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Invest Myanmar Summit 2019 kicks off



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi looks at a scale model of a housing project exhibited at the Invest Myanmar Summit 2019 in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

THE Invest Myanmar Summit 2019 kicked off yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw, with an opening speech by State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi.

The summit was jointly organized by the Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations and the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry. The opening ceremony was attended by Chairman of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Legal Affairs and Special Cases Assessment Commission Thura U Shwe Mann, Union ministers, Chairman of Myanmar Anti-Corruption Commission, Chairman of the Nay Pyi Taw Council, chief ministers of the regions and states, deputy ministers, departmental heads, officials of the UMFCCI, ambassadors, local and foreign business personnel, economists and invited guests.

The ceremony began with performances by the artistes of the Fine Arts Department.

Afterwards, State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi delivered a keynote speech summarizing the progress made by Myanmar in economic development and investment sector.

(Her speech is covered on Page 3, 4, 5 and 6)

Afterwards, State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, and dignitaries posed for documentary photos. The State Counsellor and dignitaries then visited the summit's booths displaying business opportunities in regions and states. — MNA ■

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Pyithu Hluttaw

Second Pyithu Hluttaw holds fifth-day meeting of 11th regular session

Assembly discuss education, digital literacy, intellectual property

By Aye Aye Thant (MNA)

THE 5th-day meeting of the 11th regular session of the Second Pyithu Hluttaw was held in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

MPs raised questions on possible impediments in student enrolment, supporting university students from remote areas, and consequences of matriculation exams during question time, read a report from the Government's Guarantees, Pledges and Undertakings Vetting Committee, tabled a motion for a digital literacy framework, and approved the Intellectual Property rights Bill sent back from the Amyotha Hluttaw.



Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat. **PHOTO: MNA**

Relinquishing recommendation processes for student enrolment

Firstly, U Myo Nyunt from Homalin constituency raised a question on whether there were plans to lessen the requirement for (a) students two months younger than the required age for school enrolment to acquire a signed recommendation from the township education officer, (b) students three months younger than the required age for school enrolment to acquire a signed recommendation from the district education officer, and (c) acquiring a signed recommendation from the township education officer for procuring transfer certificates (TC).

The Union Minister for Education, Dr. Myo Thein Gyi, replied that children under 5 years old are given an assessment test at the school and is decided by the evaluation board on whether to accept the child or not. He said if the board approves, the child is given immediate entry into the school. He said the requirement for a township or district education officer's recommendation is a formal office procedure to maintain a transparent record, and will not create any hinderances to students' education opportunities.

The Union Minister said beginning from the capacity building courses for educators initiated at the Administrative Training School (Htaukkyant) in May 2018, only TCs between states and regions require a signed recommendation from the Tsp education officer. He said transferring within the state or region no longer requires the signed recommendation, unless the school in question only has an interim principal in charge.

Supporting university students from remote areas

U Tin Nu (a) U Tin Nu Aung from Manaung constituency raised a question asking if there were any plans to support students from remote areas, and townships receiving stipends, who have passed the matriculation exams and are willing to attend higher colleges and training schools. Dr. Myo Thein Gyi replied that according to the pre-workplace teaching diploma course selection for students from remote areas who passed the matriculation exams, the State and Regional governments have increased the acceptance quota of relevant education college courses up to 10 per cent of the selected applicants. He said Sagaing University of Education and Yangon University of Education also accepts applicants who meet the specified criteria. In addition, Yangon, Mandalay, and most universities select matriculation exam qualifiers from remote areas as students up to 2 per cent of their intended quota for every subject.

Consequences of matriculation exams on practical development

U Saw Kyaw Win Maung of Kyaikmaraw constituency raised a question asking if there were plans to amend the matriculation exam result requirements to enter specific universities, as it can damage the practical development of students.

Dr. Myo Thein Gyi replied that they have planned for the practical development of college-entry students by providing vocational trainings, undergraduate courses, and diploma courses in order to acquire job opportunities. He said there are also plans for students who wish to attend advance education universities by providing help in the application process and to design a lifetime learning roadmap for students pursuing tertiary education.

Dr. Myo Thein Gyi said they are planning to provide high school diplomas to external students who pass the high school exams, adding that this will help them pursue their preferred vocational training courses without disrupting their jobs.

Following this, the Union Minister for Education and Union Election Commission Member U Than Htay replied to questions raised by U Aung Khin Win from Myaing constituency, U Stephen from Kengtung constituency, U Tin Aye from Metmung constituency, and U Maung Myint from Mingin constituency.

Report read and submitted

Next, U Aung Thein from the Pyithu Hluttaw Government's Guarantees, Pledges and Undertakings Vetting Committee read his committee's report. Speaker U T Khun Myat then called for MPs interested in discussing the report to register their names.

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Amyotha Hluttaw

Second Amyotha Hluttaw holds fifth-day meeting of its 11th session

By Aung Ye Thwin, Lu Maw (MNA)

THE fifth-day meeting of the 11th session of the Second Amyotha Hluttaw was held yesterday in the Amyotha Hluttaw meeting hall in Nay Pyi Taw.



Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than. **PHOTO: MNA**

Preventing erosion of Ayeyawady River's banks

At the meeting, U Htein Win of Ayeyawady Region constituency 4 asked whether there was a plan to maintain bank stability and prevent river bank erosion of the Ayeyawady River during construction of a tunnel through the sandbank of the river in Kyaukye, Tarngut and Phaung Seik villages, Hinthada Township, Ayeyawady Region.

Regarding this query, Deputy Minister for Transport and Communications U Kyaw Myo replied that the Ministry of Transport and Communications would ask for funds, as a top priority, from the Ayeyawady Region government in 2019-2020 FY, as part of efforts to prevent the erosion of the river bank.

Moreover, requests will be made for K820 million in funding, as a second priority, from the capital fund of the regional government in 2019-2020 FY, which aims at preventing river bank erosion in Tarngut and Phaung Seik villages. The maintenance for the river bank will be carried out in the region after gaining the allotment of the fund in 2019-2020 FY.

Building a flood gate at the Kyauktagar Dam

Dr. Kyaw Ngwe of Magway Region constituency 10 asked if there was a plan to build a sluice gate, in a timely manner, before the rainy season, at the Kyauktagar Dam, Yesagyo Township, Magway Region. Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation U Hla Kyaw replied that the Irrigation and Water Utilization Management Department would implement the construction project after receiving allotment of funds from the Magway Region government.

Q & A session

Next, Deputy Ministers U Hla Kyaw and Nay Pyi Taw Council member U Nyi Tun clarified the queries raised by U Khin Maung Lat of Rakhine State constituency 3, U Myint Naing of Rakhine State constituency 5, and Daw Nwe Nwe Aung of Mon State constituency 2.

Child Rights Bill

Hluttaw representatives took part in the discussion on the Child Rights Bill at the Hluttaw session. Concerning the bill, Dr. Tin Tin Win of Bago Region constituency 5, Tatmadaw representative Lt-Col Myo Tun Aung, U Kyaw Kyaw Win of Rakhine State constituency 8, U Soe Thein of Kayah State constituency 9, U San Myint of Ayeyawady Region constituency 3, Tatmadaw representative Maj. Ye Aung Saw and U Soe Thein (a) U Maung Soe of Thaninthayi Region constituency 10 participated in the discussion.

The six-day meeting of the 11th session of the 2nd Amyotha Hluttaw will be convened on 30 January.

(Translated by Win Ko Ko Aung)

State Counsellor opens Invest Myanmar Summit 2019 with keynote speech summarizing Myanmar's economic, investment progress





State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi delivers the opening speech at the opening ceremony of Investment Myanmar Summit 2019 in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Opening Salutations

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you to the 2019 Invest Myanmar Summit and to see so many investors and business people, representing a wide range of industries, sectors, interest groups, and organisations, here with us today.

I am confident that this Summit — the first of its kind in Myanmar — will serve to highlight the immense opportunities available to both local and foreign investors and provide you with the opportunity to explore Myanmar's exciting and ever evolving investment landscape.

I am happy to note that, throughout our two-day event, Union and State and Regional governments, together with our private sector partners, will be provided with an invaluable opportunity to showcase their respective investment proposals.

I would like to express our deep appreciation to the Summit organizers, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry, who have worked tirelessly, in partnership with the Myanmar Investment Commission and the Directorate for Investment and Companies Administration, to make this event a success.

I hope all of you will find this event both fruitful and enjoyable and that you will take away happy memories that will serve to bring you back to Myanmar again and again.

Historical Note

Perhaps it might be worth noting that today's event is taking place on the birthday of King Yazadarit, ruler of the ancient Kingdom of Hanthawaddy Pegu, one of our most renowned monarchs. His reign, recorded in the classic text "Razadarit Ayedawbon", saw a range of ambitious administrative reforms, combined with the creation of peaceful conditions that helped to transform the ancient kingdom into a successful trading power. It was also on this day in 1945, 74 years ago, that supplies began to reach the Republic of China over the newly reopened "Burma Road".

So, we meet on a truly auspicious date, the birthday of one of our nation's foremost reformers, and also the day which saw the culmination of a highly strategic infrastructure project which undoubtedly impacted on the course of World War II in the South-East Asian theatre.

Why Myanmar?

Why do we say 'invest in Myanmar'?

Myanmar's enviable geographical location makes us both a strategic market, as well as a crossroads between China, India, Bangladesh, Laos, and Thailand.

