NRPC ISSUES PRESS RELEASE ON DEADLY EXPLOSION IN LASHIO P-3 (NATIONAL)

NATIONAL
President U Htin Kyaw accepts credentials from ambassadors of Spain and Republic of Korea
PAGE-3

NATIONAL
7th State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee holds 6th meeting
PAGE-6

NATIONAL
Geotechnical investigation being conducted to construct small airport in Lailenpi, Chin State
PAGE-7

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Vol. IV, No. 313, 10th Waxing of Taboung 1379 ME www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com Saturday, 24 February 2018

Rakhine State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu (Right) and officials inspect construction of houses for local ethnic people in Maungtaw, Rakhine State, yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

New homes for residents in Maungtaw, Rakhine State

RAKHINE State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu inspected reconstruction of villages for ethnic people and returnees from Bangladesh in Maungtaw District.

Together with Maungtaw District Deputy Commissioner U Ye Htut and other departmental officials, he inspected the status of the reconstruction of ethnic villages first.

The officials explained about the progress in the construction in Owe Htane, Thittonena Gwa Sone, Khon Daing, Myawady and Mingyi (new) villages.

The Chief Minister said that the villages must be completed on time and meet the required standards. He also coordinated the requirements submitted by the local populace. The villages will resettle displaced ethnic nationals from Rakhine, Mro, Khami, Daingnet and Thet.

SEE PAGE-3

MSMEs from Mandalay, Kachin exhibit products

A first-of-its-kind exhibition of the products produced by local micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) in the Mandalay Region and Kachin State kicked off at the Mandalar Thiri Sports Ground yesterday.

In his opening address at the exhibition, Vice President U Myint Swe pledged to support the innovation of entrepreneurs and MSMEs, so that they can produce products that can penetrate the new market.

The MSMEs exhibition in Mandalay was the first to be held after the government announced its plan to hold MSMEs exhibitions in regions and states, as part of the efforts to evaluate the quality of MSME products.

Nay Pyi Taw will host the national-level exhibition, while national-level award winners will be selected from the nationwide exhibitions.

Some 90 per cent of the country's economy is ties into the private sector, and 99 per cent of the private sector is made up of small and medium enterprises (SMEs), according to statistics.

To assist the MSMEs throughout the country, three bodies to assess, develop and manage funds were formed in January, in accordance with the SME law.

SEE PAGE-6

KBZ BANK
STRENGTH OF MYANMAR
'BEST BANK IN MYANMAR'
Awarded by FinanceAsia 2017

Pyithu Hluttaw

Pyithu Hluttaw discusses banking, education sectors

Myo Myint
(MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY)

THE seventh session of the second Pyithu Hluttaw held its 22nd-day meeting at the Pyithu Hluttaw meeting hall of the Hluttaw building in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

At the meeting, a question each on the banking sector and election, as well as four questions on the education sector, were asked and answered, a motion on health tabled and the Hluttaw informed about a bill.

First, U Myint Oo of the Bago Region's Thanatpin constituency raised a question about whether the Development Affairs committees (municipal committees) in regions and states have a plan in place to disburse the shares to shareholders and asked the Central Bank of Myanmar if it was legal to use the funds of the committees to establish private or public banks, as such funds are owned by the government.

Deputy Governor of the Central Bank of Myanmar U Soe Thein said banks were formed with shares, and if there is a profit in a year, the profit is shared according to the shareholding.

However, buying shares in a bank is tantamount to investing in the bank, and shareholders have no right to request for the redeeming of shares until the company (bank) is dissolved. After accounts receivable and account payables are cleared, the remaining balance will be paid according to the shareholding. As such, according to the laws and rules, it is not possible to distribute the capital of the development committees of the states and regions, said U Soe Thein.

Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw U Win Myint. **PHOTO: MNA**

According to the law, the funds of the development committees are government funds, and government entities holding shares in the development committees need to follow the laws and rules, noted U Soe Thein.

Responding to a question posed by U Tin Htway of Waw constituency on the arrangements made to prepare a voters' list to elect the people's representatives to the Hluttaw, Union Election Commission member U Soe Rae said the voters' list was based on the population list in the ward and village tract administrator's offices, and the voters' list was prepared under the guidance of states and regions, districts and townships election commissions. With the cooperation of the heads of 100 households and 10 households, the transfer in/out and deaths were updated to complete the voters' list, explained U Soe Rae.

Union Minister for Education Dr. Myo Thein Gyi responded to a question put forth by U Khin Maung Thi of Loilem constituency on the plan to open an examination centre in Mongpan to enable students from Mongpan Basic Education High School to take the matriculation examination.

U Khin Maung Thi of Loilem constituency asked whether there was a plan to open an examination centre in Mongpan to enable students from Mongpan Basic Education High School to take the matriculation examination. Union Minister for Education Dr. Myo Thein Gyi explained that there were 133 students from Mongpan Basic Education High School taking the 2018 matriculation examination, and an examination centre is to be opened in Mongpan. ■

Amyotha Hluttaw

Rakhine State, Ayayawady Region to get healthcare ships

Aye Aye Thant
(MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY)

THE seventh session of the second Amyotha Hluttaw held its 22nd-day meeting at the Amyotha Hluttaw meeting hall yesterday morning, where asterisk-marked questions were asked and answered and a report read.

At the meeting, U Maung Kyaw Zan of Rakhine State constituency (9) raised a question on the plan to deploy at least one 'swimming doctor' (doctors on boat) vessel in the coastal regions of Rakhine State. Union Minister for Health and Sports Dr. Myint Htwe replied that a swimming doctor or mobile team is useful in areas where travel is difficult and the security situation is good. It should be deployed in areas where healthcare is poor and where it is difficult to open a health care centre when there is an epidemic.

Mobile teams are an important initiative of the Ministry of Health and Sports, and a mobile team is ready for deployment on a vessel. There is a plan to deploy mobile teams on two vessels in Rakhine State and the Ayeyawady Region in the 2018-2019 fiscal year (FY), noted the Union Ninister.

Deputy Minister for Electricity and Energy Dr. Tun Naing. **PHOTO: MNA**

Union Minister for Health and Sports Dr. Myint Htwe. **PHOTO: MNA**

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

Next, U Myo Win of Mon State constituency (8) asked whether there is a plan to provide government subsidies for electricity in Ye Township, where the price is high, as it is not yet connected to the national grid. He also asked when the national grid would reach Ye Township. Deputy Minister for Electricity and Energy Dr. Tun Naing replied that Ye Township was being provided electricity through diesel generators operated by the Myat Thura Company. To increase the power supply before the national grid reaches Ye Township, the Mon State government is planning to construct a 30-megawatt furnace oil or fuel oil (FO) generator in Ye Township, Thanbyuzayat Town, and provide electricity to nearby villages. The Mon State government has already given permission to Bedok Construction and Engineering Co., Ltd. to construct the FO generator, said the Deputy Minister.

For the development of the electricity sector in Mon State, the ministry is spending Ks9.8 billion to build a turnkey system of more than 40 miles of Mawlamyine-Thanbyuzayat 66 kilovolts (KV) power lines, three transformers and a substation. The power line is 33 per cent complete, while the substation is 80 per cent complete. Both will be completed in 2018. Once the Thanbyuzayat substation is completed, 60 miles of Thanbyuzayat-Ye power line and the 66/11 KV 5MVA Ye substation project will be constucted, with a fund of Ks1.274 billion earmarked for this purpose in October and September, respectively, during the 2018-2019 FY period. The Deputy Minister said the construction will take two years, and by the 2019-2020 FY, the national grid will reach Ye Township.

From the Thanbyuzayat-Ye power line, 0.5 miles of 66 KV power line will connect to Anin Village, Thanbyuzayat Township, where a substation will be constructed in the 2019-2020 FY.

In Lamaing Township, Khawza Town, a substation will be built during the 2021-2022 FY period. All of these are part of a five-year plan, and once the substations are completed, the ministry will cooperate and coordinate with the Mon State government to distribute electricity to nearby villages, explained the Deputy Minister.

The 23rd-day meeting of the seventh session of the second Amyotha Hluttaw will be held on 27 February. ■

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
National Reconciliation and Peace Centre

Press Release

23 February 2018

1. On Wednesday 21 February at 4:40 p.m. an improvised explosive device (IED) setup by an organization, still under investigation, exploded between Yoma Bank and Ayeyarwady Bank at the junction of Lanmadaw Street and Shwebo street, Ward (2), Lashio Town, Shan State killing two innocent women bank staff members and wounding 9 men and 12 women. Innocent people have suffered loss of life and injury. For this I share my sympathies and deep sorrow with the bereaved families.
2. This act of terrorism resulting in the death and injury of innocent people greatly affects the national reconciliation and peace effort that the Union government is consistently striving for.
3. This terrorist act that targets public places and innocent civilians is strongly condemned and to protect the life and property of the people and for rule of law, the perpetrators of this act shall be exposed and effective action taken in accordance with the law.

Aung San Suu Kyi
Chairperson
National Reconciliation and Peace Centre

(Unofficial Translation)

President U Htin Kyaw accepts credentials of the Ambassador of the Republic of Korea

President U Htin Kyaw holds talks with Korean Ambassador Mr. Lee Sang-hwa in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

H.E. Mr. Lee Sang-hwa, the newly-accredited Ambassador of the Republic of Korea to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, presented his Letter of Credence to U Htin Kyaw, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, at Presidential Palace, Nay Pyi Taw at 2.30pm yesterday.

Present on the occasion were Union Minister for the Office of the Union Government U Thaung Tun and Director-General U Thant Sin of the Protocol Department.—MNA ■

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Joint Bill Committee holds coord meeting

A joint bill committee coordination meeting to discuss the National Tax Bill was held yesterday morning in Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Building D, second floor meeting hall.

