw Hla Myo Nwe and U Kyaw San, director general, head of office and deputy director general. — MNA ■

Union Minister U Kyaw Tint Swe opens Chindwin Bridge (Homalin)

Union Minister U Kyaw Tint Swe and officials stroll along the Chindwin Bridge (Homalin) following the opening ceremony in Homalin, Sagaing Region yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

THE opening ceremony of the Chindwin Bridge (Homalin) constructed by the Ministry of Construction, Department of Bridges on Tamu-Aungzeya-Kaktha-Homalin road in Sagaing Region, Homalin Township was held at the bridge yesterday morning. Union Minister U Kyaw Tint Swe from the Office of the State Counsellor attended the ceremony and opened the bridge.

In his opening remarks Union Minister U Kyaw Tint Swe said it was an auspicious day for Sagaing Region because the Chindwin Bridge (Homalin) on Tamu-Aungzeya-Kaktha-Homalin road was opened and that he equally happy together with the local people.

He said the Union Government that was elected by the people was now two years and about 10 months old. During this period it had strived towards equal and balanced development of all regions in the whole of the Republic of Union of Myanmar including far-off and remote places. The Union Government and state/region governments had coordinated for the proportionate development of all states and regions. As basic infrastructures of road, bridge and electricity are developed, the social, economic, education and health levels of peoples living in the states and regions will be raised. In his Myanmar New Year greeting speech the President included plans for development of electricity and road transport in basic infrastructure development. In his speech at the opening ceremony of Shwe Taung Yan (Ma KyeeChaung) Bridge last October he spoke of the government's plan to complete more than 400 bridges during the remaining term.

In addition to this the Myanmar Sustainable Development Plan – MSDP (2018-2030) was drawn up with the aim of establishing of a peaceful and flourishing democratic country. Seven strategies in the aim three of Pillar Two Prosperity and Partnership include the work process of "constructing priority basic infrastructure to support sustainable development and various businesses."

Sagaing Region is wide in area and in the upper Chindwin region, due to difficult road transport throughout the ages, it has been lagging behind and Khamti region had little development. The livelihood conditions of ethnic nationals in the region were not developed as much as it should and remains lagging behind. Therefore priority was given towards development of road transportation. Where required bridges were constructed to overcome natural obstacles and roads were upgraded to all-weather roads. In addition to development of the waterway along Chindwin River, road networks were constructed to travel with ease to the middle part of Myanmar. Only when bridges and roads are good can the people travel with ease developing socio-economic situation as well as achieving more friendly relationships.

SEE PAGE-5

37 Naga traditional dance troupes to participate in Naga New Year Festival in Leshi

THE traditional Naga New Year Festival was held in Leshi, Naga Self-Administered Zone, Sagaing Region, yesterday.

Sagaing Region Minister of Planning and Finance U Soe Oo, Chairman U Kay Sai of Naga Self-Administered Zone, patron U Ru San Kyuu of Naga literature and culture association (central), Pyithu Hluttaw representative of Leshi Township U Kyaw Htay opened the ceremony by cutting a ceremonial ribbon.

Thirty-seven traditional culture and traditional dance troupes were invited to participate in the annual festival.

Continuously, accompanied by local residents, the Minister of Planning and Finance and officials, invited guests and Naga traditional dance troupes beat traditional Naga drum, after erecting the New Year banner mast and prayer poles.

The traditional Naga New Year Festival was crowded with Naga people from Leshi, Lahe and Nanyun townships, and also with local and foreign visitors.—Win Oo (Zayar Taing) / *(Translated by Myat Thandar Aung)*

Naga people celebrating the traditional New Year festival in Leshi, Naga Self-Administered Zone, Sagaing Region. **PHOTO: WIN OO (ZAYAR TAING)**

Naga traditional wrestling in Leshi attracts visitors

Naga ethnic people playing traditional wrestling during Naga Traditional New Year Festival in Leshi Township, Sagaing Region. **PHOTO: WIN OO**

MOST travellers visiting the Naga region have shown a keen interest in the Naga ethnic people's traditional wrestling during the festival.

There are six ethnic groups of Naga people living in Leshi Township of the Naga Self-Administered Zone, Sagaing Region. The groups have different traditional dances and sports.

One of their traditional sports is wrestling, which involves two teams with an odd number of competitors. The two teams are called the catching team and the protecting team. The match is overseen by a chief judge with the assistance of two line judges. When there is a dispute, the decision of the chief judge is final.

"Traditional wrestling is usually organized only at the time of the festival. The Naga ethinc groups train brave youth from their community for wrestling. What counts is the unity and the use of the right techniques," said U Ra Pop, the vice chairman of the Naga ethnic cultural committee. Local and foreign travellers visiting the Naga Self-Administered Zone are keen on watching traditional wrestling, he said.—Win Oo (Zeyar Taing) *(Translated by Hay Mar)*

Union Minister U Kyaw Tint Swe opens Chindwin Bridge (Homalin)

FROM PAGE-4

Union Minister U Kyaw Tint Swe, Sagaing Region Chief Minister Dr. Myint Naing and officials pose for documentary photos together with Naga ethnic pepole as they visit traditional houses of Naga ethnic tribe in Leshi yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

The Chindwin Bridge (Homalin) on Tamu-Aungzeya-Kaktha-Homalin road has a total length of 2,762 ft. and is a steel reinforced concrete bridge. Due to the opening of this bridge, India border can be reached via Homalin and will benefit ethnic nationals of Khamti region in upper Saging Region.

He said the Union Government had started all sector development and reform works in its first year period in accord with the slogan of "time for change" and focused mainly on creating jobs, improving road transport and making electricity available. In its second year period in accord with the slogan "together with the people" the State's affairs were conducted together with the people. In the third year period as per the slogan "collective strength" the collective existence and collective works were being conducted with collective strength.

Therefore, the ethnic nationals and local people in Sagaing Region are required to continue their cooperation. When transitioning from an old system to a new system and from an old age to a new age, difficulties and challenges will be encountered. But the establishment of a democratic federal union and achieving internal peace will be successful if the people cooperate and participate. The government is striving toward strengthening and development of national interest with uninterrupted concentration and unyielding efforts and starting from this New Year to forthcoming years, opportunities were created and grasped in political, economic and social sectors. While striving to grasp the opportunities, it will overcome challenges with the collective strength of the people.

In conclusion, the Union Government will strive towards achieving the set aims and directions and ethnic national brothers, sisters and the people of the country are to cooperate and participate more in the establishment of union peace, a democractic federal union and development work processes, said the Union Minister.

Afterwards, Chief Minister of Sagaing Region Dr. Myint Naing said with the inauguration of the Chindwin Bridge (Homelin), local people in Homelin would get a trade route in all-weather to India passing through Kale and Kalewa townships and the improved situation would bring development of the economic, education, health and social sectors.

Similarly, the people in the Naga Self-Administered Zone in upstream areas of the Chindwin River would get another route to Moreh, India, for trading passing through the bridge, said the Chief Minister.

Meanwhile, a 330-mile long road which is important for the Naga SAZ and upper areas of Sagaing passing through Thakkekyin, Phaungpyin and Homalin are being upgraded by the Sagaing Region Government, said the Chief Minister.

Afterwards, Deputy Minister for Construction U Kyaw Lin briefed about the construction of the bridge and a local resident expressed thanks for the construction of the bridge.

Afterwards, Union Minister U Kyaw Tint Swe, Sagaing Region Chief Minister Dr. MyintNaing, Speaker of Sagaing Region Hluttaw U Than, Deputy Minister U Kyaw Lin, Sagaing Region minister U Than Nyunt Win, Sagaing Region Minister for Shan Ethnic Affairs Daw Nan Hmwe Hmwe Khin, Pyithu Hluttaw Representative U Myo Nyunt and Amyotha Hluttaw Representative U Nyi Nyi Htwe formally opened the bridge.

Next, Union Minister U Kyaw Tint Swe, Chief Minister Dr. Myint Naing, and Speaker U Than unveiled the stone inscription of the bridge and sprinkled scented water over it.

The bridge linking Homalin and the areas in the west bank of the Chindwin River and the iron concrete bridge is 2762.6 ft long flanked by two pedestrian roads.

Following the opening ceremony of the bridge, Union Minister U Kyaw Tint Swe, Chief Minister Dr. MyintNaing and departmental officials flew to Leshe to participate the Naga New Year Festival.

The Union minister and entourage attended a charity food donation ceremony to mark the New Year of Nagas in Leshe.

Afterwards, they visited the traditional houses of the Naga tribes in Leshe.