China, India and the ten economies that make up ASEAN, of which Myanmar is a member, together represent a potential consumer market of more than 3.5 billion people. These same economies combined account for some $15 trillion dollars, or 20 per cent, of our global GDP.

This market nexus is expected to evolve into one of the most dynamic and vibrant markets the modern world has ever seen. The McKinsey Global Institute predicts that by 2025 over half of the world's consuming class, that is, those with an income of more than $10 a day, will live within a five-hour air journey from Myanmar.

We have a sizeable population of 53 million, half of whom are aged 30 or below. Thus, Myanmar also has a sizeable and expanding internal market which will surely benefit from greater cooperation and integration with external markets.

> I stand here to reaffirm our commitment to continue our reforms and to build an investment-friendly-environment.

As the largest country in mainland Southeast Asia, Myanmar not only possesses significant potential for agricultural production, we are also richly endowed with minerals and natural gas.

Myanmar's southern seaboard, when connected with Thailand's thriving Eastern Economic Corridor, creates one of the world's most strategic economic corridors, offering access routes to the Indian and Pacific Oceans via the Bay of Bengal and the Andaman Sea, as well as to the neighbouring economies of Cambodia, Laos, Viet Nam and, of course, China.

It is our firm belief that Myanmar has much to contribute by connecting regional markets to international trade routes, and in so doing, we shall be able to play a major role in supporting the expansion of trade and investment throughout the Asia-Pacific region and indeed, throughout the world.

Global/Regional Landscape and Scene Setting

Just as Myanmar has undergone rapid social, economic and political transformations in recent times, our world has also been undergoing multiple, concurrent transformations.

Throughout the past forty years, our region has experienced the greatest surge of economic growth the world has ever seen. This rapid growth, within ASEAN and the rest of Asia, has spearheaded the creation of new trade relationships, spurred the invention of new technologies, and facilitated the movement of peoples, ideas, goods, services and capital in ways which in the past had never before been thought possible.

Indeed, we live in an era in which Asia is rising, poised to shape the world. Consequently, economic integration, coupled with innovation, free trade, growing people-to-people connections and regional connectivity, presents Myanmar and our investors with vast opportunities.

With our advantageous geographical location, relatively low labour costs, and the enormous potential of our people, it is the best of times for grasping the opportunities that will arise as the global economic pendulum swings from West to East.

However, there are also challenges that must be overcome.

One key challenge for Myanmar will be to find ways and means of ensuring that we continue to benefit from this global and regional inter-connectedness, keeping in mind that less developed countries with weaker links to the global economy are at greater risk of falling further behind.

We therefore recognize the urgent need for the public sector and the private sector; the primary engine of economic growth and job creation in Myanmar and a main driving force in favour of inclusive and sustainable development; to work closer together as we seek market-based solutions to many, but not all of course, of our development challenges.

To understand Myanmar's contemporary investment landscape, we must also seek to understand the broader forces at work.

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State Counsellor opens Invest Myanmar Summit 2019 with keynote speech summarizing Myanmar's economic, investment progress



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi poses for a documentary photograph with attendees of the Invest Myanmar Summit 2019 in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

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The pursuit of market friendly economic policies, together with rapidly increasing regional cooperation and integration, have been highly beneficial for the Asia-Pacific region, allowing many of us to make a successful transition from low income, low growth to middle-to-high income, high growth. Myanmar seeks to do the same.

By our own choosing, today our country is more exposed to external market and political forces than ever before. On balance, Myanmar stands to gain from this exposure which brings with it the potential for new investment, new technologies and knowledge transfer. But that is not to say that we are immune from the less positive aspects of globalization. In today's hyperconnected world, when one economy so much as catches a common cold, many more are put at risk of contagion.

At the global level, FDI inflows continued their decline in 2018, following a 23 per cent decrease in 2017 from the previous year. The Asia-Pacific region has not been immune from this downward trend.

According to the latest available data, FDI inflows to the Asia-Pacific region have stagnated slightly when compared with previous years. However, our region has remained a primary destination for FDI, accounting for 39% of global FDI inflows in 2017, a rise of 9 percentage points compared to 2016. Furthermore, developing Asia-Pacific economies were collectively the largest recipient region for FDI inflows worldwide in 2017.

Myanmar has also been a major beneficiary of intra-regional FDI, experiencing a 45 per cent increase in FDI inflows. Evidence of this can be seen throughout the country; an example is the new manufacturing plant set up by Malaysia-based Kian Joo Group in the Thilawa Special Economic Zone.

There can be no doubt that Myanmar is benefiting from our advantageous geographical position.

> Investment opportunities are everywhere in Myanmar.

Myanmar Macroeconomic Forecasts

In Myanmar we often say "collect the water while it is raining".

The most recent economic forecast provided by the ASEAN+3 Macroeconomic Research Office suggests that Myanmar's economy is expected to grow by some 7.4 per cent in the 2018-2019 Fiscal Year, up from 6.8 per cent during the 2017-18 Fiscal Year, and from 5.9 per cent during the 2016-17 Fiscal Year.

We should also note that inflation is forecast to stabilise at 5 per cent during the 2018-2019 Fiscal Year. This is still higher than what we may have hoped for but it is a marked improvement on previous years. At its peak in 2015, inflation stood at 9.99 per cent.

With these positive forces converging, both regionally and in Myanmar, now is the time for us to be bold and ambitious, and bold and ambitious we shall be!

Major Myanmar Reform Efforts

As a member of the global community of nations, the Government of Myanmar has confirmed our commitment to the realization of the Sustainable Development Goals.

To this end, we have developed a comprehensive social, economic and environmental policy reform agenda – the Myanmar Sustainable Development Plan or MSDP – which provides a unifying and coherent roadmap for all future reforms.

Structured around 3 Pillars, 5 Goals, 28 Strategies and 251 Action Plans, the MSDP can be seen as the expression of our national development vision.

The MSDP is founded on a long-term vision: a vision of a peaceful, prosperous and democratic country. The MSDP also provides a detailed strategic planning matrix which will assist in the prioritisation, sequencing and implementation of strategic development and investment initiatives across all sectors, and across all States and Regions.

The first goal focuses on peace and national reconciliation, with a focus on the achievement of political stability, while the second goal emphasises macroeconomic management, with a focus on the achievement and maintenance of economic stability, without which broader, multi-sectoral development cannot begin to materialise. Hence, the first and second goals are amongst those most critical for ensuring a strong foundation upon which all future development can be based.

The third goal relates to job creation and private sector growth, while the fourth relates to human capacity and social development, including the expansion of access to quality education and healthcare.

The fifth goal, natural resources management and environmental protection, is aimed at protecting not just our country but our planet, through sustainable environmental and natural resources management.

Directly relevant to today's event, Strategy 3.3 clearly notes our commitment to creating a favourable investment-and-business-enabling environment. Thus, we can say that what we are doing now here, is part of the implementation of our strategic planning DNA.

Since this government came into office, Myanmar has been actively pursuing a range of FDI liberalisation measures.

In recent years, we have undertaken a number of reforms, some major and obvious, some more subtle but, in their own way, equally significant. All are primarily focused on updating the regulatory and legal environment aimed at developing a market-based economy which targets inclusive economic growth. Necessary structural reforms have also been made to boost Myanmar's development through greater integration with the global economy.

These reforms have had a profound impact on Myanmar, fundamentally enhancing our investment environment.

Investment Law

One of the first major reforms was the introduction of the Myanmar Investment Law. Introduced in 2016, the Myanmar Investment Law offers investors a more transparent, more liberal and more protected investment environment, bringing our investment-enabling-environment further in line with international and regional agreements.

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State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi visits the Mandalay Myotha Industrial Development booth at the Invest Myanmar Summit 2019 in Myanmar International Convention Center II in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Companies Law

Then, in December 2017 we launched the new Myanmar Companies Act which came into effect in August 2018.

Under the old 1914 Myanmar Companies Act, a locally incorporated entity with any foreign shareholding was considered a foreign company in Myanmar. With new legislation in place, foreign investors are now permitted to hold up to 35 percent of shares in a domestic company without the company losing its categorisation as a local company. Changing this legal definition will allow foreign investors to undertake business activities that were previously restricted to companies fully owned by Myanmar citizens.

The new Companies Law has also been designed to offer greater protection for minority investors whom we expect will contribute to a considerable improvement in Myanmar's ranking in the Ease of Doing Business Index.

Major reform efforts have been complemented by the recent launch of MyCo, an electronic registration system through which companies can now be incorporated online, thus eliminating the need to physically wend your way to the registrar's office.

We are already seeing some results of this. During the 5-month period following MyCo's launch (1 August to 31 December 2018) some 8,400 new companies were registered online. Put in another way, the number of companies registered in just 5 months constitutes 10% of the total number registered during the last 30 years, from 1988 to 2018.

This is the type of progress we are determined to replicate and expand.

Further steps will involve migrating many other manual processes online so that investors will no longer need to come to a physical single window to have their needs addressed.

Retail Sector Liberalisation

With the launch of the Companies Law, we have been able to open up new economic sectors to investment. For example, in 2018 this administration successful opened Myanmar to wholly foreign-owned firms operating in the wholesale and retail sectors, a move which has attracted solid investor interest from Europe, Japan, South Korea and beyond.

Education Sector Liberalisation

We have also begun to liberalise the education sector, opening the way for 100 per cent foreign-owned educational institutions, as well as locally owned schools and joint ventures.

