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State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi delivers a speech at the Nay Pyi Taw diplomatic zone land policy coordination meeting. **PHOTO: MNA**

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi addresses Nay Pyi Taw diplomatic zone meeting

A Nay Pyi Taw diplomatic zone land policy coordination meeting was held yesterday morning at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, where State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi delivered a speech.

Also present at the meeting were Union Ministers U Kyaw Tint Swe, U Thant Sin Maung, Dr. Myo Thein Gyi, U Kyaw Win, U Win Khaing and U Kyaw Tin, Union Attorney-General U Tun Tun Oo, Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman Dr. Myo Aung, Deputy Ministers

Maj-Gen Aung Soe, Yangon City Mayor U Maung Maung Soe, Nay Pyi Taw Council members, Permanent Secretaries and officials.

At the meeting the State Counsellor said Nay Pyi Taw is where the Myanmar government sits and as a capital city, policies were already set for foreign embassies to move from Yangon to Nay Pyi Taw. To ease the work of the embassies, for their personnel to live conveniently and to concur to reasonable matters requested

by the embassies, these policies need to be reviewed in a practical way. Ways and means need to be found to raise the communications, transports, education and health services provided added the State Counsellor.

The government has urged foreign embassies in Yangon to relocate to Nay Pyi Taw. One-hundred and twenty plots of land have been reserved for this purpose.

Union Minister for International Cooperation U Kyaw Tin and Nay Pyi Taw Council Chair-

man Dr. Myo Aung explained the plots in the Nay Pyi Taw diplomatic zone and construction of the diplomatic zone.

Afterwards, Union Ministers, the Union Attorney General and officials discussed policy matters related to the plots in the Nay Pyi Taw diplomatic zone and arrangements made for the earliest relocation of foreign embassies to Nay Pyi Taw. The State Counsellor coordinated the discussions and raised questions on some matters.— Myanmar News Agency ■

Domestic tourism industry not likely to decline this year

THE domestic tourism industry is not likely to decline this year because of the boost it has received this season, according to a report in Myawady Daily yesterday.

“Since 2010, domestic tourism has developed significantly. Now, the tourism industry can rely on domestic travellers in case of a decrease in the number of foreign tourists,” said U Than Htay, chairman of Domestic Pilgrimage and Tour Operators Association.

Some places restrict entry to foreign travellers, whereas local travellers are free to move anywhere across the country. Recently, the number of tourist destinations has also been increased in the country.

According to the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism, there were more than 8 million local travellers in 2017, an increase of one million compared with 2016. The number of local travellers is double the number of foreign travellers.

In 2016 and 2017, 52 per cent of the local travellers visited Inle, 46 per cent visited Kyaikto, 28 per cent visited the Sagaing region, 35 per cent visited Ngwehsaung beach, 27 per cent visited Chaungtha beach and 16 per cent visited the Mandalay region. —GNLM ■



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Pyidaungsu Hluttaw

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw discusses National Planning Bill

Myo Myint, Mi Mi Phyo
(MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY)

THE seventh regular session of the second Pyidaungsu Hluttaw held its eighth-day meeting at the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw meeting hall yesterday morning.

At the meeting, a report on the findings and comments of the National Planning Bill was submitted; reports on the findings and comments of the Joint Bill Committee and the Public Accounts Joint Committee explained to the Hluttaw, while the Hluttaw representatives discussed a loan from the Japan International Cooperation Agency.

First, a report on the findings and comments of the Joint Bill Committee on the National Planning Bill for the six-month period from April to September 2018 was read and explained by Joint Bill Committee Deputy Chairman U Tun Tun Hein.

The suggestion and comment part of the report noted that only the investment amount for works to be conducted during the six-month period from April to September 2018 was shown, but the status of the projects had not been described. The National Planning Law is enacted to implement the national plans completely, and project



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

works undertaken through the law should not only show the investment amount but the completion status of each project and works to be completed in the coming fiscal year. Therefore, the National Planning Bill should include the reports of the projects being implemented by each ministerial department of the union.

The machinery, office equipment and furniture required for the projects and works of the union ministerial departments and organisations need to be shown accurately, along with the measurements, standards and norms.

The planning, implementation and assessment of the projects and works of the relevant departments and organisations should be conducted according to set procedures, starting from the township level, with the full cooperation of the officials from the Ministry of Planning and Finance, responsible persons and organisations. The report suggested implementing effective action, according to the rules and regulations, against the person(s), department(s) and organisation(s) that fail to do their duty.

The Hluttaw then asked

those wanting to discuss the policy, its basic principle and project works in the bill to enrol their names.

Next, the reports on the findings and comments of the Joint Bill Committee and the Public Accounts Joint Committee on the 2018 Union Budget Bill were read by the officials of the committees.

The report of the Joint Bill Committee was read and explained by committee Vice Chairman (1) U Zaw Min, while the report of the Public Accounts Joint Committee was read and explained by committee Vice

Chairman (2) U Aung Min.

Those wanting to discuss the bill were asked to enrol their names.

Later, the matter of obtaining a loan from the Japan International Cooperation Agency, sent by the President, was discussed by the Hluttaw representatives.

The loan is for the development of small and medium enterprises and was discussed by Daw Cho Cho of Ottwin constituency, U Khin Cho of Hlaing-bwe constituency, Dr. Khin Soe Soe Kyi of Pyay constituency, U Than Soe, also known as Than Soe (Economic), of Yangon region constituency (4), Dr. Tin Tin Win of Bago Region constituency (5), U Tin Tun Naing of Seik-kyi Khanaungto constituency, U Nay Kyaw of Dagon Myothit (East) constituency, Daw Shwe Shwe Sein Latt of the Bago Region constituency (3), U Aung Hlaing Win of Mingaladon constituency, U Khin Maung Thi of Loilem constituency, Dr. Pyae Phyo of the Ayeyawady region constituency (7) and Dr. Saw Naing of South Okkalapa constituency.

An explanation by union-level organisations and the decision of the Hluttaw on the loan is scheduled to be held during the ninth-day meeting. ■



Speaker of the Amyotha Hluttaw Mahn Win Khaing Than holds talks with Mr. Pier Antonio Panzeri in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA

Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than receives Chair of the European Parliament's Subcommittee on Human Rights

SPEAKER of the Amyotha Hluttaw Mahn Win Khaing Than received a delegation led by Mr. Pier Antonio Panzeri, Chair of the European Parliament's Subcommittee on Human Rights, at the reception hall of the Amyotha

Hluttaw in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon. Also present at the meeting were Deputy Speaker of the Amyotha Hluttaw U Aye Tha Aung and other Hluttaw officials.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Win Myint receives Ambassador of Morocco to Myanmar

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Win Myint received the Ambassador of Morocco to Myanmar H.E. Mr. Abdelilah El Housni at the Hluttaw building of the Pyithu Hluttaw in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the meeting, they discussed matters relating to bilateral friendship and cooperation, the tourism sector, investment and Hluttaw cooperation.

Deputy Speaker U T Khun Myat and other officials also attended the meeting.— Myanmar News Agency ■



Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Win Myint Shakes hands with Mr. Abdelilah El Housni, Ambassador of Morocco to Myanmar. PHOTO: MNA

Vice President U Myint Swe attends meeting on awarding religious titles, donation of rations

A work coordination meeting of the Patron Committee and Steering Committee to successfully hold the ceremony to award religious titles and donate dry rations, was held at the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture's meeting hall yesterday morning, which was attended by Vice President U Myint Swe.

The meeting was also attended by Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture Thura U Aung Ko, Nay Pyi Taw Command Commander Maj-Gen Myint Maw, Deputy Minister for Transport and Communications U Tha Oo, Nay Pyi Taw Council member U Aung Myint Tun, chairmen and members of the steering committee, work committee and sub-committees, and other departmental officials.

In his speech at the meeting, U Myint Swe said that to successfully hold the ceremony, a five-member patron committee, including the Vice President and an 18-member steering committee, led by the Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture as the chairman, was formed by the President's office through Notice No. 10/2018 on 10 January 2018. On 12 January 2018, the steering committee formed a work committee and 11 sub-committees, and assigned duties and responsibilities to conduct the works successfully and systematically, he said.

These are union-level cer-



Vice President U Myint Swe addresses the coordination meeting of the patron committee and steering committee to successfully hold the ceremony to award religious titles and donate dry rations in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

emonies and were traditionally held since the days of the Myanmar kings. They had been held by successive governments to confer the highest religious titles. The day before the titles are presented, the Government of the Republic of Union of Myanmar offers "soon." On the full-moon day of Tabauung, religious titles are conferred and then the ceremony for the donation of dry rations is held. Therefore, the work committee and the sub-committees need to work in cooperation and coordination, and based on the experiences of the ceremonies held earlier, need to ensure there are no mis-

takes, the Vice President stated.

The Sayadaws attending the ceremonies will reach Nay Pyi Taw from Yangon by air and the Ministry of Transport and Communications has been requested to ensure that the Sayadaws can take the flights accordingly. Arrangements have to be made so that they can offer "soon" in the morning and noon at their hotels and monasteries. Arrangements will also have to be made for healthcare, as in the past years, while the offerings and the Sasana Maha Beikman in which the ceremonies will be held have to be worthy of reverence. The relevant committees

need to co-ordinate with each other, said the Vice President.

As the ceremony for the donation of dry rations will follow the ceremony to award religious titles, rehearsals have to be held so that there is no delay during the actual ceremonies. The steering committee, work committee and sub-committees are urged to openly discuss the completed and ongoing works, as well as the difficulties faced by them, said the Vice President.

Next, Thura U Aung Ko explained the status of awarding religious titles, the arrangements being made for the sanghas, nuns and the people on the

day of the ceremonies, the preparations being made at the venues for the ceremonies, transport and other arrangements for the Sayadaws, and the rehearsals.

Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture Permanent Secretary U Htun Ohn then explained about the ceremony, the status of the work done by the work committee and the remaining works.

Later, the sub-committees reported on their respective works. The Vice President coordinated the discussions and reports, and concluded the meeting after delivering a closing speech. — Myanmar News Agency ■

Thai King confers Knight Grand Cross honour on Senior General Min Aung Hlaing

AT the invitation of the Chief of Defence Forces of the Royal Thai Armed Forces Gen. Tarnchaiyan Srisuwan, Senior General Min Aung Hlaing attended a ceremony to receive the Knight Grand Cross (First Class) of the Most Exalted Order of the White Elephant by the Thai King in Thailand.

Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and party went to the office of the Thai Armed Forces and received a Guard of Honour, with Chief of Defence Forces of the Royal Thai Armed Forces Gen. Tarnchaiyan Srisu-

wan.

During the ceremony, the Master of Ceremonies read the message presented from Deputy Prime Minister and Defence Minister Gen. Prawit Wongsuwan. Chief of Defence Forces of Royal Thai Armed Force General Tarnchaiyan Srisuwan conferred the title on Senior General Min Aung Hlaing.

The Chief of Defence Forces of the Royal Thai Armed Forces Gen. Tarnchaiyan Srisuwan spoke words of honour and Senior General Min Aung Hlaing gave words of thanks.

The order of the Crown was



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and Chief of Defence Force of the Royal Thai Armed Forces Gen. Tarnchaiyan Srisuwan inspect the Guard of Honour in Thailand. **PHOTO: MNA**

established in 1869 by King Rama V and is awarded to royalty, government employees and foreign dignitaries for their outstanding services to Thailand.

Senior General Min Aung

Hlaing has received the award, the Knight Grand Cross (First Class) of the Most Exalted Order of the White Elephant in 2013.

This award was established in 1869 by King Rama V and it

has been awarded to the King of Cambodia Norodom Sihamoni, the Earl Mountbatten of Burma, Queen Victoria and United States Army general William Westmoreland.—Myanmar News Agency ■

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105 fish species found in Indawgyi Lake

A fish survey was conducted during the 2017-2018 fiscal year. It was a joint venture between the Department of Environment and Wildlife Conservation and the Friends of Wildlife-FOW at Indawgyi Lake. After conducting the fish survey, members of the groups found 105 fish species.

The registration of catching fish was carried out in four villages by the Department of Environment and Wildlife Conservation and the FOW group starting from April to December in 2017, this was the sixth time the registration process took place. And then they found that there were 105 fish species.

"There are restricted areas where fishing is prohibited and there are distribution zones for fish species under the management of the Department of Fisheries. In addition, fish conservation areas



Indawgyi Lake in Mohnyin, Kachin State. **PHOTO: SUPPLIED**

(distribution zones) and related areas were investigated fifteen days every month" said an official from the Department of Fisheries. In the areas of Indawgyi, Shan, Kachin, Kadu, Kanan ethnic people and Bamar reside and they earn money from fisheries, agriculture, livestock and

other jobs. The fishermen from seventeen villages catch over three hundred thousand viss of fish yearly.

The cooperation groups specified the restricted areas where fishing is prohibited in order to conserve the fish species in addition to increasing the fish

population on a yearly basis. The Department of fisheries also issued a notice to fishermen that if they break the restriction, action will be taken against local fishermen under the Freshwater Fish Act according to the Department of Fisheries.—Myanmar Digital News ■

Gov't relaxes restrictions in some areas of Mon, Kayah states

TO develop the tourism sector and bring in more foreign direct investments, the Myanmar government has eased restrictions in some areas of Mon and Kayah states, according to a report in Myawady Daily yesterday.

Restrictions have been relaxed in some 19 areas, including nine areas in Mon State and 10 areas in Kayah State. The relaxation in restrictions has attracted more tourists to

these areas.

The nine areas where restrictions have been eased in Mon state are: Kalarta Mountain in Bilin Township, Kyaukpi Pagoda and Kyauktaga Pagoda near Maelan Village, Mya Tapaik Pagoda in Naekae ward in Thaton Township, Waekale Hot Water Spring, Ngapa Hsargwin, Death Railway Museum, War Cemetery, Kyaikkami Yele Pagoda and Setse Beach in Thanbyuzayat Township.

The 10 areas in Kayah State are: Dawkalawdu and Taninlarlae villages in Dawkalawdu village tract; Ngwe Taung Village in Ngwe Taung village tract; Panpatywanku, Panpathsaunglu, Panpatpaemahsaung, Panpatkataeku and Panpatkawki villages in Panpat village tract in Demoso Township; and wards in Bawlakhe, Hpa-sawng and Mese towns on the Thailand border trade road.—GNLM ■

Police take action against 98 taxis that failed to remove stickers

THE Yangon traffic police have taken action against 98 taxis that defied instructions to remove stickers, according to No. 2 Yangon region traffic police.

Authorities had announced that taxis in the Yangon Region must remove window shades, stickers and advertising, which could obscure the view inside, by 1 February.

Disobeying the instructions attracts a fine of Ks30,000 under the 2015 Automobile Law. The Road Transport Administration Department has also warned taxi drivers that their licenses would be revoked.

"We are taking action against taxis still displaying stickers, as instructed by our senior authorities," said a traffic police officer.

The Yangon Region Transport Authority has also instructed all taxis in the Yangon region to register as city taxis.—Myanmar Digital News ■

60-year-old woman killed in car fire

A 60-year-old woman, Daw Hla Yi, was killed when the car she was travelling in caught fire after it overturned, in Kanbalu District, Sagaing Region, on Thursday morning, the police reported yesterday.

According to the traffic police, the incident occurred at around 8 am between mile posts No. 28/4 and 28/5 near bridge No. 1/50 on Mandalay-Shwebo-Myintkyina Union Highway, close to Htockshar Village in Zegon Town. Daw Hla Yi died on the spot while nine other passengers who had sustained minor injuries were taken to the nearby hospital immediately. The police are still investigating the case and are on the lookout for the driver of the car, identified as Pyae Sone Aung, 25, who fled the scene after the accident. Charges will be filed against him for reckless driving under Section 337/338/304 (a) and 285 of the Penal Code.—Chit San (KhinU) ■



Burnt car seen in Kanbalu, Sagaing Region on Thursday. **PHOTO: SUPPLIED**



Farmers work at a field in Kangyidaung, Ayeyawady. PHOTO: GNLM/PHOE KHWAR

Myanmar's rice export volume skyrockets

THE agricultural sector is the lifeblood of Myanmar. Myanmar was the world's largest exporter of rice in the mid 20th century.

Being an agrobased country, Myanmar's major exports are agricultural products and rice is one of them. More than 75 per cent of total rice production is consumed in the country where over 70 per cent of the total population reside in rural areas and surplus rice volume is being exported to foreign countries.

Myanmar's rice exports have risen to their highest level

in 55 years in the current 2017-18 fiscal year (From April to February), with rice and broken rice exports estimated to have increased to more than 3 million tones, earning US\$ 949 million, 1.39 million tons of rice worth US\$ 406 million was shipped by sea. In addition, 1.633 million tons of rice valued at US\$ 543 million was exported to neighboring countries via border trade routes.

Myanmar exported about 1.24 million tons of rice and broken rice in the previous fiscal year and fetched US\$ 405 million, amounting to 1.78 million

tons of rice and US\$ 544 million in the current fiscal year. Myanmar has seen a dramatic increase in agricultural exports, earning US\$ 2.542 billion in the current financial year.

Myanmar's rice and broken rice are mostly exported to 62 countries including China, Bangladesh, West African countries, Belgium and Sri Lanka, up from 40 countries compared to the previous year. Myanmar is looking to become one of the world's top three rice exporters in the next few years.—Myanmar Digital News ■

Border trade with ITCs reaches Ks36.76 billion as of 2 February

THE value of border trade with the use of individual trading cards (ITCs) reached Ks36.76 billion as of 2 February this fiscal year (FY), including Ks3.7 billion in exports and Ks33 billion in imports, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

The Myawady border trade gate has reported to have seen the largest volume of trade, which was worth more than Ks27.6 billion. According to the ministry's statistics, the value of exports using ITCs was Ks6.8 million, as of 2 February this FY, while

the import value was Ks27.64 billion.

The value of trade using ITCs at the border points was: Ks2 billion at Tamu trade camp, Ks43.4 million at Muse border gate, Ks893 million at Tachilek trade camp, Ks70.5 million at Lwejel trade camp, Ks4 million at Chin Shwe Haw border gate, Ks1.6 billion at Kanpiketee, Ks718 million at Kawthoung border town, Ks955 million at Reed border trade camp, Ks0.628 million at Htantalan border trade camp,

Ks25 billion at Mawtaung gate, and Ks160 million at Kengtung border trade camp.

The value of total trade value using ITCs was Ks18.97 billion in the 2016-2017 FY. The Ministry of Commerce has permitted 292 ITCs in the 2012-2013 FY, 261 cards in the 2013-2014 FY, 317 cards in the 2014-2015 FY, 146 cards in the 2015-2016 FY, 248 cards in the 2016-2017 FY, and 151 cards this FY, as of 2 February.

From its introduction till date, the ministry has issued some 1,415 ITCs. — Zwe ■

Forest product exports decrease by over \$19 million

THE export value of forest products was more than US\$185 million this financial year, registering a decrease of \$19.5 million compared with the same period last fiscal year (FY), according to the commerce ministry.

As of 9 February this year, the country exported a wide variety of forest products, including bamboo and other non-wood products, which had a value of \$185.238 million, including \$12 million from the public sector and \$172 million from the private sector.