The meeting was attended by the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker, Joint Bill Committee and Public Account Joint Committee chairman U Aye Tha Aung, Joint Bill Committee and Public Account Joint Committee deputy chairmen, secretaries, joint secretaries and committee members, Deputy Minister for Planning and Finance U Maung Maung Win, Legal Affairs and Special Cases Assessment Commission members, officials from the Ministry of Commerce the Union Attorney General Office, business persons from the Union of the Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry, members of the NLD economic committee, officials from the Myanmar Construction Entrepreneur Association and the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Office.—Myanmar News Agency ■

MMK 500 million donated for UEHRD

THE Myanmar Gems and Jewelry Entrepreneurs Association have donated Ks 500 million for the Union Enterprise for Humanitarian Assistance, Resettlement and Development (UEHRD) in Rakhine. The donation was handed over in a ceremony yesterday at the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement and was accepted by the Union Minister and UEHRD Vice-Chairman Dr. Win Myat Aye who gave commemorative certificates in return.—MNA ■

President accepts credentials of Spanish Ambassador

H.E. Mr. Emilio De Miguel Calabia, the newly-accredited Ambassador of the Kingdom of Spain to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, presented his Letter of Credence to U Htin Kyaw, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, at Presidential Palace, Nay Pyi Taw at 3.05 pm yesterday.

Present on the occasion were Union Minister for the Office of the Union Government U Thaung Tun and Director-General U Thant Sin of the Protocol Department.—Myanmar News Agency ■

President U Htin Kyaw accepts the credentials from Ambassador of the Kingdom of Spain Mr. Emilio De Miguel Calabia. **PHOTO: MNA**

Rakhine State Chief Minister inspects construction of homes for ethnic people, returnees

FROM PAGE-1

Also, the Rakhine State Chief Minister and his delegation inspected the land preparation work conducted in Ward 4, Maungtaw Town, where Hindus will be resettled, and then inspected the construction of houses near Zawtikayone monastery, and the construction of a school and houses in Kainggyi, Kyaukpandu and Inndin villages.

He again said that the construction must be completed on time and meet the required standards, and then coordinated the requirements submitted by the local populace.

Later, the Chief Minister and his delegation arrived at Asia World Company in Angumaw and enquired about the building of the Maungtaw-Angumaw road, where officials from the Road Department and the company provided explanations. After commenting on their explanations, the Chief Minister left Angumaw by boat for Sittway.—Hein Htet Zaw ■

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR
www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

ACTING CHIEF EDITOR
Aye Min Soe,
ce@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
dce@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

EXPATRIATE CONSULTANT EDITOR
Mark Angeles,
markrangeles@gmail .com

SENIOR EDITORIAL CONSULTANT
Kyaw Myaing

SENIOR TRANSLATORS
Zaw Min,
zawmin.gnlm@gmail.com
Win Ko Ko Aung,
kowink2aung@gmail.com

INTERNATIONAL NEWS EDITOR
Ye Htut Tin,
editor1@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

LOCAL NEWS EDITORS
Tun Tun Naing (Editor),
intlnews@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
Nwe Nwe Tun (Sub-editor),
nwenwe9131@gmail.com

TRANSLATORS
Khaing Thanda Lwin,
Hay Mar Tin Win,
Ei Myat Mon
Zaw Htet Oo
Kyaw Zin Lin
Kyaw Zin Tun

REPORTER
May Thet Hnin,
reporter1@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
mayreporter.mm@gmail.com

PHOTOGRAPHER
Kyaw Zeya Win @ Phoe Khwar

COMPUTER TEAM
Tun Zaw ,
Thein Ngwe, Zaw Zaw Aung,
Ye Naing Soe, Nyi Zaw Moe,
Hnin Pwint, Kay Khaing Win,
Sanda Hnin, Zu Zin Hnin

EDITORIAL SECTION
(+95) (01)8604529,
Fax – (+95) (01) 8604305

CIRCULATION & DISTRIBUTION
San Lwin, (+95) (01) 8604532,
Hotline - 09 974424114

ADVERTISING & MARKETING
(+95) (01) 8604530,
Hotline - 09 974424848
marketing@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
subscription@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

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

gnlmdaily@gmail.com
www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
www.facebook.com/globalnewlightofmyanmar

Write for us

We appreciate your feedback and contributions. If you have any comments or would like to submit editorials, analyses or reports please email **ce@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com** with your name and title.

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

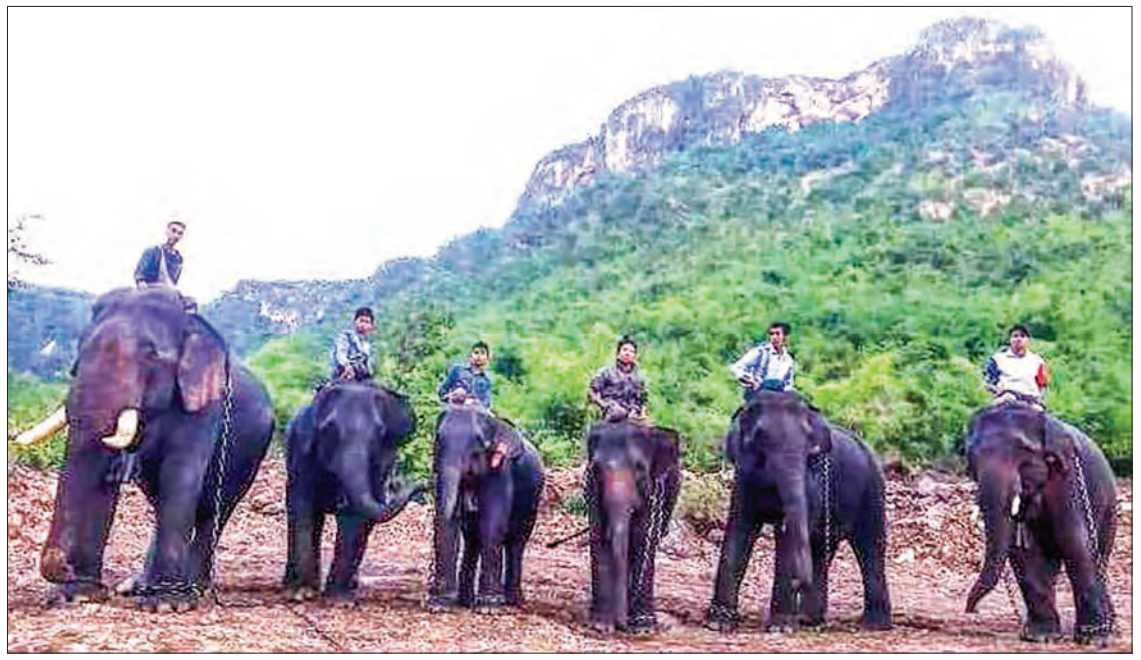
New War Nat elephant resort camp to be opened near Mandalay

NEW War Nat elephant resort will be opened near Mandalay at the end of March in order to develop tourism industry, said U Htay Aung, the manager of the Myanmar Timber Enterprise (Mandalay Region).

The elephant camp will be opened five miles and three furlongs on Ye Ywar road in Pyin Oo Lwin, Mandalay Region. There will be two elephant camps in Mandalay Region after opening the new elephant camp," he added.

The recent Dee Doke elephant camp is opened near Three-Step falls, nine miles and three furlongs from Kyauk Chaw-Ye Ywar road in Pyin Oo Lwin.

"The new elephant camp will keep six elephants in the camp. Now, the buildings are being constructed in the camp. We are also decorating too many things for the elephant camp. Now, everything is fine and we planned to open the elephant camp the end of March," he added



Mahouts and their Katha elephants at the grounds for the new elephant camp in Mandalay. **PHOTO:KHINE SET WAI**

The services elephant are only 15-year old elephants. They are considered tame. The elephant camp has the creel. Therefore, the authority will make arrangement for the visitors to pay with the water.

"The six elephants are from the Katha and will arrive at the end of this month. On riding elephants, safe and secure services will be given. The camp will provide riding elephant for half hours," he added. Fees for riding elephants are designated at Ks 3,000 plus the entrance fee of Ks1,000 for Myanmar citizens, while Ks20,000 plus the entrance fee of Ks2000 have been designated for foreign travellers.—Khine Set Wai ■

Negotiation meeting held to boost the fuel oil quality

MYANMAR Fuel Oil Importers and Distributors Association held a negotiation meeting with Consumers Protection Association (CPA) to set the fuel quality in line with international standard according to a report yesterday in the Myawady Daily.

In the international market, sulphur content of Asia-Pacific region diesel fuel has been reduced to 10 ppm this year. If Myanmar also use diesel with low sulphur content, it will help reduce the environmental impact.

At the present, many countries use ultra-low diesel or premium diesel to minimize the fuel's environmental impact.

Previously, Myanmar uses diesel with 5,000 ppm sulphur content that was later reduced to 500 ppm. Premium diesel with 10 ppm is also being imported and distributed in the domestic market. The usage of premium diesel has increased from 10 to 30 per cent. "Using only premium diesel with 10 ppm is good for the country but we worry that commodity price will be affected. Actually using premium diesel with 10 ppm is good not only for the environment but also for health of people," said U Win Myint, the secretary of the Myanmar Fuel Oil Importers and Distributors Association. "There is only a small price gap of Ks 3 between a liter of 10 ppm and 500 ppm diesel and if we start insisting on using only 10 ppm premium diesel, it will not affect the market much but it will help reduce the environmental impact," he added.

There are 70 fuel oil importing companies in the country, along with 2,000 fuel stations, and most of the fuel is imported through Singapore. Some 200,000 tonnes of petrol and 400,000 tonnes of diesel are imported into the country every month. Petrol consumption in Myanmar increased six fold over the past five years. "We should conduct awareness campaigns to encourage the public to consume premium diesel," said an entrepreneurs from Myanmar Fuel Oil Importers and Distributors Association.—GNLM ■

Two people took legal action for leading 52 people to work in China

Police have filed charges against two people who are leading 52 people from the villages in Myingyan Township, Mandalay Region on 21 February at 16 mile gate of Ohon Chaw village, according to Mandalay Region police station.

Acting on a tip-off, a combined team comprising officers and staff from Mandalay Region police station and anti-trafficking police stopped a passenger vehicle heading to Muse from Myingyan at 16 mile gate of Ohon Chaw village and found 44 men and eight women who are onboard on the passenger vehicle.