Thilawa SEZ

As noted earlier, we have made tremendous progress with regard to the development of Special Economic Zones.

I am very pleased to report that the Thilawa SEZ has become a crowning success in a very short period of time, receiving a total investment of over US$ 1.491 billion; this reflects the dollar value of those investments actually entering the economy.

Investors from countries such as Japan, the United States, Germany, France, Sweden, Australia, China, India, Singapore, Thailand and Taiwan have invested in the Thilawa SEZ, and there are many more eager to enter Thilawa SEZ Zone B.

I am happy to be able to say that a single window system is already in use at the Thilawa SEZ, and that it is providing a strong and positive precedent.

Future rollouts of similar systems elsewhere, starting with the Myanmar Investment Commission, are planned.

We also hope that recent discussions between Thailand and Myanmar, with support from China and Japan, will see similar progress made at the Dawei SEZ in short order.

CBM-NET and MACCS

Other notable reforms that will be of interest to our investors are the development of an electronic payments and settlement system, the 'CBM-NET', and an electronic customs and cargo clearance system, 'MACCS'.

Our CBM-NET consists of a Real Time Gross Settlement (RTGS) system, a central securities depository system, and a mechanised cheque clearing system which is connected to all banks within Myanmar. The CBN-NET converts the once-manual process of clearing and settling payments into an entirely electronic system, thus constituting an important step toward the modernisation of our banking processes.

Likewise, our MACCS system now enables exporters and importers to apply for customs declarations and port clearances online. This system connects not only to major ports but also to several major land border crossings. The result has been shorter customs clearance times and greater efficiency gains overall.

MIC Reform

Importantly, the Myanmar Investment Commission (MIC) has been reconstituted and is now under new management that will take forward the momentum of change and transformation. The new MIC management team is determined to turn Myanmar into a major regional trade and investment destination and has been urged to take a much more proactive approach to investment approvals.

The new MIC team is reviewing all processes, not only within the MIC itself but also within other government agencies, with a view to establishing simple, clear and predictable Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), together with a single-window approach to services delivery.

This single-window approach will go a long way toward addressing impediments faced by investors, while at the same time providing them with both pre- and post-investment services.

MIPP

We recently launched the Myanmar Investment Promotion Plan (MIPP) which aims to attract more than US$200 billion through responsible and quality business over the next 20 years, facilitating Myanmar's transition to a middle-income country.

New Ministry

To help sustain this already substantial reform effort, on 19 November 2018 the Government established the Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations (MoIFER). MoIFER has been mandated to address the needs of the State and its people, with a focus on facilitating an investment-enabling-environment, furthering regional cooperation initiatives, and enhancing the quality and effectiveness of Myanmar's cooperation and coordination with development partners and international organisations.

The Project Bank

Those who know Myanmar well will know that this country offers the possibility of immense returns to investors who are both patient and innovative.

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State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi shakes hands with Mr. Nguyen Quoc Dung Special Envoy of the Vietnamese Prime Minister. **PHOTO: MNA**

State Counsellor receives Special Envoy of Vietnamese Prime Minister

DAW AUNG SAN SUU KYI, State Counsellor of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar received Mr. Nguyen Quoc Dung, Special Envoy of the Prime Minister of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam and Deputy Foreign Minister on 28-1-2019, at 3:30 pm at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Nay Pyi Taw.

During the meeting, they frankly discussed matters on enhancing of Myanmar-Viet Nam bilateral relations and cooperation, Myanmar Government's efforts for the repatriation of displaced persons from Rakhine State, humanitarian assistances provided by Government to all communities and the development of the Rakhine State.

After the meeting, Special Envoy of the Vietnamese Prime Minister donated US Dollars 100,000 from the Government of Viet Nam as humanitarian assistance in Rakhine State to the Union Enterprise for Humanitarian Assistance, Resettlement and Development in Rakhine. State Counsellor conferred the Certificate of Acknowledgement to the Special Envoy.

Also present at the meeting were Dr. Win Myat Aye, Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, U Kyaw Tin, Union Minister for International Cooperation, Senior Officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Dr. Luan Thuy Duong and Representatives from Viet Nam.

The Special Envoy of the Vietnamese Prime Minister also paid a courtesy call to U Kyaw Tin, Union Minister for International Cooperation at 12:45 pm on the same day and discussed matters pertaining to the further enhancement of cooperation between Myanmar and Viet Nam in regional cooperation mechanism including ASEAN and in international arena. —MNA ■

State Counsellor opens Invest Myanmar Summit 2019 with keynote speech summarizing Myanmar's economic, investment progress

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To assist investors in the process of identifying investment priorities in a more strategic, transparent and open manner, the Ministry of Planning and Finance and the Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations have developed a Project Bank, a rolling databank consisting of major, transformative projects that have been screened, appraised and prioritised such that they are ready for implementation with the most appropriate source of financing, be it government budget, development assistance or even through private sector financing, by way of Private-Public-Partnership (PPP) mechanisms.

Our Project Bank is envisioned as an online one-stop-shop, where all information on projects designed to implement the Myanmar Sustainable Development Plan can be easily accessed with a single click. In preparing these projects, the Government is prioritising appropriately balanced risk allocation between the government and the private sector, as well as the use of blended financing mechanisms to ensure the success of PPPs that are included within the Project Bank.

I hope that it is now obvious that Myanmar is committed to creating not only a favourable, but also a predictable, facilitative and friendly, investment environment.

The World Bank acknowledged the positive change in Myanmar's investment climate brought about by these and many other reforms back in 2017 when we were granted the 2017 Star Reformer Award. But we cannot and will not rest on our laurels.

The Star Reformers Award was made on the basis of efforts made by the Government to usher in transformational investment policy and promotion reforms representing a significant shift in the development path of the country, improving the ease of doing business, and maximizing the potential benefits of foreign direct investment and its spillover effects in the domestic economy.

We will continue to strive to improve the investment climate.

Challenges Ahead

But of course, many challenges remain. For example, our infrastructure gap continues to constrain Myanmar's development potential.

Our energy potential has also yet to be fulfilled. Myanmar remains one of the world's least electrified countries, notwithstanding our natural gas and renewable energy resources.

Myanmar's ports must also be upgraded and expanded to meet growing demand.

Despite these challenges, or one may even say because of them, business opportunities are abundant in proportion to the critical need for foreign direct investment. Thus, for investors, challenges can be turned into opportunities.

Invest in our people

It is said that what is comfortable is rarely profitable. This is certainly the case when it comes to investment in frontier markets. As Southeast Asia's final frontier market – final and best we hope – we offer innumerable investment opportunities; investment opportunities are everywhere in Myanmar. Some are plain to see, others are waiting to be found.

I stand here to reaffirm our commitment to continue our reforms and to build an investment-friendly-environment.

We only ask our investors to ensure that their investments are responsible, by incorporating environmental, social and governance factors into their investment and business undertakings.

So please do come to Myanmar, soak in an atmosphere brimming with opportunities, and witness our newfound economic vibrancy with your own eyes.

This has been a rather long speech and I hope it has covered all the salient points of our investment policies and the steps that we have been taking to implement them.

Before concluding, I would like to say that our greatest investment is in our people. Everywhere I go, I see our children bright and innovative, and they are the insurance of our future. And they are also the insurers for the future of investment in this country.

So, please invest in our people, in our potential.

I wish all of you the very, very best as we go forward in our business-to-business engagements and also in our people-to-people relationships. We value the deep, genuine and mutually beneficial friendships that can bring peoples and businesses together for the benefit of all.

I wish you and this Summit every success.

Thank you.

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi addresses High Level Forum on children





State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, (Left), addresses the High Level Forum on Realizing Myanmar's Development Vision for Every Child, in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

STATE Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi addressed an opening ceremony of a High Level Forum on "Realizing Myanmar's Development Vision for Every Child" held in Park Royal Hotel, Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

In her speech the State Counsellor said, today's event is a high level Forum on realizing Myanmar's development vision for every child and there are many guidelines that I want to mention. First is the fact that children are our country's future. It is important for every country's future to place emphasis on the physical and mental development of children and for them to achieve their full intellectual capabilities. Working on early life development of children is nurturing and developing valuable and important human resources of our Union. In other words it is not wasteful spending; it is in fact a strategic investment for the future.

As fostering and raising the children who will create and shape the country's future is very important, Myanmar's early life development of children and development strategy was drawn up and introduced and distributed to the people in 2018 December. Not only parents and teachers(male/female) but relevant departments are to coordinate for the successful implementation of the work processes of this strategy.

Secondly, today's forum will review sector wise projects and is an opportune time to discuss, allocate and implement priority projects which need to be done on a real time basis. As you all know, all over the world countries are implementing Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and our country has approved the balanced Myanmar Sustainable Development Plan (MSDP) a few months ago. MSDP has three main pillars and, five goals, 28 strategies and designated project implementation programs under each strategy and there are a total of 251 work processes. MSDP processes will be implemented as a Living Document.

MSDP was drawn up in coordination with the United Nations' sustainable development goals, Myanmar's 12 point economic policy, ASEAN economic community, Greater Mekong Sub-region strategy framework as well as implementation of various international and regional pledges made by the Union Government. In other words, sustainable and development goals which are based on our requirements, together with priorities to implement sustainable development goals which are in accord with the country's situation.