During the first 10 and

a half months of this FY, bilateral exports between Myanmar and overseas traders topped \$12 billion, including \$8 billion from the private sector and \$4 billion from the public sector.

According to the ministry's latest statistics, the country exported agro products worth nearly \$2.6 billion, animal products worth \$36 million, marine products worth \$582 million, minerals worth \$1.241 billion, manufactured goods worth \$5.678 billion and other products with an estimated value of \$1.9 billion.—Khine Khant

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• Market Place by City Mart (Junction City)	• City Mart (Sule Square)
• City Mart (Aung San Stadium)	• City Mart (Star City - Thanlyin)
• City Mart (47th street)	• City Mart (Waizayandar)
• City Mart (Yankin)	• City Mart (Hledan)
• City Mart (China Town)	• City Mart (Myanmar Plaza)
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The Report to the People on the Progress of Implementation of the Recommendations on Rakhine State

(CONTINUED FROM 13-2-2018)

Media Access

25. After the incident in October, 2016, eight media tours were arranged for domestic and international media to visit Maungdaw area and IDP camps in Rakhine State to date. The domestic and international media were also sponsored to accompany on two of the field visits of diplomatic heads from the foreign missions in Myanmar and the military personnel. Currently media access is being provided to domestic and international media twice a month.

26. In order to improve information sharing related to Rakhine State, not only the state-owned media but also the social media such as Facebook and Twitter are used. May Yu FM, with the broadcast range covering the Maungdaw District, has been broadcasting educational and awareness programs in Myanmar, Rakhine and Bengali languages six times a day. Radios are also provided free to the local communities.

Education

27. The projects and activities implemented in the education sector in Rakhine State from April to December, 2017 are listed below:

- (a) Out of 424 schools that were closed after the violent incident, 290 schools have been reopened.
- (b) Stipend of MMK 28.53 million and 4,000 school uniforms in a total value of MMK 8.00 million were supported to 2,189 basic education students in Rakhine State.
- (c) MMK 22.5 million has been supported to 450 teachers assigned in Maungdaw and Buthidaung Township in Rakhine State. Security is being provided by the Government for its staff.
- (d) In order to assist 61 local Muslim students to be able sit in the examinations of the University of Distance Education, intensive courses were offered at the Government Technical Institute (GTI) in Thandwe from 27-10-2017 to 29-11-2017.
- (e) 9 Muslim students were admitted at the University of Distance Education (Sittwe) and 39 Muslim students at the University of Distance Education (Toungup).
- (f) Pilot projects for literacy campaign are planned in Shwe Zaa, Maung Ni, Pan Taw Pyin, Shwe Zaa Sayti Pyin and Thayet Oat villages for the children from local Muslim communities to gain basic Myanmar language skills.
- (g) Education is being provided to the students from IDP camps at Thetkaepyin Ywama post-primary school, Thinganet post-primary school and Tharyargone post-primary school. The students who completed their studies at those schools can continue their education at Thetkaepyingone high school. Teacher trainings will be provided to those who have not completed the trainings.

Health

28. Awareness has been raised among all the communities in Rakhine State to get the message across that anyone can access healthcare services. As a result, healthcare services were provided as shown in the following table.

Sr.	Descriptions	Number of Patients			
		In-patient		Out-patient	
		Ethnic	Muslim	Ethnic	Muslim
1.	Healthcare provided in hospitals:				
	(a) Sittwe General Hospital	39,640	828	17,207	696
	(b) Thetkelpyin Hospital	0	11,470	0	931
	(c) Rathetaung Hospital	851	0	1,581	0
	(d) Buthidaung Hospital	1,334	1,626	1,081	1,068
	(e) Maungdaw Hospital	947	762	2,602	1,403
2.	Healthcare provision by mobile teams :				
	(a) Maungdaw Township		20,712		
	(b) Buthidaung Township		17,310		
	(c) Sittwe and other townships		72,174		
3.	Healthcare provision by mobile specialist teams		1,276		

29. At every hospital and healthcare center, the signboards, giving information in Rakhine, Bengali and English languages, are posted to inform that everyone is welcome to seek healthcare services and also that hospitals and healthcare centers are “protected zones” where the people coming to receive care are granted with a safe environment.

30. Health education and health news reports are regularly broadcast in Bengali language on May Yu FM radio as parts of its program. Five topics on health education programmes were broadcast in October, five in November, and increased to seven in December.

31. The Community Health Care Training was conducted for two times and joined by a total of 72 community health workers, including Muslim health workers.

32. 197 items of medicines and hospital equipment were provided to 24 public hospitals within Rakhine State. Likewise, medicines and medical equipment, X-ray machine and laboratory equipment were also provided to Tanung Pyo Letwe Hospital in Maungdaw Township.

33. At Buthidaung Township Hospital, it has been planned to set up a small blood bank with the support of JICA. Arrangements have been made to procure necessary machines and equipment including cold chain cabinet powered with solar system to store blood and to transport them to the Hospital.

34. So as to have a proportionate ratio between the population and health personnel in Rakhine State, 34 new doctors, one new dentist and 64 new nurses have already been recruited and appointed. As part of the government program to increase healthcare capacity, a total number of 430 nurses and midwives were trained at the Nurses and Midwives Training Institute (Sittwe) as well as a total number of 101 trainees were trained in a six-month training course on Public Health Supervisor (Grade 2) in Sittwe.

35. As one of the efforts to upgrade health infrastructure in Rakhine State, a master plan on upgrading of Sittwe General Hospital is being drafted and survey activities for measuring hospital buildings both inside and outside as well as topographic survey have been conducted. The activities to be implemented phase by phase have been prioritized.

36. To contribute to combatting malnutrition across the state, a survey is being conducted to assess the nutritional status and physical growth of the children in Rakhine State. A total of 30 enumeration areas (EAs) are selected and the survey has been completed in 4 EAs and is still ongoing in 2 EAs. In the routine nutrition program, the nutritional status of the children is regularly checked and 37 kinds of nutrition supplements and other medicines including vitamin tablets and micronutrient tablets have been provided to date.

37. During the reporting period, healthcare personnel, including Muslim healthcare workers, were trained on immunization. Supplementary oral polio immunization campaigns were conducted in Rakhine State and those campaigns also covered Maungdaw Township and Buthidaung Township. The campaigns benefitted 79,196 children as the first batch and 71,330 children as the second batch in Maungdaw Township as well as the first batch of 57,587 and the second batch of 57,587 children in Buthidaung Township. Similarly, the Japanese Encephalitis mass immunization campaigns reached 28,265 children in Maungdaw and 34,507 children in Buthidaung.

38. As part of the Expanded Program on Immunization (EPI), 614 children under one and 137 pregnant women were provided required vaccines in Muslim villages within Pauktaw Township.

Drugs

39. To reduce the threats of drug abuse, the following measures were carried out:

- (a) Two trainings for Volunteer Narcotic Drug Supervisors were conducted, with a focus on reducing drug abuse and the rehabilitation of those who had stopped using narcotic drugs.
- (b) Legal actions were taken against a total of 18 personnel, two police officers and 16 police of other ranks who were found guilty in narcotics related corruption cases.
- (c) To raise awareness about narcotics among the public, 441 educational talks were conducted, gathering 21,697 people including students.
- (d) From 1 January 2017 to 22 November 2017, there were a total number of 138 drug-related crimes investigated in Rakhine State and 191 people were brought to court. Different kinds of narcotic drugs which were worth about MMK 65 million were seized.

FROM PAGE-6

Communal Participation and Representation

40. Restrictions on registration of civil society organizations have been relaxed and a total of 88 organizations have been registered during the reporting period.

41. In accordance with the Ward/Village Tract Administration Law and Rules, the new elections for ten- and hundred- household heads were held and a total number of 1,063 heads were elected in 151 wards and 912 village tracts.

42. Terms of reference and code of ethics for the Camp Management Committee in IDP camps are under review for amendments.

Inter-communal Cohesion

43. The activities undertaken for inter-communal cohesion are summarized below.

- The Committee for Implementation of the Recommendations on Rakhine State met and discussed with members of 15 CSOs and youth representatives in Rakhine State on 28 October 2017.
- The Diversity Management in the Age of Globalization Forum was held in Nay Pyi Taw on 21 and 22 November, which gathered national and international experts, people from all walks of life and people from different communities of Rakhine State. After the Forum, a meeting on local development and inter-communal cohesion was convened with the participation of the representatives from religious organizations in Rakhine State, various ethnic groups, and minority groups at the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement.
- As a cultural communication and mass participatory movement, an audition was conducted on 25 September, 2017 for Peace Music Festival in Sittwe, Rakhine State.

Security Sector

44. To strengthen the security in Rakhine State, the following measures were taken.

- A total number of 30 police officers and police of other ranks from Myanmar Police Force attended Community Policing (Multiplier) Training Course No. (1/2017). 10 police officers from Myanmar Police Force also joined the Community Policing Training conducted in Japan.
- Systematic Crowd Management (Multiplier) Training Course No. (1/2017) was provided to 130 police officers and police of other ranks.
- (Multiplier) Training on Gender-Based Violence was conducted for 30 police officers and police of other ranks from Myanmar Police Force.
- All the police personnel on duty are required to wear visible name badges.
- 14 CCTV cameras were installed at the checkpoints of No. (1) Border Guard Police Headquarters, the police squad stations and Chaung Pauk Wa police outpost.
- Local Dialect Training Course No. (1/2017) was delivered to 30 police officers and police of other ranks from Rakhine State.
- 13 police officers and 14 police of other ranks, totaling 27 policemen were found guilty of violating police code of conducts and the actions were taken against them in accordance with Myanmar Police Force Discipline Maintenance Law.

