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in
Picture

Members of one of several teams participating in the Htamane making contest yesterday at Shwedagon Pagoda in Yangon. Htamane is made with sticky rice, coconut slices, sesame seeds and peanuts, a traditional food made especially on the fullmoon of Tabodwe. **PHOTO: GNLM/PHOE KHWAR**



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Chin State gov't to take action against those carrying unlicensed firearms

By Zohaysar

THE Chin State government intends to enforce the laws against carrying illegal firearms as wildlife animals are on the verge of extinction from excessive hunting across the state.

In Chin State, individuals

are permitted to carry licensed firearms. Most of the guns are hand-made, especially for hunting. Some villages include shooting as part of their funerary customs. According to Chin tradition, a gun is considered part of one's heritage.

"Wildlife conservation

is a must in the state, and we need to control carrying guns," said an official from Chin State government. Those who carry unlicensed guns will receive a seven-year prison sentence, and their guns will be held by the department concerned. The Chin State government has already

released an official warning.

The Chin people use guns for hunting, primarily a male activity. They regard hunted animals with pride. Some proudly display their hunting trophies on stone pillars. Guns used for hunting are single or double barreled shotguns. ■



'BEST BANK IN MYANMAR'

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Pyithu Hluttaw

MPs urge gov't to develop labour intensive industry

By Mi Mi Phyo
(MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY)

THE MPs of Pyithu Hluttaw have urged the Union Government to make efforts to attract foreign direct investments (FDIs) and develop a labour intensive industry in Myanmar.

During the discussion in the Pyithu Hluttaw yesterday, U Maung Myint of Minkin constituency suggested that the government must immediately develop a new industrial zone for cut-make-pack (CMP) garment factories, pointing out that the land prices in industrial zones were almost double those in other countries.

"Similarly, insufficient power supply is the biggest problem in our country. If possible, we should accept coal-fired power generation rather than generating power with diesel engines," he remarked.

"Actually, clean coal-fired

power plants should be established for the industrial zones," said MP U Maung Myint.

He also urged the government to consider the situation of CMP factories before it decides to increase the minimum wage from Ks3,600 to Ks4,800, warning that CMP factories might move to other countries if the minimum wage is increased in Myanmar.

"Meanwhile, we should not neglect the livelihood of workers who are experiencing rising commodity prices," stated the MP.

U Thant Zin Tun of Dakkhinathiri Constituency also urged the government to enact the industrial zone law as soon as possible to attract FDI.

The government allowed 138 FDIs in the 2016-2017 fiscal year (FY), creating more than 88,000 job opportunities, and 51 local investments, creating more than 10,000 job opportuni-



Pyithu Hluttaw is being convened in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA

ties, according to the Ministry of Planning and Finance.

In the current 2017-2018 FY, 178 FDI businesses have been allowed to operate up to December, and more than 74,660 jobs have been created, and in the same period, some

80 local investments were permitted.

U Maung Maung Win, Deputy Minister for Planning and Finance, in his reply to the discussion of the MPs, noted that the Myanmar Investment Commission and region/state

investment commissions are implementing the motion discussed by the MPs and urged the Pyithu Hluttaw to document the motion.

The Pyithu Hluttaw put the motion on record, and the meeting came to an end. ■

Amyotha Hluttaw

Amyotha Hluttaw discusses mobile towers, travel bill

By Aye Aye Thant
(MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY)

THE seventh regular session of the second Amyotha Hluttaw held its ninth-day meeting yesterday morning in Amyotha Hluttaw's meeting hall, where asterisk-marked questions were asked and answered and the Myanmar travel bill was discussed.

First, U Min Naing of Sagaing Region constituency (12) asked about the plan to authorise and assign departments and departmental staff to Mo Paing Lut, Sum Ma Rar, Htanparkway, Donhee and Pansaung sub-townships in Lahe, Leshi and Nanyun townships in the Naga Self-administered Zone, which were being renamed as towns. Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Maj-Gen Aung Soe replied that the Naga Self-administered Zone of the Sagaing Region was formed with Mo Paing Lut sub-township and Sum Ma Rar sub-township in Leshi Township, Htanparkway sub-township in Lahe Township and Donhee sub-township and Pansaung sub-township in Nanyun Township. On 22 May 2014,



Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Maj-Gen Aung Soe. PHOTO: MNA

the sub-townships were formed into towns under the respective townships. In Leshi Township, there are Mopainglut and Summarar towns.

There are 17 departments in Mopainglut Town, of which 10 have their own office buildings, while seven do not have them. Some six offices were opened in staff houses. There are 13 departments in Sum Ma Rar Town, of which nine have their own office buildings and four do not. Some three offices were opened in staff houses. Of



Deputy Minister for Transport and Communications U Kyaw Myo. PHOTO: MNA

the four that do not have their own office buildings, funds to build the Information and Public Relations Department office building in the 2019-2020 fiscal year (FY) and funds to build the office buildings and staff houses for farm land management, the records department and the department of roads in the 2018-2019 FY will be requested from the related ministries, according to the response from the Sagaing Region government, said the deputy minister.

Responding to a question by

U Zaw Hein of the Taninthayi region constituency (7) on the plan to build GSM phone towers in the Taninthayi Region, Kyunsu Township. Deputy Minister for Transport and Communications U Kyaw Myo said the Myanmar telecommunications department had opened a GSM station in seven villages of Kyunsu Township and two GSM stations on Pataw Island, totalling nine GSM stations. A GSM station on Katan Island, two GSM stations on Kanmaw Island and a GSM station on Pankhaung Island, totalling four stations, are being built and will be completed by the end of December 2018. Telenor Myanmar Limited had constructed three GSM stations in Pyingyi Village, Ward 3, and Patet Village. Ooredoo Myanmar Limited had constructed there GSM stations in Ward 2, Thinganshaung Village, and Patet Village Kyunsu Township.

Constructing mobile stations requires investment, and the feasibility of constructing related micro-wave, fiber and satellite communications networks and others depends on the availability of electricity, geographical

location, weather and population density. As such, there is no plan to construct mobile communications stations in nine village tracts of Kyunsu Township, said the deputy minister. However, plans are underway to set up a Universal Service Fund with funds provided by telecom operators to extend telecom services to regions lagging in development, and once this is set up, communication services will be provided to village tracts that meet the priority criteria and requirements, added the deputy minister.

The Myanmar travel bill was then discussed by Naw Chris Tun @ Dr. Arr Kar Moe of Kayin State constituency (7), Daw Shwe Shwe Sein Latt of the Bago region constituency (3), U Zon Hle Htan of Chin State constituency (4), U Than Soe, also known as Than Soe (Economic) of Yangon Region constituency (4) and U Myo Win of Mon State constituency 8.

The 10th-day meeting of the seventh regular session of the second Amyotha Hluttaw is scheduled to be held on 1 February. ■

Disposal of wastewater should be bigger part of water resource management

U Henry Van Thio, Vice President and Chairman of the National Water Resources Committee, yesterday said further attention into how the country disposes of wastewater should be prioritized.

U Henry Van Thio made the remark during a speech delivered at the coordination meeting 1/2018 of the National Water Resources Committee held in the meeting hall of the Ministry of Transport and Communications in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

“Water is an essential resource for living creatures and living things, and all need to prevent this resource from becoming a danger to both due to the conduct of humans. Emphasis need to be placed on the matter of wastewater disposal”, the Vice President said.

The Vice President said the coordination meeting 1/2018 of National Water Resources Committee was held for development in water related sectors, effective management and usage of water resources, to support effective cooperation with international organizations, effective coordination in overcoming difficulties faced when implementing water resource sector work and to coordinate and discuss future work processes.

Most of the discussions and decisions made in the past meetings were implemented and those remaining will be implemented. For the decisions of the past meetings that remain to be implemented, ministries and organizations need to do their utmost to coordinate with their work plans and projects said the Vice President.

National Water Resources



Vice President U Henry Van Thio delivers the speech at the coordination meeting of National Water Resources Committee. **PHOTO: MNA**

Committee successfully hosted the Third Asia-Pacific Water Summit in 2017. Subject wise discussions were held in the summit and the result of the event was the Yangon Declaration.

It is an honor and a historical milestone for all of us that the Third Asia-Pacific Water Summit was successfully held in Myanmar.

In continuing the water sector all round development for the country, the National Water Resources Committee need to consider implementing the points included in the Yangon Declaration made at the Third Asia-Pacific Water Summit and the United Nations' International Decade for Action: Water for Sustainable Development 2018-2028.

Annually celebrating the World Water Day that falls on 22 March is one of the activities of the National Water Resources

Committee and for World Water Day 2018, seminars, talks and exhibitions will be held in Nay Pyi Taw on 22 February.

The committee will cooperate with international organizations in capacity building works and works that are beneficial to the country said the Vice President.

All are urged to discuss effective suggestions and coordination required on works related to water conducted by ministerial organizations including states/regions and in cooperating with international organizations.

Present at yesterday's meeting were committee members Union Ministers Lt-Gen Ye Aung, U Ohn Win, U Win Khaing and U Kyaw Win, Deputy Ministers U Kyaw Myo and U Soe Aung, Permanent Secretaries, directors general, water experts, committee secretary, committee

advisory group members and officials.

National Water Resources Committee members are urged to strive together toward performing the duties, responsibilities and future works of the committee, works that are beneficial to the people, international cooperation and mitigating the danger of water related natural disasters and the successful implementation of an effective water resource management system for the country and the people.

Afterwards, the committee secretary Director-General of the Directorate of Water Resources and Improvement of Rivers Systems U Tun Lwin Oo and National Water Resources Committee advisory group secretary Dr. Khin Ni Ni Thein explained the works of the committee and the advisory group.

National Water Resources Committee members Union Ministers Lt-Gen Ye Aung, U Ohn Win, U Win Khaing and U Kyaw Win, Deputy Minister U Soe Aung, Permanent Secretaries, directors-general and officials discussed by respective sectors on works done, cooperation and decisions of the past meetings and suggested by sectors on the future works for the National Water Resources Committee.