Under MSDP Pillar 3 "People & Planet", goal number 4 which is "Human Resources & Social Development for a 21st Century Society" has been designated. Priority is being given towards strategic work processes on raising the quality of social service sectors of education, health, food and nutrition in the strategies set down to achieve this goal so that every child in the country becomes a high value human resource of the future.

At this time, arrangements are being made to put projects into Project Banks of ministries and organizations to implement them effectively and in full capacity. That is why the five year social sector strategic plans for each ministry related to education, health and social protection were being introduced since 2016. Discussions are to be made at this forum to review the implementation during the two year period and allocate priority work programs which need to be implemented on a real-time basis.

There is a need to identify and designate areas for development of every child in Myanmar when implementing sector wise related programs of MSDP as projects according to the SDGs' motto of "leaving no one behind."

Thirdly I want to talk about the importance of cooperation. The three pillars of MSDP – Peace & Stability, Prosperity & Partnership, People& Planet – are mutually and equally beneficial to one another. Thematic Approach is used to implement the goals and strategies of all three pillars and I would like to remind the importance of cooperating effectively in implementing matters involving several ministries. In order to create a good shift for our country, the direction of the strategy needs to be understood and there is a need to do the push together.

> A special appeal is made to ensure that the plans of development partners and international organizations for our country are in accord with the goals and strategies of MSDP ...

Discussions with the private sector conducted at the Invest Myanmar Summit at the Myanmar International Convention Centre early this morning was to put the projects in the economic pillar into the Project Bank. It is necessary to produce creative and innovative funding projects from the Union budget, regional and international development assistance, private investment, public-private cooperation works and basic infrastructure bonds. That is why efforts must be made towards strengthening unity and uniformity between the pillars of MSDP.

Implementation should be done not only by one single department but by cooperation between the government, Hluttaw, private sector, international development partners and relevant stakeholders doing their respective duties and responsibilities. At this time, it is very much needed to work with "cetana" (good will) for the good of the country rather than just to fulfill our duties and responsibilities.

A special appeal is made to ensure that the plans of development partners and international organizations for our country are in accord with the goals and strategies of MSDP and furthermore to ensure that the assistance thus provided is truly effective. Participation of the private sector and the participation and pledges of development partner organizations and international organizations in the effective implementation of Myanmar development works are essential requirements and very important.

SEE PAGE-10

29 JANUARY 2019
THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Myanmar Ethnics Culture Fest aids cultural appreciation

THE Myanmar Ethnics Culture Fest, a hybrid cultural expo and tourism promotion event, is drawing large crowds at the Kyaikkasan Sports Ground in Yangon. The six-day cultural fest is being held from 25 to 30 January.

The festival, organized mainly with the support of the Myanmar Ethnic Entrepreneurs Association (MEEA), showcases the unique customs and traditions of Myanmar's 135 ethnic races before a local and foreign audience.

> We believe the cultural fest will bring in much needed support for the development, unity, and peace of our ethnic citizens. Achieving long-lasting peace for our ethnic regions, which are richly endowed with natural beauty, is a top priority. There must first be peace in the regions so tourism can develop.

It exposes not only the culture of our ethnic races to the world, but also their cordial relations with each other and unity. The uniqueness of the 135 ethnic races generates both tangible and intangible tourist attractions, which serve as resources for promoting tourism. The cultural fest does a wonderful job of bringing these resources to light.

Countries around the globe have been simultaneously showcasing and preserving their own unique traditions and culture for the world to see. Such endeavors create genuine affection and positive nationalism in the hearts and minds of a nation's people. They further strengthen the unity between ethnic races and increase the interest of foreign visitors.

We believe the cultural fest will bring in much needed support for the development, unity, and peace of our ethnic citizens.

Achieving long-lasting peace for our ethnic regions, which are richly endowed with natural beauty, is a top priority. There must first be peace in the regions so tourism can develop.

Ethnic solidarity is truly important in Myanmar, which is home to over a hundred different ethnic races. Only then can we establish a peaceful and developing Union and share the fruits of our labor equally.

This is why we heartily welcome the Myanmar Ethnics Culture Fest and believe the coming years will see similar festivals conducted throughout the states and regions.

We urge the authorities and everyone responsible to continue holding such cultural fests, no matter what challenges arise, as this is one of the ways to realize the goals of national development and peace, and to uplift the 135 ethnic races living together in Myanmar.

It is our inherent duty to love, honor, and cherish the meaningful heritage of the Union

By Shwetiang Lwin



IN the pages of our chronicle, we have patriots and heroes since the ancient times in the Union of Myanmar. We must always keep in mind that discords among the nationalities wreak havoc to the Union with disunity, while unity and harmony in family spirit brings the country with greater good that tantamount to love and cherish the national heritage.

Never to forget

We have lived our lives in such a way with our own Monarch, Kings, Queens and Palaces and in attractive landscape, until we were subjugated in 1885 after the Anglo-Burmese Wars, (1824–26, 1852, 1885), three conflicts that collectively forced Burma (now Myanmar) into a vulnerable position from which it had to concede British hegemony in the region of the Bay of Bengal.

Loss of Myanma Independence was due to all-round weaknesses, Bogyoke Aung San and a host of patriotic Thakins comes together with the political strategy, and fought for the liberty.

While the Myanmar delegation led by Bogyoke Aung San was in London negotiating for Independence, some Shan chieftains with pessimistic views sent a telegram to London antagonizing the freedom endeavors.

When Bogyoke Aung San and his team came to know about the matter of sabotage, they immediately realized that the main necessity was in regaining independence of the nation and to be free from servitude of the whole population, and therefore, firm and solid determination was being laid down just to regain the Independence.



Dedicated endeavor

In response to the negative telegram being sent from two Shan chieftains, Bogyoke Aung San immediately informed the matter to AFPFL Headquarters in Yangon, for which the head office made a counter activity. Thus, an advanced Panglong gathering was held immediately in Taunggyi in the Union spirit.

An agreement was reached with U Tin Aye of the Shan State Youth League (SSYL) (later become the Member of State Council) and U Tun Myint (Taunggyi), and organized and conducted a mass meeting in strong support of the endeavors of Bogyoke Aung San and Myanmar delegation in London.

Bo Hmu Aung (Thirty Comrades), Bo Htun Lin (the Pyithu Yebaw Tat, or People's Volunteer Organization (PVO), and U Pe Khin (Retired Ambassador) travelled to Taunggyi and collaborated with Shan State Youth League, and pledged and endorsed the activities of Bogyoke Aung San.

Moreover, the mass condemnation and protest was approved over the telegram being sent by the two Shan Chieftains. U Tin Aye and U Pe Khin sent a telegram from Yangon AFPFL Headquarters to London and informed Bogyoke Aung San on the decision of the mass meeting.

Panglong Spirit

Clement Richard Attlee, British statesman from England insisted the Frontier Areas were inhabited by ethnic minorities such as the Chin, the Shan, etc and that the ethnic nationalities must signed themselves on the consents regarding the demands.

In other words, it meant that that they have agreed along with the flatlands in acquiring the Independence in the blueprint and pattern of a Union in a rock-hard and solid document.

Although the telegram sent by the two Shan chieftains have never ever taken up seriously, the hindrance and impediment in between the hill track regions and the flatlands popped up on the surface and ignited and spark in conceiving the Panglong Spirit in the hearts of the leaders.

> The seed planted at the Panglong put the spotlight on the unity demonstrated by leaders across nationalities, and that has remained in the chronicles of Myanmar as a decisive day for our Union, which sets our hearts beating even today.

Remembering the past

While remembering the past scenario over the date of 12 February 1947, the sweet spring of the season enveloped in the vast Shan State especially Laikha Township centering Panglong legendary town in the foggy morning with the flagrance of cherry flowers and Rhododendron petals permeated in the hearts of the entire nationalities could be depicted from the memorable writings of Sayar Thetkato Nay Win.

The writings also highlighted that the February 13 was the date on which Bogyoke Aung San fully attained the age of (32) and that the date of February 12 of 1947 was an important day for all of us.

Obviously, the word "Union" was born with the vision of Independence of Myanmar by signing the celebrated and well-known Panglong Agreement.

Start of a road to success

While on a heated debate of negotiation between Bogyoke Aung San and Mr. Attlee in London, the latter had created a predicament and dilemma in breaking away the flatlands and the hilly frontier regions of the country.

However, Bogyoke Aung San acquired the unity and harmony between the Myanmar proper and the hill tracts showcasing the Panglong Conference.

On 6 February 1947, the Kachin Representatives and the Shan Representatives come together and arranged a public meeting in Panglong Town with the attendance of (2000) people. The Panglong mass meeting continued into the night and at 9:30 pm on 7 February 1947, where the Hill Track Ethnic Nationalities Unity Association (18) members Team headed by Nyaung Shwe Saw Bwa Gyee Sao Shwe Thaik was formed, which stands out as the start of the road to success.

On 8 February 1947, Bogyoke Aung San and Arthur Bottomley, Clement Attlee's Under-Secretary of State for Dominion Affairs, and some leaders arrived at Panglong Town.

At 11:30 am in the morning was a decisive moment for the entire people and nationalities in the country as the Kachin, Chin, Bamar and Shan leaders along with British officers and Shan population rallied around showing the strength and unity of the people.

The public meeting was chaired by Southern Shan Chieftain Sao Khun Pan Sein and Bogyoke Aung San delivered a speech to the affect that the Bamar nationals were not desirous to rule and influence others.