Access to Justice

45. The civil servants of the judicial sector of Rakhine State were sent to the following trainings and workshops related to the principles and procedures of rule of law:

- Fair Trial Standards, and Human Rights Additional Refresher Training delivered at Rakhine State High Court, jointly organized by Union Supreme Court and UNDP;
- Multiplier training on the principles of rule of law, access to justice, accountability and transparency, gender equality and international standards for justice conducted at Thandwe District Court,

joined by 10 trainees from 21 to 25 October, 2017, at Kyaukphyu District Court, joined by 9 trainees from 11 to 16 December, 2017.

Cultural Development

46. The following activities have been carried out, among others, to promote cultural development in Rakhine State:

- As part of the efforts made for the inclusion of Mrauk U on the UNESCO's list of World Heritage sites, GIS Team is making field visits to the villages in Mrauk U area; the hill where the Mrauk U Palace is situated and its surrounding areas are cleaned up; awareness is raised among the communities in the urban wards for proper disposal of waste; and stone posts are set up for use as signs of demarcation of zones.
- Manuscript copies of stone inscriptions in the Mruak U Museum have been underway, namely Pyaingcha, O Htain, Wunti Nat Taung, Zonedat Letyarpayanchi, Htayin Nawin, Pangonethein Pagoda, U Mya Wah, Shitthaung Pagoda, Bawdi Shwegu, Lesekan Wall stone, and Vesali Period inscriptions.
- Manuscript copies of stone inscriptions in the Sittwe Cultural Museum have also been in progress, namely a part of throne with inscription and stone inscriptions in Sanskrit language, Bukwe stone inscriptions from Pyinlegaung Temple and an anonymous stone inscription.
- The applications for Sri Moha Dev Bari Hindu Temple and U Ye Kyaw Thu Monastery to be conserved and protected as historic buildings were submitted.
- In addition, the historical data of the following historic, cultural and religious sites and monuments in Sittwe have been collected and documented: Sadhamma Jotikayone Temple which was built in 1885; U Sandima Temple two lion statues built in 1879; Theintawgyi in Amyotha Temple built in 1254 ME; Shwepya Temple built in 1901 and Theintawgyi built in 1916 within the compound of Shwepya Temple.

Border Issues and the Bilateral Relationship with Bangladesh

47. The improvements achieved in dealing with border issues, bilateral relationship with Bangladesh, and border trade and investments are briefly described below.

- During the visit of Minister for Home Affairs of Bangladesh in October, 2017, the "MoU on Establishment of Border Liaison Office – BLOs" and "MoU on Security Dialogue and Cooperation" were signed between the two countries on 24 October, 2017.
- For the purpose of enhancing bilateral trade and investments, the two countries are taking turns hosting Joint Trade Committee (JTC) meetings once a year. As a result, the total export, import and trade achieved were USD 0.222 million, USD 0.002 million, and USD 0.224 million respectively.
- Maungdaw Trade Center could resume its trade activities starting from 14 October, 2017 and it has achieved USD 0.397 million worth of the total export to date.

Regional Relations

48. The Government is briefing and updating neighbouring countries in the ASEAN Region, on a regular basis, on the situations in Rakhine State and its policies and plans on Rakhine State via the following various ways - communications with ASEAN embassies in Myanmar; communications, through Myanmar embassies, with the governments of the neighbouring countries and the ambassadors of other foreign embassies based in those respective countries; at the ASEAN summits, ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meetings and ASEAN Senior Officials' meetings; at 13th ASEM Foreign Ministers' Meeting; at 31st ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Disaster Management and

related meetings; and also during receptions of responsible persons from international organizations.

Implementation of the Commission's Recommendations

49. The Government is making every effort for effective implementation of the recommendations of the Commission and some of these efforts are outlined below.

- "The Committee for Implementation of the Recommendations on Rakhine State" chaired by the Union Minister of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement was established with 19 members, through the Order No. 83/2017 dated 9 October, 2017.
- During the year 2017, 10 coordination meetings of the Committee were held with a focus on supporting and coordinating immediate, short-term and long-term plans and priorities to be carried out by respective ministries for successful implementation of the recommendations on Rakhine State.
- The Secretariat of the Committee for Implementation of the Recommendations on Rakhine State is operated by a multi-disciplinary team formed with a range of government officers and staff from different related ministries, external IT technicians and experts on related subject matters.
- The operational expenses for the Secretariat Office of the Committee for Implementation of the Recommendations on Rakhine State are borne by the President Office.
- The financial and technical support and contributions needed for different sectors of the development of Rakhine State have been systematically mobilized under the leadership of Union Enterprise for Humanitarian Assistance, Resettlement and Development in Rakhine -UEHRD.

Conclusion

50. In sum, it is reported to the people that the Government is making continuous and unremitting efforts to provide sufficient electrical power supply and to improve transportation and communications, which are fundamental to the socioeconomic development and creation of employment opportunities in Rakhine State, and also is stepping up the work for freedom of movement, closure of IDP camps and national verification process, through special projects, which are critical elements to end conflict in the long run as well as for strengthened security arrangements. ■

Correction

- Please read "1 April 2018" instead of "1 April 2017" in the paragraph-2 on Page 6 of "The Report to the People on the Progress of Work of the Committee for Implementation of the Recommendations on Rakhine State" of the 13 February 2018 issue of the Global New Light of Myanmar.
- Please read "Rakhine State Investment Committee" instead of "Rakhine State Investment Commission" in the paragraph-3 on Page 6 of the same report.
- Please read "From 01/04/2016 to 31/12/2016" instead of "From 01/04/2010 to 31/12/2016" in the table under the Paragraph-18 on Page-7 of the same report of the same issue.
- Please read "Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)" instead of "Internationally Displaced Persons (IDPs)" in the 4th column on Page 7 of the same report of the same issue.
- Please read "The closures of Thetkelpyin IDP Camp in Sittwe Township, and Taungpaw IDP Camp in Myepon Township have been started in line with the international standards" instead of "Work has been started for the closure of the Thetkelpyin IDP Camp and Aung Mingalar Ward in Sittwe Township, and the Taungpaw IDP Camp in Myepon Township in line with the International standards." In paragraph 22 in 4th column on Page 7 of the same report of the same issue.

If SMEs develop, Myanmar's economy will also develop

MYANMAR is pushing ahead with its sweeping economic reform plans to find new sources of revenue so that the country can enjoy the renaissance and development that every citizen aspires for. With this end in view, necessary steps are being taken to enable the private sector to become a partner in development, as the economy's engine of growth.

To ensure the development of SMEs, getting loans from foreign countries is considered one of the pragmatic approaches.

To provide comprehensive support to local SMEs, for improvement of competitiveness, facilitation of technology transfer and productivity improvement, the country needs to become a middle-income one through fundamental improvement of the business climate such as a fair and clear investment regime, good infrastructure and supportive business-related systems.

The first project with loans granted by the Japan International Cooperation Agency to SMEs in Myanmar has been finished, granting 5.033 billion yen (Ks61.654 billion) to 292 small and medium-sized businesses. This number is a tiny fraction of the 60,000 registered SME businesses.

Now the Ministry of Planning and Finance has finished negotiations to get a loan of 14.949 billion yen (Ks180 billion) from the Japan International Cooperation Agency under the small and medium enterprise development project (phase 2).

The loan period is 40 years and interest is 0.01 per cent payable in two installments per year and, once the grace period is over, the loan amount will have to be paid back in two installments per year.

With the use of a Credit Guarantee Insurance system, 10 per cent of the total loans of phase-2 will be disbursed to SMEs which cannot show collateral with an interest rate of 8.5 per cent. SME businesses that want to take the loans need to be in accord with the SME Development Law.

This is the good news for the SMEs in Myanmar. To provide comprehensive support to local SMEs for the competitiveness improvement and facilitated technology transfer and productivity improvement, the country needs to become a middle-income one through fundamental improvement of business climate such as a fair and clear investment regime, good infrastructure and supportive business-related systems.

Taking advantage of ongoing economic reforms and open foreign investment policy, progress of democratization, abundant natural resources, an inexpensive and good-quality young labour force, a growing linkage with the regional economy and potential domestic market, it is needed to ensure investment to export-oriented industry, investment to domestic market-oriented industry, investment to resource-based industry and investment to knowledge-intensive industry. Meanwhile, remedial measures are to be taken to cope with the weaknesses in investment promotion such as underdeveloped infrastructure, insufficient skilled human resources and residual investment restrictions.

If SMEs develop, the Myanmar economy will also develop.

In Quest of Peace

By Sayar Mya (MOFA)

THIS article is neither a parallel to 21st Century Panglong Peace Conference nor an alternative of Road Map for Peace Negotiations in Myanmar but to exchange views and to simply share with the esteemed readers that our planet is in quest of peace as there are only 11 countries in the world that are actually free from conflict.

All the nationalities young, middle aged and old in every nook and corner of our beloved country Myanmar are longing for peace and harmony for many decades.

It is quite sensible and sagacious.

The Union Peace Conference - 21st Century Panglong was a Peace Conference which began on 31 Aug 2016 at the Myanmar Convention Centre II in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar. The first Panglong Conference was held in the Panglong Region of British Burma in 1947, and was negotiated between General Aung San and ethnic nationals.

Up till now in the 21st century, we all are striving for peace and harmony with all out efforts.

Perhaps, peace is so near and yet so far.

Mutual Understanding and Diverse Peace Paradigm Essential

In the context of international sphere, peace is a certain quality of existence which has been sought after; yet seldom found in a long enduring form, since time immemorial.

In a behavioral sense, peace is generally understood to be a lack of conflict and freedom from fear of violence between diverse social groups or different ethnic nationalities.