Vice President U Henry Van Thio remarked that discussion and suggestions made at the meeting support the all-round management of water resources. Coordination is required for development of water related sectors and international cooperation is to be increased, said the Vice President. —Myanmar News Agency

Vice Senior General Soe Win receives UNICEF Representative to Myanmar

DEPUTY Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice Senior General Soe Win received the UNICEF Representative to Myanmar, Ms June Kunugi, yesterday afternoon at Bayintnaung Guest House in Nay Pyi Taw.

At the meeting, the par-

ticipants discussed the status of implementing the action plan agreement signed by the Ministry of Defence and UNICEF in 2012 to prevent the recruitment of child soldiers, in cooperation with the United Nations Country Task Force on Monitoring and Reporting, and to ensure the return of

877 child soldiers to their parents and guardians under the arrangement of the office of Commander-in-Chief (Army) and the Myanmar Country Task Force on Monitoring and Reporting, with the acceptance of those who voluntarily enlisted in the Tatmadaw.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Night temperatures may drop in Nay Pyi Taw, Mandalay

NIGHT temperatures are expected to dip in the Nay Pyi Taw, Sagaing, Mandalay and Magway regions, as well as Kachin, Shan and Chin states, in the next two days. The weather will be partly cloudy over the Andaman Sea and the south Bay of Bengal and generally fair elsewhere over the

Bay of Bengal.

The forecast for Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon, Mandalay and their neighbouring areas for today is generally fair.

Seas will be slight to moderate in Myanmar's waters. Wave height will be some 4 to 6 feet off and along the Myanmar coasts.—GNLM ■

GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

ACTING CHIEF EDITORAye Min Soe,
ce@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
dce@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com**EXPATRIATE CONSULTANT EDITOR**Mark Angeles,
markangeles@gmail.com**SENIOR EDITORIAL CONSULTANT**

Kyaw Myaing

SENIOR TRANSLATORSKhin Maung Oo,
editor2@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
Zaw Min, zawmin.gnlm@gmail.com
Win Ko Ko Aung,
kowink2aung@gmail.com**INTERNATIONAL NEWS EDITOR**Ye Htut Tin,
editor1@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com**LOCAL NEWS EDITORS**Tun Tun Naing (Editor),
intlnews@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
Nwe Nwe Tun (Sub-editor),
nwenwe9131@gmail.com**TRANSLATORS**Khaing Thanda Lwin,
Hay Mar Tin Win,
Ei Myat Mon
Zaw Htet Oo
Kyaw Zin Lin
Kyaw Zin Tun**REPORTERS**May Thet Hnin,
reporter1@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
mayreporter.mm@gmail.com**PHOTOGRAPHER**

Kyaw Zeya Win @ Phoe Khwar

COMPUTER TEAMTun Zaw,
Thein Ngwe, Zaw Zaw Aung,
Ye Naing Soe, Nyi Zaw Moe,
Hnin Pwint, Kay Khaing Win,
Sanda Hnin, Zu Zin Hnin**EDITORIAL SECTION**(+95) (01) 8604529,
Fax — (+95) (01) 8604305**CIRCULATION & DISTRIBUTION**San Lwin, (+95) (01) 8604532,
Hotline - 09 974424114**ADVERTISING & MARKETING**(+95) (01) 8604530,
Hotline - 09 974424848
marketing@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
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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.

Mandalay's famed Golden Palace Monastery under renovation

LOCATED in the Mandalay region, the Golden Palace Monastery, also known as Shwenandaw Kyaung, is being renovated by the World Wildlife Fund and the ministry of religious affairs and culture.

Funded by the US Ambassador to Myanmar, both local and foreign experts are involved in the renovation of the ancient Buddhist monastery, a stunning example of Myanmar architecture. The monastery is situated near Mandalay Hill, an area with beautiful natural landscapes.

The renovation project includes a drainage system, a fire safety plan and the repair of some parts of the main structure. Scot Marciel, the US ambassador to Myanmar, visited the area and inspected the progress of the renovation on 27 January.

The teakwood monastery was built by the Konbaung Dy-



The US Ambassador to Myanmar Scot Marciel inspects the progress of the renovation at the Golden Palace Monastery in Mandalay. **PHOTO: THIHA KO KO (MANDALAY)**

nasty. The interiors and facade of the 130-year-old monastery are decorated with intricate wood carvings. The roof and

walls of the monastery are also decorated with teak carvings, depicting tales from Buddhist mythology. Inside the monas-

tery, there are 10 jataka scenes, or stories about the previous lives of the Buddha.—Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay) ■

Fencing along Hanthawaddy International Airport project area to be finalised this March

Fencing along the 8,200-foot Hanthawaddy International Airport project in the Bago Region is now 65 per cent complete, and it is expected to be finalised by the end of this financial year, according to a project engineer from the Department of Civil Aviation.

The fencing project is being implemented with a budget of Ks400 million. The department faced some difficulties while fencing the target area because of the presence of local restaurants and farmlands within the project area. The Bago Region government and

the department held several negotiations with restaurant and farmland owners, following which the task was completed.

The total area to be fenced is 84,480 feet (16 miles). In the initial stage, the organising body allocated Ks400 million to fence 8,200 feet of the area within this fiscal year (FY); however, the executive body is trying to complete the project before 31 March.

The Hanthawaddy International Airport project is the largest of the three airport projects being undertaken to accommodate the growing

number of foreign travellers to Myanmar. The number of tourist arrivals has also increased each year.

Located in the Bago Region, some 48 miles north-east of Yangon, the international airport is projected to handle up to 12 million passengers per year. It takes some 90 minutes for passengers to travel from Bago to Yangon by car. The cabinet members of the region will lead the coordination meeting on 30 January to roll out the compensation plan for squatters living in the 9,000-acre project area.—ShweU ■

Hilsa fishing catch volume dips due to erratic weather conditions in Myanmar's sea

THE hilsa catch volume has faced a steady decline because of erratic weather conditions in Myanmar's sea, according to a report in Myawady Daily, yesterday.

The weather has negatively affected both the catch volume and the price. Catch volume has reduced to half the regular volume. A hike in prices to compensate for this

reduction has resulted in low demand in the domestic market, so the hilsa is mainly exported to foreign markets.

One viss (equal to 1.6 kg) of hilsa fetched Ks3,000 last year; it is now worth Ks5,000.

In a bid to prevent fishermen from catching egg-bearing hilsa, incentive-based Hilsa Fish Conservation and Management is practiced in Bang-

ladesh, leading to an increase in the catch volume in the country's waters. Myanmar intends to adopt Bangladesh's practice, U Tun Win Myint, head of Yangon Region Fishery Department, told Myawady Daily.

Myanmar's hilsa is exported to more than 36 countries, including Japan, Australia, China, Malaysia and countries in the European Union.—GNLM

56 auto weather monitoring machines installed

SOME 56 auto weather monitoring machines have been installed across the country, according to a report in the Myawady Daily.

"We are now planning to install the auto weather monitoring machines in more townships. We will install a machine in every townships.

The weather monitoring machines were installed recently in Nay Pyi Taw, Kalewa, Myinmu, Shwebo, Kyaukse, Katha, Pakokku, Pinlaung, Nyaung U, Kayan, Pyin Oo Lwin, Myingyan, Yamethin, Taungdwingyi, Meiktila, Minbu, Tada-U and the Sagaing townships," said U Kyaw Moe Oo, Deputy Director General of the Department of Meteorology and Hydrology.

The weather monitoring machines were installed in December 2017 by experts from Korea NOAA SNC Co., Ltd, and engineers from the Department of Meteorology and Hydrology.

The auto weather monitoring machine will provide timely weather updates to the public.—GNLM ■

Mandalay attracts FDI of more than US\$1b in 2017

NINETEEN foreign enterprises made investments of more than US\$1 billion in Mandalay Region in 2017, according to Mandalay Region Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA).

During 2016, only FDI worth more than \$720 million were brought into Mandalay Region. Businesspersons from China, Thailand, Singapore, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom, Taiwan, the United States and France invested in the region, especially in industrial enterprises.

According to the new My-

anmar Investment Law, regional and state DICA offices are authorized to approve investment proposals with capital of not more than \$5 million. Land leases are also permitted from the regional office. In addition, tax relief is provided for investments. The Myanmar Investment Commission (MIC) has established three zones in which entrepreneurs can enjoy the benefits of tax exemption and relaxation from three to seven years. The zones are divided as follows: areas that have exhibited weak development are identified as zone 1, areas

that are fairly well developed are marked zone 2 and areas that are fully developed are marked zone 3, according to an announcement from MIC with the approval of the union government.

Zone 1 has been granted a tax holiday of seven consecutive years, whereas investors in Zone 2 can enjoy tax exemption for five straight years and those in Zone 3 will have three consecutive years of tax breaks. Mandalay Region has been designated as Zone 3, and investors can enjoy a three-year tax holiday in 14 townships.—Ko Htet

Govt's mineral export value drops to \$295m

The Myanmar government exported mineral products worth US\$295 million between last April and 19 January of this year, according to the Commerce Ministry.

When compared with the same period of last fiscal year, the government's mineral exports this year showed a decline of \$108 million. At this time last year, the sector sold \$403 million worth of mineral products to overseas traders.

The country's total exports of mineral products over the past 10 months exceeded \$1 billion,



Jade stone. PHOTO: MNA

including \$776 million from the private sector. Despite the decrease in value of the government's mineral exports, this year saw an increase in value of \$387 million from the private sector. According to the min-

istry, Myanmar also exported \$1.8 billion worth of agricultural products, animal and marine products, forest products, manufactured goods and more in the current fiscal year.—Khine Khant

Myanmar-Middle East trade reaches \$290m in current FY

Trade between Myanmar and Middle Eastern countries exceeded US\$290 million in the current fiscal year (FY), according to the monthly report of the Ministry of Commerce.

In the first eight months of the current FY, the country imported over \$200 million worth of goods from the Middle Eastern states, while exports to the transcontinental region amounted to \$88 million.