Unanimous Decision

The day on 12 February 1947 was a day to remember for the whole country as the cool morning had witnessed the unanimous signing of Panglong Agreement at 10:00 am by Bogyoke Aung San and (23) Representatives of various nationalities.

Seeding for the road map

The seed planted at the Panglong put the spotlight on the unity demonstrated by leaders across nationalities, and that has remained in the chronicles of Myanmar as a decisive day for our Union, which sets our hearts beating even today.

The heritage handed down by the patriotic leaders must be maintained with the nationalistic fervor embedded with national spirit along the vision to stay on in weal and woe in unity and harmony.

The writer of this article would like to conclude that it is our inborn duty to love, honor and cherish the sweetest heritage of the Union.

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. 4/2019 yesterday, publicly announcing the Ministry of Home Affairs' arrests and seizures in the fight against illicit drug trafficking up till 26 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 26 January.

The full text of the press release will be reported in the 30 January issue of The Global New Light of Myanmar. — GNLM

U Thant Sin appointed as Ambassador of Myanmar to the Republic of Korea

The President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has appointed U Thant Sin, Director-General of Protocol Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the Republic of Korea.—MNA

Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued on Monday 28 January 2019)

SUMMARY OF OBSERVATIONS RECORDED AT 09:30 hrs MST: During the past (24) hours, weather has been generally fair in Nay Pyi Taw, Ayeyawady Region, Northern Shan, Kayin and Mon states and partly cloudy in the remaining regions and states. Night temperatures were (3°C) below January average temperature in Taninthayi Region, (2°C) above January average temperatures in Upper Sagaing, Magway and Ayeyawady regions, (Southern and Eastern) Shan and Mon states, (3°C) above January average temperatures in Mandalay and Bago Regions, Chin, Rakhine and Kayah states and about January average temperatures in the remaining regions and states. The significant night temperatures were (4°C) in Haka, (5°C) in Hsipaw and (7°C) each in Mongmit, Pinlaung, Heho, Loilin, Nyaungshwe and Mogok.

BAY INFERENCE: Weather is a few cloud over the Eastcentral Bay and partly cloudy over the Andaman Sea and elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF 29 January 2019: Likelihood of light rain will be isolated in Upper Sagaing Region and Kachin State. Degree of certainty is (60%). Weather will be partly cloudy in Mandalay, Magway, Bago, Yangon and Taninthayi regions, Shan, Chin and Rakhine states and generally fair in the remaining regions and states.

EARTHQUAKE NEWS

A slight earthquake of magnitude (4.5) Richter Scale with its epicenter inside Myanmar (about (40) miles southwest of Phu), latitude 18.10°N, longitude 95.98°E, depth (7) kilometers about (65) miles southwest of Taungoo seismological observatory was recorded at (10)hr (22)min (37)sec MST on 28 January 2019.

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi addresses High Level …

FROM PAGE-7

Fourthly implementing work processes and time frames need to be systematic. Sector wise and region wise projects are drawn not only to meet the requirements but must also be implementable. It is very important for relevant ministries, relevant state/region government to think and conduct works for inclusion in annual projects and to ensure that there are connections and linkages.

Fifthly the role of monitoring, reviewing and assessing is very important in implementing projects. Implementing a project is not an end as there is a requirement to review how beneficial it is and how much the return on investment has been. That is why a project is drawn up from the start based on correct facts and data and only then will the project benefit the people. In the same way, project units are to be formed to monitor and measure the progress while the project is implemented and data and information need to be prepared. A National index framework will be established to measure each sector in implementing MSDP. At the moment, the Ministry of Planning and Finance, Central Statistical Organization is discussing and coordinating with more than a hundred departments and organizations and there will be more than 300 indexes. The National index framework will provide information and data to draw up projects, allocating budget among sectors, and making investment and project decisions and for monitoring.

That is why in the High Level Forum on "Realizing Myanmar's Development Vision for Every Child" studies and discussions on all angles and sectors for the future of every child in Myanmar should be conducted to reduce childhood death, registration of child at birth, to have a healthy, warm and safe life, equal opportunity in education, increasing time in school, preventing human trafficking and recruitment in the military of children, and for the children to have a safe and secure future. All from the government and private sectors are to participate and coordinate so as to resolve the weaknesses and consolidate the strengths of each sector.

> All from the government and private sectors are to participate and coordinate so as to resolve the weaknesses and consolidate the strengths of each sector.

UNICEF country programme is seen to be working in the sectors of health, nutrition, water, hygiene and personal hygiene, education, child and youth protection and monitoring. Cash support for nutrition of expectant mothers and babies, personal hygiene program in schools, and birth registration of children were progressing and are urged to expand and cover the whole country.

UNICEF is the joint chair in the matter of Country Task Force on Monitoring and Reporting (CTFMR) to prevent military recruitment of under age children jointly conducted by the Myanmar Ministry of Defence and the United Nations.

Much thanks is owed to UNICEF in preventing recruitment of under age children into the military, assisting to discharge those who were recruited and reintegrating them into society. UNICEF is urged to continue the constructive cooperation in this while reiterating Myanmar's strong commitment towards handling and resolving this matter politically.

In conclusion, I would like to thank responsible officials from the UNICEF Country Office and UNICEF Executive Director Ms. Hennetta H. Fore for help and support in this sector starting from the first High Level Forum on "New Vision, New Results for Children in Myanmar" in 2016. Support of other development partners are also expected and hoped for. Thanks to all who are participating in the discussion program and thanks to Ministry of Planning and Finance for leading and organizing the forum. Discussions in today's High Level Forum are expected to bring forth effective programs and projects for Myanmar children that are in line with MSDP strategic programs. Thank you all.

The ceremony was attended by Union Ministers, Chairman of Nay Pyi Taw Council Deputy Ministers, chairmen of Hluttaw committees related to women and children, state/region ministers for social affairs, representatives of children affairs from the international community and representatives from development partner organisations.

After the opening ceremony the State Counsellor and attendees took commemorative group photo.

Next, "Realizing Myanmar's Development Vision for Every Child" High Level Forum was held and Union Minister for Planning and Finance U Soe Win and UNICEF Executive Director Ms. Henrietta H. Fore delivered messages of greeting.

At the forum Professor Dr. Aung Tun Thet, Ministry of Health and Sports Permanent Secretary Dr. Tha Tun Kyaw, Basic Education Department Director General U Ko Lay Win, Department of Social Welfare Director General Dr. San San Aye, Anti-Human Trafficking Police Force Police Col. U Thet Naug, Ministry of Planning and Finance Director General U Zaw Naing, Dr. Tin Tin Win of Myanmar Women Affairs Work Committee, U Kyaw Kyaw Min Htut of Myanmar Youth Entrepreneur Association, Daw Hla Hla Myo of Myanmar Women Entrepreneur Association, GAVI Vaccine Alliance CEO Dr. Seth Berkley and United Nations Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator Mr. Knut Ostby conducted talks and discussions under various child related topics.

The Forum came to a close after UNICEF Representative Ms. June Kunugi and Deputy Minister for Planning and Finance U Set Aung delivered a closing speeches.

The forum was held with the aims of revealing the main development results achieved for children in Myanmar starting from 2016; assess, review and discuss whether it is in accord with strategies of Myanmar Sustainable Development Plan (MSDP); identify and reveal areas where development of every child in Myanmar can be conducted in an increasing momentum and the implementation of MSDP and sector wise related programs is in accord with Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). — MNA ■

State Counsellor receives UNICEF Executive Director

STATE COUNSELLOR and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs Daw Aung San Suu Kyi received UNICEF Executive Director Ms. Henrietta H. Fore at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Nay Pyi Taw at 11:00 am yesterday.

During the meeting, the State Counsellor and the UNICEF Executive Director exchanged views on the cooperation between Myanmar and UNICEF in the fields of education, health, and nutrition for the children in Myanmar.

Also present at the meeting were U Kyaw Tin, Union Minister for International Cooperation, officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and Ms. June Kunugi, UNICEF Representative to Myanmar and officials from UNICEF.—MNA ■



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi holds talks with UNICEF Executive Director Ms. Henrietta H. Fore in Nay Pyi Taw on 28 January 2019. **PHOTO: MNA**

VP U Henry Van Thio calls for greater ASEAN cooperation to ensure rights of PLWDs



Vice President U Henry Van Thio and UEC Chairman U Hla Thein pose for a documentary photo with attendees at the opening ceremony of the 4th Regional Disability Rights Dialogue in Yangon on 28 January. **PHOTO: MNA**

VICE President U Henry Van Thio yesterday urged ASEAN countries to step up cooperation as they work to ensure people living with disabilities (PLWDs) in the region enjoy their full rights, and highlighted the existing challenges on this front.

"Our ASEAN countries need to effectively work for providing full rights to PLWDs in ASEAN region, and we need to cooperate each other when we work for that," said U Henry Van Thio, in his capacity as the Chairman of the National Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (NCRPD) at the 4th Regional Disability Rights Dialogue in Yangon yesterday.

The 10-member ASEAN has ratified the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilites-UNCRPD.

The opening ceremony of the dialogue was attended by Chairman of the Union Election Commission Chairman U Hla Thein, Chairman of the Myanmar Human Rights Commission U Win Mya, Deputy Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement U Soe Aung, Yangon Mayor U Maung Maung Soe, Hluttaw representatives, ambassadors, departmental officials, representatives of the non-governmental organizations and Civil Society Organizations.