Throughout history, the benevolent and passionate leaders have often exhibited a certain type of behavioral manners or political restraint. They were often resulted in the establishment of regional peace or economic growth through various forms of agreements or



Photo: MNA

diverse peace treaties.

Different areas have diverse peace paradigms.

The war, in any form, was a paradigm of the destructive side of human nature.

In fact, behavioral restraint has often resulted in the de-escalation of conflicts in a nation, or in multilateral or bilateral peace talks. The avoidance of war or violent hostility is often the result of compromise, and is often initiated with thoughtful active listening and communication, which may tend to enable a greater genuine mutual understanding.

War and Peace

World Peace, or Peace on Earth, is the concept of an ideal state of happiness, freedom and peace within and among all people and nations on earth.

This great idea of world non-violence is motivation, inspiration and impulse for people and nations to willingly cooperate, either voluntarily or by virtue of a system of governance that avoids and prevents warfare.

World Peace, or Peace on Earth, is the concept of an ideal state of happiness, freedom and peace within and among all people and nations on earth.

Different cultures, religions, philosophies and organizations have varying concepts on how such a state would come about.

Various religious and secular organizations have the stated aim of achieving world peace through addressing human rights, technology, education, engineering, medicine or diplomacy used as an instrument and end to all forms of fighting.

Since 1945, the United Nations and the five permanent members of its Security Council (the US, Russia, China, France and the UK) have operated under the aim to resolve conflicts without war or declarations of war.

However, the world is not at ease and not at peace.

On the other hand, nations

have entered numerous military conflicts since then.

International Day of Peace

The International Day of Peace, sometimes unofficially known as World Peace Day, is observed annually on 21 September. It is dedicated to peace, and specifically the absence of war and violence, such as might be occasioned by a temporary ceasefire in a combat zone for humanitarian aid access. The day was first celebrated in 1982, and is kept by many nations, political groups, military groups, and peoples.

In 2013, for the first time, the Day has been dedicated to peace education, i.e. by the key preventive means to reduce war sustainably.

Whole World is at War

There are only 11 countries in the world that are actually free from conflict

As new wars and civil unrests seem to be flaring up every week, a research article looks for the only countries in the world that could be considered 'conflict-free'.

With the crisis in Gaza, the rise of Islamist militants in Iraq and Syria and the international stand-off ongoing in Ukraine, it can sometimes feel literally like the whole world is at war.

But analysts and experts believe this is actually almost universally the case, according to a think-tank which produces one of the world's leading measures of "global peacefulness" – and things are only going to get worse.

It may make for bleak and grim reading, but of the 162

countries covered by the Institute for Economics and Peace's (IEP's) latest study, just 11 countries were not involved in conflict of one kind or another.

It seems worse still, the world as a whole has been getting incrementally less peaceful every year since 2007.

The world is sharply unfolding a trend that had seen a global move towards conflict since the end of the Second World War.

The UK, as an example, is relatively free from internal conflict, making it easy to fall to thinking it exists in a state of peace. However, recent involvement in foreign fighting in the likes of Afghanistan, as well as a fairly high state of militarization could be interpreted that Britain actually scores quite poorly on the 2014 Global Peace Index, standing out and coming up at 47th overall.

Then there are countries which are involved in no actual foreign wars involving deaths whatsoever – like North Korea – but which are fraught by the most divisive and entrenched

internal conflicts.

The IEP's findings mean that choices are slim if the world wants to live in a completely peaceful country. The only ones to achieve the lowest score for all forms of conflict were Switzerland, Japan, Qatar, Mauritius, Uruguay, Chile, Botswana, Costa Rica, Vietnam, Panama and Brazil.

Longest ceasefire without a peace treaty

North Korea and South Korea

The Korean War between communist North Korea, backed by China and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR), and South Korea, supported by the USA and the United Nations, started with the invasion of South Korea on 25 June 1950. After the bitter fighting over three years ended, a ceasefire was agreed on 27 July 1953. Continuing difficulties in the relationship between the two parts of the Korean peninsula have precluded the signing of a peace treaty between the two states.

Hence they are still technically at war 57 years later.

Hope for Peace in Colombia Farewell to Arms

Colombia's FARC (Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia) rebels, who once terrorized the country with kidnaps, killings and attacks on towns, have ended half a century of armed insurgency at low-key ceremony in November 2016 in which the United Nations certified that more than 7,000 guerrillas had turned over their weapons.

"Farewell to arms, farewell to war, welcome to peace," said the FARC's top leader, Rodrigo Londoño, to a cheering crowd of former combatants at the ceremony in Mesetas, a mountainous area in south-eastern Colombia.

"Today doesn't end the existence of the FARC; it ends our armed struggle," said Londoño, best known by his nom de guerre Timochenko.

President Juan Manuel Santos said: "Today is a special day, the day when weapons are exchanged for words." Santos was awarded the 2016 Nobel peace prize for his efforts to secure a deal with the FARC to end their part in a 53-year armed conflict that has left an estimated 250,000 dead, tens of thousands of people missing and forced millions from their home.

"Our peace is real, and it's irreversible," said Santos, who is trying to achieve a similar deal with the smaller rebel faction the National Liberation Army, or ELN.

In Quest of Peace

History past and present shows that leaders with wisdom have patiently exhibited a bold type of political restraint. The patriotic endeavors often resulted in the establishment of agreements or peace treaties.

Different countries have diverse peace paradigms.

We all must never lose faith in humanity and also have confidence in the nation's leaders in quest of peace.

Union Minister for the Office of the State Counsellor meets European Parliament delegation

UNION Minister for the Office of the State Counsellor U Kyaw Tint Swe received European Parliament delegation led by Chairman of the European Parliament's Subcommittee on Human Rights Mr. Pier Antonio Panzeri at the Ministry of the Office of the State Coun-

sellor yesterday at noon. During the meeting, the two sides discussed matters relating to Rakhine State including the repatriation of displaced persons as well as cooperation between Myanmar and the European Union.

Also present at the meet-

ing were Senior Officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of the Office of the State Counsellor, the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population, and the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement.—Myanmar News Agency



Union Minister U Kyaw Tint Swe holds talk with Chairman of the European Parliament's Subcommittee on Human Rights Mr. Pier Antonio Panzeri in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Thura U Shwe Mann receives delegation from Westminster Foundation for Democracy



Thura U Shwe Mann meets Rt. Hon. Lord Malcolm Bruce of Bennachie in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

THE chairman of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw's Legal Affairs and Special Cases Assessment Commission Thura U Shwe Mann received a delegation from the Westminster Foundation for Democracy (WFD) led by Rt. Hon. Lord Malcolm Bruce of Bennachie and For-

mer Chair of the House of Commons Education Select Committee Mr. Neil Carmichael at the Hluttaw Affairs Building in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the meeting, they discussed procedures of legal affairs. —Myanmar News Agency

Bagan tourism workshop held in Nay Pyi Taw

A workshop for the Bagan Region Tourism Development Project was held on the morning of 15 February at the Horizon Lake View Resort in Nay Pyi Taw.

At the workshop, U Yi Mon, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism, explained the completion status of the Bagan Region Tourism

Development Project.

Mr. Go Kimura, head of the JICA Expert team, then explained the work processes of the project, and the strengths, weaknesses and successes achieved by the three project task groups.

Next, Daw Khin Than Win, Deputy Director General of Di-

rectorate of Hotels and Tourism and Mr. Takayuki Miyoshi of the JICA Expert Team explained about Rakhine State Mrauk U region becoming listed in the World Heritage List and main things need to be done for sustainable strategic travel plan in Bagan cultural region.—Myanmar News Agency

Tourist arrivals to Sagaing rise 40%

THE number of local and foreign travellers visiting Sagaing Town has increased by more than 40 per cent within a year, according to the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism.

In the 2017-2018 fiscal year (FY), more than 100,000 local and foreign travellers visited Sagaing, registering an increase of 44.62 per cent compared with the same period last fiscal year, said an official from the Sagaing Region Directorate of Hotels and Tourism.

"Last fiscal year, the number of travellers visiting Sagaing region had decreased signifi-

cantly. However this year, travellers have been showing up in significant numbers," he added.

"These days, the town is getting many foreign and local tourists, but sales are not very good," said a local shop owner.

In the 2016-2017 FY, more than 60,000 travellers visited the Sagaing region, while this fiscal year, more than 100,000 visitors visited the Sagaing region.

"The authorities have taken into account only six hotels that have been granted permits by the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism. The number of travellers will go up if the list of tourists

staying in guest houses that are granted permits by the municipality is included. Next year, we plan to collect lists of travellers from all the licensed hotels and guest houses," said the directorate official.

To estimate the exact number of travellers in the Sagaing region systematically, the Sagaing Region Directorate of Hotels and Tourism has formed the Hotels and Guest House Entrepreneurs Association on 11 February, with the cooperation of six hotels and 46 licensed guest houses from the Sagaing Region.—Min Min



Daw Kay Thi Soe, Director-General of the Strategic Studies and Training Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs signed yesterday in the book of condolence opened for His Royal Highness Prince Henrik, husband of Danish monarch who passed away at 84 at the Fredensborg Palace in Denmark on 13th February 2018. **PHOTO: MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY**

Correction

THE full text of the speech by State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi that appeared on Pages 4 and 5 of the 14 February edition of the Global New Light of Myanmar contained several typographical errors.

On Page 5, under the sub-heading "Future plan for national reconciliation", the second sentence should read: "In the coming three sessions...", not "In the coming s sessions..."

On the same page,

under the sub-heading "Conclusion", the second sentence should read "If we can achieve national unity...", not "It we can achieve national unity..."

Also on Page 5, in the far right-hand column, the 21st line should read: "What we have to fear...", not "That we have to fear..."