It is learnt that the following were present at the ceremony: The bridge opening ceremony was attended by Sagaing Region Chief Minister Dr. Myint Naing, Region Hluttaw Speaker U Than, Deputy Minister for Border Affairs Maj-Gen Than Htut, Deputy Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture U Kyi Min, Deputy Minister for Construction U Kyaw Lin, Deputy Minister for Ethnic Affairs U Hla Maw Oo, region ministers, Hluttaw representatives, departmental officials and local people.—MNA ■

Union Attorney-General receives Chairman of International Exchange Committee of Japan Federation of Bar Associations (JFBA)

UNION Attorney-General U Tun Tun Oo received Chairman of International Exchange Committee of Japan Federation of Bar Associations (JFBA), Mr. Ikeuchi Masatoshi and the party at Office of the Attorney General in Nay Pyi Taw at 3 pm yesterday.

During the meeting, they exchanged views and cordially discussed matters related to cooperation between Office of the Attorney General and Ministry of Justice of Japan, Japan International Cooperation Agency, cooperation with Myanmar lawyers, organising and existence of pleader and lawyers' associations, session of Bar Council and its responsibilities, status of amending the Bar Council Act and sessions of the pleaders.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Attorney-General U Win Myint, Permanent Secretary Daw Nu Nu Yin, Directors-General and Deputy Directors-General. — MNA

(Translated by Myat Thandar Aung)

Union Attorney-General U Tun Tun Oo holds talks with Chairman of International Exchange Committee Mr. Ikeuchi Masatoshi in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

Foreign Heads of State send felicitations to President U Win Myint

The following are messages of felicitations from Foreign Heads of State / Government sent to President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Win Myint, on the occasion of the 71st Anniversary Independence Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

From Mrs. Bidya Devi Bhandari
President of Nepal

On the happy occasion of 71st Independence day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, I extend to your Excellency cordial felicitations and best wishes for your Excellency's personal health and happiness and for the progress and prosperity of the people of Myanmar.

From Rumen Radev
Prime Minister of the Republic of Bulgaria

On behalf of the Bulgarian people and on my personal behalf, I would like to send my heartfelt congratulation on the occasion of the National Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar – the Day of Independence, as well as my best wishes for your personal good health and prosperity of the people of Myanmar.

I would like to express my readiness to work together with you for the expanding of the cooperation between Bulgaria and Myanmar in all areas of mutual interest and for the strengthening of the dialogue within the framework of the enhanced EU-ASEAN partnership and Asia-Europe Forum (ASEM).

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest esteem.

From Alexander Lukashenko
President of the Republic of Belarus

On behalf of the people of the Republic of Belarus and on my own let me extend sincere congratulations to You on the occasion of the Independence Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

I am pleased to note friendly nature of relations between our countries and would like to express my willingness for more active cooperation in order to effectively implement existing potential of the Belarusian-Myanmar cooperation, especially in trade and economic spheres.

Please accept, Your Excellency, my wishes of strong health and success to You, peace, happiness and wellbeing to the people of Myanmar, as well as the assurances of my highest consideration.

Foreign Head of State send felicitation to State Counsellor

The following is message of felicitation from Foreign Head of State sent to State Counsellor and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, on the occasion of the 71st Anniversary Independence Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

From Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah
of Brunei Darussalam

I am pleased to send my sincerest congratulations to you and to the government and people of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar on your country's 71st Independence Day.

I much appreciate the long-standing friendship and close cooperation between our countries and people. I look forward to renewed opportunities in further strengthening our ties both bilaterally as well as in our regional work.

With my kindest regards and very best wishes to you and the people of Myanmar on this happy occasion.

Union Minister Dr. Win Myat Aye separately receives Reps. from NBC, MSNBC, Japan Heart

Union Minister Dr. Win Myat Aye meets with Mr. Benjamin Rhodes from NBC, MSNBC. **PHOTO: MNA**

UNION Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr. Win Myat Aye separately received Mr. Benjamin Rhodes from NBC and MSNBC news agency and Mr. Yuta Momose of Japan Heart in the ministry's Maykhalar Hall yesterday morning.

During the meeting with NBC and MSNBC news agency matters relating to social protection and care services provided by the ministry, children's rights, prevention of violence against women, rehabilitation of drug users, drawing up and implementation of youth policy, disaster management, peace process and holding of 21st Century Panglong Conference, implementation of recommendations on Rakhine State, cooperation with international organizations, receiving of returnees, ministry's works on bringing about harmony between the two societies in Rakhine State, humanitarian assistances provided through international organizations, Red Cross and UEHRD youth programs, occurrence of real changes and the works conducted by the Union Government for the socio-economic development of the people were discussed.

Similarly in the meeting with Japan Heart, matters relating to development of blind medical massage, cooperation between Japan Heart and the ministry on work program to implement systematic teaching of massage to people with impaired vision and create work opportunities, drawing a curriculum for systematic teaching of massage for people with impaired vision, conducting a one year basic and one and half year advance courses, coordinating with relevant ministries to issue certificates and future works were discussed. — MNA

(Translated by Zaw Min)

Delegation led by Japan's State Minister for Foreign Affairs visits Yangon

A delegation led by Japan's State Minister for Foreign Affairs Ms. Toshiko Abe arrived to Yangon by air yesterday morning.

The delegation led by the State Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan was welcomed by Ministry of Foreign Affairs Deputy Director-General U Zaw Tun Oo, Ambassador of Japan to Myanmar Mr. Ichiro Maruyama and officials at Yangon International Airport.

The delegation led by the State Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan visits Japan War Cemetery in the compound of Yayway Cemetery and Yangon Japanese School in Dagon Township. — MNA

(Translated by Zaw Min)

Japan's State Minister for Foreign Affairs Ms. Toshiko Abe and party arrive at Yangon International Airport yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Second Day of Children's Literature Festival in Sagaing

Childern's Literature Festival in Sagaing is crowded with students form schools and universities in Sagaing on the second day.

Awarding ceremony held at the Children's Literature Festival in Sagaing.

News: Aye Mya (Mandalay)
Photo: Aung Phyo Kyaw

SAGAING Region's Children's Literature Festival continued its second day yesterday and the festival was bustling with students, literary enthusiasts, parents, and local residents.

Festival participants enjoyed traditional dances and ethnic dances, elephant dance and playing Chinlone performed by Basic Education Schools in Sagaing District.

Then, students happily took part in various contests such as poetry, painting, storytelling, colouring, puzzling, speech contest, paper-folding, competition sayings, and Futsal football match and other joyful games.

Similarly, booths displayed by Ministry of Education, Ministry of Information and Ministry of Border Affairs, and craft galleries of Sagaing District have crowed with students, children, teachers and local people and also bookshops were full of buyers.

There were 81 bookshops and book sales made over K16,000,000 on 13 January and over K25,500,000 on 14 January.

Sagaing Region Women Association and Maternal and Child Welfare Association, Gems Entrepreneurs Association (Sagaing), MaMa Noodle, Ovaltine and Best White Coffee offered charity food to the festival participants.

The literature talk show was held featuring Regional Hluttaw representative Daw Su Myat Htet, Sayar Thit Wai Hka, Amaung (Bagan), Sayar Zaw Naung Hein and Sayar Thet Naing Tun and there were over 250 attendances.

The Children's Literature Festival (Sagaing) attracted 70,000 people on 13 January and the number of visitors exceeded 80,000 on the second day.

(Translated by Myat Thandar Aung)

A book shop attracts students at the Children's Literature Festival in Sagaing.

Children participate in outdoor activity at the Children's Literature Festival in Sagaing.

Student enjoying the game on the second day of Sagaing Region's Children's Literature Festival yesterday.

A student competes storytelling contest at the second day of Sagaing Region's Children's Literature Festival yesterday.

Children try microscopes on the second day of Sagaing Region's Children's Literature Festival yesterday.

15 JANUARY 2019
THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Motivation key for children to cultivate reading habit

CHILDREN'S Literature Festivals, including book sales and games, have been held in big cities across the country. The festivals aim at helping children enjoy by participating in events and games, read books and take part in literature circles, and inculcate the habit of doing things with other children.

When children who are acquainted with books visit the festival, they will be exposed to many books and gain the habit of buying and reading books.

Besides, children will get a chance to interact with each other rather than enjoying something at home or only with their siblings.

> In this time, when we are using cutting-edge technology, parents need to take care that mindless entertainment and games are not overwhelming the minds of children.

Such festivals will inspire students to read, think and study more, and make good inventions for society and their surroundings, while nurturing young children and encouraging them to strive towards world peace and development.

In today's world, the skill of reading and comprehension is more important than it has ever been. So many opportunities are closed off for people who are not good readers.

Without strong reading skills, many students will struggle with math, science, and other subjects, especially as they move to middle school. Too often, when teens drop out of high school, educators can trace their difficulties back to those early reading problems.

Parents and teachers are urged to motivate children to read and build their vocabulary and language skills. It also helps to continue that shared experience after children begin to read on their own. It is one of the most important things parents and grandparents can do.

The development of children not only needs the support of the government, but parents and grandparents also. Parents need to make their children spend time with books instead of mobile phones or digital and online games. Schools also need to encourage students to go to libraries. It is hoped that the children who come to the festivals will be inspired by what others display there.