Out of 90 million of PLWDs in the South East Asian regional countries, about 1.2 million are from Myanmar.

Myanmar ratified the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities-UNCRPD on 7th December 2011 and enacted the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Law in 2015 and the rules of the law in 2017 and laid down the strategy for development strategy for persons with disabilities in accordance with the UNCRPD.

In his opening address, the Vice President said that according to the estimation of the World Health Organization, 15 per cent of the world's population are persons with disabilities, and of them, about 60 per cent are women.

"People living with disabilities are facing difficulties and obstacles in their daily life not because of the disability itself, but because of their surroundings, physical and mental attitudes, and other barriers," said the Vice President.

Since the beginning of the 21st century, the world, taking new approaches and new views, has been working to better understand rights of the persons with disabilities, making commitment to full participation and equality for persons with disabilities.

The rights for persons living with disabilities have come under the spotlight by the UN agencies and international organizations as they experienced chronic loneliness due to poor level of public understanding, negligence, prejudice and fear.

To effectively implement the law, rule and strategy, a national level committee, work committees, states/regions and Nay Pyi Taw Council committees and sub-committees were formed.

The national level committee laid down the policies and has been implementing the tasks to bring about the rights and development of PLWDs.

The theme of the 2018 International Day of Persons with Disability is "Empowering persons with disabilities and ensuring inclusiveness and equality" laid down the UN is aimed at promoting the capacity of the disabled people for the inclusive and equitable development of all disabled people envisioned in the sustainable development goal of the 2030 scheme.

> People living with disabilities are facing difficulties and obstacles in their daily life not because of the disability itself, but because of their surroundings, physical and mental attitudes, and other barriers.
>
> Vice President U Henry Van Thio

The Global Disability Summit made seven pledges: to review policies, inclusive education, to promote capacity of the disabled for doing businesses, to create suitable environment for the disabled at work sites, to bring the opportunities for getting access to information technology to the disabled, to carry out survey, to lay down and implement national-level polices on development of the disabled and to work for protection and aid the disabled in the time of disasters and their rehabilitation.

One of the barriers faced by the persons with disabilities is 'the right for participation in politic". Hence, the General Election Network for Disability Access-AGENDA drafted the ASEAN Enabling Masterplan 2025 and released it on 3 December 2018 and it becomes the regional policy.

In his concluding remarks, Vice President U Henry Van Thio urged the participants of the forum to discuss focusing on participation of the persons with disabilities in ASEAN region based on the ASEAN Enabling Masterplan 2025. Afterwards, UEC Chairman U Hla Thein delivered a key- note address saying that the forum is a bridge to tackle obstacles and to make cooperation between the persons with disabilities and the election processes. He continued to say that the two-day forum would produce good results for helping the persons with disabilities to get more opportunities for participation in elections and for promoting their rights.

Myanmar considered the rights of the disabled is playing an important role in development of Myanmar, said U Hla Thein.

Afterwards, U Nay Lin Soe, Executive Director of the Myanmar Independent Living Initiative (MILI), and Mr Jeremy, Charged d Affair Affaires of the Embassy of Australia, delivered key not speeches before the forum.—MNA ■

Senior General receives Special Envoy of Viet Nam Prime Minister

SENIOR GENERAL Min Aung Hlaing, Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services received Special Envoy of Prime Minister of Socialist Republic of Viet Nam Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs Mr. Nguyen Quoc Dung at Bayintnaung guest house in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

At the meeting a requirement to increase cooperation on security matter in addition to cooperation in military training and military technology, Tatmadaw working toward internal peace and achieving stability and peace Maungtaw region in Rakhine State and support of Viet Nam on the announcement made by the Tatmadaw on 21 December were discussed.



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing meets with Special Envoy Vietnamese Prime Minister Mr. Nguyen Quoc Dung in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: THE OFFICE OF THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF**

Later in the afternoon Senior General Min Aung Hlaing attended the final of the Tatmadaw Commander-in-Chief Cup Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air) football competition held at Zeyya Thiri Tatmadaw sports ground in Nay Pyi Taw and presented prizes.

The final was between Central Command team and Commander-in-Chief (Army) Head Office team where Commander-in-Chief (Army) head of office team wins three goal to nil.

At the prize presentation ceremony, Deputy Tatmadaw Commander-in-Chief and Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice Senior General Soe Win presented the first prize cup and cash awards to the Commander-in-Chief (Army) head of office team.

This was followed by Tatmadaw Commander-in-Chief Senior General Min Aung Hlaing presenting the Tatmadaw Commander-in-Chief shield and cash prize to Commander-in-Chief (Navy) team that comes out overall first with 252 prizes consisting of 119 gold, 72 silver and 61 bronze medals in the sports competition of Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air).

The 2018-2019 Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air) sports competition includes, football, boxing, Sepak Takraw, track and field, para sports event, Chinlone, Volleyball, Judo, Swimming, Weightlifting, Body Building, Wushu, Karatedo, Myanmar Thaing and Taekwondo according to news released by the Office of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services. — MNA

(Translated by Zaw Min)

Union Minister U Thein Swe receives UNSG's Special Envoy, party

UNION MINISTER for Labour, Immigration and Population U Thein Swe received United Nations Secretary General's (UNSG) Special Envoy on Myanmar Mrs. Christine Burgener and party at the ministry's guest hall in Nay Pyi Taw.

At the meeting opening of reception centres in Taung Pyo Letwe and Nga Khu Ya to receive persons from Rakhine State who were displaced to Bangladesh due to terrorism, arrangements made for board and lodging for the returnees, construction of houses near the villages where the displaced persons lived before, forms for receiving returnees as agreed in the bilateral agreement sent by Bangladesh and reply from Myanmar side, readiness for receiving returnees who were already assessed and the process of receiving them, arrangements made for returnees who were issued with national verification card (NV Card) to apply for assessment of citizenship and to hold an appropriate card, the present status of issuing NV cards, NV Card being the first step toward scrutizing citizenship and follow up steps toward citizenship, explanations made to the locals on about NV Card and its benefit, May Yu FM Radio broadcast in Maungtaw and Buthidaung area in Bama, Rakhine and Bengali languages, distribution of pamphlets in IDP camps, Myanmar-Bangladesh bilateral cooperation on receiving returnees and the delay in repatriation work despite having people who want to return, signing of MoU between the ministry, UNDP and UNHCR to succeed in the work, status of conducting three step field visit according to the MoU, assessment of according to 1982 Myanmar Citizenship Law, status of humanitarian assistance and support of UN and international organisations on a dignified return of returnees were discussed frankly and views exchanged. — MNA

(Translated by Zaw Min)



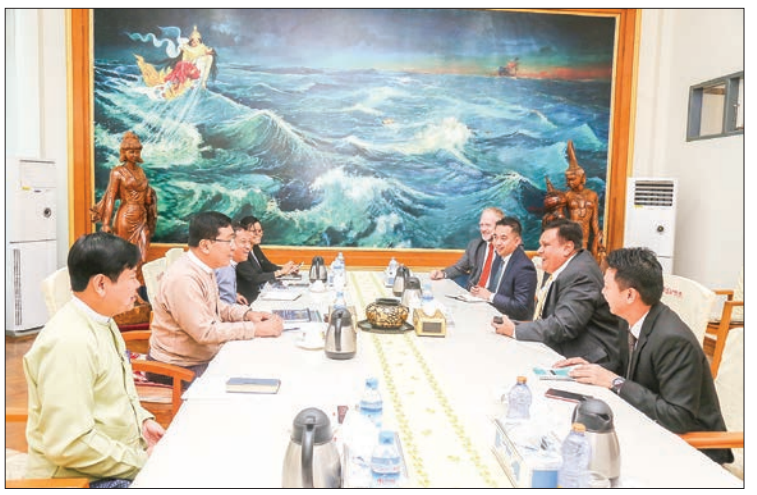
Union Minister U Thein Swe meets with United Nations Secretary General's Special Envoy on Myanmar Mrs. Christine Burgener in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Union Minister Dr. Win Myat Aye receives Malaysian Ambassador to Myanmar

UNION MINISTER for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr. Win Myat Aye received a delegation led by Malaysian Ambassador to Myanmar, Mr. Zahairi Baharim, at the Maykhalar Hall of the Minister's office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the meeting, they discussed matters relating to travelling, social and economic sectors in cooperation with INGO in Malaysia, business cooperation, making investment in Myanmar in terms of Malaysian Companies and cooperation in Rakhine Investment Fair.—MNA

(Translated by Win Ko Ko Aung)



Union Minister Dr. Win Myat Aye holds talks with Malaysian Ambassador Mr. Zahairi Baharim in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**



Second Pyithu Hluttaw holds 5th-day meeting of 11th regular session

FROM PAGE-2

Motion to establish digital literacy framework

Daw Zin Mar Aung from Yankin constituency tabled a motion urging the Union government to establish a national strategy and a digital literacy framework to swiftly raise digital literacy in the country.

She explained that while the number of mobile phone users continue to rise in Myanmar, the vast majority of users do not have the knowledge or skills to use their phones safely or effectively. She said Myanmar has just signed the ASEAN Work Programme on Electronic Commerce 2017-2025. She said digital literacy is essential for implementing goals 4 (quality education) and 8 (decent work and economic growth) of the Sustainable Development Program. She said 75 per cent of mobile users possess smartphones but do not have the knowledge to effectively use it to its full potential. She said most people in Myanmar do not know how to use smartphones to support their education and employment opportunities and are instead stuck on using social networks. She said the Union government needs to establish a digital literacy framework to ensure Myanmar's citizens can reap the full benefits of the Digital Age.