Myanmar exports fishery products and agriculture commodities, including kitchen sta-

ples such as beans, pulses and rice to the Middle East market.

The total bilateral trade included \$5.7 million with Kuwait, \$4.7 million with Qatar, \$5.2 million with Israel, \$2.2 million with Bahrain, \$1.2 million with Egypt, \$400,000 with Lebanon, \$100,000 with Yemen and \$35,000 with Syria.

Myanmar-Middle East trade in the last fiscal year hit a record high of more than \$400 million for six consecutive years.

According to the minis-

try's official statistics, bilateral trade earned \$381.351 million in FY2015-16, \$373.353 million in FY2014-15, \$267.306 million in FY2013-14, \$267.297 million in FY2012-13 and \$300.679 million in FY2011-12.

The trade between Myanmar and countries in the Americas as of last April was valued at \$797.8 million, while trade with European communities totalled \$1.5 billion and with ASEAN members exceeded \$7.6 billion, according to the ministry.—Shwe Khine

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

တနင်္ဂနွေနေ့တိုင်း: "Sunday Special" အချုပ်ပိုင် (၈)
မျက်နှာပေါင်သော The Global New Light of Myanmar
နေ့စဉ်ထုတ် သတင်းစာကို အောက်ပါမြို့များတွင် ဖတ်ရှုနိုင်ပါပြီ

"Sunday Special" အချုပ်ပိုင် (၈) မျက်နှာ

နေပြည်တော်
ပြန်ကြားရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာန၊ ရုံးအမှတ် (၇) နေပြည်တော်၊
သတင်းနှင့်စာနယ်ဇင်းလုပ်ငန်း (ရုံးချုပ်)၊
စီမံခန့်ခွဲမှုဌာန၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၈၇၄၁၂၁၁၈

နေပြည်တော်
နေပြည်တော်သတင်းစာတိုက် (တပ်ကုန်း)
ဇယားလမ်း၊ နေပြည်တော်၊ နေပြည်တော်၊
ဖုန်း - ၀၈၇၃၆၁၄၈၊ ၀၈၇၃၆၁၂၉

ရန်ကုန်
The Global New Light of Myanmar သတင်းစာတိုက်၊ အမှတ် ၁၅၀၊
ဗိုလ်တင်ကြီးဘုရားလမ်း၊ ဝဟန်းမြို့နယ်၊ ရန်ကုန်မြို့၊
ဖုန်း - ၀၁၀၆၀၄၅၃၂၊ ၀၉၅၄၄၄၄၄၄၄၄

မန္တလေး
လမ်း (၂၀ x ၂၀) ကြား၊ (၈၂ x ၈၂) လမ်းကြား၊ မုလ်ခေ
ရောင်ရမ်းမန္တလေးမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၂၃၂၇၂၉၊ ၀၂၃၂၇၅၀

တောင်ကြီး
ရုံးကြီးလမ်း၊ သစ်တောရပ်ကွက်၊ တောင်ကြီးမြို့၊
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မကွေး
နတ်မောက်လမ်း၊ တပ်မ (၈၈) တပ်နယ်ဇေးအနီး၊
မကွေးမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၈၃၂၃၇၂

ကချင်ပြည်
မြို့ပေါ် (၃-၈) အမှတ် (၁) လမ်းသွယ်၊ မြို့ပေါ်လမ်း၊
ကချင်တိုင်း၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၈၄၂၂၄၉၂

ကလေး
အောင်ဇေယျာရပ်ကွက်၊ မြို့နယ်အားကစားကွင်းအနီး၊
ကလေးမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၇၃၂၂၁၃၃

မြန်မာပြည်
အမှတ် (၄၁)၊ ရေပရပ်ကွက်၊ အောင်ဆန်းလမ်း၊
မြန်မာပြည်၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၇၄၂၂၄၉၂

စစ်တွေ
ရထားတံလမ်းနှင့် တက္ကသိုလ်ရိပ်သာလမ်း၊
စီမံကိန်းအနီး၊ မန်းကျည်းမြို့ရပ်ကွက်၊ စစ်တွေမြို့၊
ဖုန်း - ၀၄၃၂၃၀၆၈

လားရှိုး
ဟူးမွန်ကျေးရွာတံလမ်း၊ ဟူးမွန်ဆည်ဘယ်ဘက်ခြမ်း၊
(၁၂) ရပ်ကွက်၊ မန်ဆူဘုရားရှေ့၊ အဝေရာလမ်း၊
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ခြောက်
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မော်လမြိုင်
ကြာအင်းကျေးရွာ၊ မော်လမြိုင်မြို့၊
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ပုဏ္ဏား
နန္ဒဝန်ရပ်ကွက်၊ ဆက်သွယ်ရေးတံလမ်းအနီး၊
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New building for Suu Vocational Institute

THE opening ceremony for a new building at Suu Vocational Institute was conducted by the education network of the National League for Democracy (NLD) in the school compound in Hlinethaya Township yesterday morning.

The ceremony began with a salute to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar's flag and the singing of the national anthem. NLD Central Executive Committee secretariat member U Nyan Win, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein, building donor Mr. Yukio Kagaya, computer donor Mr. Yoshiaki Banino and land donor Daw Lei Lei cut the ceremonial ribbon to open the new building of Suu Vocational Institute.

Next, NLD Central Executive Committee secretariat member U Nyan Win delivered a message of greeting and building donor Mr. Yukio Kagaya of Japan explained how the donation of the building came about.

Afterwards, a representa-



New building at Suu Vocational Institute is opened by the education network of the National League for Democracy in Hlinethaya Township, Yangon. **PHOTO: ZAW GYI**

tive of MPT explained the reason computers were donated to A May Ein (Mother's House) school and Yangon Region Chief Minister gave a speech

of appreciation towards the donors and then inspected the newly opened building.

"This building was constructed in seven months.

Now that the construction of the building is complete, training courses can be started. As per the guidance of State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi,

the training courses will be on vocational education. Courses on computers, English and Japanese are being started.

There is no minimum education requirement set for the courses, but due to the labour law, age is limited. Only those who are 17 years and above can attend the courses", said Coordinator U Aung Lay Nwe @ Ko Nge of NLD education network.

With an aim to develop the country by raising the capability of youths, vocational sciences such as computer science, English, Korean, basic electrical, and basic mobile phone repair will be taught free of charge. There are plans to conduct Korean, Chinese and sewing courses later on, it is learnt.

The ceremony was attended by Hluttaw representatives, officials from the Embassy of Japan to Myanmar, donors and invited guests.

The land for the school building was donated by (U Aung Thein) and Daw Lei Lei family. —Zaw Gyi ■

Supreme Court launches plan for judicial reform



Union Chief Justice U Htun Htun Oo delivers the speech at the ceremony to launch the Judicial Strategic Plan (2018-2022) in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

THE Supreme Court of the Union launched its Judicial Strategic Plan (2018-2022) at the Myanmar International Convention Centre II, Nay Pyi Taw, yesterday, addressing changes not only for judges, but also for participants and members of the media.

The second strategic plan for the Myanmar judiciary sector has been adopted with the motto "Towards Improving Justice for All".

At the ceremony, Union Chief Justice U Htun Htun Oo expressed thanks to international partners who cooperated in the project over the last three years.

"In the judiciary sector, adopting strategic plans means

systematic reforms for the judiciary sector and not only judges, judiciary officers and those who are participating in the judiciary sector but also partners and media also play an important role in carrying out the reforms," said Chief Justice U Htun Htun Oo.

He also called for working together for improving justice for all the people.

Judicial Strategic Plan (2018-2022) was introduced and explained in the second part of yesterday's ceremony.

Present at the ceremony were the chairman of the Constitutional Tribunal of the Union, the Union Attorney-General, Judges of the Supreme Court

of the Union, the Deputy Attorney-General, chairmen, secretaries and members of commission and affairs committees of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, Pyithu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw, stakeholders of the justice sector, officials from foreign embassies, United Nations' organisations and international partners, officials from departments of the Union Supreme Court, judicial sectors, the Anti-corruption Commission, civil societies and the media. The book, Judicial Strategic Plan (2018-2022), was distributed to attendees and is also available at <http://www.unionsupremecourt.gov.mm>. — Myanmar News Agency ■

Myanmar to construct LNG power plants to meet electricity shortage

THE Ministry of Electricity and Energy will construct liquefied natural gas (LNG) plants within three years to generate power to meet the shortage of electricity in Myanmar, according to a report in the Myawady Daily yesterday.

As Myanmar will be using LNG for the first time to generate power, new power plants will have to be constructed, said U Win Khine, Electricity and Energy Minister.

Two LNG power plants will be built in the Dawei Kanpauk and Milaunggyaung Town within

three years. Upon completion of the project, the plants will generate an additional 1,230 megawatts (MW) and 1,390 MW of power.

The move will help the government meet its goal. According to the demand forecast, Myanmar will need at least 6,000 MW of energy in the 2020-2021 fiscal year. Currently, the country produces some 3,000 MW of power. Therefore, the ministry of electricity and energy is planning to generate some 3,000 MW of additional power within three years. — GNLM ■

Jade scavengers relocated to designated area in Khamti Township

SAGAING regional government is making an arrangement to relocate the jade scavengers who are illegally engaged in jade mining at a jade mine in Khamti Township and to return them to their homes.

The Relief and Resettlement Department under the Ministry of Social Welfare,

Relief and Resettlement provided Ks. 30,000 to each person who moved their huts and Ks. 100,000 each to the jade scavengers who relocated their homes to a designated site on 28 January. Those wishing to return to their homes are being transported by vehicles from a jade mining company. — Myanmar Digital News ■

Myanmar's growing electricity needs

Interview with Union Minister for Electricity and Energy U Win Khaing

The consumption rate of electricity in Myanmar is increasing at least 15 per cent each year, and it is estimated that Myanmar is expected to consume about 4,531 megawatts of electricity in 2020-2021. Currently, the annual total electricity production is 3,189 megawatts, with 1,342 megawatt still needed.