According to the investigation, Kaw Soe Lin, 31, from Ku village called 26 people by taking 520,000 each for the transportation charges and Aung Lin, 38, from Magyithamyin village called the remaining 26 people by taking 550,000 each for the transportation. Both of them are currently working at furniture factory at Ton kwan town in China.

"Now, they are working in China. They receive good salary in China. That is why; they called the people around their villages. The villagers are also followed with them because they want to get the good salary," said police inspector Aung Hswe Lin from Mandalay police station.

"We cannot take action against both of them with trafficking law because the villagers are going with their own decision.

That is why, we have filed charges with another law. We have also provided the awareness education to the villagers, he added.— Min Htet Aung (sub-printing house) ■

Bilateral trade with China reaches $8.5 billion this FY

THE value of Myanmar's trade with China from April to December of the current fiscal year totalled US$8.51 billion, including $4 billion in exports and $4.49 billion in imports, according to figures released by the Commerce Ministry.

Meanwhile, Myanmar's regional trade with ASEAN countries showed the highest growth, closely followed by its bilateral trade with China.

The border trade with China performed better than trade via sea. Myanmar conducted $3.7 billion worth of sea trade with China, while the value of border trade reached $4.7 billion.

The value of bilateral trade with China was some $10.8 billion in the 2016-2017 FY, $10.9 billion in the 2015-16 FY, $9.7 billion in the 2014-2015 FY, $7 billion in the 2013-2014 FY, $4.95 billion in the 2012-2013 FY and $5 billion in the 2011-2012 FY.

Rice, various types of peas, sesame seeds, corn, fruits and vegetables, dried tea leaves, fishery products, rubber, minerals and animal products are exported to China, whereas machinery, plastic raw materials, consumer products and electronic tools flow into Myanmar.

During this FY, China invested capital of $1.2 billion in 50 projects, according to statistics provided by the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration.—Ko Htet

A worker selects fish at the Nyaungtan Jetty in Yangon. **PHOTO: GNLM/PHOE KHWAR**

Bilateral trade with South Korea tops $571 million this FY

THE value of bilateral trade between Myanmar and South Korea reached US$571 million in the current financial year, according to the monthly statistical report of the Ministry of Commerce.

Over the first nine months of this fiscal year, Myanmar's exports to the East Asian country exceeded $200 million, while its imports were valued at $362 million. Bilateral trade, in December alone, was more than $60.712 million, with more than $189 million in exports and $321 million in imports.

Myanmar imports cosmetics, food products, electronic equipment, mobile devices and other goods from South Korea and exports agricultural products, including cashew nuts, mangoes, rice, beans and pulses.

The trade between the two countries in the last fiscal year (FY) was valued at $866 million.

The value of trade between the two countries was $666 million in the 2011-2012 FY and $623 million in the 2012-2013 FY. External trade with South Korea reached a record high of nearly $1.6 billion in the 2013-2014 FY. Trade between the two countries declined to $862 million in the 2014-2015 FY and $656 million in the 2015-2016 FY.

South Korea's investments in Myanmar in the current fiscal year reached $237.141 million, according to a report of the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration. Its investment in Myanmar last fiscal year was worth $66.428 million.—Khine Khant

North East India Myanmar EXIM conclave, business cooperation signing ceremony held

THE North East India-Myanmar EXIM conclave and a horticulture, handlooms and handicrafts fair were held jointly by the Ministry of Commerce, Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI) and North East India Chamber of Commerce at the meeting hall of the Mandalay Chamber of Commerce and Industry at Yadanapon Super Centre in Chanayethazan Township, Mandalay Region, yesterday.

During the conclave, a signing ceremony for business cooperation in various fields was also held.

Union Minister for Commerce Dr Than Myint, the Indian ambassador to Myanmar, U Aung Than Win, vice president of the UMFCCI, and U Kyaw Min, president of Mandalay Chamber of Commerce and Industry, addressed the conclave.

The North East India Chamber of Commerce and Industry introduced the authorities and other concerned officials to the Indian businessmen from Manipur state and explained the business cooperation activities.

The Union Minister for Commerce and officials then had a look at the horticultural and handicraft items on display at the fair.

Later in the afternoon, officials from the Mandalay Chamber of Commerce and Industry and businessmen from Manipur discussed matters of business cooperation. —Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay)

7th State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee holds 6th meeting

The 6th meeting of the 7th State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee held in Yangon yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

THE 6th meeting of the 7th State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee began at Maha Pathana Cave in Thiri Mingalar Kaba Aye Hill in Yangon yesterday.

The first-day meeting was presided over by Chairman Sayadaw of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Abhidhaja Maharattha Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotika Bhamo Sayadaw Dr. Bhaddanta Kumarabhivamsa.

Joint Secretary Sayadaw of the committee Agga Maha Pandita Dwipitakadhara Bhaddanta Agga Dhamma acted as the Master of Ceremonies.

In his opening speech at the meeting, Sayadaw Dr. Bhaddanta Kumarabhivamsa expressed his delight for the government's planning to promote the monastic education schools nationwide.

The Chairman Sayadaw also called for establishing monastic education schools and for encouraging the Members of the Sangha who are taking part in the education system.

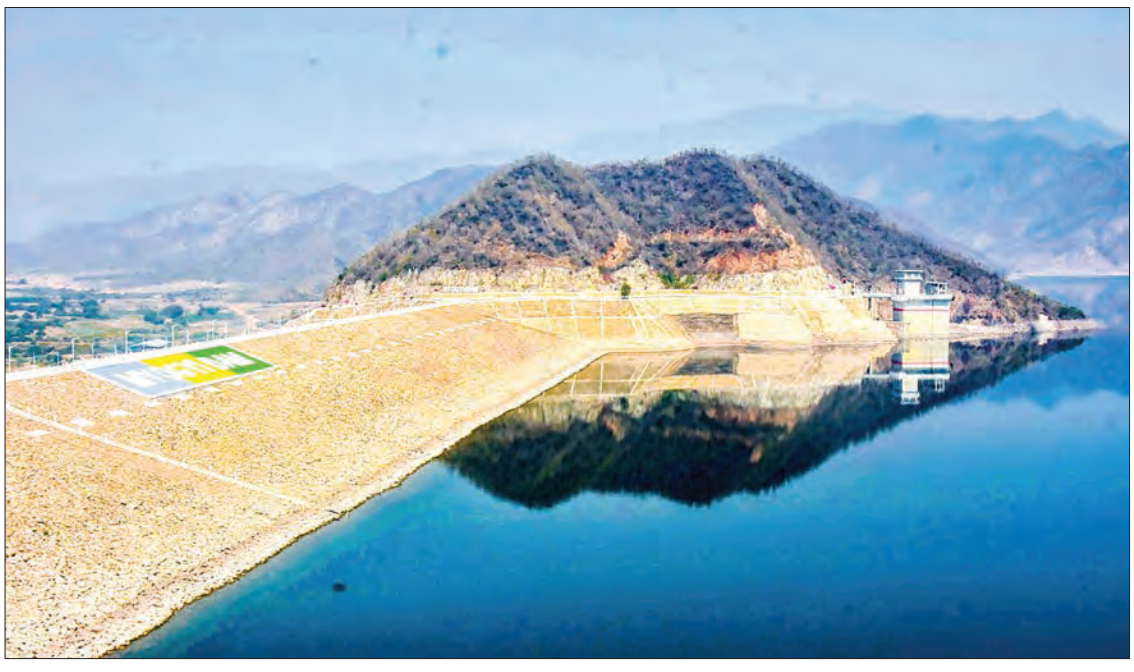
Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture Thura U Aung Ko suggested to hold meetings of ward/village/township/region/state level Sangha committees annually and to hold meeting Sangha Nayaka Committee every three months to be able to work closely between the bottom and top level committees.

Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Sandima Bhivamsa supplicated annual report of work done by the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee.

A total of 397 Members of the Sangha attended the meeting.—Myanmar News Agency

MSMEs from Mandalay, Kachin exhibit products

Vice President U Myint Swe visits the exhibition of the products produced by local MSMEs in the Mandalay Region and Kachin State at the Mandalar Thiri Sports Ground, Mandalay yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**



A panoramic view of the Myogyi Dam in Ywagan, southern Shan State. **PHOTO: MNA**

FROM PAGE-1

The Vice President also reiterated the government's commitment to provide technology to the MSMEs, so that they can produce value-added products with superior packaging designs.

He urged the entrepreneurs to expand their markets, in accordance with the rules and policies laid down by the Union Government, to produce export products.

In accordance with the ASEAN strategic action plan for the development of MSMEs, known as the ASEAN SAP SMED 2016-2025 plan, Myanmar is also working for the growth of the country's MSMEs.

The three-day exhibition was formally opened by Vice President U Myint Swe; Union Ministers U Khin Maung Cho, Dr. Than Myint and U Kyaw Win; Magway Region Chief Minister Dr. Aung Moe Nyo; Mandalay Region Chief Minister Dr. Zaw Myint Maung; and Kachin State Transportation, Electricity and Industry Minister U Win Nyunt.

Following the opening ceremony, Vice President U Myint Swe went to Ywagan in southern Shan State and inspected the Myogyi Dam.

U Kyaw Myint Hlaing, director-general of the Irrigation and Water Utilisation Management Department, reported on the current irrigation plan for farmlands, the Meihtila plain greening project, as well as on the plan to generate electricity and distribute it to the national grid.

Following the report, U Myint Swe urged officials to work for the development of eco-tourism based on the dam, in cooperation with the departments concerned.

Thanks to the Myogyi Dam, some 55,000 additional acres have been planted for cultivation of peas and pulses. The dam is irrigating more than 33,000 acres on the Meiktila plain.