In this time, when we are using cutting-edge technology, parents need to take care that mindless entertainment and games are not overwhelming the minds of children.

Under these circumstances, it will not be easy to persuade children to turn their attention to reading, but we urge parents to make concerted efforts for the development of their children's future.

"Campuses must be beautiful, cool, and pleasant for students pursuing a university education,"

Dr. Kyaw Kyaw Khaung, the Rector of East Yangon University.

Round table discussion on creating pleasant campuses for university students

By News Team

The MRTV broadcast roundtable discussions in quest of creating beautiful, cool and pleasant campuses. The panelists at the discussions are Dr. Kyaw Kyaw Khaung, Rector of East Yangon University, Dr. Maung Maung Naing, Rector of Yadanabon University, Dr. Moe Pwint, Rector, University of Computer Studies in Mandalay (UCSM), Dr. Aung Win, Rector (Duty) of University of Technology in Mandalay (Yatanapon Cyber City), U Aung Myat Soe, Principal of Taungoo Education College.

Coordinator: Why the university students are needed to have pleasant campuses.

Dr. Maung Maung Naing: In Myanmar, we have (174) universities, degree colleges and colleges, and we also have (134) universities, degree colleges and colleges under the Higher Education Department of the Ministry of Education.

The students who passed the Matriculation Examination are poised to attend the universities, and that it is very much essential for the students to have cool and pleasant campuses in their pursuit of higher learning for the good of the country.

Coordinator: What should be done for that purpose?

Dr. Kyaw Kyaw Khaung: For those students who are in pursuit for higher education must have pleasant campuses. The 21st century calls for quality education with guarantee of knowledge with lifelong learning skills, and that the universities are the resource venues.

> The ingredients for a proper campus include students identifying with it along with unity and cooperation between faculty members and students.

The campuses have two main functions such as that of subject wise teaching and that of extra activities (or) co-curriculum activities. Subject wise teaching activities are carried out in the classrooms with teaching aides with the access of Internet in the teaching trend of 21st century that necessitates libraries and Wi-Fi accessibility that we need to equip with. The lessons learned in the classrooms are to be applied through the Internet to broaden up the knowledge.

Honoring the nation

To ensure better campus life, we have added social activities such as arts and sports, and have also adopted a sports calendar. We successfully hosted (19) ASEAN University Games where students from (134) schools participated, thus elevating the honor of the nation. In this connection, we need sports facilities as well as arts associations for extra activities, preferably with karate and Myanma martial arts courses.

Pleasant Environment

Another vital aspect is on social activities such as blood donation as the students happily participated under the aegis of Myanmar Red Cross Society, and also in the participation of university training corps for the creation of university campus development.

Scouts activities must also be streamlined for the nice campus. For the creation of physical and spiritual enjoyable campus, we need to work together among the rectors, the students, and the faculty members with the support of the ministry.

Moderator: What should be added to make the university nice and pleasant with honor?

Dr. Maung Maung Naing: We need a master plan that mapped out the projects such as that of the site of library, that of the convocation hall, that of the education zones, that of staff housing, and that of market, all earmarked with main utility and status in the plan for the budget proposal. When the budget is approved from the ministry, implementation is to be carried out in accordance with the allocation.

Moderator: Please explain on the view of Dr. Kyaw Kyaw Khaung.

Dr. Kyaw Kyaw Khaung: On yearly basis, the faculty members and the students worked together for the pleasant campus with the participation of student unions and social associations, mainly in uplifting the image of the university with the greening tasks in the whole environment.

> To ensure better campus life, we have added social activities such as arts and sports, and have also adopted a sports calendar.

The second half of the academic year falls in the rainy season of June, and all the associations come together in the cleaning tasks and the planting of trees in the campus with the main purpose for university identity.

Moral boosting

Another factor is related with mental development of the students that covers artistic activities through the dance club and music club where the state level artistes and vocalists visited and provided necessary assistance and support. The students are so agreeable that they could persuade the talented celebrities to come up to the university.

The guitar club is wonderful as well as the martial arts club is popular along with the chess game club and painting club. The ingredients of a nice campus require not only the identity, but also the unity and cooperation between the faculty members and the students.

Moderator: Dr. Daw Moe Pwint may kindly share your view.

Dr. Moe Pwint: In the sector of teaching, we utilize and make the most of the "Learning Management System" (LMS) which covers that of the academic pursuit of the students, that of the lecture preparation of the faculty members through the system, that of assessment and evaluation on the students, that of the sharing in information, that of the provision of library and digital library, that of the encouragement to physical visit to the library.

Job Opportunities

In providing job opportunities for the students, we arranged job fair and career fair by inviting outside experts in sharing their experiences at various seminars. Moreover, we have equipped with electricity generators to avoid power cut off as we are using computers and projectors through the Learning Management System. With the approval of the ministry, we have deployed the security committee for (24) hours protection.

Moderator: Please share your view on the pleasant pursuit of higher learning for the students.

Dr. Moe Pwint: My university is (14) miles far from Mandalay downtown, and that the students have to travel by bus daily in attending the university. The situation calls for the need to the stakeholders in arranging the special shuttle bus or separate student bus through the cooperation of the regional government.

Although we have some hostels provided by the government, we need more hostels for the students coming from various townships, and that budget allocation is required. In connection with the hostels, other relevant requirements should be included that of the water and electricity supply, that of personal amenities, that of mini marts for shopping personal items, that of health care units, and that of sport facilities.

These facilities are available at the East Yangon University; however, many universities across the country are lacked in such offerings, and therefore, we need to submit yearly budget in acquiring the indoor sports facilities, the music clubs, and recreation centers in making the campuses beautiful, cool and nice.

(To be continued)
Translated by UMT (Ahlon)

President's Office continues announcement of illegal drug arrests, seizures acting on tip-offs

The Office of the President issued Press Release No. 2/2019 yesterday, publicly announcing the Ministry of Home Affairs' arrests and seizures in the fight against illicit drug trafficking up till 12 January.

The ministry made the arrests, acting on information, sent to the Drug Activity Special Complaint Department of the Office of the President as of 12 January.

The full text of the press release will be reported in the 16 January issue of The Global New Light of Myanmar. — GNLM

Republic of the Union of Myanmar Union Election Commission Notification 1/2019

6th Waxing of Pyatho, 1380 ME
11 January, 2019

Permission to register as a political party

Arakan Front Party (AFP) headquartered at Ya Ba-1, Shweban Street, Ohtan Ward, Sittway Township, Rakhine State, has been permitted to register as a political party in accordance with Section 9 of the Political Parties Registration Law on 11 January 2019.

The registration number of Arakan Front Party (AFP) is 111.

(Hla Thein)
Chairman
Union Election Commission

Public Announcement for remonstration

Myanmar People's Democratic Party (MPD) that had been allowed to set up as a political party headquartered at No. 3, U Ba Thin Street, Bagolan Ward, Htaukkyant in Mingaladon Township, Yangon Region, has submitted its application for the registration as a political party to the Union Election Commission, along with the following party's flag and emblem.

In their application they mention that they will use the flag and the emblem as described hereunder.

In accord with Section 14 (d) of the Political Parties Registration Rules, it is hereby announced that those who want to remonstrate with the UEC about the party's flag and emblem may submit a complaint along with the supporting evidence within seven days starting from issuance of this announcement. — Union Election Commission

Flag of Myanmar People's Democratic Party (MPD),

Emblem of Myanmar People's Democratic Party (MPD)

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Printed and published at the **Global New Light of Myanmar Printing Factory** at No.150, Nga Htat Kyee Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon, by the **Global New Light of Myanmar Daily** under Printing Permit No. 00510 and Publishing Permit No. 00629.

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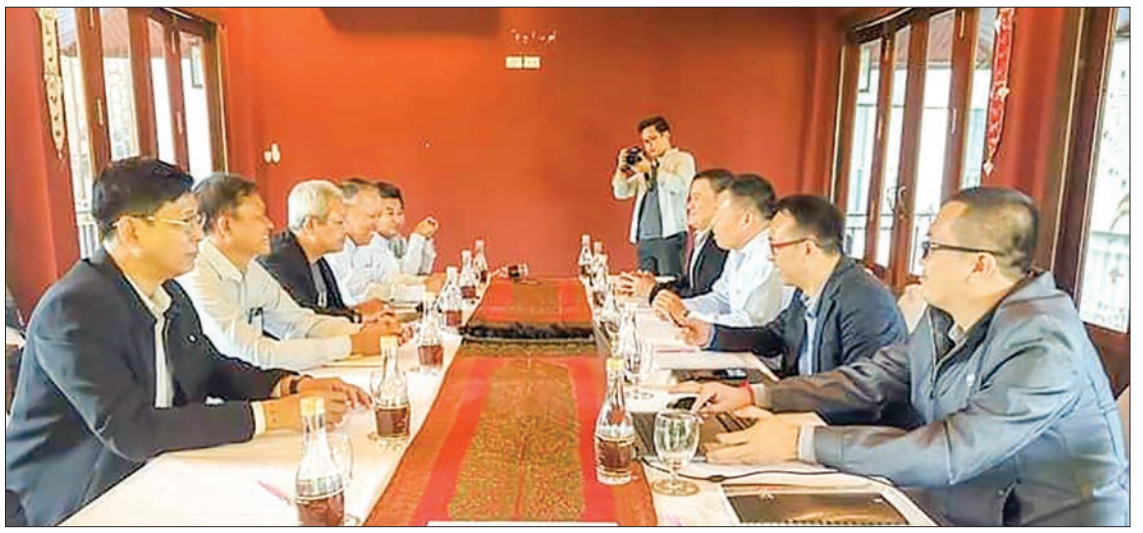
This meeting establishes trust beyond expectation

UPDJC Secretariat Member U Hla Maung Shwe

By Ye Khaung Nyunt



The Peace Commission holds talks with representatives from KNU and RCSS on 13 and 14 January in Thailand. **PHOTO: YE KHAUNG NYUNT**

TO resume the halted official discussions and to continue the implementation of peace process, a group led by Peace Commission (PC) secretary U Khin Zaw Oo went to Thailand, Chang Mai and conducted informal talks with KNU and RCSS that had signed NCA (Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement) and KNPP that hadn't signed the NCA.