Nine lines later, the sentence should read: "Although their dreams for peace...", not "Although there dreams for peace..."



An-148 plane. PHOTO: TASS

Singapore holds War Memorial Service for civilian victims during Japanese Occupation

SINGAPORE — Singapore Thursday held the 51st War Memorial Service in commemoration of the civilian victims of the Japanese Occupation and Total Defence Day Commemoration event.

Almost 1,000 guests, including Singaporean President Halimah Yacob, Minister for Education and Second Minister for Defence Ong Ye Kung, and civilian victims' family members, participated in the event.

Yacob said Singaporean people suffered from the three years and eight months of Japanese occupation, which was a time of unspeakable horror, deprivation and suffering.

"Through them, we learn the lesson of not being able to defend our home," she added.

The president called on Singaporean people to do their utmost to protect their sovereignty and way of life. She said a strong defence is the cornerstone of peace, progress and prosperity of Singapore, and Singaporean people must sustain their efforts in building defence, including a strong support for National Service. The event was organized by the Singapore Chinese Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCCI) and the Central National Education Office of the Ministry of Defence. —Xinhua ■

India to train 37,500 law enforcers to deal with digital crimes

NEW DELHI — India's Home Ministry has chalked out a program to train 37,500 law enforcement officials across the country to deal with the growing cases of cyber fraud crimes.

"It has become imperative for the law enforcement agencies to have an in-depth understanding of the working of the cyber domain and the modus operandi of crimes being com-

mitted therein," the ministry said in a statement released earlier this week. A senior official said Friday that the aim of the program is to produce digital crime investigators, who will be apt enough to respond to cyber fraud and crack down on the perpetrators of the crimes. "The first line of officials in a police station will benefited by it," he said. —Xinhua ■

Flight experts to simulate An-148's takeoff to solve passenger plane's crash

MOSCOW — Test pilots from the Gromov Flight Research Institute in the town of Zhukovsky outside Moscow will conduct an experimental flight simulating the takeoff of the ill-fated An-148 in order to find out the causes of the crash, the Institute's press office told TASS on Wednesday.

"As part of the probe, measures are in store to simulate the takeoff of the An-148 plane," the press office said.

The flight parameters will be identical to the readings of the crashed plane, and the pilots will test various elements with the switch-off of sensors, engines

and other onboard systems, the press service said.

The Gromov Flight Research Institute did not specify when the experimental flight would be conducted, saying that the experiment might shed light on the causes of the airline tragedy.

Pilots who have numerously tested and flown the An-148 and other aircraft will conduct the experimental flight.

Radio contact with the An-148 passenger plane belonging to Saratov Airlines (flight 703 from Moscow to Orsk, in the Orenburg Region) that took off

from the Domodedovo airport at 14:24 Moscow time on Sunday dropped from radar screens four minutes after takeoff.

Fragments of the plane were found near the village of Stepanovskoye in the Moscow Region's Ramensky district. There were 65 passengers and six crew members onboard the passenger jet. According to the latest data, no one survived.

A criminal case on charges of violations of flight safety and aircraft operation rules resulting in the death of two or more people through negligence has been opened. —Tass ■

Russian resupply ship docks with space station

MOSCOW — A Progress MS-08 cargo spacecraft has docked with the International Space Station (ISS) after a two-day flight around the Earth, Russia's Flight Control Center reported on Thursday.

"The Progress MS-08 cargo spacecraft docked with the orbital station in automatic mode at 13:43 Moscow time," the Flight Control Center said.

The resupply ship docked to the Zvezda service module, it added.

A Soyuz-2.1a carrier rocket with the Progress MS-08 resupply ship blasted off from the Baikonur spaceport in Kazakhstan at 11:13 Moscow time on 13 February. The Progress cargo spacecraft reached the orbital station using the tradi-

tional two-day scheme (about 50 hours of the flight). It delivered 1,390 kg of dry cargo, 640 kg of propellant, 420 kg of water and also 46 kg of compressed air and oxygen storage tanks, scientific equipment, components for the life support system, containers with foodstuffs, clothing articles, medicines and personal hygiene items for the ISS crewmembers.

The launch of the Russian resupply ship was scheduled for 11 February and the cargo spacecraft was expected to arrive at the space station on the same day, using a short two-rotation scheme (3.5 hours of the flight) for the first time. However, the automatic system switched off the carrier rocket's engines just several seconds before the

scheduled start.

As Director for Quality at the Roscosmos State Space Corporation Andrei Kalinovsky told TASS, a faulty onboard computer of the Soyuz 2.1a carrier rocket was behind the automatic cancellation of the launch on 11 February.

By today, Russia has tested and frequently uses another short four-rotation scheme when the spacecraft's flight to the ISS lasts about 6 hours. This scheme is used for the launch of both Progress resupply ships and manned Soyuz spacecraft with cosmonauts on their board.

Russia may return to the new two-rotation scheme during the launch of the next Progress MS-09 resupply ship scheduled for 10 July this year. —Tass ■



A Progress MS-08 cargo spacecraft has docked with the International Space Station after a two-day flight around the Earth. PHOTO: TASS

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Ministry of Education
Invitation for Bids

Date:	17 February 2018
Loan/Grant No. and Title:	MYA 48431 – Equipping Youth for Employment Sector Development Project
Contract/s No. and Title:	MYA 48431/EYE/ICB/CW/CBMS-CWS-Dorm-Open Shed/Lashio
Deadline for Submission of Bids:	21 March 2018

1. The Government of Myanmar has received financing from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) towards the cost of Equipping Youth for Employment Project (EYE). Part of this financing will be used for payments under the Contract named above. Bidding is open to Bidders from eligible source countries of ADB.
2. The Ministry of Education (represented by the Department of Education Research, Planning & Training) ("the Employer") invites sealed bids from eligible Bidders for the construction and completion of Construction of Workshop Block (Type 1) and 1 Student Dormitory (male – female segregated) and 1 Open Shed at Lashio GTHS ("the Works").
3. International competitive bidding will be conducted in accordance with ADB's ICB procedure and is open to all Bidders from eligible countries as described in the Bidding Document.
4. Only eligible Bidders with the following key qualifications should participate in this bidding:

Participation in at least (2) two contracts that have been successfully or substantially completed within the last 5 years and that are similar to the proposed works, where the value of the Bidder's participation exceeds the contract amounts of MMK 288 Million. The similarity of the Bidder's participation shall be based on the physical size, nature of works, complexity, methods, technology or other characteristics as described in Section 6 (Employer's Requirements) in the Bidding Document.

Key Financial Requirement

Minimum average annual construction turnover of MMK 600 Million calculated as total certified payments received for contracts in progress or completed, within the last 3 years.

The Bidder must demonstrate that it has the financial resources to meet the requirements for the Subject Contract in the minimum amounts of MMK 120 Million

Key Equipment Requirement

For each Lot, the minimum construction equipment requirement is indicated below:

S. No.	Equipment Type and Characteristics	Minimum Number Required
1	Excavator	1
2	Lifting Crane (or other equivalent manually operated lifting device)	1
3	*Concrete Mixer/Agitator (100 kg Cement Capacity)*	1
4	*Small Concrete Mixer (50 kg Cement Capacity)*	2
5	*Concrete Vibrators - Hose Length 1.5 M (Minimum)*	2
6	Mechanical Compactors	1
7	Metal Cutter	4
8	*Welding Electrode Holder/Welding Machine*	2
9	Diesel Generator (20 HP)	1
10	Temporary Construction Water Storage Tank/s*	As necessary

11	Vehicles	
	Tipper Trucks (capacity 7 Cubic Meters)	1
	Service trucks (2 Tonne or more)	1
	General Transport	As necessary
	Excavator	1

Key Personnel requirement

For each Lot, the minimum personnel requirement is indicated below:

No.	Position	Total Work Experience [years]	Experience in Similar Work [years]
1	Site Construction Manager (Project Manager)	10	4
2	Site Supervisor (Project Engineer)*	5	3
3	Stores in charge (Storekeeper)*	3	2

The qualification criteria are more completely described in the bidding document.

5. To obtain further information and inspect the bidding documents, Bidders should contact:
EYE Project Management Unit (PMU)
Department of Education Research, Planning & Training
Ministry of Education
Bldg No 13, Nay Pyi Taw
Myanmar

Telephone: +95 67407273
Fax: +95 67407265
E-mail address: projectmanager.EYEPMU@gmail.com
With copy to: procurement.EYEPMU@gmail.com

6. To purchase the bidding documents in English, eligible Bidders should
 - Write to address above requesting the bidding documents
 - Pay a nonrefundable fee of MMK 10,000 by cash
7. Deliver your bid
 - To the address above
 - On or before the deadline: 21 March 2018
 - Together with a Bid Security as described in the Bidding Document

Bids will be opened immediately after the deadline for bid submission in the presence of Bidders' representatives who choose to attend.

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V HUNSA BHUM VOY. NO. ()

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V HUNSA BHUM VOY. NO. () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 17-2-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T/A.I.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S REGIONAL CONTAINER
LINES**

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V MAX CRUSADER VOY. NO. ()

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V MAX CRUSADER VOY. NO. () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 17-2-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S INTER ASIA LINES**

Phone No: 2301185



Around 3,500 children are diagnosed with oncological diseases every year. **PHOTO: TASS**

Russian child cancer survivals rates higher than 80%, Health Ministry reveals

MOSCOW — More than 3,500 children in Russia are annually diagnosed with cancer, Yelena Baibarina, the head of the Health Ministry's Child Health and Maternity Care Department, announced at a TASS press conference on Thursday.