During his visit to the dam, Vice President U Myint Swe inspected the intake channel for the dam and the generation of electricity at the dam.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Vice President U Myint Swe inspects the intake channel of the Myogyi Dam in Ywagan, southern Shan State. **PHOTO: MNA**

Geotechnical investigation being conducted to construct small airport in Lailenpi, Chin State

Engineers carry out geotechnical investigation to construct small airport in Lailenpi. **PHOTO: SUPPLIED**

By May Thet Hnin

MISSION Aviation Fellowship (MAF) International, an international non-governmental organisation, is conducting a geotechnical investigation to construct a small airport in Lailenpi Town in Matupi Township, Mindat District, southern Chin State.

This small airport can accommodate high performance short takeoff and landing aircraft, with a seating capacity of 13 people and a length of 800 metres.

The small airport will be constructed with some US$2.2 million provided by MAF. MAF will support the operations of up to three aircraft depending on demand, after receiving the requisite approval of the government, said Chad Tilley, Country Director of MAF Myanmar.

The government approved the construction of the MAF-funded small airport in July 2017. Currently, a geotechnical investigation is being carried out. Construction will begin in November, delayed due to the current unfavourable weather conditions. The airport is expected to be completed by April 2020, and it is slated to open in May 2020.

Lailenpi has a population of 40,000. The far-flung town is not easily accessible. It can be accessed by road only between January and April, and hiking is the only option during the other months. The construction project will resolve the state's transport problems by opening up access via air.

The road trip to Lailenpi takes some five days from Yangon, while it is only 90 minutes away by air.

The airport will help tackle emergency problems, boost tourism development, attract investors and enhance trade. It will help implement the government's regional development activities and execute the government's programmes for balanced development across the country by narrowing the gap between rural and urban development growth, said Chad Tilley.

Once the government's approval is received, all types of aircraft will be allowed to land at this small airport.

"It (Lailenpi) received a rural road only three years ago. The local people mostly travel by motorcycle, but this is not possible in the rainy season. As a result, the local people find it difficult to access education and health services. Some have lost their lives on the way to the public hospital. The airport can save people's lives," said Hiva, a resident of Lailenpi.

The town is rich in natural scenic beauty. If transport facilities improve, tourism sites will emerge, said the locals.

MAF is providing humanitarian and regional development assistance. It has provided 135 small aircraft to more than 30 developing countries.

After this project, MAF will continue to seek approval from the government to build more small airports in other far-flung areas.

Dr. Sasa, CEO and founder of Health and Hope Myanmar, endeavoured for MAF to help develop a small airport in Lailenpi. Health and Hope Myanmar is planning to provide free emergency services to the local people after the construction of the airport. Of the 69 airports under the Ministry of Transportation and Communication, only 33 are operational. There is a plan in place to renovate the small airports. The new airport will help improve the socio-economic situation of the local people, said U Kyaw Soe, director of the Department of Civil Aviation. ■

UPDJC, JICM to resume meetings on 27 and 28 Feb

The meeting between the Peace Commission and the signitories to the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement yesterday. **PHOTO: SUPPLIED**

THE Union Peace Dialogue Joint Committee (UPDJC) and Joint Implementation Coordination Meeting (JICM) will be resumed on 27 and 28 February, according to the meeting between the Peace Commission and signitories to the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement yesterday in Yangon.

The work coordination meeting also called on organisations which have not yet held national-level political dialogues to step up efforts to clarify unclear matters related to resolutions of the national-level political dialogues.

The participants of the meeting also decided yesterday to discuss the Joint Monitoring Committee's matters at the UPDJC, as they reached beyond the framework of UPDJC and submitted them to the Joint Implementation Coordination Meeting (JICM) after discussion, he added. At the meeting, they also agreed on several issues to be jointly coordinated by both sides during the period from the singing NCA to reaching Union Agreement.

The JICM also agreed to form working groups during the period and JMC agreed to settle the disputed issues including demarcation between the Tatmadaw and the RCSS. Both sides also agreed to make more efforts for inclusiveness of the non-signatories in the NCA.

The date for the third meeting of the Union Peace Conferenece-21st Century Panglong will be revealed after the meetings on 28 February.

Currently there is The New Mon State Party (NMSP) and Lahu Democratic Union (LDU) have signed the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA) including ten signatory groups, at the Myanmar International Convention Centre. —Ye Khaung Nyunt ■

MOU signed to increase election administration

The Union Election Commission (UEC) signed a memorandum of understanding with the Association of World Election Bodies (A-WEB), and Mitsubishi Research Institute Inc. (MRI) yesterday to increase capacity for election administration processes.

Chairman U Hla Thein said at the ceremony that the UEC is collaborating with MRI for the first time but has collaborated with A-WEB before in sending participants to workshops on election topics, and sending participants on observation trips to presidential elections.

This new MoU is connected to using ICT technologies to count votes and announce poll results.

Next, Ms. Tomoki Takahashi, Deputy Director-General of MRI, said that the company was guided by the Japan Government to sign the MoU. A-WEB's Director-General Mr. Sang Rock Bae said the shift to ICT is to build trust with voters and to motivate more people to vote. He said they plan to carry out this work for the next three years.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Correction

The headline of the story on Page 7 of the Friday, 23 February edition of the Global New Light of Myanmar contained an error. The correct title should read: JPN gov't five UN agencies sign Exchange of Notes on Grant Aid to Rakhine State. The GNLM regrets the error.—Ed

24 FEBRUARY 2018
THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Don't rush planning laws

THE supposed final version of the bill for Yangon City Development Law has been drafted and it is reported to be read at the Hluttaw before approval.

A team of 31 experts and nine members of parliament deliberated the previous version of the bill for six months but had to further revise it again when the professional community criticized some sections of the bill which were considered to be unfair or unnecessary. U Soe Myint Tun, a qualified senior engineer, said some of the issues in the previous version of the bill was a clause in section 409 that would fine contractors, architects, engineers or civil engineers working without a license from the YCDC. This meant that any engineer or architect already registered to the engineering council or architect council will have to apply to the YCDC for an additional license.

Hopefully the latest version will have addressed all the issues professionals had concerns over. This is a good example of how planning or amending a law has to be in line with the livelihoods of the people it serves to protect. It needs to be given serious thought while at the same time understanding the bigger picture and the practical needs of the citizens and those affected.

> Laws enacted in the past for city development may not be relevant to the needs of modern society, so they must be reviewed and amended to guide the city's development into a thriving metropolis.

This is why previous generations had a saying not to "law" Law, i.e. not to rush law (rush in Myanmar is pronounced the same as "law"). Our country has had some history of using professionals and their words as a banner without actual in-depth analysis on the subject. This needs to be changed if we want laws that have practical effects for the people.

A definite vision needs to be decided on when drawing up a city development plan. Do you want the city to become an economic center, a city that upholds cultural heritage, or a concrete jungle? City development should ensure that a city operates smoothly, upholds high standards of cleanliness and exudes a sense of safety to its inhabitants.

Laws enacted in the past for city development may not be relevant to the needs of modern society, so they must be reviewed and amended to guide the city's development into a thriving metropolis. Current issues in Yangon that need solutions are traffic jams, overpopulation in some areas, and better roads and infrastructure.

The law must also reflect the qualifications of the people who will lead the development plans so that a high standard is maintained. In the new democratic age the government should also listen to the people's voice as they are the ones who are living in the city and they know what they may need. Maybe then, in the time of the people's government, there will be laws that reflect the needs of the people and improve their lives. ■

National interests and controversial issues on freedom of press

By Aung Kyaw Aye Chan

MYANMAR'S peaceful change-over to civilian rule which is assumed to have started in 2010 has been a little well over two years in power now. With the support by the majority of the people, the democratically-elected civilian government has been trying to solve the problems—some normal and some critical—after taking power in 2016.

In addition to national peace and reconciliation, Maungtaw conflict in Rakhine State happens to become entangled with human rights and freedom of press.

Freedom of press

Here I would like to present some facts to my readers what I have observed in connection with freedom of press. As it is well known , Myanmar has been gradually struggling for civilian rule of independence and democratic rights from the military dictatorship.

Even if the present situation is not completely satisfactory, it won't be wrong to say that the present-day human rights and freedom of press are much better than those during last 50 years. In saying so, I would like to provide a lot of evidences.

Only a few days ago the Ministry of Information issued a statement on permission of printing materials and publishing and news agencies, totaling 3898 publishers and owners of news agencies. Three news agencies existed in 2014 and now to the considerable increase of 91 in 2017.

The cancellation of news agencies While the numbers of news agencies in Myanmar has increased, some news agencies in neighbouring countries have been cancelled. The US-backed Radio Free Asia and 19 sub-radio stations in Cambodia were shut down in 2017, leading to a reduction of 30 employees . RFA has been under pressure to pay taxes in retrospect . In the way the Voice of America has been facing taxation problems in retrospect for twenty years. In mid-2017, six RFA correspondents were arrested and they have been in prison up until now in Viet Nam. They were alleged to report on the polluted water released from the Taiwan steelworks in Viet Nam whose waste products reportedly damaged many areas of fishing grounds. In Myanmar some local news agencies have sent false reports to foreign news agencies to tarnish the reputation of our leaders; these reports are found to be inconsistent with journalistic ethics.

I would like to quote some statements issued by RSF(The Reporters without Borders). Myanmar Literary Board was dissolved on 20 August, 2012, thereby raising the position of freedom of press gradually to the position of 131 in 2017 and indicating more press freedom in the country.

A decline in freedom of press in the whole Southeast Asia Free-

Photo: GNLM/Phoe Khwar

Photo: Nyi Zaw Moe

dom of press in the whole Southeast Asia has declined, according to the article by Dominic Faulder in Nikkei Asian Review. In his article freedom of press is divided into three categories: complete freedom, partial or no freedom at all. No freedom of press for 51% of 4.1 billion population in Asia; partial freedom for 44% and 5% for complete freedom of information. Myanmar falls in the category of partial freedom. China stands at 176th position and Laos and Viet Nam stand at 170th and 175th respectively and finally North Korea stands at 180th position.

Freedom of press in ASEAN community has declined considerably: Thailand ranked 66th position in 2002, but now in 142nd position; the Philippines declined from 89th position to 127th position where 92 journalists were killed between 1992 and 2018. According to the statistics compiled the US-based Committee to Protect Journalists(CPJ), as many as 1278 journalists were killed during the same period in the whole world.