PC secretary and party met with KNU on 13 January, with RCSS on the morning of 14 January and with KNPP on the afternoon of 14 January.

In the informal talks with KNU, RCSS and KNPP the government representatives were PC secretary U Khin Zaw Oo, member U Aung Soe, Ministry of State Counsellor's Office Director General U Zaw Htay, Union Peace Dialogue Joint Committee (UPDJC) Secretariat member U Hla Maung Shwe and technical supporter U Kyaw Lin Oo.

Following is an interview conducted with UPDJC Secretariat member U Hla Maung Shwe in Chang Mai.

Q: Let us know the status of the two days meeting with KNU and RCSS that had signed the NCA, and KNPP that hadn't signed the NCA.

A: We arrived to Chang Mai on the 12th. On the 13th we discussed with KNU representative group and on the 14th we discussed with RCSS and KNPP. It is an informal meeting. The main thing is discuss the necessary to restart the halted official discussions as soon as possible. We came here in November. Compared to that time, this time there is more progress with both KNU and RCSS. We were able to respond to some of their discussions and some will be discussed later. We invited RCSS to come to Nay Pyi Taw for a meeting before the end of this month. RCSS accepted this. RCSS will revert back with the meeting date.

We also told KNU to discuss about participating in official meetings and invited them to come to a meeting in Yangon before the end of this month. They accepted this in principal and will discuss about the date. Therefore there is progress with this two groups.

Q: In the informal meeting with KNU in October, it was said that there'll be a meeting in end November or December. Did you meet?

A: At that time both KNU and us were busy and there was only an informal meeting with KNU representative Saya Tu Tu Lay in December. In the present meeting we were able to establish trust beyond our expectation. We are able to discuss more. We are happy about this.

Q: What is the status of the informal meeting with KNPP that hadn't signed the NCA.

A: KNPP had a state level ceasefire in 2012 March. Next step is to get a union level agreement. After that there weren't huge conflicts but there were some armed engagements. There isn't any difficulty between KNPP and us on signing the NCA. The only thing is some regional difficulties and some matters that our side had to resolve. KNPP said it had an intention to sign the NCA. They stated this again. The only thing remaining is to sign it. We need to agree and negotiate some remaining points. Therefore, this informal meeting is deemed as successful.

Another thing is the decision made at this meeting to hold at least two peace congresses this year. To achieve more progress arrangements are made to conduct preparation meetings before the end of this month. We'll discuss this with groups that signed NCA.

Q: What are the difficulties that caused KNU and RCSS to halt official discussions?

A: This was included in their announcement. We are able to discuss point by point on their announcement. We were able to explain that in some points it is not as they thought. For some points we need to coordinate. In some points, we could not commit to agree by ourselves. There are some points that need to be discussed with other groups. We are able to discuss this.

Q: KNU and RCSS are the firmest among those who had signed the NCA so what sort of results will there be on the peace process?

A: NCA was brought along by armed ethnic organizations and if we are to follow the process we need to obtain political agreement. Those agreements will be implemented as Union Accord. As this is according to the NCA guideline, we'll continue along this way. The difficulty between us is having different definition. As mentioned earlier, we will continue to build trust.

Q: What is the plan of the government on peace process during 2019?

A: 2019 is not the government's plan. We need to discuss. We'll strive toward holding two congresses in 2019. This was also discussed already. We'll need to establish trust here too.

(Translated by Zaw Min)

Authorities asked to check illegal production, sale of low-quality edible oil

By Aye Yamone

THE authorities have been asked to take legal action against manufacturers and traders of low-quality and harmful edible oil in the local market, said a responsible person from the Myanmar Edible Oil Millers Association (MEOMA). The MEOMA will insist on inspections of oil mills by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), so they can get FDA certificates as soon as possible. Only then can the association meet its target of getting FDA certification for all 150 oil mills by 2020, he added.

"To check the illegal production of edible oil and its sale in the market, the FDA must pay heed to our suggestions as far as possible," said U Khin Soe, the chairman of the MEOMA at the 23rd regular meeting held on 12 January at the Republic of the Union Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI). The meeting was attended by Vice President U Myint Swe and entrepreneurs.

"The agricultural sector is facing scarcity of crop seeds, which is making seasonal cultivation difficult. There is also the added difficulty of getting quality seeds on time. Therefore, we need to form a committee comprising local farmers and MEOMA to establish a partnership," said U Khin Soe. "There are also challenges regarding prices — there is a gap between the price of imported oil and locally produced oil. What happens is that the price of imported oil is lower than that of locally manufactured oil," said Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein, on the reason why imported oil is replacing locally made oil in the market. He attributed the price difference to higher production costs faced by local manufacturers.

"If we continue to depend on harmful, imported edible oil of low quality, consumers will suffer in the long run. We're ready to take legal action. We want local manufacturers to produce edible oil of good quality at an affordable price," said U Phyo Min Thein.

(Translated by Hay Mar)

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Due to limitation of space we are only able to publish **"Letter to the Editor"** that do not exceed 500 words. Should you submit a text longer than 500 words please be aware that your letter will be edited.

Objections raised on overseas fishing operations beyond maritime boundary in EEZ

By Aye Yamone

WITH a view to conserve fisheries resources, the Myanmar Sea Fishing Entrepreneurs Association and academicians have objected to a proposal for permitting overseas fishing boats to operate beyond the Myanmar maritime boundary in the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ).

A meeting was held on 8 January to discuss the proposal for allowing overseas fishing boats to operate beyond the EEZ maritime boundary under the supervision of national companies. At the meeting, the permanent secretary of the Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation Ministry said he will submit the objections raised by fishing entrepreneurs against the proposal to the Union Minister.

"We have object to the proposal because it is not right. Ten years ago, overseas fishing boats were permitted to fish in the EEZ area. In 2014, the then government revoked their fishing rights as we were against overseas fishing to conserve the fisheries resources. The government had enacted a law under which overseas fishing boats were not allowed to operate beyond the Myanmar maritime boundary in the EEZ. Now, overseas fishing boats have asked the government for permission to fish in the EEZ. If they are permitted to do so, they will come to fish beyond the Myanmar maritime boundary. Some overseas fishing boats are using improper catching systems. This is the reason why we are objecting to the proposal," said U Maung Maung Soe, the chairman of the Myanmar Sea Fishing Entrepreneurs Association.

The fisheries resources in the area beyond the maritime boundary in the EEZ are not abundant. The proposed area is also unsuitable for large fishing boats, it is learnt.

"Academicians from the fisheries field are objecting to the proposal because, from their point of view, this is not the right time as Myanmar is facing scarcity of fisheries resources. None of the ASEAN member countries permit fishing beyond their maritime boundary. If the companies are permitted to operate, they will have to build storage facilities on our side of the boundary. They usually don't build any storage facilities because they take the catch back to their own countries," said U Maung Maung Soe.

The Attorney-General's office has also been asked to give its opinion on the issue to the concerned ministries.

The meeting on 8 January was attended by officials from the ministries of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation, Planning and Finance, Home Affairs, Defence, Transport and Communications, and Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation, and the Office of the Attorney-General, related companies, the Myanmar Fisheries Federation, the Myanmar Overseas Fishing Entrepreneurs Association, and the region and State fisheries associations.

(Translated by Hay Mar)

PyinOoLwin flower festival attracts 600,000 visitors

THE 13th PyinOoLwin flower festival has drawn 600,000 visitors, an increase of 20 per cent from the previous year, said an administrator with the National Kandawgyi garden of PyinOoLwin.

"Around 1,000 travellers visited per day when it rained. But 50,000 people came to the festival on other days," said the administrator.