U Sai Oo Kham of Hsenwi constituency seconded the motion. The Hluttaw approved of discussing the motion and Speaker U T Khun Myat called for MPs interested in discussing the report to register their names.

Amended Intellectual Property Bill approved

Next up, The Intellectual Property Rights Bill, send back with amendments from the Amyotha Hluttaw, was submitted by committee member Dr. Wai Phyo Aung, who proceeded to read the bill. The Speaker approved the bill after gathering the deliberation of the Hluttaw.

The 6th-day meeting of the 11th regular session of the Second Pyithu Hluttaw will be held tomorrow.

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Joint Bill Committee holds meeting

THE Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Joint Bill Committee held a meeting over the second bill amending Settlement of Labour Dispute Law that the two Hluttaws were in disagreement at the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Building, yesterday afternoon.

The meeting was attended by Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker, Joint Bill Committee and Joint Public Accounts Committee Chairman U Tun Aung @ U Tun Tun Hein, deputy chairmen, secretary, joint secretary and committee members from Joint Bill Committee, Hluttaw representatives who had tabled amendment motions, chairmen, secretary and members of Pyithu Hluttaw Farmer and Worker Affairs Committee and Amyotha Hluttaw Local and Overseas Employment committee, Pyidaungsu Hluttaw's Legal Affairs and Special Cases Assessment Commission members, officials from Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population, Union Attorney General Office and Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Office.—MNA

(Translated by Zaw Min)



Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Tun Tun Hein attending the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Joint Bill Committee meeting in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker receives Chairman of Thai-Myanmar Parliamentary Friendship Association

AMYOTHA HLUTTAW Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than received Chairman of Thai-Myanmar Parliamentary Friendship Association General Ongard Pongsakdi and party, yesterday, at the Amyotha Hluttaw in Nay Pyi Taw.

During the meeting, they cordially discussed matters relating to Thai-Myanmar friendship, promotion of friendship between the two Hluttaws' representatives, organizational set-up of two Hluttaws between the two countries and the legislative process. —MNA *(Trs: Win Ko Ko Aung)*



Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than shakes hands with Chairman of Thai-Myanmar Parliamentary Friendship Association General Ongard Pongsakdi. **PHOTO: MNA**

Union Supreme Court sits to pass judgment and hear cases

UNION Supreme Court yesterday sits at Union Supreme Court room number 1 yesterday morning with Chief Justice of the Union Supreme Court U Htun Htun Oo and all Union Supreme Court judges to hear five special civil appeal cases and pass judgments on three special criminal and two special civil appeal cases. —MNA

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V VIL BALTIC

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V VIL BALTIC V. 18162 are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 29-01-2019 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T 5 where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S GLOBAL MARS SHIPPING
Phone No: 2301928

THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR
MINISTRY OF ELECTRICTY AND ENERGY
MYANMA OIL AND GAS ENTERPRISE
(INVITATION FOR OPEN TENDER)
(5/2019)

1. Open tenders are invited for supply of the following respective items in Myanmar Kyats and United States Dollars.

Sr No.	Tender No.	Description	Remarks
(a)	DMP/L-172(18-19)	Spares for 3rd Stages SAFE Compressor (HP) (9) Items	Ks
(b)	DMP/L-173(18-19)	Spares for 3rd Stages Intermech Compressor (6) Items	Ks
(c)	DMP/L-174(18-19)	2", 3", 4" & 6" Pipe Fittings and Accessories (11) Items	Ks
(d)	DMP/L-175(18-19)	Accessories for Gas Control & Metering System (13) Items	Ks
(e)	DMP/L-176(18-19)	Geological Survey Instrument & Field Equipment, Mud Testing Equipment and Mud Logging Unit (14) Items	Ks
(f)	IFB-042(18-19)	Mud Logging Unit (3) Items	US$

2. The Open Tender forms including Description of Materials / Qtty with details specifications and Tender Terms & Conditions can be available free download at the Ministry of Electricty and Energy Website Portal (www.moee.gov.mm) as from **29 January 2019**. Tender forms will not be sold.

3. The interested Bidders should submit the **Technical Specifications with Original Bid Bond and Commercial Quotation in each separate sealed envelopes** on which to be addressed to the Managing Director, Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise and should reach in Tender Box of the Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise not later than **14:00 pm** on **25 February 2019**.

4. Tender Closing Date & Time – **25-2-2019, 14:00 pm**

Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise
Ph No. + 95 67 – 411206

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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.

Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Tun Tun Hein receives Ambassador of the State of Israel to Myanmar

PYITHU Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Tun Tun Hein received Mr. Ronen Gilor, Ambassador of the State of Israel to Myanmar, yesterday afternoon, at the Pyithu Hluttaw's Deputy Speaker's office in Nay Pyi Taw.

During the meeting, they discussed matters relating to promotion of the bilateral relations and cooperation, rendering assistance in agricultural, educational and technological sectors, utilization of water resources and energy sectors. —MNA

(Translated by Win Ko Ko Aung)



Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Tun Tun Hein shakes hands with Ambassador of Israel to Myanmar, Mr. Ronen Gilor, at his office in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

Union Minister Dr. Pe Myint meets with representatives of Myanmar Music Asiayone

UNION Minister for Information Dr. Pe Myint met with personnel from Myanmar Music Asiayone (Central) and Myanmar Music Asiayone Election Commission at the meeting hall of the Myanma Radio and Television on Pyay Road, Yangon yesterday afternoon.

At the meeting, formation of a group consisting of Myanmar Music Asiayone (Central), Myanmar Music Asiayone Election Commission and outside experts to draw up a charter of Music Asiayone, presenting the the charter to the members to seek their suggestions and approval, re-assessing and re-confirming members of the Asiayone according to the charter and to elect a new Myanmar Music Asiayone was discussed.



Union Minister Dr. Pe Myint addresses the meeting with Myanmar Music Asiayone and its Election Commission in Yangon. **PHOTO: MNA**

Present at the meeting were Myanmar Music Asiayone Chairman U Tin Oo Lay and members and Myanmar Music Asiayone Election Commission Chairman U Kyi Min Thein and members.

Earlier in the day, the Union Minister met with Myanmar Affairs Research members and experts and Myanmar in Singapore interested in Myanmar affairs group.

At the meeting, matters relating to increasing information on tax duties, training and practicing state and region government members on releasing information, establishing a Free Education Channel, establishing a Digital library and increasing cooperation with local and international people who want to help in Myanmar's transition were discussed.

The meeting was attended by Myanmar Affairs Research Group experts U Aye Maung Kyaw, U Ye Myint Kyaw, U Zeya and 10 members of Myanmar in Singapore interested in Myanmar affairs group. —MNA

(Translated by Zaw Min)

Invest Myanmar Summit 2019 holds plenary meeting

THE plenary meeting of Invest Myanmar Summit 2019 began at 10 am yesterday at the Myanmar International Convention Center II in Nay Pyi Taw.

U Zaw Min Win, Chairman of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI) delivered the opening speech.

Next, the chief ministers and cabinet members of Mandalay, Yangon, Sagaing, Tanintharyi, and Ayeyawady regions, and Kayin, Chin, Shan, Rakhine, and Mon states separately presented their state or region's distinguishing features, opportunities for investment and business, and advantages for attracting local and foreign investors.

Following this, the exhibition hall of MICC-II was filled with local and foreign investors observing the booths on education, tourism, manufacturing, food products, textile, healthcare, infrastructure, electricity and energy sectors for investment opportunities.



UMFCCI Chairman U Zaw Min Win delivers the opening speech at Invest Myanmar Summit 2019 in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

In the evening, the UMFCCI Chairman explained the results of the discussions held during the summit and answered to questions from the attendees.

Later at night, a dinner banquet was held in the Jade Hall of Myanmar International Convention Center I for the Union ministers, state and regional chief ministers, deputy ministers, state and regional cabinet members, local and foreign investors, businesspeople and entrepreneurs, and economists attending the summit.

Afterwards, U Thaung Tun, the Union Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations, and UMFCCI Chairman U Zaw Min Win delivered separate honorary remarks.

As the night came to a close, U Kyaw Tint Swe, the Union Minister for the Office of the State Counsellor, and U Thaung Tun conferred honorary certificates to the summit's gold sponsor, KBZ Group, and silver sponsors Eden Group of Companies, AYA Bank (Max Group), Asia World Group of Companies, and Shwe Taung Group. U Zaw Min Win also conferred an honorary certificate to the bronze sponsor, Knowledge Partner. —MNA

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

Union Minister for Defence separately receives Envoys UNICEF, UNSG

UNION MINISTER for Defence Lt-Gen Sein Win received Ms. Henrietta H. Fore, the Executive Director of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEFF), at 9 a.m. yesterday, at the Union Minister's Office, Ministry of Defence, Nay Pyi Taw.

During the meeting, they cordially discussed matters relating to protection of children from grave offences during the armed conflicts, granting permission for UNICEF's groups to provide assistance and prevention the use of children as soldiers.

Union Minister for Defence Lt-Gen Sein Win received Mrs. Christine Burgener, Special Envoy of the United Nations Secretary-General on Myanmar, at 10 a.m. yesterday, at the guest hall of Union Minister's Office, Ministry of Defence, Nay Pyi Taw.