By Honey and Hmwe Kyu

Q: Could you let us know the maximum consumption of electricity in Myanmar?

A: The present maximum consumption of electricity is 3,189 megawatts from 17 hydropower stations and 15 thermal power production facilities.

Q: Could you elaborate on the yearly electricity consumption rate and what is being done to accommodate this?

A: The consumption rate of electricity is increasing by 15 per cent each year. As a result, we estimate consuming 4,531 megawatts in the year 2010-2021. Currently, we can produce up to 3,189 megawatts, with the demand for electricity at 1,342 megawatts. That's why arrangements are being made to produce 439 megawatts from three power plants for the year 2018, 750 megawatts from four power plants for the year 2019, 260 megawatts from three power plants for the year 2020, 971 megawatts from five power plants for the year 2021, and 891 megawatts from five power plants for the year 2022.

These power plants can produce 15 per cent from hydro power production, 18 per cent from power plants based on Heavy Fuel Oil (HFO), 30 per cent from power plants using Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG), and 5 per cent from solar power plant.

Q: How is electricity currently delivered?

A: Currently, we produce 63 230-kilovolt (KV) transmission lines (2,846.25 miles), 38 5520-MVA transmission lines, 42 132-KV transmission lines (1,362.5 miles), 24 1724.5-MVA transmission lines, 66 6488-KV transmission lines (6,488.7 miles), and 295 4040.5-MVA transmission lines. We will make necessary arrangements to expand the electricity production, which can transmit the power lines across the country.

Q: Could you explain about current access to electricity power and power consumption nationwide?



1390 MW-LNG-fired power plant project in Milaunggyaing. PHOTO: MINISTRY OF ELECTRICITY AND ENERGY



225MW-gas fired power plant project in Myingyan. PHOTO: MINISTRY OF ELECTRICITY AND ENERGY

A: Myanmar's total electricity consumption rate is 10.877 million, some 4.289 million (38.4 per cent) can get access to electricity and the remaining 6.588 million are still in need of electricity supply. Out of 482 towns, some 350 towns can get access to electricity and the remaining 132 towns are in need of electricity supply. Out of 63,737 villages, some 32,228 villages can get access to electricity and the remaining 31,509 villages are still in need of electricity supply.

Q: How about consumption of electricity in Yangon and Mandalay?

A: Out of 1.58 million households in Yangon, some 1.3 million households can get access to electricity supply, and the remaining 0.28 million households are still in need of electricity supply.

Out of 2,126 villages, some 1,304 villages can get access to electricity supply and the other 822 villages are still in need of electricity supply.

In Yangon Region, there are

9 230-KV transmission lines, 34 66-KV transmission lines, 750 33-KV transmission lines, 9,083 11-KV transmission lines, and 3,482 6.6-KV transmission lines.

The current rate of electricity consumption in Yangon is 1,351 megawatts, including 50 per cent of household use and 16 per cent of lampposts in the streets.

In Mandalay, there are 1.32 million households, and 0.7 million households can get access to electricity, and the remaining 0.62 million are still in need of

electricity. Out of 4,807 villages in Mandalay, 3,724 villages can get electricity, and the remaining 1,083 villages are still in need of it.

There are 6 230-KV transmission lines, 11 132-KV transmission lines, 21 66-KV transmission lines, 578 33-KV transmission lines, 7620 11-KV transmission lines, and 52 6.6-KV transmission lines.

The current rate of electricity consumption is 551 megawatts, which includes 48 per cent for household use, 42 percent for industry plus factory, and 10 per cent for lampposts.

Q: How about other regions and states?

There are 163 66-KV transmission lines, 837 33-KV transmission lines, and 19,799 11-KV transmission lines to distribute electrical power. Apart from Yangon and Mandalay, the total consumption of electricity power is 1,193 megawatt and the annual consumption is about 15 per cent. There are 269 towns which rely on electricity, and 130 towns which still use diesel and hydro power.

Out of 56,804 villages, some 27,200 villages can consume electricity, and some 29,604 villages lack electricity. As for power consumption, household use is 63 per cent and 16 per cent is lampposts and other.

Q: Could you tell me how to connect to electricity in the remote areas?

A: We provide electricity from 32 mini hydropower plants with 34.174 megawatts, and 606 diesel power plants with 87.634 megawatts. In order to supply sufficiently, we also use Solar Home systems,

Biochemical systems and Hydro power plants from the neighboring countries.

Q : How can we make a plan to increase the volume of hydropower electricity?

A: According to the Demand Forecast, it is estimated to increase in volume to 3,587 megawatt in 2018, 4,032 megawatt in 2019, 4,531 megawatt in 2020, 5,092 megawatt in 2021, and 5,727 megawatt in 2022.

SEE PAGE-11

We are all in the same boat!

AS for all those who are travelling in the same boat to a certain destination they all need to row the boat with the same efforts so that they can reach their desired goal. We will achieve success only if we exert concerted efforts in harmony with each other to smoothly get to our ultimate goal.

“It is easier said than done,” as the saying goes. In moving towards a certain destination we will find it difficult to some extent because all the travellers going together to the same destination may not have similar attitudes and desires. Some may be enthusiastic and energetic, while some may be dull and reluctant. Some may be eager and ebullient, while some recalcitrant. Some always want to go against the wishes of others. As a result, the journey takes much more time than expected. Had we arrived at the destination as we had hoped, it would be convenient for us, hence the urge to go to the destination in unity.

Similarly, our journey to internal peace is in fact close to us, but it is taking much time to reach there as if going to a very distant place. We could see our destination right in front of us so we could have arrived at our destination much earlier if we had moved in unity. In her message sent to the rally to welcome and support the Union Peace Conference—21st Century Panglong, the State Counsellor said,

“In our country armed conflicts have occurred for nearly 70 years. Efforts were made to bring peace to the country in successive eras. While taking lessons from failures due to some reasons, we must write a new chapter of our history of our era with collective efforts.”

The efforts of individual organizations alone cannot bring about internal peace. Peace is not for only

one person, one organization, one ethnic race, but for all citizens of the Union. Accordingly, it is necessary for all of us to take active participation in an attempt to gain internal peace so that the country can reach the right path to the advanced Federal Democratic Republic by achieving long-lasting internal peace.

For a successful march towards the peaceful nation, we must welcome and support the mass rally wholeheartedly, needing to acknowledge and express our thanks to the signs of national unity.

Now what all our citizens want is the long-awaited internal peace. At the time when Bogoyoke Aung San and national leaders struggled for our independence all the people expressed their aspiration for liberation with unprecedented momentum.

Now as well we are required to express our great desire for getting internal peace wholeheartedly. If we move in the same boat in unity, our peace goal is not too far away from us. ■

Public Talk, Incomparable Beauty of the Country

By Koyin Aw

THE earth, “Myay Mit-mo,” is of great help for exuberant growth of emerald green grass, plants and trees, as are public-orientated centres to help cast a learning light over the public.

It is none other than books that awakes people’s awareness and senses, thus we emphatically say, “Books for All,” which is another way of saying “Books are friends of all.” Books and literature are the most fundamental for the development of people’s scope of knowledge and intellect. As for a man, accumulation of personal experiences in his life is in fact very limited, whereas vicarious experiences acquired through books and literatures are infinite and timeless. Existences, feelings and passing of life of all beings including various kinds of people from all walks of life remain left in literature.

At such a time when literature needs to be upgraded so that our national image can rise up, parents belonging to the ageing generation are required to collectively cultivate and nurture the people, especially the younger generation, to learn to love books, spending their precious hours in the circle of literary fanatics. Here, we need to form small-scale groups or in-groups/cliques depending upon our capabilities. On the other hand, the Government as well needs to encourage it as a national objective to lift up the literary status.

Students learning at their respective alma maters need to not only take academic learning, but also to learn to savour the taste of literary treasures including aesthetic literature. No one can deny public libraries as well as school libraries are of great importance. Unadulterated/pure literature which can increase the intellect, encourage the survival of readers and awaken consciousness and awareness is in fact the eternal partner for every individual in leisure hours. Accordingly, I would like to claim that “Lovable literature which will change our present era needs to be selected for sharing the acquired knowledge to other younger minds/youths.”



The public talk held in progress at Yangon University Recreation Centre. PHOTO: MNA

Provided that literature will stand tall as the life-long partner loyal to readers in the midst of the people, it sure will be of great encouragement and grace for us, as if we are in the immediate vicinity of a savant hermit.

On studying as to whether there is any progress concerning the situations of IPRD libraries being upgraded as public-orientated libraries, I have come to realise that a library is a cave in which various kinds of literary treasures are a mosaic with a variety of technologies, intellects, fine arts, cultures, subjects on wonderful nature, hygienic knowledge, books on guidance for success, or rather a cave where the treasures of writers who cast light are buried.

A literary repository or a library, emphatically likened to a literary treasure trove, is a location in which literary hunters can sit digging up literary treasures with ease. In case it was a royal treasure trove guarded by ogres it would be too difficult to dig it up, regarding to be an unfit for the public. As regards the well-known catchphrase, “Literature is kind of a flaming torch for the success of our lives,” I hereby

would like to refer the statement of Sayar Thar Ga Doe, my much-respected literati journalist. He once said, “What created me to stand as the existence of “Thar Ga Doe,” were none other than books. I disclosed it almost everywhere I met my superiors and colleagues. Born

pay attention to books. Yet, not every book can be beneficial and fruitful for us. There seems to be an element of hyperbole in such a claim that there are lethal books around us. Only if we ponder it carefully with judgment will we manage to discover excellent and benefi-

“In the democratic era, these places are the ones in which the governing body and the people can hold frank discussions, the places which can bring about opportunities for negotiation of all matters, small or big, a place to lift up thinking capacities and places that will cultivate practices of participating in public.”

in a desperate situation at a village called Phyar Tan where we could reach after a walk of several miles across three or four villages from Dar Ka, 20 miles or so far from Pathein, formerly called Bassein, I became a literary worker-cum-film director-cum-journalist, by courtesy of books.