The 13th PyinOoLwin flower festival, being held from 15 December to 15 January, is exhibiting over 200,000 flower species.

The festival has been jointly organized by the National Kandawgyi garden, the Garden and Friends Company from Thailand, and the Fukusuke Company from Japan. For local visitors, entrance tickets are priced at Ks500 per child and K1,000 per adult. For foreigners, the price is US$3 per child and $5 per adult.—GNLM

(Translated by Hay Mar)

People are sightseeing around the site at the flower festival of PyinOoLwin in 2017, also known as the city of flower. **PHOTO: CHAN THA (MEIKTILA)**

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CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V HAN XIN

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V HAN XIN VOY. NO. (1853) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 15-01-2019 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.I.P.T.3 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.

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REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST
(Consulting Services – Individual Consultant)
For
Flood and Landslide Emergency Recovery Project (FLERP) (P158194)
Department of Highways (DOH)
under the Ministry of Construction (MOC)
Myanmar
IDA Credit5889-MM
Assignment Title: International Procurement Specialist
Reference Number: NewC4-DOH-IC02

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar has received financing from the World Bank towards the cost of the Flood and Landslide Emergency Recovery Project (FLERP). The Department of Highways (DOH) of the Ministry of Construction (MOC), which implements the FLERP,intends to apply part of the proceeds for obtaining consultancy services of an international procurement specialist to implement the project's procurements in compliance to the requirements from both the World Bank and Myanmar Government.

FLERP addresses rehabilitation of the primary transport sector from Chin and Rakhine States,some of the areas most severely affected by 2015 floods and landslides in Myanmar. The project also provides livelihood support through labor-intensive rehabilitation and maintenance of roads to alleviate the suffering of the most-affected communities with both immediate and long-term benefits resulting from income generation, capacity building, and increased connectivity as well as business opportunities by the project. The project implementation period is expected to extend up to the end of 2020.

The consulting services include but not limited to procurement of goods, equipment, and consultancy services, preparation for tenders, assisting project management in procurement processes, capacity building of national procurement assistant and DOH's permanent procurement staff, facilitation in improvement of project coordination, and supporting the project management unit to meet the World Bank's requirements and time-lines. This Consultancy will support the DOH project office in Nay Pyi Taw and the local offices in Chin and Rakhine States.

FLERP now invites eligible consultants to indicate their interest in providing the Services described above. Interested Consultants should provide information demonstrating that they have the required qualifications and relevant experience to perform the Services. The shortlisting criteria are:

- Possession of an advanced degree in management, economics, business administration, engineering or any relevant field
- At least 10 years of working experience in public procurement in developing countries, including at least 5 years in conducting procurement under World Bank financed projects or under projects financed by similar international institutions such as ADB.
- Familiarity with Myanmar Government procedures and procurement requirements.
- Proven ability to develop clear and precise procurement procedures and processes in compliance to requirements from both Myanmar Government and the World Bank.
- Willingness to set highest priority for DOH's tasks and assignments and be flexible with time.
- Capacity to work together with the project team for the Project's improvements and to facilitate for better and effective coordination.
- Willingness to provide on the job training fornational consultants and local staff on day-to-day basis and to carry out technical transfer for capacity building for the DOH procurement team covering procurement of consulting services and goods, and one session on ERC procurements.
- Strong will to improve procurement processes in the project and to navigate rooms for improvement to shorten the time requirements while not compromising the integrity of the procurements.
- Ability to complete procurement tasks and functions as described in the TOR.
- Proven experience to develop regular progress reports and work plans: in the first week starting from the second month, to provide summary of progress and issues for attention by the Ministry and World Bank.
- Workflow, procedures and realistictimeline for handling procurement activities following the requirements from the World Bank and Myanmar Government.
- Achievements of the Project's procurement goals within the time defined both by the World Bank and Myanmar Government.
- Coordination and leading skill for the procurement functions working with different departments. Conducting regular meetings with implementing departments.
- Providing quality assurance to the work of government staff and local consultants
- Ability to develop, update, monitor, and evaluate annual procurement plans, work flows, activities, and performance
- Experience in customizing bidding documents for National competitive bidding – 4 weeks after contract signature
- Excellent oral and writing communication skills in English.
- Good working knowledge of computer programs such as word, excel etc.
- Proven experience in working with challenging situations.

Expressions of interest must be received by the email address shown below by [4pm on February10, 2019]. Interested qualified consultants meeting are cordially invited to apply by demonstrating the specific qualifications that meet the needs of the project. A Consultant will be selected in accordance with the selection based on the Consultants' Qualification or CQS method set out in the Consultant Guidelines. The Terms of Reference (TOR) and further information can be obtained by emailing at the address below three days before the submission deadline. Application and all email communications for clarifications can be directed to:
U Khin Zaw, Project Director
Flood and Landslide Recovery Project
The Department of Highways, Office No. 11, Ministry of Construction, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.
Email address: flerp.moc@gmail.com

A cockpit voice recorder, the second "black box" from Lion Air flight 610 that crashed last October killing all 189 people onboard, is displayed to the media by Indonesian Navy personnel after the device's recovery at sea off the coast of Karawang on 14 January, 2019. **PHOTO: AFP**

Indonesia recovers second black box from Lion Air crash

JAKARTA (Indonesia) — The cockpit voice recorder from an Indonesian Lion Air jet that crashed in October has been recovered, officials said on Monday, a discovery that could be critical to explaining why a brand new plane fell out of the sky just after take-off.

The Boeing 737 MAX vanished from radar about 13 minutes after departing Jakarta, slamming into the Java Sea moments after pilots had asked to return to the capital and killing all 189 people onboard.

The bright orange voice recorder was discovered early Monday about 10 metres from a flight data recorder that was pinpointed back in November, authorities said.

"But it's broken into two pieces so hopefully it's still useful" to investigators, Haryo Satmiko, deputy head of Indonesia's National Transportation Safety Committee (NTSC), told AFP. More human remains were also found near the voice recorder, he added, without giving details.

"This will really help the investigation process... and could give some more answers on the cause" of the crash, said Jakarta-based aviation analyst Dudi Sudibyo.

The plane's previously discovered flight data recorder supplied information about the speed, altitude and direction of the plane before it plunged into the sea on 29 October. A preliminary crash report from Indonesia's transport safety agency suggested that pilots of Flight 610 struggled to control the plane's anti-stalling system just before the accident.

It also found that the Lion Air jet should have been grounded over a recurrent technical problem before its fatal journey, as it criticised the budget carrier's poor safety culture.

But it did not pinpoint a definitive cause of the crash and a final report is not likely to come before later this year.—AFP ■

Healthy baby born to mom who recovers from Ebola in DRC

KINSHASA, —The Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)'s Ministry of Health Thursday tweeted a photo of a four-day-old baby whose mother was found to have been infected with the Ebola virus in December and recovered from it.

In her smiling mother's arms in the posted picture, "Baby Sylvana" was born on Sunday at an Ebola treatment center in the city of Beni, one of the hardest-hit areas by Ebola virus in DRC.

Baby Sylvana is healthy and does not have Ebola, the health ministry said, adding that the baby is the first in this outbreak born to a mother who recovered from the virus.

The DRC's Health Ministry declared a new outbreak of Ebola virus in North Kivu province in August 2018, which is the 10th outbreak of this deadly infectious disease in the country since 1976.

As of the end of 2018, figures from the DRC Ministry of Health put the number of Ebola cases at 593, including 545 confirmed cases, and the death toll has reached 360.

According to the World Health Organization, Ebola is introduced into the human population through close contact with bodily fluids of infected animals and people.

The Ebola virus causes a range of symptoms including fever, vomiting, diarrhea, general discomfort or malaise and in many cases internal and external bleeding. —AFP ■

Gas leak stopped on ROK ship in Bohai Sea

JINAN — Authorities in east China's Shandong Province said a gas leak had been stopped on a Republic of Korea (ROK) liquified petroleum gas carrier Monday morning.

The city government of Dongying said the ROK ship reported a gas leak about 25 kilometres off Dongying Port at 10:30 am on Saturday.

The incident prompted the government to sent experts to the ship to find a solution and set up an emergency rescue team. Nearby sea, port and residential areas have also been placed under monitoring. Sinopec Shengli Oilfield, which operates an oilfield in Dongying, said it had mobilized vessels be vigilant when in proximity of the ROK ship, and drove away over 100 ships for safety concerns. —Xinhua ■

PESTICIDE MANUFACTURE NAME CHANGING

MYANMAR SHWE THEIN TRADING CO., LTD, We would like to change manufacture name of the following product. (registered by Jiangxi Zhengbang Biochemical Co., Ltd. to Pesticide Registration Board, Myanmar), to Jiangxi Zhengbang Crop Protection Co., Ltd. If any protest or enquire, please conduct Pesticide Registration Board, Department of Agriculture, Myanmar within these 14 days after announcing.