"Unfortunately, around 3,500 children are diagnosed with oncological diseases every year," Baibarina said. "However, the survival rate for

cancer-stricken children has exceeded 80%, which is a very good result," the senior health official noted. Health Minister Veronika Skvortsova said earlier that strengthening the detection and treatment of oncological diseases would be Russia's top healthcare priority for 2018. According to her, cancer patients will be provided with broader opportunities to receive ambulatory and palliative care.—Tass ■

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V MCC SHANGHAI VOY. NO. ()

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V MCC SHANGHAI VOY. NO. () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 17-2-2018 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**

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Former student confesses to Florida school shooting

FLORIDA — A troubled teen has confessed to gunning down 17 people at his former high school in Florida, court documents showed Thursday, as the FBI admitted it had received a tip-off about the 19-year-old gunman yet failed to stop him.

As Americans reeled from the country's worst school massacre since the horror at Sandy Hook six years ago, President Donald Trump suggested the root cause of the violence was a crisis of mental health — and defied calls to address gun control.

Terrified students hid in closets and under desks on Wednesday at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, texting for help as the gunman, Nikolas Cruz, stalked the school with a semi-automatic AR-15 rifle.

Cruz has been



Florida shooting suspect Nikolas Cruz, seen at Broward County Jail in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida on 15 February 2018. PHOTO: TASS

charged with 17 counts of premeditated murder, appearing Thursday afternoon via video link before a judge who ordered him held without bond. More than a dozen other people were injured in the shooting spree.

"Today is a day of

healing. Today is a day of mourning," Broward County Sheriff Scott Israel said.

After being read his legal rights, "Cruz stated that he was the gunman who entered the school campus armed with a AR-15 and began shoot-

ing students that he saw in the hallways and on the school grounds," court documents showed.

Cruz arrived at the school in an Uber at 2:19 pm, authorities said. Less than three minutes later, he started spraying multiple classrooms with bul-

lets. At 2:28 pm, he left the campus, according to an official timeline.

Cruz told police that he discarded his rifle — which he bought legally in Florida — and tactical gear in order to blend in with the crowd so he could flee, the documents showed.

After the shooting, he stopped at a Wal-Mart and then McDonald's, Israel told reporters. He was detained 40 minutes later, after police identified him using school security camera footage.

In a somber televised address to the nation in response to the 18th school shooting so far this year, Trump vowed to make mental health a priority — after tweeting about the "many signs" the gunman was "mentally disturbed" — while avoiding any talk of gun curbs.

Earlier in the day,

Trump had asserted that "neighbors and classmates knew he was a big problem. Must always report such instances to authorities, again and again!"

Expelled from school for disciplinary reasons, Cruz was known to be fixated on firearms — and had reportedly been identified as a potential threat to his classmates.

But US authorities themselves were under scrutiny, after the FBI confirmed it was alerted last September to a message posted on YouTube, in which a user named Nikolas Cruz vowed: "I'm going to be a professional school shooter."

In a statement, the FBI said it had carried out "database reviews and other checks" but was unable to identify the person who made the post.—Tass ■



Rescue members search for trapped victims in Bengaluru, India on 15 February 2018. At least three people were killed Thursday after an under-construction building collapsed in southern Indian city of Bengaluru, officials said. PHOTO: XINHUA

Three killed, several others feared trapped in under-construction building collapse in India

NEW DELHI — At least three people were killed and one injured Thursday after an under-construction building collapsed in southern Indian city of Bengaluru, officials said.

The building collapsed on Kasuvanahalli-Sarjapur town in Bengaluru, the capital of Karnataka state.

"Three people have died and another person is critically injured. There are still some trapped

under the debris," Mayor Sampath Raj was quoted by local news portal The News Minute as saying.

Following the accident police and rescue teams rushed to the spot.

"The rescue work is underway," a senior police official posted in Bengaluru told Xinhua. "We will share all details after the culmination of rescue efforts."

Locals said several

people were rescued from the building.

Deadly accidents due to failing infrastructure (either new or old) is common in India. Construction experts blame the lax administration and corruption for flouting building rules, which often results in using poor quality materials, inadequate supervision and poor safety standards for workers.

—Xinhua ■

ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT FOR MYINT & ASSOCIATES OFFSHORE SUPPLY BASE, AYEYARWADY REGION

Myint & Associates Offshore Supply Base Ltd. (M&AOSB) is proposing to construct an Offshore Supply Base (OSB) near Nga Yoke Kaung Bay in Ayeyarwady Region, which is located approximately 40 km south of the town of Ngwe Saung. The facilities will initially include a jetty with a platform, an onshore base and an access road in an area of ~13 ha. The construction phase is estimated to take from 1.5 to 2 years; estimated to be sometime between 2018 and 2023.

Under the Environmental Conservation Law and Environmental Conservation Rules of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, M&AOSB are required to undertake an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) in order to obtain an Environmental Compliance Certificate (ECC) for the proposed activity. Environmental Resources Management (ERM), on behalf of M&AOSB, have submitted an EIA Study, which included stakeholder engagement in Nga Yoke Kaung and Nanttharpu.

The EIA was conducted in accordance with the Myanmar EIA Procedure (2015) and is available to be viewed on M&AOSB's webpage: www.myintassociatesosb.com. The Myanmar Language Executive Summary is available to be viewed at M&AOSB's and ERM's offices in Yangon and in Nga Yoke Kaung and Nanttharpu. Please contact M&AOSB for more information on the locations.

Any information requests, or queries, comments and suggestions on the Project can be provided to esiafeedback@myintassociatesosb.com or 09-7949-31009. Information on the proponents of the project and this announcement are also available on the Myint & Associates Offshore Supply Base Ltd. website at www.myintassociatesosb.com.

MYANMA TIMBER ENTERPRISE EXPORT MARKETING & MILLING DEPARTMENT INVITATION FOR OPEN TENDER

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| (b) COMMODITIES & VOLUME | - TEAK LOGS ABOUT (1050) TONS
- TEAK CONVERSION ABOUT(230)TONS
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Ugly Models, an agency of extraordinary 'characters'

LONDON — Long necks, large chins, flapping ears, crooked noses: welcome to Ugly Models, a London modelling agency of a different stripe, where imperfections are celebrated.

Fashion Week opens in the British capital Friday, and among the legions of models strutting down the catwalk, several will come from Ugly.

They make eye-catching additions to the perfectly honed or androgynous models that typically feature at fashion's annual showcase in London.

"It's celebrating diversity really and it's bringing a bit more light to fashion instead of just using the bog-standard models," agency owner Marc French told AFP.

He describes it as a "character" model agency -- "from fat, thin, to large to small: you name it, we've got it".

He cited the example of French actor Gerard Depardieu.

"I mean look at him: he's so full of character and charisma.

"He becomes sexy because he's so cool and he's so different."

- 'Imperfection is beauty' -

Founded a half century ago, Ugly occupies trendy open-plan space in west London featuring a baroque sofa, brushed aluminium computers and walls studded with photos of models.



Chloe Akan poses during a casting at the Ugly model agency in London. PHOTO: AFP

A portrait of late rock superstar David Bowie adorns the wall, alongside the quote "Imperfection is beauty, madness is genius," which reads like a company motto.

Like any such agency, it manages the careers of its models, putting them in touch with employers of all stripes, from Burberry to Mercedes to Jack Daniel's.

On a recent weekday, Ugly was organising a casting to com-

plete its catalogue and those in attendance were atypical models.

Among them were some tough-looking guys.

Chris, for example, a former soldier with arms as thick as logs, posed shirtless with a 50-year-old brunette in a two-piece suit.

Kris Chesney, an ex-rugby player with Toulon and Saracens, is a man mountain at nearly two metres (over six feet) tall and weighing 135 kilogrammes (almost 300 pounds).

With his shaved head, tattooed arms, rugged face, and body bearing the marks of countless scrums, he is perhaps an unlikely male model.

"It's a new journey, something interesting, like a challenge," he said.

Others are on more of a personal mission.

Sheerah Ravindren, a petite 22-year-old model just 1.61 metres tall, comes from Sri Lanka and proclaims herself a "militant

immigrant model".

Sporting a bare belly between baggy jeans and black top, she has a right nostril piercing and plenty of positive attitude.

"I'm a woman of colour. Growing up, I've never seen people that look like me in media, in fashion."

Frances, a disabled model who gets around using a pair of eye-catching futuristic crutches, revealed proudly that her disability "didn't stop me from doing what I want".

- 'Not here to exploit' -

For French, "what makes a good ugly models is someone who is comfortable in his own skin".

"We don't want retouching, we don't want people to change the way they look.

"If someone comes to us a certain way, we'd never say it'd be better if he was smaller.

"It's really important. There's so much pressure on young kids," he said.

The agency is also eager to counter any perception that it cynically exploits its models for their peculiarities.

"Sometimes we've had companies ring up and said: we want a small person that will kick themselves in the head. Woo... like no -- that's wrong," said Lulu Palmer, a booker who is head of new faces.—AFP ■

African audiences celebrate 'Black Panther' release

KENYAN (Nairobi) — The release this week of Marvel Studios' latest superhero outing, "Black Panther", has triggered the enthusiasm of African movie fans and a sense of pride that Hollywood has finally plugged a gap.

With an almost entirely black cast and a young African-American director, Ryan Coogler, the film has already won rave reviews for its stereotype-busting portrayal of Africa.

After all the hype, select audiences in African countries have got a sneak preview of the new blockbuster — and many agree it's an important moment in popular culture.

"As I was watching the movie with friends, I remember we all felt part of history. This is beyond a movie. This is huge," said Brian Barasa, a 29-year-old Kenyan who says he has loved comic books for as long as he can remember.



After all the hype, select audiences in Kenya and other African countries have seen the first screenings of "Black Panther". PHOTO: AFP

Set in the fictional African country of Wakanda, the film's focus on black protagonists, stories and culture sets it clearly apart from other superhero movies.