It is beneficial for us to

cial books for our success. Lethal books referred by Sayargyi Thar Ga Doe will be pornographic ones, books on illegal doctrines and ideas, books of insular patriotism of extremists, etc., in my opinion. If attracted to this kind of literature, I humbly would like to warn you that you will be in for trouble like moths attracted

to bright lights. Accordingly, people desirous of searching for knowledge and wisdom should approach the public libraries rich in literary virtues like an ocean, without occult matters excluded.

Public-orientated centres and public-orientated libraries are locations where literary talks are held, rendezvous points for writers and literature lovers and places from which meritorious deeds increase through acquired literary knowledge. Being a place where fellow devotees gather for regional affairs, it can be said to be a place of great use for sharing knowledge, discussing matters on philanthropic affairs and giving help to each other.

Oh! Dear colleagues, The place of which we can claim, “This is our place!” is none other than a public-orientated centre or a public-orientated library. By sharing frankly what we want, friendship between us will be strengthened, with the soaring family spirit, I firmly believe.

At the public-orientated library, we can not only read and borrow books but also open training courses for children such as computer training

courses, English-speaking classes and noble education sharing courses. Thus, it will be a place of nobility for all regardless of age, which will be beneficial forever.

A public-orientated centre and public-orientated library are not the places which reflect explosive symptoms of greed, anger and ignorance, absolutely not a place of evil wills. It is just a meeting place established with the intention of casting light over the community by holding an intellectual discussion. As it can be said to be a suitable place for all, it agrees with “the Auspicious Sermon,” which Myanmar people greatly value.

Now, we found out that IPRD has been implementing in cooperation with the Daw Khin Kyi Foundation to transform the public-orientated centre and public-orientated library into the place savants and literary lovers meet, a lovable place with the fragrant atmosphere of Myanmar’s respected and honourable writers, poets and journalists, enjoyable places for children by holding storytelling contests, poem-recitation contests, ad lib speech contests, drawing contests, color painting contests and so on.

At the time of establishing public-orientated centres, public talks are being held across the nation. I assume that it is an auspiciousness of the nation. Public talks are not the places full of indecent or vulgar speech. Arguments are being presented reasonably in sweet and polite terms at public talks, hence making for a welcoming place for the people.

In the democratic era, these places are the ones in which the governing body and the people can hold frank discussions, the places which can bring about opportunities for negotiation of all matters, small or big, a place to lift up thinking capacities and places that will cultivate practices of participating in public.

Would that it be better to increasingly hold such public talks in every part of the nation, from remote villages to urban areas. ■

(Translated by
Khin Maung Oo)

Pātimokkha Day on Fullmoon of Tabodwe

By Maha Saddhamma Jotika dhaja,
Sithu Dr. Khin MaungNyunt

THE eleventh month in the 12th month lunar calendar of Myanmar people is Tabodwe which approximately corresponds to February. This year 2018 the Tabodwe Fullmoon falls on the 31st of January.

Traditional monthly festival of Tabodwe is the bonfire festival the ceremonial offering of scented bon-fire to provide warmth to the Buddha, the Sangha [monks] and the elders at the peak of cold season in the month of Tabodwe. Bon-fire is made in circular terracotta container in which fragrant scented woods are burnt and offered at night fall or early morning when it is icy cold. Glutinous rice snack “Htamane” is prepared which is seasoned with ingredients of Sesamum, peanut, ginger and sliced coconut. In cold season human body needs natural oil for its dry skins. These two festivals the bon-fire and the concoction of rice snack Htamane are quite common.

Little or unknown occasion of Tabodwe is the special religious event of Pātimokkha Day on the fullmoon of Tabodwe. According to Pali-Myanmar Dictionary by U Hoke Sein “Pātimokkha” is a collection of precepts contained in the Vinaya [Rules of Discipline for the Sangha monks]. This is the name given to a collection of the various precepts contained in the Vinaya, beginning with the four pārajikas and ending with the Adhikaranasamatha which are precepts solemnly read twice a month in every monastery.

There are two Pātimokkhas, namely (1). Ānāpātimokkha and (2). Ovādapātimokkha. Ānāpātimokkha is a body of vinaya disciplinary rules 227 rules for male monks [bhikkhu] and 311 rules for bhikkhuni or female monks, laid down by the Buddha. These rules are collectively called Ānāpātimokkha.

	Bhikkhu Bhikkhuni	
1. Pārajika	4	8
2. Sanghādisesa	13	17
3. Aniyata	2	—
4. Nissaggiya Pācittiya	30	30
5. Suddha Pācittiya	92	166
6. Pātiesaniya	4	8
7. Sekhiya	75	75
8. Adhikaranasamatha	7	7
Total	227	311
Ovādapātimokkha has only three lines of Pali as follows:		
“Sabnapāpassa akaranam		
Kusalassa upasampadā		
Sacittapariyo dapanam loudhāna Sāsanam”.		

The meaning of them are as follows:
The avoidance of all evil
The undertaking of good deeds
The cleansing of one’s mind
This is the teaching of the awakened ones.
Five sentences in Pali further explain and elaborate Ovādapātimokkha as follows:

“Khanti paramaāṃ tapo titikkhā, nibbānam paramam vadanti buddhā nahi pabbajito paripagghāti, nasamunohiti param vihethayanto.”
Meaning “Patience and forbearance are the highest austerity. The awakened ones say nibbāna is the highest. One is certainly not a wanderer if one injures others; one is not an ascetic if one harms another.”
“Anūpavādo anūpaghāto, Patimokkha ca Samvaramattaññuta ca bhattasamim, pentañaca sayanasanam.

Abhicitte ca ayogo, etam buddhāna Sāsanam.”
Not abusing, not injuring, and restraint under the rules of discipline, and knowing moderation in eating, and secluded lodgings, and exertion in respect of higher thought, is the teaching of the awakened ones.
All enlightened Buddhas gave Ovādapātimokkha to all their pupils who gather together on fullmoon day of Tabodwe.
In the time of Gotama Buddha, his two disciple monks Ashin Sariputtara and Ashin Maha Moggalan became saint monks on the fullmoon day of Tabodwe. The two also received from Lord Buddha distinctions in wisdom and knowledge for Ashin Sariputtara and jana abinyan for Ashin Maha Kassapa on the fullmoon day of Tabodwe.
SEE PAGE-10

Senior General fixes diamond orb atop replica of Shwedagon in Kengtung

THE Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and party went to Tachilek Shwedagon Pagoda in Tachilek town and erected Tipitaka stone pillars on the platform of the pagoda yesterday.

The Commander-In-Chief and party also donated and installed the diamond orb and pennant-shaped vane atop the Tachilek Shwedagon Pagoda.

On Monday, Senior General Min Aung Hlaing visited the Kengtung cantonment and met with training officers, other ranks and trainees of Tatmadaw High Grade Training School.

The Tatmadaw Commander-In-Chief said technical expertise is important in forming the Tatmadaw into a modern standard army and that is why the knowledge of Tatmadaw personnel is being enhanced. Similarly, the education level of the Tatmadaw's family members is also being raised. On health care, not only the Tatmadaw personnel and their families but also the local populace are receiving access to health services. "It is important for all of us to maintain our physical fitness and to continually train to retain it," said the Tatmadaw Commander-In-Chief.

To build up the capacity of the Tatmadaw personnel, training sessions are being provided on a systematic basis. Trainers need to be well versed in their respective subjects and trainees need to learn all that is being taught. Once the trainees are back in their units, they need to use the knowledge gained at the training sessions effectively, remarked the Tatmadaw Commander-in-Chief.

The Tatmadaw Commander-in-Chief then presented books and journals to the training school, where were received by the head of the school.—Myanmar News Agency ■



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing installs the diamond orb and pennant-shaped vane atop the Tachilek Shwedagon Pagoda in Tachilek. **PHOTO: C-IN-C OFFICE**

Danyingone wholesale fruit, vegetable and flower market opened in Yangon

THE Danyingone wholesale fruit, vegetable and flower market is opened yesterday in Yangon.

The market, which is a joint venture between YCDC and the Myanmar Agro Exchange Public Ltd, is located at the corner of the Shwe Pyi Thar Bridge road and Pale Road in Insein Township.

"The intention to build the new market is to promote the lifestyle of Yangon people. There are two points why a market is successful. The first one is the cleanliness of the market and the availability of car parking. The second point is an operator who is performing to develop the market," Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein said in the opening ceremony of the market. He added that YCDC will work with operators to manage more than 170 markets in Yangon



Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein meets with vegetable sellers at Danyingone wholesale fruit, vegetable and flower market in Yangon. **PHOTO: ZAW GYI**

in the future.

The market is 82.78 acres wide and the construction was started in December 2015. As a first part of the project, three buildings with 5600 stalls were built, and spent K25 billion that

include the investment of more than 2000 shareholders.

The entire project is expected to be completed by the end of 2019, and there will be more than 9000 stalls in total.—Myanmar Digital News ■



Vendors are seen at Danyingone wholesale fruit, vegetable and flower market in Yangon. **PHOTO: ZAW GYI**

Myanmar Gazette

Appointment of Permanent Secretary

The Union Government has appointed U Myint Thu, Director-General of the Union Minister's Office of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, as Permanent Secretary of the same ministry. ■

21 butcher blocks of Padauk wood seized at Yaybu checkpoint

A combined team of officers and government staff are checking for illegal goods at the Yaypu and Mayanchaung checkpoints, which were reopened on 1 March 2017, according to a police source on 29 January.

There were 951 vehicles exporting goods and 1,012 vehicles importing goods along the Mandalay-Muse Pyidaungsu road, as well as 51 vehicles exporting goods and 153 vehicles importing goods along the Yangon-Myawady road, on 29 January.

Among them, the team discovered five cases, with an estimated value of Ks13.332 million, at Yaypu checkpoint and three cases, estimated to be worth Ks4.814 million, at Mayanchaung checkpoint.

On the same day, the team checked vehicles at the Yaypu inspection gate and discovered 21 butcher blocks of Padauk wood (0.3976 tons) in a Toyota Mark II car heading to Muse. The seized vehicle and wood are estimated to be worth Ks4.692 million.—GNLM ■

Pātimokkha Day on Fullmoon. . .