During the meeting, they cordially discussed matters concerning Rakhine State affairs, repatriation process and preventing the use of child soldiers. —MNA

(Translated by Win Ko Ko Aung)

Public support remains strong in 4th day of Myanmar Ethnics Culture Fest

WITH the Myanmar Ethnic Entrepreneurs Association (MEEA) heading organizing responsibilities, the 4th day of Myanmar Ethnics Culture Fest continued with large crowds supporting the event. The culture fest's media team announced that the final stage of Miss Ethnic Myanmar will be held tomorrow evening.

Local support continued strong with people flocking to booths on tourism, regional organic added value products, state and regional tourism to ethnic areas, businesses, tourism sites and landmarks, regional souvenirs, and ethnic cuisine.

The culture fest brings the uniqueness of Myanmar's 135 ethnic races together as they display their traditions, culture, clothing, food, literature, instruments, traditional working equipment, traditional medicine, inherent history, respective historical participation in the nation's push for independence, books and manuscripts, businesses, and regional products.

Myanmar Ethnics Culture Fest is held at Kyaikkasan Sports Ground in Tamway Township, Yangon Region, from 11 am to 10 pm everyday until 30 January. —Thant Zin Win

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)



Various ethnic nationals participate together in the Manaw dance at Myanmar Ethnics Culture Fest in Kyaikkasan Sports Ground in Yangon. **PHOTO: ZAW MIN LATT**



A multitude of festivalgoers join in the Manaw dance at Myanmar Ethnics Culture Fest in Kyaikkasan Sports Ground in Yangon. **PHOTO: ZAW MIN LATT**



Visitors take a look around the Kachin ethnic culture exhibit at Myanmar Ethnics Culture Fest in Kyaikkasan Sports Ground in Yangon. **PHOTO: ZAW MIN LATT**

Farmers can now get organic certificates at township agricultural departments

FARMERS can now apply for organic certification for their produce at township agriculture departments, according to the Hlegu Township Vegetable and Fruit Research and Development Centre (VFRDC).

"The country already has organic growers. We will issue organic certificates to local farmers. So, local farmers can start applying for them. Our agriculture departments will implement the processes involved, step by step. We have formed inspections teams at the region and state agriculture departments. They will make field inspections and issue the certificates. Now, we are making arrangements to establish six criteria that growers will have to meet to get organic certification," said U Hla Myint Aung, the Deputy Director-General of the Agriculture Department.

With the organic certification, the Agriculture Department can guarantee agricultural products that meet its criteria are chemical-free and safe for consumption.

"As we are using more chemicals in our society today, the residues from chemical fertilizers are having a negative impact on the health of the humans. But the production cost is higher for organic crops. So it is important that there is a strong market that offers good prices for organic products. Then, local farmers will also be happy to plant organic crops. At present, there are organic foodstuffs and retail shops like City Mart that sell organic vegetables and fruits. So, consumers must trust those shops and buy their products," he said.

Currently, the department is laying down the process for organic certification. The department will form a national committee, which will establish a certification body to issue the certificates. The process will take for over four months. Local farmers and private organizations can apply for organic certificates at agriculture departments in the area.

"Our organic crops have already penetrated the Yangon market. But we still don't have the certification. So, we cannot sell them as organic products in the market," said U Myint Oo, an organic farmer from Hlegu Township.—Myint Maung Soe

(Translated by Hay Mar)

Solskjaer puts his United winning streak to Burnley test



Manchester United's Norwegian caretaker manager Ole Gunnar Solskjaer gestures on the touchline during the English FA Cup fourth round football match between Arsenal and Manchester United at the Emirates Stadium in London on 25 January, 2019. **PHOTO: AFP**

MANCHESTER (United Kingdom) — Ole Gunnar Solskjaer aims to continue his impressive start as Manchester United manager at home to Burnley on Tuesday, with the case for him to be appointed permanently seemingly growing by the week.

The FA Cup fourth-round victory at Arsenal on Friday took the Norwegian caretaker manager's record to eight successive wins since taking over from Jose Mourinho before Christmas — a mark that surpasses even the great Matt Busby at the start of an Old Trafford managerial reign.

While it appears Tottenham Hotspur's Mauricio Pochettino remains United's preferred choice as long-term appointment, the strides Solskjaer is making on and off the pitch make an increasingly compelling case for the 45-year-old to win the job.

A fourth-placed finish, and Champions League football next season, were looking a distant dream in the latter days of Mourinho's reign, but victory over Burnley would lift United level on points with Chelsea, for 24 hours at least.

And if results involving Chelsea and Arsenal were to fall in favour of former United striker Solskjaer — whose side face a Burnley team looking to recover from a 5-0 FA Cup rout by Manchester City — the Red Devils could even end the week eyeing a third place currently occupied by Pochettino's Spurs.

Shackles off Pogba

It is all a far cry from the dismal period under Mourinho, with recent results saying much about Solskjaer's man-management skills, as well as his tactics and philosophy.

In his two most impressive wins to date — a league victory at Spurs and the 3-1 FA Cup defeat of Arsenal — Solskjaer has opted for a 4-3-3 formation but it has been his choice of personnel that has looked particularly enlightened.

The use of Nemanja Matic and Ander Herrera in midfield has allowed the third member of that group, French World Cup winner Paul Pogba, to take up a more advanced, attack-minded role. The shackles which Mourinho applied have been removed and Pogba, so often in public dispute with the Portuguese, has arguably benefitted more than anyone from the change in leadership. Romelu Lukaku, who looked tired and at a not particularly high level of fitness in the final games under Mourinho, also looks a revived figure since Solskjaer returned to Old Trafford.

Against Arsenal, Solskjaer handed the Belgian striker a role wide in the attacking trio, with Alexis Sanchez in the other wide position and Jesse Lingard taking up a central role.

Lukaku, who had been effective from a wide berth at Everton and with Belgium, proved an inspiration against the Gunners.

Meanwhile Sanchez, a major under-achiever since signing for United 12 months ago, turned in one of his best performances for the club, scoring for just the second time this season and the fifth time in total since leaving Arsenal.

In the Spurs victory, Solskjaer had selected the same formation but different personnel, with Marcus Rashford and Anthony Martial supporting Lingard from wide positions.

All of a sudden, a United attack that appeared plodding and one-dimensional under Mourinho looks like one of the most potentially exciting group of forwards in the country, if not across Europe. But Solskjaer's biggest contribution to the spectacular upturn in fortunes has simply been a matter of philosophy and the attack-first mood he has brought back to Old Trafford.

The Arsenal victory may have been a throwback to former glories in the sense that United were so devastating on the counter-attack.

But after the game United's players spoke, as they have done ever since Solskjaer's arrival, of their new leader's insistence they look to attack and move the ball — and themselves — upfield as quickly as possible.

"Since the first day he said we want to be a team that controls the game but sometimes that's impossible," explained Herrera after the Arsenal win.

"Sometimes we have to defend but when we defend we know that anything can happen because we have so many quick, attacking offensive players." —AFP ■

Willian double as FA Cup holders Chelsea beat Wednesday on Higuain debut

LONDON (United Kingdom) — Willian scored twice as FA Cup holders Chelsea marked new signing Gonzalo Higuain's debut by beating Sheffield Wednesday 3-0 in the fourth round at Stamford Bridge on Sunday.

The Brazilian gave the Blues a 26th-minute lead from the penalty spot but it was not until midway through the second half that second-tier Wednesday conceded again when Callum Hudson-Odoi, linked with a transfer window move to Bayern Munich, made it 2-0. Willian completed the scoring seven minutes from time as Chelsea won their second knockout match in a matter of days after a midweek penalty shoot-out victory over Tottenham Hotspur in the semi-finals of the League Cup. Sunday also saw Gonzalo Higuain make his Chelsea debut after the Argentinian striker signed on loan until the end of the season from Juventus on Wednesday.—AFP ■



Chelsea's Brazilian midfielder Willian plays the ball during the English FA Cup fourth round football match between Chelsea and Sheffield Wednesday at Stamford Bridge in London on 27 January, 2019. **PHOTO; AFP**

'Super difficult' for Neymar to be fit to face Man Utd, says PSG coach

PARIS (France) — Paris Saint-Germain coach Thomas Tuchel has admitted Neymar is unlikely to be fit in time for the first leg of their Champions League last-16 tie against Manchester United next month.

"It's going to be super difficult", Tuchel told Canal+ when asked if Neymar would return from a metatarsal injury in time for the game at Old Trafford on 12 February.

"It is still too early to talk about a return date because we need to wait and see how 'Ney' reacts to treatment to be more precise," he said after PSG beat Rennes 4-1 at the Parc des Princes.

Tuchel's admission came after newspaper Le Parisien claimed on Sunday evening that Neymar had suffered "a hairline fracture of the fifth metatarsal", exactly where the Brazilian underwent an operation on a fracture in March last year.

Neymar missed the last three months of last season as a result, including the second leg of PSG's Champions League last-16 defeat against Real Madrid. He only returned just in time for the World Cup.

"I can't confirm a new diagnosis. I think the club has said everything about this injury for the moment and now we need to wait," Tuchel added.

PSG have only said that Neymar had suffered "a painful reactivation of the right fifth metatarsal" in Wednesday's French Cup win against Strasbourg.

Brazil team doctor Rodrigo Lasmar is expected to visit the world's most expensive player on Monday.

The second leg of the Manchester United tie is scheduled for 6 March.—AFP ■