A decline in the US

Freedom of press has also declined in the United States where a lot of human rights organization and news agencies are based.

President Donald Trump has attacked the media with harsh words, thereby bringing down from the 17th position to 43rd position, according to the CPJ statistics. Lastly I want to put up the Maungtaw conflict in Rakhine State. In connection with the murder with 10 ARSA terrorists, actions are being taken against 16 soldiers, policemen and villagers from Innden village, Maungtaw District. " The positive steps taken by the Tatmadaw should be encouraged," Myanmar representative to the UN told the UN Security Council on 13 February about the real situation in Rakhine State. He also pointed out that even though there are few clashes in the region, the threat of ARSA terrorist group still remains among the local people.

The Rakhine conflict is hard to solve by pointing out violations of human rights and lack of freedom of press because of long and complex historical context. The news report about Inndenm village sent by the two Reuters correspondents tended to have bad blood between race and religion, to tarnish the reputation of Myanmar leaders and without showing due regards to journalistic ethics. It would be wrong to say the press freedom has declined in Myanmar on account of the arrest of two Reuters journalists.

The majority of Myanmar people understand that they have to analyze the Maungtaw conflict not only in the nature of human rights and press freedom but from the geographical neighbourhood. Recent statements by the Russian Embassy revealed that accusations against Daw Aung San Suu Kyi concerning Rakhine crisis are unjustifiable. Similarly, China, India and ASEAN Community stand side by side with Myanmar in the disputes. While friendly countries keep standing side by side with our country, Myanmar people should decide what our priorities are.

Freedom of press is visibly seen from the time of abolishing the Literary Scrutiny Board in 2012 to the time of publishing newspapers and journals today. It is truly indicator of freedom of press in Myanmar. By keeping national interests and security properly balanced, Myanmar will continue to struggle against new challenges and obstacles amid its reformation of political process. ■

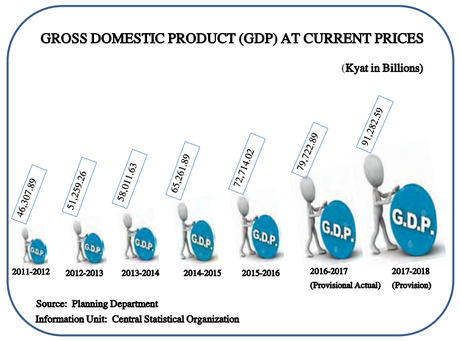
Translated by Arakan Sein

MYANMAR GAZETTE

Heads of service organizations appointed

1. The President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has confirmed the following persons as Heads of Service Organizations shown against each of their names on expiry of the one-year probation period.

Name	Appointment
(1) U Ohn Lwin	Director-General Department of Road Ministry of Construction
(2) U Shwe Lay	Director-General Department of Bridge Ministry of Construction



Asia-Pacific countries commit to empower rural women and girls at high-level UN forum

MINISTERS and senior government representatives from Asia and the Pacific on Friday committed to ensuring greater empowerment of rural women and girls to improve their standard of living, food security and livelihoods.

The pledge was made at the regional consultation for the 62nd session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (CSW62) held in Bangkok.

Rural women and girls continue to face structural barriers that impact their human rights and prevent them from achieving their full potential. Achieving adequate living standards, women's economic empowerment, land rights, food security, health care, quality education, resilience and preparedness to deal with disasters and conflicts are among the main challenges faced by rural women and girls in Asia-Pacific. The 'Asia-Pacific Regional High-Level Meeting for CSW62: Challenges and Opportunities in Achieving Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Rural Women and Girls' adopted a set of recommendations that will feed into CSW62 - the leading intergovernmental body dedicated exclusively to the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women worldwide – to be held at the UN Headquarters in New York from 12 to 23 March 2018.

The recommendations reflect the urgent need to strengthen normative and legal frameworks, and ensure coordinated action for the social and economic empowerment and meaningful participation of rural women and girls in society. Delegates further highlighted the importance of establishing innovative financing models and enhancing access to ICT and other technologies. They also stressed the need for improved availability of data and gender statistics to enhance evidence-based policy making.

In her opening statement, UN Under-Secretary-General and Executive Secretary of the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) Dr. Shamshad Akhtar stressed "if we do not take concrete actions we risk leaving rural women and girls behind."—Bangkok (ESCAP News) ■

Myanmar Parliamentary Union Meeting 2/2018 held

MPU Chairman, Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than addresses the Myanmar Parliamentary Union (MPU) Meeting 2/2018 in Nay Pyi Taw Hluttaw Building yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Myanmar Parliamentary Union (MPU) Meeting 2/2018 was held at Hluttaw Building, Zabuthiri meeting hall yesterday afternoon in Nay Pyi Taw.

In his opening speech, MPU Chairman, Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than said the law pertaining to the MPU was enacted and this law was not meant to influence and control the State and Regionsparliaments. Every organization had their own law and the enactment of a law is to conduct their works properly. It is to enable and increase communication and coordination between the union, states and regions parliaments. MPU members are to follow the coordination and decision of the parliamentary union and must report back to the parliamentary union.

MPU Vice Chairman Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Win Myint said parliaments need to be strong in practicing a democracy system. Parliament is formed with elected representatives of the people and is the foundation of the country. The aim of the MPU law is to make the conduct of each parliament correct, raise the quality and to enable cooperation with organizations. Cooperation will be stronger if states and regions parliaments cooperate with multi-national organizations and international organizations. MPU members need to study and be well versed in the constitutional law, parliament law and rules.

Next, MPU secretary Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Aye Tha Aung explained about the decisions made at MPU Meeting 1/2018 and the reason for enacting the MPU organization law.

Afterwards, MPU member and Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U T Khun Myat explained that the MPU bill was submitted to Pyithu Hluttaw and Hluttaw Rights Committee and was done for the success of the federal democracy.

MPU Office Head, Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Office Director General U Kyaw Soe then explained about the current organization of parliament offices and their staff matters.

This was followed by speakers and deputy speakers of State and Region parliaments attending the meeting explaining about each parliament's matters and status of works conducted by each parliament.

Finally, Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker and Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker commented and clarified the discussions made and ended the meeting by delivering a concluding speech.

The meeting was attended by Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker and Deputy Speaker, Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker and Deputy Speaker, 12 States/Regions Hluttaw Speakers and 12 Deputy Speakers and officials from each Hluttaw offices. —Myanmar News Agency ■

Brunei Embassy observes 34th National Day, 25th anniversary Diplomatic Relations between Brunei and Myanmar

Union Minister for International Cooperation U Kyaw Tin and wife Daw Lwin Lwin Hman are welcomed by Ambassador of Brunei to Myanmar Mr. Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Pahlawan Colonel (R) Dato Paduka Haji Abdu'r Rahmani bin Dato Paduka Haji Basir and wife as they arrive the reception to mark the 34th National Day of Brunei Darussalam and 25th Anniversary of the Diplomatic Relations between Brunei Darussalam and Myanmar at Sule Shangri-La Hotel in Yangon 23 February 2018.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than (Centre) meets Cuban Ambassador Mr. Hector Conde Almeida. **PHOTO: MNA**

Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker receives Cuban Ambassador

SPEAKER of Amyotha Hluttaw Mahn Win Khaing Than received Bangkok-based Cuban Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Hector Conde Almeida, at the guest hall of Amyotha Hluttaw in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

At the meeting, they cordially discussed matters related to bilateral friendship, health, education and economic cooperation between the two countries. Also present at the meeting were Deputy Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw U Aye Tha Aung and officials of the Office of Amyotha Hluttaw.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Ceremony on conclusion of Civil Service Training

A ceremony at the conclusion of the Civil Service Training, jointly organized by the Ministry of Information and Panna Institute, Konrad Adenauer Stiftung, was held at the Ministry of Information assembly hall in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

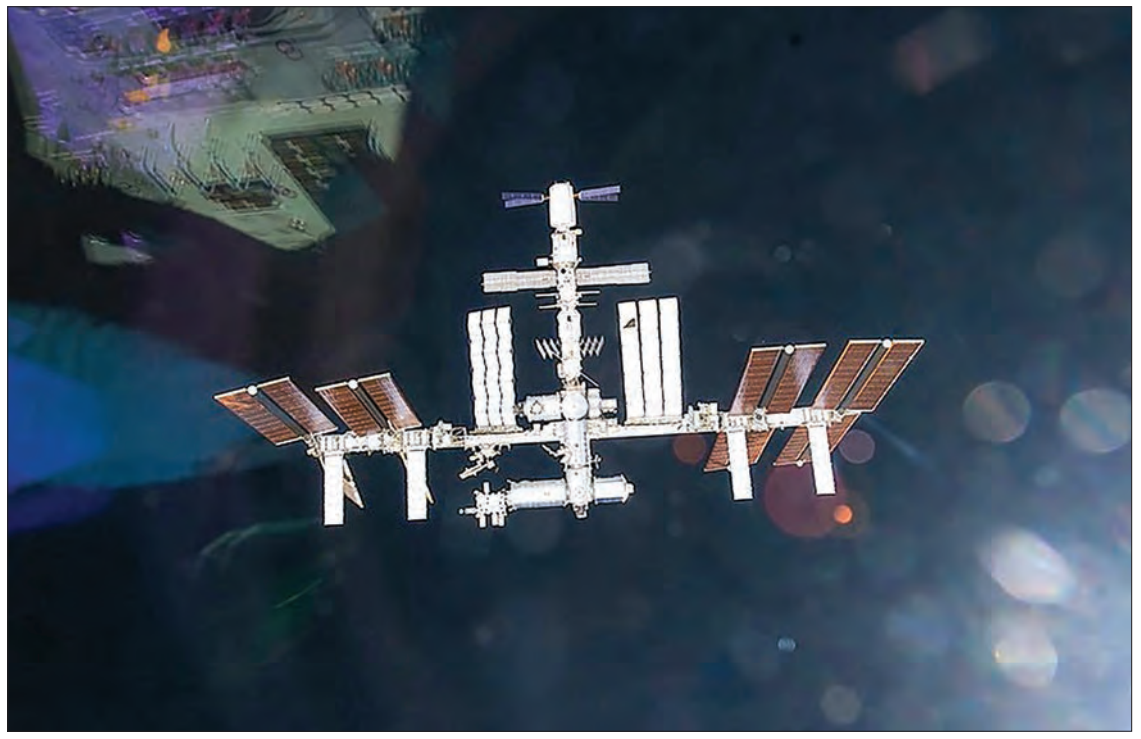
In his speech at the ceremony, Ministry of Information Deputy Minister U Aung Hla Tun said the training course was conducted with an aim to increase the quality of civil servants, saying it was a very important course for the country, as modern civil administration and management subjects were taught.