No.	Trade Name	Active Ingredients	Registration Type	Registration Number
1.	Mogyo	Chlorpyrifos 480 g/l EC	Provisional	2014 – 2028
2.	Number One	Chlorpyrifos 50% + Cypermethrin 5% EC	Provisional	2014 - 2034
3.	Thein Power	Imidacloprid 70% WP	Provisional	2014 - 2036
4.	Thein Lambda	Lambda- Cyhaolthrin 25g/l EC	Provisional	2014 – 2044
5.	Thein Mectin	Abamectin 1.8% EC	Provisional	2014 – 2030
6.	Thein Cartap	Cartap Hydrochloride 50% w/w SP	Provisional	2014 – 2031
7.	Thein Cyper	Cypermethrin 10 % w/w EC	Provisional	2015 – 2418
8.	Thein Cephate	Acephate 75% SP	Provisional	2015 – 2421
9.	Thein Power	Imidacloprid 10% WP	Provisional	2014 - 2043
10.	Thein Four De	2, 4-D 72% SL	Provisional	2015 – 2423
11.	Dar Koe Lat	Paraquat 20 % SL	Provisional	2015 – 2425
12.	Hot Fighter	Glyphosate 41% SL	Provisional	2015 – 2420
13.	Thein Hexa	Hexaconazole 5% w/w SC	Provisional	2014 – 2027
14.	Thein Dizim	Carbendazim 50% WP	Provisional	2014 - 2033
15.	Brother	Isoprothiolane 40% EC	Provisional	2014 - 2029
16.	Thein Sulphur	Sulphur 50% SC	Provisional	2014 - 2038
17.	Thein Cozeb	Mancozeb 80% WP	Provisional	2014 – 2039
18.	Gedamycin 20SP	Vlidamycin 20% SP	Provisional	2014-2042
19.	Gedomil 72 WP	Mancozeb 64%+Metalaxyl 18%WP	Provisional	2014-2041
20	Gepropicon 25 EC	Propiconazole 25% EC	Provisional	2014-2040
21	Gedacloprid	Imidacloprid 10% SL	Provisional	2014-2035
22	Gephanate 70 WP	Thiophanate Methyl 70% WP	Provisional	2014-2037
23	Gemethoate 40 EC	Dimethoate 40% EC	Provisional	2014-2032
24	Getila Chlor	Pretilachlor 300g/L EC	Provisional	2015-2422
25	Getha Lin	Pendimethalin 33%	Provisional	2015-2424
26	GeGA3 20T	GA-3 20% Tables	Provisional	2015-2419
27	ZB- Away	Niclosamide ethanolamine 50% WP	Provisional	2018 - 4362
28	ZB- Decide	Cyhalofop – butyl 15% EC	Provisional	2018 - 4364
29	ZB- Ensure	Isoprocarb 40% + Pymetrozine 10% WP	Provisional	2018 – 4215
30	ZB- Free	Emamectin Benzoate 3.4% EW	Provisional	2018 - 4265
31	ZB - Quick	Haloxyfop – P – Methyl 108 g/l EC	Provisional	2018 - 4278
32	ZB - Sniper	Emamectin Benzoate 5.7% WG	Provisional	2018 - 4373

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World's oceans are heating up at a quickening pace: study

TAMPA (United States) — The world's oceans are heating up at an accelerating pace as global warming threatens a diverse range of marine life and a major food supply for the planet, researchers said on Thursday.

The findings in the US journal Science, led by the Chinese Academy of Sciences, debunk previous reports that suggested a so-called pause in global warming in recent years.

The latest technology shows no such hiatus ever existed, raising new concerns about the pace of climate change and its effect on the planet's main buffer — the oceans.

About 93 per cent of excess heat – trapped around the Earth by greenhouse gases that come from the burning of fossil fuels – accumulates in the world's oceans. **PHOTO: AFP**

"Ocean heating is a very important indicator of climate change, and we have robust evidence that it is warming more rapidly than we thought," said co-author Zeke Hausfather, a graduate student in the Energy and Resources Group at the University of California, Berkeley.

About 93 per cent of excess heat — trapped around the Earth by greenhouse gases that come from the burning of fossil fuels — accumulates in the world's oceans.

The latest report relied on four studies, published between 2014 and 2017, that gave more precise estimates of past trends in ocean heat, allowing scientists to update past research and hone predictions for the future.

A key factor in the more accurate numbers is an ocean monitoring fleet called Argo, which includes nearly 4,000 floating robots that "drift throughout the world's oceans, every few days diving to a depth of 2,000 metres (yards) and measuring the ocean's temperature, pH, salinity and other bits of information as they rise back up," said the report.

Argo "has provided consistent and widespread data on ocean heat content since the mid-2000s," it said.

The new analysis shows warming in the oceans is on pace with measurements of rising air temperature.

And if nothing is done to reduce greenhouse gases, "models predict that the temperature of the top 2,000 metres of the world's oceans will rise 0.78 degrees Celsius by the end of the century," it said.

The thermal expansion — water swelling as it warms — would raise sea level 12 inches (30 centimetres), above any sea level rise from melting glaciers and ice sheets.

"While 2018 will be the fourth warmest year on record on the surface, it will most certainly be the warmest year on record in the oceans, as was 2017 and 2016 before that," Hausfather said.

"The global warming signal is a lot easier to detect if it is changing in the oceans than on the surface."—AFP ■

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M.V CTP FORTUNE VOY. NO. (188 W/E)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V CTP FORTUNE VOY. NO. (188 W/E) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 15-01-2019 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T/A.I.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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Sr.	Trade Name	Active Ingredient	Registration Type	Registration Number
1.	TOD 40 SC	Thiodicarb 40% SC	Provisional	P-2018-4476
2.	AT-1DOL 10SL	Imazethapyr 10% SL	Provisional	P-2019-4471
3.	Q-Ben 40 WP	Quinclorac 34% + Bensulfuron methy l6 % WP	Provisional	P-2018-4103
4.	Main 72 EC	Metolachlor 72% EC	Experimental	E-2018-4448
5.	Corona 505 SP	Chlorpyrifos 50% + Alpha Cypermethrin 5%	Provisional	P-2015-2383
6.	Canon 50 SP	Cartap Hydrochloride 50% SP	Provisional	P-2017-3374
7.	Special one 15 WDG	Lambda Cyhalothrin 10 % + Emamectin Benzoate 5% WDG	Provisional	P-2017-3377
8.	Tender 24.7 SC	Thiamethoxam 14.1% + Lambda Cyhalothrin 10.6% SC	Provisional	P-2017-3382
9.	Arena 80 WP	Atrazine 80 % WP	Provisional	P-2017-3372

Popular kabuki actor Ichikawa Ebizo to become 13th holder of Danjuro

TOKYO — Popular kabuki actor Ichikawa Ebizo, 41, will become Ichikawa Danjuro XIII in May 2020, Shochiku Co, producer of Kabuki performances and operator of Tokyo's famed Kabukiza theater, said on Monday.

Danjuro is a stage name established in the latter part of the 17th century and taken on by kabuki actors of the Ichikawa family. It is considered the most prestigious of the kabuki stage names.

Name-succession celebrations, including a series of performances at Kabukiza that runs for three months, are being planned. The celebration period will coincide with the 2020 Tokyo Olympic Games. Ebizo's father, Ichikawa Danjuro XII, died in 2013.

His 5-year-old son Kangen Horikoshi will become Ichikawa Shinnosuke VIII on the same occasion.

Ebizo first took the stage at age 5 and became Ichikawa Shinnosuke VII in 1985. In 2004, he became Ichikawa Ebizo XI.

In 2017, Ebizo lost his wife, Mao Kobayashi, a TV personality who drew wide attention as she began keeping a record of her battle with breast cancer on her blog. Kobayashi was named in the 2016 edition of the BBC's 100 Women list of inspirational and influential female figures after she broke her silence about her struggle with cancer on her blog. —Kyodo News

Popular kabuki actor Ichikawa Ebizo and his five-year-old son Kangen Horikoshi. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**

Cuaron's 'Roma' a top winner at the Critics' Choice Awards

SANTA MONICA (United States) —Hollywood's award season was in full swing late Sunday, with Alfonso Cuaron's "Roma" — an ode to the director's childhood in 1970s Mexico City — the big winner at the Critics' Choice Awards.

"Roma" won trophies for best picture, best foreign-language film, and for both director and cinematography for Cuaron.

"This bunch of Mexicans are not as bad as sometimes they are portrayed," said Cuaron said, a reference to President Donald Trump's hardline rhetoric on immigration.

Shot in black and white, and filmed in Spanish and the indigenous Mixtec language, "Roma" is a semi-autobiographical chronicle of a year in the life of Cuaron's family and his childhood nanny.

"Roma" — the title a reference to a posh Mexico City neighbourhood — earlier won two Golden Globes and is a leading contender for an Oscar at the Academy Awards ceremony in February.