FROM PAGE-9

In the time of Buddha Sasana, all monks hold congregation in the Sima [Ordination hall] on every fullmoon day and no moon day to receive both Anāpātimokkha and Ovādapātimokkha.

Only living Buddhas are entitled to give Ovādapātimokkha after they attained 20 visas [ordained years].

There are four requirements needed for the delivery of Ovādapātimokkha. (1). Fullmoon day of Tabodwe (2). Gathering of all confirmed bhikkhu monks [Ehikhikkus] (3). Saint

monks (4). Voluntary gathering without invitation.

In Oādapātimokkha the essence of Buddha's teachings is given by learned monk Sayadaws in simple gatha [Pāli poem].

Avoid evils

Undertake good deed

Keep clean mind.

On fullmoon day, Ovādapātimokkha Day is held at Pagodas, monasteries and Dhamma teaching halls. Monks narrate its background history, explain its meaning and importance to the audience gathered, and Metta Sutta is chanted. ■

Myanmar's growing electricity needs

FROM PAGE-7

Due to the production amount of 300 megawatts, it is needed to generate 3,000 megawatts prior to 2020-2021. As for our Electricity and Energy Ministry, we presented necessary proposals at the 2/2017 National Planning Commission. Many projects of hydropower plants are underway in Upper Kyaing Taung, Upper Ye Ywar, A Le Paung Long and De Dot for 497 megawatts, in Thakayta, Thahtone, Myingyan, Belin GEG, Myan Aung, Ywar Ma(WB) for 794 megawatts, LNG projects including Ahline and Kan Pauk for 1,250 megawatts, WFO projects including Yangon (NIHC) and Yangon (Karpower) for 600 megawatts, and the Minbu Solar project for 170 megawatts, totaling 3,311 megawatts.

We can reserve 428 megawatt in 2021 and 688 megawatt in 2022 if all these projects will be implemented.

Q: Could you explain about the process of LNG factories and its operations?



133MW gas fired power plant project in Myingyan. PHOTO: MINISTRY OF ELECTRICITY AND ENERGY

A: In the production sector, we talked about Delivery and Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) with the companies which are willing to make investment in our country. We discussed transmission lines and power supply in line with the policies of our country and had chosen four LNG plants.

Q: Who will build the LNG power plants?

A: For LNG power plants, TOTAL from France, and SIEMENS from Germany will be invested in this region. Plans are being made to join the LNG using Floating Storage Re-gasification Unit (FSRU). It is a combined cycle power plant and two Gas Turbine with 410 megawatts, and Steam Turbine with 410 megawatts can be generated besides 500-KV transmission line, which is Kanbauk Mawlamyine Payar Gyi lines with 280 miles and 500KV Sub Station FSRU and natural Gas Pipe Line.

Another thing is that we are going to invest with TTCL Public Company Limited to build



1230-MW LNG-fired power plant project in Kanbauk. PHOTO: MINISTRY OF ELECTRICITY AND ENERGY

an LNG power plant capable of producing 356 megawatts. We are planning to connect with Floating Storage Re-gasification Unit and distribute it. The investment is worth US\$321 million.

Another project is joint-ventured with Zhefu Holding Group Co., Ltd of China and Supreme Trading Co., Ltd of Myanmar. We are planning to connect Floating Storage Unit (FSRU) Vessel.

We can generate four Gas Turbines with 225 megawatts, two Stream Turbine Generators with 245 megawatt, and the project is worth 2.507 billion.

We are also planning to build 135 megawatt plants in Kyaukpyu, and the investments are made by Sinohydro Corporation Limited (POWER CHINA). These power plants will connect through

Taungup Maei Kyaukpyu. The investment is US\$180 million.

Q: What's the benefit of your projects?

It can promote the development of Kyaukpyu, Thilawa, Dawei, Muse, and other tourist destinations such as Bagan, Inlay, Nyaung Oo and Mandalay. Moreover, the One-Road project, Trilateral (India-Myanmar-Thailand) and Greater-Mekong Sub-Region, ASEAN Economic Corridor can connect with other neighbouring countries because of border power trading.

Q: Explain about increasing electricity distribution and reducing blackouts in Yangon and Mandalay Region.

A: To increase distribution, additional transformers were installed, old power lines replaced with new ones, consumers were reconnected to transformers closer to them for load sharing, branches and service wires were cleared. Call centres were being set up to resolve the issue of blackouts quickly. The aim is to increase electricity usage to 23,603 consumers in 206 villages of Yangon Region and 79,445 consumers in 393 villages of Mandalay Region with direct investment from the state, a JICA loan, a World Bank loan (NEP Plan) and an ADB loan.

Q: Explain about power generation from mini sources and other energy sources?

A: In Kachin State, Putao Township, which is remote and far away from the national grid, a 3.2MW upper Namttum hydro-

electric plant is under construction. Posco Daewoo is investigating the possibility of setting up a 5MW Solar Power Plant on Manaung Island. In other states and regions, a mini-grid is constructed and power distributed through 32 mini hydroelectric plant projects and a solar power plant.

On the renewable energy sector, a 220MW Minbu and a 300MW Wundwin solar energy power stations are under construction and studies on geothermal, ocean energy and tidal energy are being conducted.

We need a further 3,000 megawatts to supply power to our people sufficiently. Currently four projects of LNG-fired plants can generate 3,000 megawatts. A further 3,000 megawatts within two to three years are enough for the supply side. For transmission, we will work for transporting the power through northern, southern, eastern and western grids.

For the distribution sector, we need to use Smart Technology for power distribution in Yangon and Mandalay. We will also use the four-meter system as of 1st April, 2018, and people in rural and urban areas can choose the one they like out of four meters with affordable prices.

Within two to three years, we will try to replace the old meters in towns with modern ones. We are committed to distributing power with correct rotation and frequency to the people.

The power supply is the first question asked by foreign and local investors. Today, we can say that we can take responsibility for a reliable power supply by 2020.



356MW LNG-fired power plant project in Ahlon. PHOTO: MINISTRY OF ELECTRICITY AND ENERGY

US special envoy for DPRK to visit Japan, South Korea

WASHINGTON — The US State Department Monday said its special envoy for the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) will visit Japan and South Korea from 1-6 February.

Joseph Yun, special representative for DPRK policy and deputy assistant secretary for Korea and Japan, will meet with senior government officials in Tokyo and Seoul to discuss coordination on the DPRK and other alliances and bilateral issues, it said in a statement.

In Tokyo, Yun will participate in the International Colloquium on Building Stable Peace in Northeast Asia organized by the Toda Peace Institute, the Norwegian Institute of International Affairs, and the National Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies University of Otago.

Despite tension easing on the Korean Peninsula with the DPRK agreeing to take part in the 2018 Winter Olympics to be held in South Korea, Washington has vowed to maintain its "maximum pressure" campaign against Pyongyang, slapping new sanctions on 24 January.—Xinhua

India pays homage to Mahatma Gandhi on 70th death anniversary

NEW DELHI — India Tuesday paid homage to pre-independence icon Mahatma Gandhi on his 70th death anniversary. Gandhi, also called the Father of the Nation, was assassinated by Nathuram Godse, a Hindu Nationalist, on this day in 1948, also known as Martyr's Day.

Indian President Ram Nath Kovind, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and main opposition Congress party's former chief Sonia Gandhi all paid tributes. "The nation gratefully remembers Mahatma Gandhi and the countless freedom fighters who sacrificed their lives for Independence," the Indian president tweeted.—Xinhua



The jet's price is predicted to be \$100-120 mln. PHOTO: TASS

Russia's first modern supersonic passenger jet can be designed in 7-8 years

MOSCOW — The first business jet in the history of modern Russia can be designed in 7-8 years if engine groundwork is completed, the Ministry of Industry and Trade told TASS on Monday. The seating capacity of such aircraft can be up to 50 passengers.

"Enterprises of the United Aircraft Corporation made the design groundwork for supersonic business jets. According to preliminary estimates, it will take about 7-8 years for the in-

dustry to design and develop the first demo flying prototype with the capacity up to 50 seats subject to power plant design groundwork completion," the ministerial press service said.

"Domestic market demand is forecast at the level of 20-30 airplanes with the price of \$100-120 mln [each]. The export potential can also be significant," the ministry said.

The United Aircraft Corporation (UAC) is already develop-

ing a supersonic passenger jet, where Tu-160 strategic bomber's development practices can be used, the corporation's press service reported earlier. The corporation works on development of a supersonic business jet having 25 seats, deputy CEO of Tupolev Design Bureau Valery Solozobov told TASS in November 2017.

Russia is capable of creating a supersonic jet without involvement of foreign partners,

editor-in-chief of Aviaru Network Roman Gusarov told TASS.

"Such a project is possible in terms of the technology. Russia can develop it independently, without participation of foreign partners. However, considering the high cost of project implementation, the market should be studied and it should be understood whether the potential demand for aircraft of such class is sufficient for payback under this project," Gusarov said.—Tass

US and Australia join search for survivors from missing Kiribati ferry

WELLINGTON—United States and Australian aircraft joined the search for passengers of a missing ferry off Kiribati on Tuesday, as rescuers scoured the central Pacific Ocean for a liferaft believed to be carrying survivors.

Eight people rescued from an drifting dinghy on the weekend said the ferry broke up soon after setting out on 18 January and that they had seen other passengers scramble aboard a liferaft.

"There is a definitely a possibility that the people in the liferaft are alive given

that only a short while ago we found people in an open dinghy alive," said New Zealand-based rescue coordinator Paul Craven.

"We're hoping in a liferaft they're actually in a better survival situation so that's why we've got such an intensive search going today," he said.

Authorities are uncertain how many people had been on board the ferry, Craven told Radio New Zealand. Reports from survivors and government officials varied between 35 and 100 people.

The 17-metre (56-foot) cat-

amaran was reported missing on 20 January, two days after it departed Nonouti Island on a 250 km (155 miles) trip to Betio in Kiribati.