The knowledge and experience gained from attending the course should be effectively utilized in actual works and it should also be spread to those colleagues who did not attend the course. Much thanks is owed to the Panna Institute and Konrad Adenauer Stiftung for supporting and assisting in the course, added the Deputy Minister.

Also, the course teacher, U Htay Win Naing, presented the course conclusion certificates to trainees, and one trainee delivered a speech of appreciation.—MNA ■

Ministry of Information Deputy Minister U Aung Hla Tun addresses the ceremony at the conclusion of the Civil Service Training. **PHOTO: MNA**

Interagency Commission recommends crews for new ISS mission



The main crew for a Soyuz MS-08 features Roscosmos cosmonauts Oleg Artemyev, NASA astronauts Andrew Feustel and Richard Arnold. **PHOTO: TASS**

ZVYOZDNY GORODOK — The Interagency Commission at a meeting of the Gagarin Research & Test Cosmonaut Training Center recommended the main and backup crews for a new mission to the International Space Station, the center's press service told TASS on Thursday.

"The Interagency Commission recommended the crews to continue flight preparations at the Baikonur Cosmodrome," the Center said.

The main crew for a Soyuz MS-08 features Roscosmos cosmonauts Oleg Artemyev, NASA astronauts Andrew Feustel and Richard Arnold. The backup crew includes Alexey Ovchinin (Roscosmos) and Nick Hague (NASA). The final crew compositions will be given the go-ahead by the state commission at Baikonur a day before the launch which is scheduled for 21 March.

The meeting of the Interagency Commission was held after a two-day review session. The cosmonauts handled all training contingency situations operating precise copies of the Russian ISS segment and the Soyuz MS spacecraft. The medical commission also recognized them as qualified for flight.

Artemyev will make his second voyage to the ISS, Feustel will go there for the third time and Arnold for the second time. As for the backup crew, Ovchinin already made one flight to the ICC, and Hague has no space flight experience yet.

The new ISS mission will fly to the station aboard a Soyuz MS-08 spacecraft on 21 March from the Baikonur Cosmodrome. —Tass ■

Chinese scientists find how bats carry viruses without getting sick

WASHINGTON — Chinese scientists have identified the secret of bats that harbor highly pathogenic viruses like Ebola, Marburg and SARS coronavirus but do not show clinical signs of disease.

In a paper published on Thursday in the journal Cell Host & Microbe, scientists at the Wuhan Institute of Virology in China find that in bats, an antiviral immune pathway called the STING-interferon pathway is dampened, so bats can maintain just enough defense against illness without triggering a heightened immune reaction.

"We believe there is a balance between bats and the pathogens they carry," said the paper's senior author Zhou Peng.

"This work demonstrated that in order to maintain a balance with viruses, bats may have evolved to dampen certain pathways," Zhou said.

According to researchers, in humans and other mammals, an immune-based over-response to one of these and other pathogenic viruses can trigger severe illness. For example, in humans, an activated STING pathway is linked with severe autoimmune diseases.

"In human history, we have been chasing infectious diseases one after another," said Zhou, "But bats appear to be a 'super-mammal' to these deadly viruses."

By identifying a weakened but not defunct STING pathway in bats, researchers have some new insight into how bats fine-tune antiviral defenses to balance an effective, but not an overt, response against viruses.

They hypothesize that this defense strategy evolved as part of three interconnected features of bat biology: they are flying mammals, have a long lifespan, and host a large viral reservoir.

"Adaptation to flight likely caused positive selection of multiple bat innate immune and DNA damage repair genes," Zhou said.

These adaptations may have shaped certain antiviral pathways including STING, interferon to make them good viral reservoir hosts and achieve a tolerable balance.

Zhou told Xinhua that the study has provided a possibility that people can learn from bats in combating virus although whether this mechanism can be directly used in humans is still unknown.—Xinhua ■

SpaceX launches Falcon 9 with 1st broadband internet satellites

LOS ANGELES — SpaceX completed another launch of its Falcon 9 rocket early Thursday with first two prototype satellites of its global broadband internet-in-space project, Starlink, successfully deployed in orbit.

"First two Starlink demo satellites, called Tintin A & B, deployed and communicating to Earth stations," SpaceX CEO Elon Musk tweeted.

A used Falcon 9 rocket blasted off at 6:17 a.m. local time (1417 GMT) on Thursday from Space Launch Complex 4E at California's Vandenberg Air Force Base.

The Falcon 9's first stage separates from the second stage moments after about two minutes from liftoff. The launch's primary mission is to deliver PAZ, a radar-imaging satellite, into orbit for the Spain-based company Hisdesat.

"Successful deployment of PAZ satellite to low-Earth orbit confirmed," the California-based company confirmed.

According to the mission description, equipped with an advanced radar instrument, PAZ will cover the entire globe in 24 hours, serving both commercial and government needs. Designed for a mission life of five and a half years, PAZ will orbit Earth 15 times per day, covering an area of over 300,000 square kilometers from an altitude of 514 kilometers and a velocity of seven kilometers per second.

However, Paz was not riding alone on the recycled Falcon 9. Quietly on board were SpaceX's two experimental broadband satellites, Microsat-2a and Microsat-2b, a big first step in SpaceX's long-term plan to create satellite internet over the next decade.

The company has been relatively mum about the debut of its Starlink satellites, and about the entire program itself.—Xinhua ■

India successfully test-fires Dhanush missile

NEW DELHI — India successfully test-fired indigenously developed Dhanush missile Friday from a port in its eastern state of Odisha, officials said.

"The indigenously developed Dhanush missile has been successfully test-fired from Paradeep Port of Odisha this morning," India's state-run broadcaster All India Radio (AIR) said.

The missile according to officials was fired from a warship to surface and it successfully hit the target. Officials said the missile is naval version of Prithvi-II missile with a capacity of hitting the target within 350 km with payload of 500 kg. "This is the second test after 2015 and now, Dhanush can hit the target from surface-to-surface and sea-to-surface also," AIR said.

The test was carried out by strategic force command of Indian army as part of a user trial.

Strategic force command has been conducting trials of the missiles as part of regular training exercise to reconfirm its readiness.

On Thursday it successfully conducted night trial of its indigenously developed surface-to-surface nuclear capable Prithvi-II missile.—Xinhua ■

Three-year-old child dies, 16 injured in Cairo building collapse

BUJUMBURA — Three women died and six other people seriously injured after a church building collapsed on Monday in the Burundian southwestern Rumonge province, the governor of Rumonge said Tuesday.

The incident happened in the Kagongo village in the Kizuka zone around 6 p.m. during heavy rains mixed with a violent wind, said Juvenal Bigirimana.

"During prayers, the Kagongo Pentecostal church building collapsed while worshippers were inside. Walls fell on them and three women died on the spot, six other people were seriously injured," said Bigirimana.

He said violent wind first unroofed the church building before walls could collapse, adding that the two actions were almost simultaneous.

Rescuers search for survivors at a building collapse site in Manshiyet Nasser area of Cairo, Egypt, on 22 February 2018.
PHOTO: XINHUA

Besides human casualties, over 300 houses were damaged during those heavy rains hitting Kagongo, said the governor, adding that an unknown number of hectares of crops were also destroyed by the rains.

Homeless victims were Monday night sheltered by their neighbors whose houses were not affected by the disaster, said the governor, who also called on charitable people and organizations to assist the victims in terms of food and iron sheets in rehabilitating their houses. —Xinhua ■

Humans can reach Mars but unknown radiation may turn out lethal, Russian scientist warns

MOSCOW — The current level of science and engineering as it is, humans can reach Mars in principle, but no means exist at the moment of protecting them from radiation there, the chief of the space plasma physics section at the Russian Academy of Sciences' Space Research Institute, Anatoly Petrukovich, told TASS.

"As far as the technical possibility of flying to Mars is concerned, it does exist. For instance, we may launch Proton rockets [with space vehicle components] several times, then assemble them in orbit the way the railway engine and cars are coupled on the ground and then push the spacecraft towards Mars somehow. The odds are it will reach its destination and may even deliver some crew there. The question is what the chances of getting back will be, bearing in mind the level of radiation," Petrukovich said.

The effects of unknown types of radiation on biological species are not very well studied at the moment, but it is already clear they may cause heavy damage to the human body.

Alongside safety matters there is the fund-raising problem that will have to be addressed.