Mexican director Alfonso Cuarón (l), Mexican actress Yalitza Aparicio (c) and Mexican actress Marina de Tavira (r) arrive for the Los Angeles premiere of "Roma" at the Egyptian theatre in Hollywood on 10 December, 2018. **PHOTO: AFP**

Christian Bale, who portrayed former US vice president Dick Cheney in "Vice," won awards in the Best Actor and Best Actor in a Comedy categories, while Glenn Close ("The Wife") and Lady Gaga ("A Star is Born") jointly won in the Best Actress category.

Mahershala Ali ("Green Book") walked away with a Best Supporting Actor win, while Regina King ("If Beale Street Could Talk") won for Best Supporting Actress. Offbeat 18th century royal romp "The Favourite" won the award for Best Acting Ensemble, while its star Olivia Colman won the Best Actress in a Comedy award. "Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse" won the Best Animated Feature award, beating out stiff competition from Pixar-Disney's "The Incredibles 2," Disney's "Ralph Breaks the Internet," and director Wes Anderson's quirky "Isle of Dogs."

Tom Cruise vehicle "Mission: Impossible — Fallout" won the Best Action Movie award, beating Marvel-Disney box office blockbusters "Black Panther" and "Avengers: Infinity Wars."

The multi-nominated "Black Panther" however won awards for Best Visual Effects, Best Costume Design and Best Production Design. "Crazy Rich Asians" won in the Best Comedy category, beating out "The Favourite" and "The Death of Stalin," among others.—AFP ■

Steve Trevor is tonally different in 'Wonder Woman 1984: Chris Pine

LOS ANGELES — Actor Chris Pine says his character Steve Trevor is "tonally" different in "Wonder Woman 1984" as "tables have turned" for him.

Director Patty Jenkins, who helmed Warner Bros blockbuster "Wonder Woman" fronted by Gal Gadot, is back for the sequel and so is Pine.

Last year, Jenkins made a startling revelation that the actor will reprise his role of Trevor, an American pilot and the love interest of Diana Prince/ Wonder Woman. The character had sacrificed himself at the end of the 2017 film.

The filmmaker had also shared Pine's still from the film which features him dressed in an '80s avatar, along with the extras rocking yesteryear's look.

Talking about his return in the sequel, Pine told Variety, "This one is a little different for me tonally. The tables are turned, and I'm more of the deer in the headlights."

The actor also said that he got emotional while filming in Washington DC for the movie.

"I cried in front of the Supreme Court. I was like, man, for all that we f**ked up, we're still at it. We're still trying. So I was super energised and pro-America," he added.

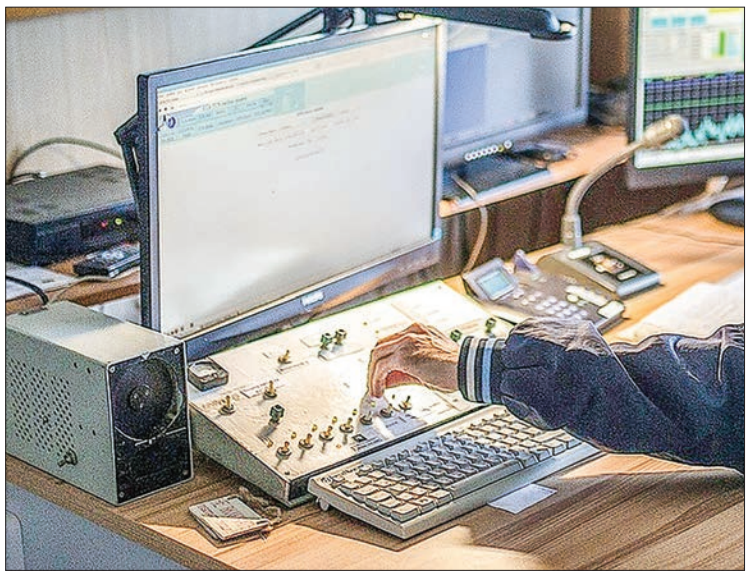
The sequel will see Gadot's Wonder Woman face off against Kristen Wiig's Cheetah. The film will also feature "Game of Thrones" and "Narcos" star Pedro Pascal in a pivotal role. It is set to release on 1 November this year.—PTI

US actor Chris Pine. **PHOTO: AFP**

Cosmic radiation possible cause of Spektr-R failure - source

MOSCOW — The Spektr-R space radio telescope's transmission device failure may have been caused by cosmic radiation accumulated in the spacecraft's electronics during the past eight years, a source in the Russian space industry informed TASS on Monday.

"The specialists cite the influence of the radiation dosage accumulated during the flight period in the satellite's electronic component base as a possible cause for the failure of the Spektr-R receiving and transmitting device," the agency's source informed.



On 11 January, the Gazeta.ru internet portal reported problems with the Spektr-R spacecraft. **PHOTO: TASS**

On 11 January, the Gazeta.ru internet portal reported problems with the Spektr-R spacecraft, citing the Radioastron project head and corresponding member of the Russian Academy of Sciences Yuri Kovalev. Nikolai Kardashev, a member of the Russian Academy of Sciences and director of the Astrospace Centre (the Radioastron project contractor), told TASS that the satellite's control has malfunctioned, although the spacecraft still emits a signal.

The Spektr-R was launched in 2011 and the warranty period of its active operation expired back in 2014.

Before this year, the radio telescope continued tackling targeted tasks, Roscosmos said.

Roscosmos told TASS earlier that Sunday's attempt to regain control of the old Spektr-R satellite had failed. More attempts will be made on Monday.—Tass ■

Smoking, drinking linked to different brain areas

BEIJING — A recent international study found that different brain areas are associated with smoking and drinking which may shed light on the prevention and treatment of alcohol and nicotine abuse.

Researchers from China's Fudan University, the University of Warwick in the UK, and other research institutions analyzed brain functional magnetic resonance images from two brain scan databases from the United States and Europe.

They reported on the latest issue of journal eLife that the medial orbitofrontal cortex, a brain area associated with rewards, has higher functional connectivity in drinkers. It suggests that drinkers are attracted to alcohol for the experience of pleasure caused by the reward system in the brain.

Meanwhile, smokers had low functional brain connectivity in general, especially in the lateral orbitofrontal cortex, a brain region linked to impulsive behaviour. It suggests that smokers need the stimulating effect of nicotine to increase their overall brain connectivity.

The study also found that the changes in functional brain connectivity were detectable even when participants smoked only a few cigarettes or drank a small amount of alcohol every day.

Feng Jianfeng, a corresponding author of the study and director of the Institute of Science and Technology for Brain-Inspired Intelligence, Fudan University, said the study could have important public health implications as both drinking and smoking affect a large part of the global population.

According to the World Health Organization, over 1.1 billion people smoke tobacco in the world, and more than 7 million people die each year due to the use of tobacco. Around 2.3 billion people worldwide are current drinkers, and excessive drinking killed more than 3 million people in 2016.—Xinhua ■

Algeria's ancient pyramid tombs still shrouded in mystery

TIARET (Algeria) — Dating back centuries, Algeria's pyramid tombs are unique relics of an ancient era but a dearth of research has left the Jeddars shrouded in mystery.

The 13 monuments, whose square stone bases are topped with angular mounds, are perched on a pair of hills near the city of Tiaret, some 250 kilometres (155 miles) southwest of the capital Algiers.

Constructed between the fourth and seventh centuries, the tombs are believed by some scholars to have been built as final resting places for Berber royalty — although nobody knows who truly laid within.

But Algerian authorities and archaeologists are now pushing to get the Jeddars listed as a UNESCO World Heritage site, in the hope of assuring their preservation and study.

Gaining such status is a lengthy process and the culture ministry said Algeria's application to the UN body "will be filed during the first quarter of 2020".

Experts from the National Centre for Prehistoric, Anthropological and Historical Research have for more than a year been preparing their case for the Jeddars. The goal is to "preserve this heritage, which is of immeasurable value and an ancestral legacy", said Mustapha Dorbane, a professor at Algiers 2 University's Archaeology Institute.

When the Jeddars were built, Berber kings ruled the area in small fiefdoms whose history is poorly known and of which few traces were left.

It was a period of great unrest for the former Roman province of Numidia, as Rome's western empire collapsed, Vandal and Byzantine troops invaded, and Arab forces stormed across North Africa. For centuries these far-flung monuments sat largely ignored, delivered to the ravages of time and looters.

'Wonders'

But more recently a group of around 20 archaeology students and their teachers has been working at the monuments.

Moving slowly, they noted vandalized spots and used water and brushes to gently clean stone-engraved symbols before measuring them.

A meticulous task, each entry may take upwards of two hours.

Algerian archaeologist Rachid Mahouz, who has spent five years on a doctoral thesis about the tombs, deplores the lack of research devoted to the country's "wonders".

"The French archives on the Jeddars are not available and the objects and bones found during the colonial era were taken to France," said Mahouz, who was born and raised nearby.