Australia has sent a P-3 Orion surveillance aircraft to assist in the search and the US Coastguard has sent a Hercules aircraft from Hawaii to scour the northern part of the search area.

A New Zealand aircraft spotted a dinghy on Sunday with eight people, including a 14-year-old girl, who had been adrift for days without water. The eight were rescued by a

fishing vessel.

They told rescuers they had scrambled into their tiny dinghy as the ferry disintegrated soon after setting off and that other passengers had made it into another dinghy and a liferaft.

The second dinghy had broken up and likely sunk, Craven said, with the search was now focusing on finding the liferaft.

He said rescuers' main concern was that any survivors would be facing the heat for days without drinking water.—Reuters

Brunei ruler replaces top ministers in surprise cabinet reshuffle

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN — Brunei's ruler announced a major shake-up of his cabinet on Tuesday, replacing six top ministers just over a couple of years after they were appointed.

The tiny former British protectorate, nestled between two Malaysian states on the island of Borneo, relies on oil and gas exports, but is having to grapple with shrinking state revenue as global energy prices have tumbled over the last few years.

"I myself am of the opinion that the time has come for a cabinet reshuffle," Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah, 71, said in a televised address from his palace.

"I have decided to announce new appointments and changes to the cabinet." No immediate reason was given for the first cabinet reshuffle since October 2015. It follows the surprise dismissal of the health minister last December. Cabinet reshuffles typically only happen every

five years, but Tuesday's announcement saw several long-serving cabinet members replaced mid-term, including Second Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade Lim Jock Seng, Energy and Industry Minister Yasmin Umar, and Second Finance Minister Rahman Ibrahim.

Other ministers replaced include the education, development and communications ministers.

Two women promoted to deputy ministers in the cabinet took on positions in the prime minister's office and the education ministry.

The sultan, the world's second-longest reigning monarch, retained the key portfolios of prime minister, defence minister, finance minister and the minister of foreign affairs and trade.

Once declared the world's richest man, the sultan has a firm grip on power in the Muslim-majority country of 400,000 people. —Reuters

Volcanic alert raised for Mt Zao in northeastern Japan

TOKYO — Japan's weather agency raised on Tuesday the alert level for Mt Zao, a volcano near a popular ski area in northeastern Japan, citing the detection of volcanic tremors and warning of the possibility of a small eruption.

The alert on a scale of five has been raised from 1, which only indicates the "potential" for increased activity, to 2, a level advising people to refrain from approaching the crater, the Japan Meteorological Agency said.

The agency warned that an area within an

approximately 1.2-kilometre radius of the crater could see rocks raining down from above if a small eruption occurs.

Mt Zao straddles the border between prefectures of Miyagi and Yamagata.

According to the weather agency, volcanic tremors, caused by movements of hot subterranean water and volcanic gas, were observed over a period of 31 minutes from 2:18 pm on Tuesday and were larger than those recorded on Sunday and early Tuesday morning. —Kyodo News

Thailand's PM says needs a little more time in office to prepare for vote

BANGKOK — Thai Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha on Tuesday said he needed a little more time in office to prepare the country for a general election, just days after his deputy said a vote planned for this year could be delayed.

Prayuth, installed as prime minister in August 2014 after leading a coup that ousted a civilian government, has delayed the date of a general election several times. Most recently, he said an election would take place in November.

But last week Thailand's parliamentary body voted to postpone enforcement of a new election law by 90 days, dragging out the timeframe. At the time, the deputy prime minister said parliament's decision could delay the election until 2019.



Thailand's Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha. PHOTO: REUTERS

"Please give me some time to lay the foundation for the country, that's all," Prayuth told reporters after a weekly cabinet meeting on Tuesday.

"The length of this time depends on the law," he said, referring to last week's parliamentary deci-

sion. He did not give further details.

Prayuth is under pressure at home and abroad to return to civilian governance.

On Saturday, activists demanding an election this year gathered at a pedestrian bridge in central

Bangkok, in a rare show of dissent.

Government critics say the junta is deliberately delaying the vote in order to tighten its grip on power by ensuring that its allies win the vote.

Some critics say Prayuth would like to stay in power after a general election. Thailand's new constitution, which took effect last year, allows for an appointed prime minister.

Others have warned the junta needs to return Thailand to civilian rule within its promised timeframe, or risk fanning flames of discontent.

Prayuth addressed questions about waning public support. "This is normal. Any government in their third year all encounter this," he said on Tuesday. —Reuters ■

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V CAPE FLORES VOY. NO. ()

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V CAPE FLORES VOY. NO. () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 31-1-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of HPT 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 COSCO CONTAINER
LINES

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V MAENAM-1 VOY. NO. (005)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V MAENAM-1 VOY. NO. (005) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 31-1-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of HPT 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 INTERASIA LINES

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V SOUL OF LUCK VOY. NO. ()

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V SOUL OF LUCK VOY. NO. () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 31-1-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S MCC TRANSPORT
(S'PORE) PTE LTD

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V SEA PEARL VOY. NO. ()

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V SEA PEARL VOY. NO. () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 31-1-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of BSW 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 MCC TRANSPORT
(S'PORE) PTE LTD

Phone No: 2301185

Japan's cryptocurrency girl band stays loyal to virtual money after cyber heist

TOKYO — Members of a Japanese girl pop group, the Virtual Currency Girls, said on Monday they had refused an offer to be paid in yen and would stay loyal to cryptocurrencies despite a \$530 million cyber heist jeopardising their chances of getting paid.

A cryptocurrency account that pays part of the band's salary was among those frozen as a result of the suspension of trading at Tokyo-based Coincheck exchange on Friday following the theft of NEM, one of the world's most popular digital currencies.

"Our manager offered to pay us in yen, but we declined," said Hinano Shirahama, who is the band's bitcoin character.

Dressed in maid costumes and wearing wrestling masks adorned with fuzzy pom-pom ears and cryptocurrency symbols the eight Virtual Currency Girls are a pop music manifestation of the digital currency frenzy that has swept Japan and other parts of



In their debut, the eight "Virtual Currency Girls", or Kasotsuka Shojo in Japanese, cavorted in maid costumes with frilly skirts and full-face professional wrestling-style masks with fuzzy pom-pom ears, extolling the virtues of decentralized digital currencies such as bitcoin. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

the world.

Shirahama and other group members said they would stay together regardless of the setback. Formed by an entertainment promoter the band debuted

this month and have yet to garner a significant following.

Virtual Currency Girls, which performs songs such as "The Moon, Cryptocurrencies and Me" are paid in cryptocur-

rency for tickets and merchandise at their concerts.

Regulators fear both the rampant speculation in cryptocurrencies and risk that the markets could be used for funding

criminal and terrorist groups.

Japan's Financial Services Agency (FSA) only began requiring exchanges to register from April 2017. Half of the 32 operators are still awaiting approval.

In 2014, Japan's Mt Gox, which once handled 80 per cent of the world's bitcoin trades, filed for bankruptcy after losing around half a billion dollars worth of bitcoins.

Last month, South Korean exchange Youbit shut down and filed for bankruptcy after being hacked twice.

Japan's FSA on Friday criticized Coincheck for failing to take adequate security precautions to foil hacking attacks and said it would begin inspections at other exchanges.

"Coincheck has some responsibility, but the real culprit is the hacker," said Koharu Kamikawa wearing her fur-eared mask with the NEM cryptocurrency logo on her forehead. —Reuters ■

Meryl Streep wants to trademark her own name

LOS ANGELES — Meryl Streep, the most celebrated actress of her generation, has filed an application to trademark her name.

The application was filed with US Patent and Trademark Office on 22 January, records show. It requests that the name Meryl Streep be trademarked for "entertainment services,"

movie appearances, speaking engagements and autographs. Streep, 68, last week extended her record to 21 Academy Award nominations, this time for her role in "The Post." She has won three Oscars, three Emmys and six Golden Globes during her 40-year long career on stage, screen and television. It is not clear why

Streep would file a trademark application at this stage in her career and her attorney and publicist did not return a request for comment on Monday. Many celebrities trademark their names or catch phrases to protect their intellectual property, stop other people using them without permission, or to earn cash from

products bearing their name. Taylor Swift has filed some 60 trademark applications in the last 10 years, according to Patent Office records, including for phrases from her songs including "This Sick Beat" and "Nice to meet you. Where you been?" for use on clothing, hair accessories and notebooks. —Reuters ■

Amitabh Bachchan sends handwritten note to Ranveer Singh

MUMBAI — Megastar Amitabh Bachchan sent a handwritten note to Ranveer Singh praising him for his performance in his latest release "Padmaavat".

Calling the letter his "award", an overwhelmed Ranveer took to Twitter to share the picture of the note and a bouquet Bachchan sent him after watching the Sanjay Leela Bhansali period drama.

"Mujhe mera award mil gaya (I have got my award) @SrBachchan," the actor, who is receiving rave reviews for his portrayal of Sultan Alauddin Khilji in the magnum opus, captioned the tweet. Ranveer, 32, also received a handwritten note in 2015, after Bachchan had watched "Bajirao Mastani".

Featuring Deepika Padukone in the lead, "Padmaavat" also stars Shahid Kapoor, Jim Sarbh, Aditi Rao Hydari and Raza Murad.

The film is going strong at the box office, despite not releasing in some states and acts of vandalism across the country. —PTI ■



Penelope Cruz to receive honorary Cesar Award

LOS ANGELES — Penelope Cruz will receive an honorary Cesar Award, the French Academy has announced.