"A flight to Mars may require investment identical to what the world spends on space research these days. Possibly, there should be some international project," Petrukovich said.— Tass ■

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V HOANG HAI 88-ALCI V.0118

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V HOANG HAI 88-ALCI V.0118 are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 26-02-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of BSW-2 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 RK SHIPPING & TRADING PTE LTD

Phone No: 2301928

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V TAN BINH 89

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V TAN BINH 89 are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 19-02-18 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of AIPT-3 where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S BEN LINE AGENCIES PTE LTD

Phone No: 2301928

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V SIMA PERFECT VOY. NO. ( )

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V SIMA PERFECT VOY. NO. ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 26-2-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of HPT where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S NEW GLODEN SEA SHPPING LINE

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V XETHA BHUM VOY. NO. ( )

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V XETHA BHUM VOY. NO. ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 25-2-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MIP 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 PACITA VOY. NO. ( )

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V PACITA VOY. NO. ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 24-2-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MITT/AIPT 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 NEW GOLDEN SEA LINES

Phone No: 2301185

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR
www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

circulation@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
သတင်းစာမှာယူဖတ်ရှုလိုပါက ဆက်သွယ်နိုင်ပါသည်။
Circulation order is in easier way.
HOTLINE 09-974424114

management@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
သတင်းစာ၊ ဂျာနယ်စာစောင်များ အား နိုင်ငံတကာအဆင့်မီ ပုံနှိပ်စက်ခြင်း ပုံနှိပ်ပေးပါသည်။
Newspapers & Journal Printing Service.
Contact: 09-254435478

marketing@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
ကြော်ငြာရှင်များနှင့် ကြော်ငြာအေဂျင်စီများအနေဖြင့် ကြော်ငြာထည့်သွင်းလိုပါက တိုက်ရိုက်ဆက်သွယ်ဆွေးနွေးနိုင်ပါသည်။
Advertise with us.
HOTLINE 09-974424848

Earliest cave art belonged to Neanderthals, not humans

THE world's oldest known cave art was crafted by Neanderthals more than 20,000 years before modern humans arrived in Europe, showing that our extinct cousins were capable of symbolic thinking just like us, international researchers said Thursday. The report in the journal Science is based on new technology that reveals the most accurate age yet of ancient cave paintings at three different archeological sites in Spain. "This is an incredibly exciting discovery which suggests Neanderthals were much more sophisticated than is popularly believed," said co-lead author Chris Standish, an archaeologist at the University of Southampton. "Our results show that the paintings we dated are, by far, the oldest known cave art in the world." Since they were created some 64,000 years ago — at least 20,000 years before modern humans arrived in Europe from Africa — "they must have been painted by Neanderthals," he added. Using mainly red pigments and sometimes black, groups of animals, hand stencils, engravings, dots, discs and geometric designs are depicted in the cave paintings at La Pasiega in the northeast, Maltravieso in the west and Ardales in the south of Spain. These symbolic renderings point to an intelligence that was previously thought to be uniquely the realm of modern humans.

"The emergence of symbolic material culture represents a fundamental threshold in the evolution of humankind," said co-lead author Dirk Hoffmann of the Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology. "It is one of the main pillars of what makes us human."

Two people work in the Ardales cave, in Spain in 2016. **PHOTO: AFP**

New technology

Plenty of evidence already exists to debunk the myth that Neanderthals were knuckle-dragging brutes, and instead were capable of decorative impulses and rituals, like burying their dead.

But cave paintings were one of the last bastions that appeared to differentiate anatomically modern humans from Neanderthals, who died out some 35,000 years ago.

"Recent years have seen studies that show Neanderthals made extensive use of ornamental objects, potentially built structures, and on the whole, appear far more capable of symbolic cognitive processes than has historically been regarded," Adam Van Arsdale, associate professor of anthropology at Wellesley College, told AFP.

"These results suggest that cave painting, also, fails to distinguish Neanderthals and modern humans," said Van Arsdale, who was not involved in the study.

He said the findings reflect "some impressive technical developments in dating techniques in cave contexts, issues that have always posed a challenge for our understanding the timing of key events in human evolution."

He added: "As a new and technically challenging method, it will be good to see these results replicated by others."

To date but not destroy

Until now, figuring out the age of cave drawings without destroying them has been difficult.

The new approach is based on obtaining a minimum age for cave art "using Uranium-Thorium (U-Th) dating of carbonate crusts overlying the pigments," explained Hoffman. The technique of U-Th dating is based on the radioactive decay of uranium isotopes into thorium.

It can determine the age of calcium carbonate formations going back as far as 500,000 years, much further than the widely used radiocarbon method, said the report.

More than 60 tiny samples, less than 10 milligrams each, were analyzed from the three caves.

A second study, also published this week by Hoffmann and colleagues, determined the age of an archaeological deposit located at the Cueva de los Aviones, a sea cave in southeast Spain.

"This cave contained perforated sea shells, red and yellow colorants and shell containers including complex mixes of pigments," said the report.

U-Th dating found the flowstone covering the deposit to be about 115,000 years, older than similar finds in south and north Africa associated with Homo sapiens. The dating shows they came from a time when Neanderthals lived in western Europe.

"According to our new data Neanderthals and modern humans shared symbolic thinking and must have been cognitively indistinguishable," said Joao Zilhao, a researcher from the Catalan Institution for Research and Advanced Studies in Barcelona who was involved in both studies. Future studies could reveal many more caves where art was likely done by Neanderthals, said study co-author Paul Pettitt of Durham University.

"We have examples in three caves 700 kilometers apart, and evidence that it was a long-lived tradition. It is quite possible that similar cave art in other caves in Western Europe is of Neanderthal origin as well," he said.

"Neanderthals created meaningful symbols in meaningful places. The art is not a one-off accident." —AFP ■

WHO urges to expand access to testing, treatment for TB prevention

GENEVA — The World Health Organization (WHO) called on Thursday for scaling up access to testing and treatment for TB infection, especially among groups who are particularly at risk, such as children and people living with HIV. The WHO has updated the guidelines for programmatic management of latent TB infection, which expands access to testing and care for people with latent TB infection who may develop active TB in the future if without appropriate treatment.

Health practitioners have previously prioritized testing and treatment of people living with HIV and children under the age of five who have been in contact with people who have TB.

The WHO has now identified HIV-negative children aged above five, adolescents and adults who are contacts of TB patients, as well as contacts of patients with multidrug-resistant TB, as additional high-risk groups.

It also recommends expanding the testing options for latent TB infection in both high and low TB burden countries. Treatment options should also be expanded, the WHO said, recommending two new shorter treatment regimens to treat latent TB infection.

"The scale-up of TB preventive treatment has been slow. Only twelve of the 30 countries with a high burden of HIV-associated TB reported provision of TB preventive treatment among people living with HIV, and only 13 percent of the 1.3 million eligible children received preventive treatment in 2016," said Dr. Haileyesus Getahun from WHO Global TB Program.

"We hope the new guidelines will disrupt the status quo in many countries and leapfrog global implementation of TB prevention efforts."— Xinhua ■

INVITATION FOR PRICE QUOTATIONS

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar has received financing from the International Development Association (IDA) towards the cost of the National Community Driven Development Project (NCDDP). The IDA N° of the financing agreement is N° H814MM. The Department of Rural Development (DRD) of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation, in its role as implementing agency of the NCDDP, intends to apply a portion of the proceeds of this financing towards eligible payments under the Purchase Order/Contract for the following packages. DRD now invites eligible suppliers to express their interest in supplying the following items:

Reference Number: G -95 and G-96

Reference No.	Lot No	Description	Quantity
G-95	1	Electric Current Stabilizer for 16 new Townships	16
G-96	1	Desktop Computers with preinstalled O/S and MS Office	107
	2	Laptop Computers with preinstalled O/S and MS Office	147
	3	MIS computer with UPS	34
	4	Portable Hard Disk Drive	42

Expressions of Interest on Quotation must be submitted in a written form to the email address below and clearly indicate the reference number above. The invitation to quote will be distribute on the needs of DRD. Eligible suppliers having expressed interest will receive an INVITATION TO QUOTE (ITQ). Sealed Quotations will be submitted to the address by corresponding **date and time as stated in each package**, after which no Quotations will be accepted.

The goods will be contracted in lot-by-lot basis. Suppliers will be selected following the Shopping Method as per the "Guidelines for Procurement of Goods, Works and non-Consulting Services under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits & Grants by World Bank Borrowers" dated January 2011.

Please submit your Expression of Interest for receiving the Invitation to Quote (ITQ) to: U Kyaw Soe, Deputy Director General, Department of Rural Development, Office No.(14), Nay Pyi Taw. For detailed information please contact U Kyaw Swa Aung, Director, Procurement and Logistic Section, Mobile phone 0943434333 or office phone 067409071/ Email: unioncddprocurement@gmail.com. Please indicate your e-mail address as only electronic copies of the ITQ will be send as well as introduce your company name and contact number to communicate with you. For more information on the NCDD Project please also visit Website: www.cdd.drdmyanmar.org.

Haitian director Raoul Peck: 'We've lost the big picture'

LOS ANGELES — Still basking in acclaim for his visceral documentary on African-American social critic James Baldwin, Raoul Peck has turned his creative energies on another of history's indispensable political minds — Karl Marx.

The project comes with the Haitian filmmaker at the peak of his powers, having won best documentary at Sunday's Baftas — Britain's version of the Academy Awards — for "I Am Not Your Negro," his meditation on Baldwin's racial philosophies.

The 64-year-old was still directing the Oscar-nominated documentary — his 15th feature-length release — when he began work on "The Young Karl Marx," a dramatization of Marx's early years that hits US theaters on Friday.

A cerebral retelling of the birth of communism, it also works as a high-minded bromance between Marx and radicalized manufacturing heir Friedrich Engels that flourishes in the pubs and cafes of 1840s Paris.

"The Young Karl Marx," says Peck, aims at a realistic worldview in which complex problems require rigorous solutions rather than the short-term thinking the director sees in US President Donald Trump. "Any problem you can throw at him, it's an easy problem. It's either the fault of certain people or a certain person and you can get rid of the person and the problem goes away," Peck told AFP.

"No, it doesn't work that way. That's why we are in a time of populism, of simplification, of very individualistic reactions. It's because we've lost the big picture." Before they were 30, Marx and Engles had helped alter society with the publication of their clarion call to the working class, The Communist Manifesto, one of the most widely-read and influential texts of all time.

- Rabble-rousing -

Played by German actor August Diehl ("Inglourious Basterds"), Marx is introduced as a rabble-rousing Young Turk in his mid-20s, recently married to the aristocratic Jenny von Westphalen, portrayed by Vicky Krieps ("Phantom Thread").

In 1844 Paris they meet the dandyish Engels (Stefan Konarske), son of a wealthy German mill owner with factories in Manchester, who rebels against his father's mistreatment of his workers.

Amid censorship, police raids and political upheavals, they preside over the development of the makeshift, disorganized labor movement into the most coherent revolution in political thinking since the Renaissance.