But hero T'Challa, the king of Wakanda played by Chadwick Boseman, is not the first black superhero to hit the big screen.

Barasa, who co-founded the Nairobi Comic Convention

in 2014, points out that was "Blade" -- a vampire with human traits portrayed by actor Wesley Snipes in the trilogy between 1998 and 2004.

"But Blade was American," said Barasa.

"In a conversation I had recently, somebody pointed out, 'Blade had to walk in order for Black Panther to run'," he noted.—AFP ■

Case against director on song 'hurting religious sentiments'

NEW DELHI — Diverging from the CPI(M)'s stand of having no understanding with the Congress in electoral politics, the CPI today announced it would take a state-specific approach to deal with secular democratic parties, including the Congress, to defeat the BJP in elections.

While releasing its draft political resolution, the CPI said electoral tactics had to take into consideration the objective political situation in a given state.

"As far as electoral tactics is concerned, it should be clearly understood that there cannot be one tactic for the entire country, although there is the common goal of ousting the BJP from power. A tactic has to take into consideration the objective political situation in a given state and co-relation of political forces there," CPI general secretary S Sudhakar Reddy told reporters.

He said in the present political situation, there was need for the widest-possible mobilisation of secular, political and mass organisations to counter the fascistic offensive of the Modi government and the RSS.

The CPI leader said the formation of a secular democratic platform aimed only at electoral battles was not enough. "Political parties will be free to draw their own electoral tactics as and when elections are announced, but launching of a mass resistance to fascism can not be delayed any more," Reddy said.

When questioned about the difference of opinion between the CPI and the CPI(M) regarding a political line, Reddy said, "both the Left parties are very close" and if there was a difference of opinion, "it will get solved".—PTI ■

Chinese Lunar New Year of the Dog in Yangon



People below Chinese lanterns during celebrations of the Chinese Lunar New Year of the Dog at a temple in Chinatown in Yangon, on 16 February 2018. **PHOTO: GNLM/PHOE KHWAR**



Women pray during celebrations of the Chinese Lunar New Year of the Dog at a temple in Chinatown in Yangon, on 16 February 2018. **PHOTO: GNLM/PHOE KHWAR**



Mahabandula Street in downtown Yangon is festooned with red lanterns in celebration of the Chinese Lunar New Year of the Dog, on 15 February 2018. **PHOTO: GNLM/PHOE KHWAR**

5th solo show of artist Nu Nu from 17-21 February



Nu Nu's artwork.

Artworks by Nu Nu, a woman artist, will be showcased at a solo event to be held in Yangon this month, according to a report in Myawady Daily on Friday.

'Sweet Inle', an art exhibition, will be held between 17 and 21 February at 43 Art Gallery, No. 101, on the second floor in the lower middle block of 43rd Street, Botahtaung Township.

This will be the fifth time that artist Nu Nu will be showcasing her handiwork through a solo event. The artist has used her memories of Inle, a

freshwater lake in Shan State, as the inspiration for her work, according to gallery organiser Ko Htain Lynn, who has invited visitors to the gallery.

Nu Nu's subject matter includes the environment and the beauty of Lake Inle, the culture, tradition and lifestyle of the lake dwellers, and other interesting floating objects.

Oil and acrylic works will be displayed at the gallery for sale during the five-day event from 9a.m. to 5p.m. daily. All works are available at a reasonable price, the organiser said.—GNLM ■

Burmese Photographers' Photo Exhibition to be held in Yangon

THE Burmese Photographers' Photo Exhibition is going to be held from 18 February to 11 March at the Yangon's Secretariat Building on Thein Phyu Road.

The exhibition will display photographic treasures of Myanmar; it's jointly organized by the German cultural association Goethe-Institute and the Yangon Photo Festival. The photos to be shown in the event are collected by the Austrian multi-media artist Lukas Birk. His collections include: photos taken in studios, photos taken by amateur photographers, privately owned images and pictures used in periodicals and advertisements.

The first photographs in Myanmar were taken more than 150 years ago, but it cannot be said who the first photographer in the country was. Since around 1910, a small scene of Burmese photographers emerged. They developed their own style and photographic interpretation of Myanmar's reality, and hesitant-



ly their work broke away from the powerful standard set by the "colonial gaze", replacing it with their own perspectives and motives, according to the statement

of the Goethe-Institute Myanmar. The exhibition will be opened to the public with free of charges from 10 a.m to 5 p.m.—Myat Sandy ■

Woods one-over in return to Riviera, Cantlay and Finau lead

CALIFORNIA — Tiger Woods returned to Riviera Country Club with a roller coaster round of 72 on Thursday that left him six shots off the Genesis Open first-round lead shared by Patrick Cantlay and Tony Finau.

Cantlay and Finau, each seeking a second US PGA Tour title, wrapped up their five-under-par 66s shortly before darkness halted play with a dozen players still on the course.

They were one stroke in front of Tom Hoge, Dominic Bozzelli and Sam Saunders on four-under 67, with 11 players tied on 68.

Finau teed off on 10 and birdied four of his first five holes. He capped his round with a 17-foot birdie at the ninth for his share of the lead.

"It was really nice to see

that one go in on the last hole," he said.

Cantlay got to five-under with a birdie at the 17th, where he blasted out of a greenside bunker to 10 feet and made the putt.

"It feels good. I played really well today, hit a lot of good shots, was really solid," Cantlay said. "Nothing crazy, I didn't make a bunch of putts or anything, just kept hitting it to the safe side of the hole and rolling it down there with good pace, and a couple fell at the end."

However, as at Torrey Pines three weeks ago he displayed a solid short game in an eventful round that included five birdies, four bogeys and a double-bogey.

While Woods has a long history at Riviera, where he played his first US PGA Tour event as a 16-year-old amateur in 1992, in 11 prior appearances he has never won here.

He hadn't teed it up on the classic course west of downtown Los Angeles since 2006 and for his return he played in a marquee group with former world number one Rory McIlroy and reigning PGA Tour Player of the Year Justin Thomas.

McIlroy balanced three bogeys with a birdie and an eagle for an even par 71.

Thomas had five birdies in a two-under 69.

All three opened with birdies at the 10th. But Woods quickly found himself in trouble when a wayward tee shot at the 11th lodged in a eucalyptus

tree, leading to a lost ball and a double bogey.

A bogey at the 12th had him two-over and in recovery mode the rest of the way.

"I was at one-under early, first hole, and all of a sudden I went double bogey-bogey and I was like, 'Oh, man, here we go,'" Woods said. "I've got to somehow turn this thing around."

Two more birdies and a bogey saw him make the turn at one-over, and he was even for the day after a birdie at the first.

Then came bogeys at five and seven — where he was dismayed to drop a shot from the fairway.

"I made really silly bogeys out there, in particular number seven," Woods said. "But overall I thought I hung in there and grinded."

- Not easy -

After a birdie at the eighth, Woods's chances of finishing even for the day evaporated with one last wayward tee shot at the ninth, where he was so far right he was in a bunker off the 10th fairway.

He blasted it up to the fringe to salvage a par and pronounced the overall performance "all right".

"You know, no one's going low out there, it's too hard," Woods said. "The greens are starting to get a little bouncy and those short ones are not easy."

Nothing seemed easy for world number one Dustin Johnson, who launched his title defense with a three-over par 74.—AFP ■



Patrick Cantlay of the US plays his shot from the ninth tee during the first round of the Genesis Open, at Riviera Country Club in Pacific Palisades, California, on 15 February 2018 PHOTO: AFP

PyinOoLwin football association formed

THE Football Association of PyinOoLwin was formed on Thursday with the efforts of football officials.

The football officials included Township Football Association working committee chairman U Bunny Tin Aung, Myanmar's old golden era football players U Khin Maung Lay and U Khin Maung Lwin Lay.

The association hopes to recognise and develop football skills in players from across the Mandalay Region. The association was formed with chair-

men U Aung Min, U ArKar Lin and U Thut and 15 members. The Football Association of PyinOoLwin is the second association formed in the Mandalay Region. PyinOoLwin, formerly and colloquially referred to as Maymyo, is a scenic hill town in Mandalay Region, Myanmar, located in the Shan Highland, some 67 kilometers (42 mi) east of Mandalay, and at an altitude of 1,070 meters (3510 ft). The town was estimated to have a population of around 255,000 in 2014.—Kyaw Zin Lin ■

Yangon United player, fan confident going into GFA match

A young Yangon United defender expressed confidence yesterday for his team's upcoming MPT Myanmar National League match against GFA at the Yangon United Sport Complex on Sunday 18 February.

The young defender said he would be aggressive yet respectful in his play.

"I'll do my best when I have a chance to be with the team on the pitch. I always keep what the coach instructs in training and use it in the match. Then I will respond to the opponent with

respect and play well. I would like to invite all the fans to come and enjoy the match", said Yangon United defender Min Kyaw Khant.

The young Yangon United defender has become a fan favourite because of his consistent play.

"We are very fond of Min Kyaw Khant's defending style. He is very reliable to the Yangon's defensive line and we believe Yangon will win in the match against GFA", said Zin Ko Ko Thet, a Yangon football fan.

Yangon United's Sekou Sylla has scored 5 goal and standing one of the most scorer list of the Myanmar National League while Maung Maung Lwin from Yangon United scored 3 goals and Kyi Lin of Yangon scored 2 goals and Ksuke Uchida of Yangon has scored one goal for the team.

Yangon United leads at the top of the table with the points of 13 from 5 plays, 4 win, 1 draw and GFA stands at the 10th place with the points of 4 from 1 win, 1 draw and 3 lose.—KyawZin Lin ■