Archaeology was not taught at Algerian universities until the early 1980s, and until now, no speciality on funerary monuments is offered. The research team has been working on Jeddar A, which sits on Mount Lakhdar along with monuments B and C.

The remaining Jeddars are on a hilltop some six kilometres away, Mount Arouri, and are known by the letters D through M.

Each contains at least one room, with the largest mound giving way to a labyrinth of 20 compartments, including funerary chambers. Some rooms are equipped with benches, areas researchers believe may have been used for worship.

Inside the tombs, traditional Christian symbols as well as hunting scenes and animal figures are carved above the doors.

Traces of inscriptions believed to be Latin mark the walls, but time has rendered them unreadable.

Among the layers of history, researchers say they have also found Greek letters — although others dispute this.— AFP ■

Some scholars believe the Jeddar tombs were built as final resting places for Berber royalty but nobody knows for sure who was laid within. **PHOTO: AFP**

Fernando Torres of Sagan Tosu. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**

Fernando Torres renews contract with J-League's Sagan Tosu

TOKYO — Former Spain striker Fernando Torres has renewed his contract with J-League first-division side Sagan Tosu, the club announced on Sunday.

Torres, who scored 38 goals in 110 matches for Spain's national team, joined unheralded Sagan last July in a shock move that made headlines around the world.

The 34-year-old former Liverpool and Atletico Madrid star played 19 league and cup games for Sagan last season, scoring four goals, with two assists.

"I am looking forward to the new season. Everyone is working hard to be at our strongest," Torres said in a statement through the club. Sagan, who were promoted to J1 for the first time in 2012, finished 14th last year after fighting a relegation battle until the end of the season.

The club, located on Japan's southwestern main island of Kyushu, last month named Spaniard Lluis Carreras, a former teammate of Torres at Atletico, as its manager for next season. —Kyodo News ■

Solskjaer hails De Gea as United dig deep to beat Spurs

LONDON (United Kingdom) — Ole Gunnar Solskjaer said David de Gea was making a case to be considered Manchester United's greatest-ever goalkeeper after he produced a masterclass on Sunday to protect his side's 1-0 lead against Tottenham.

The match at Wembley pitted two of the bookmakers' favourites to permanently replace Jose Mourinho against one another but it was the interim United boss who came out on top against Mauricio Pochettino.

Marcus Rashford scored the only goal in the 44th minute of a thrilling encounter and Paul Pogba impressed but the performance of the Spanish goalkeeper will live long in the memory.

He made 11 saves — the most he has made in a top-flight league match without conceding a goal — leaving Spurs players holding their heads in disbelief on multiple occasions.

Solskjaer hailed De Gea as "the best goalkeeper in the world" but also praised his team's defensive resilience and team spirit.

"We've had some great 'keepers at this club and I think he's challenging both Edwin (van der Sar) and Peter (Schmeichel) for the number one spot historically, he said.

"The win here was massive, the team spirit was massive, the belief and the joy in the dressing room absolutely fantastic," added the Norwegian, who has equalled Matt Busby's record of winning his first five league games in charge of United.

United were eight points behind Arsenal when Solskjaer became their caretaker manager on 19 December but are now level on points with the fifth-placed Gunners as they hunt down a Champions League qualification spot.

But the result is a devastating blow for Tottenham, who again came up short when the pressure was on and remain nine points adrift of Premier League leaders Liverpool.

Pochettino praised his side despite their defeat.

"Tottenham did everything to win the game," he said. "Maybe we dominated and we created a lot of chances. It was an amazing second half, I am so pleased.

"Sometimes you win a game and you are disappointed, like when we won 3-0 at Old Trafford. They were better than us that day. Today the result should be different and I am happy."

Earlier, Tottenham settled quickly into their fluid passing game, enjoying the bulk of possession and went close to opening the scoring through Harry Winks before Jesse Lingard fired over from close range for the visitors.

United, with Lingard, Anthony Martial and Rashford racing forward at every opportunity, looked dangerous on the break.

Spurs striker Harry Kane had a close-range effort correctly ruled out for offside just after the half hour. Moussa Sissoko pulled up sharply shortly before the break and although he returned to the pitch he was unable to continue, being replaced by Erik Lamela.

Moments later United were ahead. Lingard cut out a careless cross-field ball from Kieran Trippier and nudged the ball to Pogba, who had time to look up and measure a raking cross-field pass to Rashford, sprinting down the right.

Rashford still had plenty to do but kept his nerve to fire right-footed past Lloris and into the far corner — Lloris got fingertips to the ball but was unable to keep it out.

Tottenham came out of the blocks smartly after the restart and Kane looked certain to level from close range but De Gea saved brilliantly with his left foot before pulling off a fine save to deny an Alli headed effort. —AFP ■

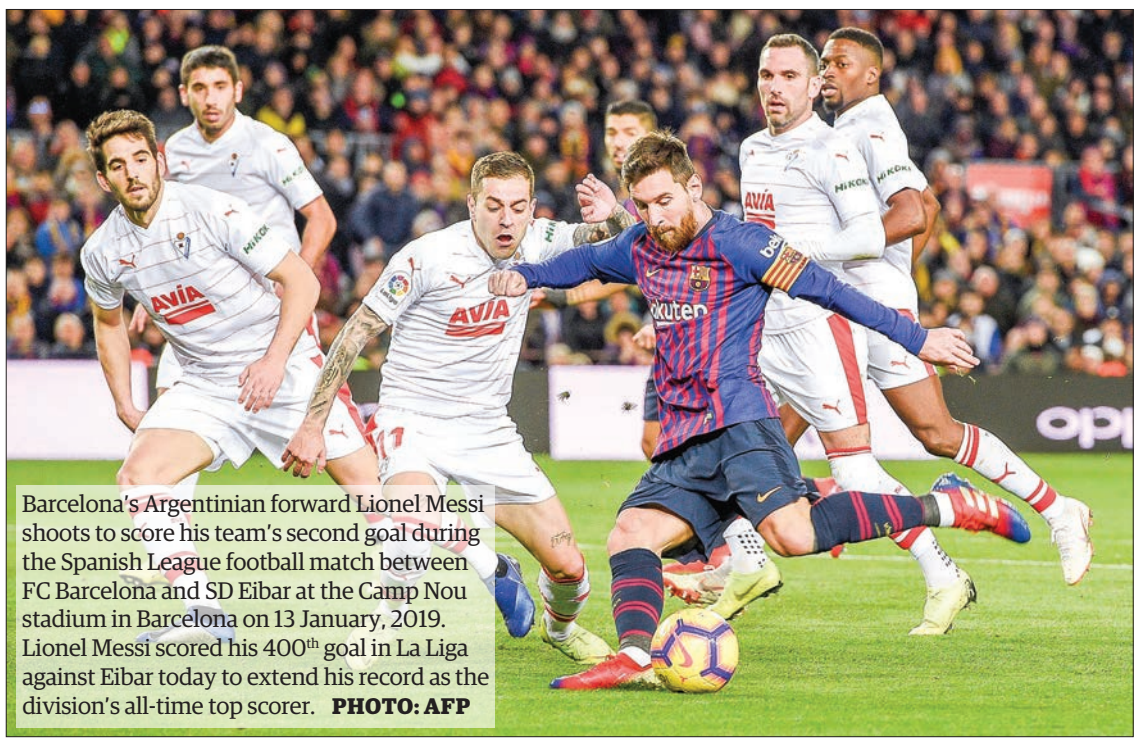
'Another galaxy': Messi's 400 La Liga goals is 'monstrous'

BARCELONA (Spain) — Lionel Messi's total of 400 La Liga goals is "monstrous", according to Barcelona coach Ernesto Valverde, who described his Argentine superstar as belonging to "another galaxy".

Messi hit his quadruple century in the 53rd minute of Barca's win over Eibar on Sunday to extend his record as the division's all-time top scorer.

He collected the ball off Luis Suarez and drove it into the bottom corner at the Camp Nou to reach the historic landmark after 435 matches. Barca went on to win the game 3-0, with Suarez twice on target. "It's monstrous," said Valverde, after the match. "It's easy to say but you have to score them one after the other, it's a long-term job. "Messi is an extraordinary player because he is not only a scorer. It's everything that he creates around him too.

He added: "His numbers are stratospheric, incredible. He is from another galaxy." Messi has finished top scorer in La Liga five times. He has 17 goals already this season. It is 14 years since Messi scored his first La Liga goal and the 31-year-old Argentine has gone on to build an enormous lead at the top of the league's all-time scoring chart. Cristiano Ronaldo remains the second highest scorer with 311 goals in 292 games while Spain's Telmo Zarra is third with 251 goals in 278 games.—AFP ■



Barcelona's Argentinian forward Lionel Messi shoots to score his team's second goal during the Spanish League football match between FC Barcelona and SD Eibar at the Camp Nou stadium in Barcelona on 13 January, 2019. Lionel Messi scored his 400th goal in La Liga against Eibar today to extend his record as the division's all-time top scorer. **PHOTO: AFP**