The 43-year-old actor will be bestowed with the honour during the annual awards ceremony, the French equivalent of the Academy Awards, according to The Hollywood Reporter. "Penelope Cruz has the talent to shine in international productions as much as in

(smaller) films, whether (she's working) for Ridley Scott, Rob Marshall, Kenneth Branagh, Sergio Castellitto, Fernando Trueba or Asghar Farhadi with whom she has just wrapped Everybody Knows (Todos Lo Saven) which will come out in May," Alain Terzian, the president of Frances Academy of Arts and Techniques of Cinema, said in a statement. During her two-decade long career, Cruz has won many awards, including an Oscar for Best Supporting Actress for her performance in "Vicky Cristina Barcelona" in 2008. She also won a BAFTA award for the Woody Allen film. The ceremony will be held on 2 March in Paris. —PTI ■

Penelope Cruz . **PHOTO: PTI**

Myanmar culture and art festival to mark Union Day

WITH the sponsorship of the Myanmar Cultural Heritage Preservation Organization, Myanmar culture and arts festival will mark the 71st Anniversary of the Union Day; it will be commemorated at the Seinn Lann So Pyay Garden in Yangon. The festival will be held between 11 to 13 February according to a member of the organization.

“On the occasion of the 71st Anniversary of Union Day, Myanmar’s ethnic people’s handicrafts will be displayed. Traditional dances of ethnic people will be performed food and clothing of ethnic people will be displayed. Visitors and tourists can see first-hand Myanmar culture and art under one roof. The festival is to mark

the yearly Union Day which has been held at the Seinn Lann So Pyay Garden for the last ten years. We plan to display great works representing Myanmar culture and art with assistance from the Myanmar cultural heritage preservation organization” said Daw Sandar Khin, Chairperson of the Myanmar cultural heritage preservation

organization at a press conference yesterday.

At the Myanmar culture and art festival, displays such as Amarapura textiles and silk, the Loonyar Kyaw woven garments, Inlay silk fabrics, the Kachin traditional hand-woven textiles, Kayan, Padaung and Chin hand-woven garments, Rakhine traditional goldsmith

jewellery, Sagaing silversmith jewellery, Myanmar traditional lacquerware products and Mon traditional slate tablets will be included.

The Myanmar cultural heritage preservation organization was established in June 2016 in order to preserve and sustain the cultural heritage of Myanmar.—Myanmar Digital News ■



in
Picture

Chinese dancing master Yang Liping presents dance drama in Tianjin

Chinese dancing master Yang Liping performs in her dance drama “Peacock of Winter” in Tianjin, north China on 29 January, 2018. PHOTO: XINHUA

Seminar on Executive Master in Leadership Strategy & Innovation in Nanyang International College

A SEMINAR on an Executive Master’s Degree in Leadership Strategy & Innovation of Murdoch University, Australia was held at Nanyang International College in Bahan Township, Yangon on Sunday.

At the seminar, Dr. Win Min Thein, explained the certificate, diploma and master degree courses offered by Nanyang International College. Nanyang International College is affili-

ated with Murdoch University, Australia and offers international-standard business courses to Myanmar students.

The Executive Master’s programme that will be opened soon is appropriate for senior executives, but also for fresh graduates.

Officials from the London Examination Board explained the teaching methodology and replied to questions raised by the attendees.—GNLM



Dr. Win Min Thein explains the courses offered by Nanyang International College. PHOTO: SUPPLIED

Chinese musicians striking a new note at Grammy

NEW YORK — Having seen few fellow Chinese musicians enter for awards or voting, two-time Grammy voting member Chen Zhen feels a strong sense of mission — to bring Chinese music to the world stage.

Chen became the prestigious music award’s voting member in 2016 as a New York-based multi-award winning concert pianist, composer and recording artist.

“I feel honoured to be invited to do the job,” he said on the sidelines of the 60th Grammy Awards held here on Sunday, adding that he wanted to see more Chinese making bold attempts to perform and compete on the world stage.

Three years ago, one of his albums received high applause from professional music review publications such as Fanfare. That was part of the reason he was invited to the Grammy.

Now Chen’s mission is to bring the East and West closer in sensibilities and musicality through composing and performing. His cross-cultural and cross-genre album, “ERGO”, which showcases new music for piano and Chinese folk instruments”, has received praise for its “expressive, evocative, and colorful” melodies.

Chen’s push ahead to fuse Eastern and Western music

has seen him, together with renowned pipa performer Ma Lin, record a new album, “On & Between.” The new music for pipa, a four-stringed Chinese musical instrument, and western ensembles depicts a new immigrant’s expectations, hope, anxiety and excitement, telling a story of adaptation survival, and self-discovery.

“The pipa is the main character (threading) through the

whole album,” Ma explained. “It stands for a Chinese girl who just came to New York City. She wandered, struggled and went through phases of growth. After years, she finally gained a foothold in the new land.”

To be released in May, the album contains 10 items. Each piece marks the stage of life and state of mind that the girl goes through, emphasized by the title.—Xinhua ■

Rare Picasso painting exhibited in Hong Kong, valued at 50 mln USD

HONG KONG — Powerful depiction of Picasso’s *Femme au beret et a la robe quadrillee* (Marie-Therese Walter), is exhibited in Hong Kong on Tuesday before it travels on, with a value of about 50 million US dollars.

The painting will be offered for the first time as a star lot of Sotheby’s Impressionist & Modern Art Evening Sale in London on 28 February.

James Mackie, head of the Impressionist & Modern Art

Department in London, said this work, completed in December 1937 and painted just months after *Guernica* and *The Weeping Woman*, emerges onto the market for the first time.

In the painting, a woman wears a beret and a red checkered dress. The work’s sharp cubistic edges, thick impastoed paint and black outlines give it an immediate visual impact — the emphatic execution and bold

palette packed with emotional charge.

A painting of heightened psychological intensity, the work brings to a climax of a turbulent and highly charged year in Picasso’s life.—Xinhua ■

Ayeyawady registers its first township football association

AYEYAWADY formed its first township football association in Danuphyu Township on Monday, according to the Myanmar Football Federation.

The party, led by Secretary of the implementation committee for forming the township football association U Ko Ko Thein and former footballers U Ye Nyunt and U Myo Hlaing Win, met with the Ayeyawady region cabinet members and officials from the Ministry of Health and Sports and the Ministry of Education, as well as township elders, in Danuphyu Township on Monday.

At the meeting, they explained the process of forming the football association of Danubyu and confirmed the formation of the association after conducting a poll.

The Football Association

of Danuphyu comprised 15 members: Chairman U Khin Thein (businessman); Vice Chairman (1) U San Oo; Vice Chairman (2) U Mya Kyaing; General Secretary U Thein San; Associate Secretary U Khin Oo; Financial Officer U Aung Soe; members U Myint Kyaw, U Ye Aung and U Aung kyaw Moe; Inspector Yan Naing Tun; former footballer U Sein Win; head coach U Tin Ohn; head referee U Tin Aung; Head of Women's Football Affairs Daw Sandar Lwin; and Futsal Affairs Head U Myint Soe.

Also, the members of the implementation committee for forming the township football association formed seven associations in Kayah State yesterday and will form others in townships across Myanmar. —GNLM ■

Yadanarbon Football Club tops table in MPT Myanmar National League 2018

THE Yadanarbon Football Club was placed at the top of the table in the MPT Myanmar National League 2018 after playing three matches.

The Yadanarbon FC won all three matches, scoring 11 goals and conceding only four.

Yangon United FC is in second place in the league, winning three matches and garnering seven goals while conceding two goals.

Gospel For Asia (GFA) FC is in third place, after one win, one draw and one loss. It made four goals and conceded three.

So far, the top scorers in the league are Yadanarbon FC's Sithu Aung, who scored five goals, followed

by Shan United FC's Christopher Chizoba and Yadanarbon FC's Myat Kaung Khant, both scoring three goals each.

GFA's Soe Min Tun, Yangon United FC's Sekousylla, Ayeyawady United FC's Edubat Patrick and Magwe FC's Aung Myint Tun are in third place, scoring two goals each.

Sithu Aung and Christopher Chizoba are the only two players to make a hat-trick. Sithu Aung took a hat-trick, scoring four goals against Ayeyawady United FC on 15 January, while Christopher Chizoba earned a hat-trick, shooting three goals against Rakhine United FC on 19 January. —GNLM ■



Australia's Tim Cahill. PHOTO: REUTERS

Australia's Cahill returns to Millwall after 13 years

LONDON — Australia forward Tim Cahill has returned to Millwall for the rest of the season, more than 13 years since his last appearance for the London side, the Championship club said on Monday.

The 38-year-old, who quit A-League team Melbourne City in December, had been seeking a new club to boost his chances

of playing for Australia at a fourth successive World Cup.

Australia's all-time top scorer with 50 goals, Cahill left Melbourne after netting 13 goals for the Manchester City-owned club in all competitions since joining in August 2016.

He scored twice to help Australia beat Syria in the Asian World Cup playoff in

October before they beat Honduras in the intercontinental playoff to reach this year's finals in Russia.

Cahill, who played for Premier League Everton and had stints in the United States and China, scored 57 goals for Millwall in 251 games from 1998 to 2004 to become a fans' favourite. — Reuters ■

Barca defender Pique extends contract until 2022

BARCELONA — Barcelona's Spain defender Gerard Pique has signed a contract extension until 2022 which will take him beyond his 35th birthday, the Liga club said on Monday.

"I am really happy to be celebrating my extension because this is my home and since my return, my desire has been to end my career here," said Pique, who will have served 14 years with the first team as a professional by the time the contract ends.

Pique started out in Barca's youth ranks before joining Manchester United in 2004 but returned to the Nou Camp four years later and has since played over 250 league games.

"It's a special day, Gerard Pique is an experienced player,



FC Barcelona's soccer player Gerard Pique attends a news conference after he signs a renewal contract at Camp Nou in Barcelona, Spain on 29 January, 2018. PHOTO: REUTERS

a Barca fan from birth and let's hope we can continue to keep winning trophies. The deal was an easy one," Barca president Josep Maria Bartomeu told a news conference. Pique also said on the club's website (www.fcbarcelona.com) that there was never any question of him playing anywhere else. "I can only see myself in a Barca shirt.

If I had not extended my contract then I would have stopped playing because I only play football because I play for Barca," he said. Pique has won three Champions League and six Liga titles plus five King's Cup, five Spanish Super Cup, two European Super Cup and three FIFA Club World Cup trophies with Barca. —Reuters ■