Peck, who co-wrote with veteran French screenwriter Pascal Bonitzer, is the first director to helm a film about the early years of a man known mostly through the iconic image of the elder statesman with the wild, gray beard.

Peck says the last thing he wanted was to make a film about a "somewhat surly but somewhat kindly, tired-looking Marx, speaking in English through his bushy beard in a vague political context while shedding a few tears at the successive deaths of his children, and cheating on his wife."

Rather than relying on the glut of biographies and academic texts out there, Peck and Bonitzer researched their story by going straight to the horses' mouths, via their characters' mutual correspondence.

"Those letters are very vivid, very alive. They have humor, they are funny," Peck told AFP.

"The Young Karl Marx," Haitian filmmaker Raoul Peck's 15th feature-length release, dramatizes the famed political thinker's early years. **PHOTO: AFP**

"They of course speak about theory and history, but also about their friends, their next voyage, the difficulties of finding a home, organizing et cetera."

Legacy

Born in Haiti, Peck was raised in the Congo, the US and France, serving as Haiti's minister of culture in 1996 and 1997.

In 2001, Human Rights Watch gave him a lifetime achievement award for his work, most notably Lumumba (2000), which dramatized the rise and assassination of the Congo's first democratically elected leader.—AFP ■

Snapchat parent's stock plummets after Kylie Jenner tweet

LOS ANGELES — Snapchat's parent company lost some $1.3 billion in market value on Thursday after reality star Kylie Jenner's tweeted that she was no longer using the messaging service.

"sooo does anyone else not open Snapchat anymore? Or is it just me... ugh this is so sad," Jenner tweeted.

She later followed up with "still love you tho snap ... my first love," but the damage may already have been done.

Snap Inc.'s shares fell by over six percent in Thursday trading, a loss of about $1.3 billion in market capitalization.

Jenner has huge followings on various social media platforms, including Twitter and Instagram.

She gave birth to a daughter this month, and her Instagram post announcing the pregnancy quickly became one of the most liked posts of all time on the social media platform.—AFP ■

Reality star Kylie Jenner, pictured in May 2017, has massive followings on various social media platforms – and a tweet about Snapchat may have helped send its parent company's stock plummeting. **PHOTO: AFP**

Hong Kong harbour gets star attraction with sculpture park

HONG KONG — Hong Kong's harbourfront is known for glistening skyscrapers and the sight of containerships navigating busy shipping lanes — but a new art project has added a giant pumpkin, a map of the stars and a pair of disembodied legs to the famous skyline.

The Harbour Arts Sculpture Park, which officially opened on Thursday, is a collection of works by 19 local and international artists including Britain's Antony Gormley and Tracey Emin, Japan's Yayoi Kusama, as well as Jenny Holzer and Hank Willis Thomas from the United States.

The series of installations aims to increase public access to art in a city known more for its exclusive high-end galleries and lucrative auctions.

"I think public art is a unique place to make a statement and I wanted to make a work that people could inhabit and basically become a part of," said Willis Thomas, perched inside a large metal speech bubble.

The work, "Ernest and Ruth", is one of two of his sculptures in the project, which was organised by the nonprofit Hong Kong Arts Centre in collaboration with local partners.

On the harbourfront, intrigued visitors had already begun taking pictures of themselves with Kusama's oversized pumpkin sculpture on Thursday afternoon, while children played among the other works dotted on the grass.

Hong Kong artist Kacey Wong, whose angular golden artwork "Asteroids & Comets" is a constellation of three-dimensional star maps, said younger visitors were the quickest to engage with the art.—AFP ■

In China's eSport schools students learn it pays to play

JINAN — Most teachers would not be impressed to discover a student playing video games in their class. But at a school in eastern China it is mandatory, part of a drive to train eSport champions and tap into the booming industry.

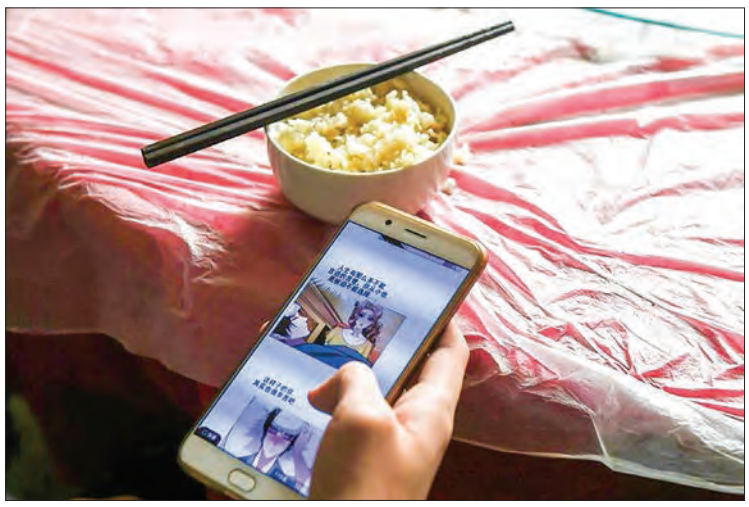
"Dammit, I'm dead!" exclaims one student at the Lanxiang Technical School in eastern Jinan province as dozens of his classmates who are still in the game continue to furiously bash their keyboards.

Once associated with teenagers stuck in their bedrooms, eSports -- where players square off in lucrative video game tournaments -- are growing fast.

Chinese internet research company iResearch estimates 260 million people are already playing eSport games or watching competitions in the country, with the biggest bouts playing out to thousands of spectators in stadiums and many more online.

The growth shows no signs of slowing. Market research firm Newzoo estimates that the eSport industry will be worth $906 million in global revenues in 2018, a 38.2 per cent increase from last year. China alone will account for 18 per cent.

Gaming has become a team sport at 910 universities across the Asian country, but there is also an increase in educational establishments, such as Lanxiang Technical, actively teaching the skills needed for eSports success.



Universities have opened up eSport courses in China. Overseas, Britain's Staffordshire University plans to launch a three year course. Universities in Finland and Moscow already offer such courses, and there is an eSport Academy in France. **PHOTO: AFP**

Around 50 students signed up for its inaugural eSports course, which launched in September.

"At first, many parents thought it was just about playing video games," school director Rong Lanxiang, told AFP. "In fact, it's not the case, eSport is developing to a very high degree and it's become an economic growth driver."

- League of Legends -

At the school in Jinan, students focus on improving their skills in some of the most popular eSport games.

League of Legends, one of the world's most played games, is a strategy driven bout where players fight each other in a digital arena.

First person shooters like Overwatch, Counter Strike and the hugely popular newcomer PlayerUnknown's Battlegrounds, are also key parts of this unusual syllabus.

"This was a hobby for me, I was really into playing video games, and it's a new industry, I think there are good prospects in it," says Teng Xin, who says he racks up at least 20 hours game time a week.

At 22, the student fears he may be too old to be a professional eSportsman, but feels he could be a coach.

His eSports course lasts a full three years. During the first year, the classes are 50 per cent gaming and 50 per cent theory lessons on succeeding within the industry.

After the first year, the students are divided up. The best gamers focus on becoming professional players while the others are taught accompanying skills including event organisation, promotion, or coaching.

Song Jinze, a shy 16-year-old, says he wants to become a presenter.

Big tournaments attract huge online audiences and, just like any boxing or football match, a good presenter is a key part of the experience.

It's not a career path his parents were happy with but he was able to persuade them of his prospects.

He says: "When I showed how much I love this and that I would persist with it, my dad agreed to let me come here to learn."

The annual school tuition fees are around 13,000 yuan ($2,050), a fairly reasonable price for tuition in China. The most talented players who become part of the school team are exempt from paying.

Lanxiang Technical has its sights set on tutoring up to 1,000 eSport students.

- Olympic status? -

It is all a far cry from the situation less than a decade ago when the government was so concerned about youths spending excessive time on the internet it listed web addiction as a clinical disorder and drafted legislation to limit online time.

Today, China is a key eSport market. In November more than 40,000 fans flocked to Beijing's Bird's Nest Olympic stadium to watch the final of the world championships for League of Legends.

ESports are to be included as a medal sport for the first time at the 2022 Asian Games in Hangzhou and proponents are pushing for Olympic status.

The eSports industry already employs some 50,000 people in China, according to local data firm CNG, but they estimate the demand is there to employ a further 260,000 across the country.

Alongside Lanxiang Technical, at least two other universities have opened up eSport courses. Overseas, Britain's Staffordshire University plans to launch a three year course next September. Universities in Finland and Moscow already offer such courses, while there is an eSport Academy in Nantes, France.

"In the future, eSports will be present in every family and it'll be more popular than basketball and football," predicts Teng Xin.

He adds: "To practice traditional sports, you have to go outside and have space. But you just need a computer to practice eSports at home." —AFP

Idris Elba taps own roots for director debut 'Yardie'

BERLIN — British actor Idris Elba said he tapped into his own roots growing up among London's West Indian community -- and his DJ experience -- for his directorial debut, "Yardie", shown Thursday at the Berlin film festival.

The gangster movie is set in Jamaica in the 1970s and the London neighbourhood of Hackney in 1980s, where Elba grew up as the only child of west African parents.

"I was raised in east London and the central character, his journey isn't too dissimilar from most young black boys in England, whether they're from the West Indies or Africa," the star of TV's "Luther" and "The Wire" and blockbusters such as "Thor: Ragnarok" told reporters.

"So when it came across my desk as a script — I had read the book as a kid — it was definitely something that I knew I could relate to."

"Yardie", slang for Jamaicans in general and Jamaican gangsters in particular, is based on a groundbreaking 1992 novel by Victor Headley about the black experience in Britain.

It tells the story of Jamaican boy D growing up in Kingston who saw his older brother, a DJ, shot dead when he was trying to make peace between rival gangs.

A decade later, in 1983, D is working for local drug lord King Fox, who has become a father figure.

- 'Explosion of culture' -

King Fox sends D (played by Aml Ameen of the Netflix series "Sense8") to deliver a kilo of cocaine to a partner in London.

D accepts the mission with the aim of avenging his brother's death, and he picks up the killer's trail among the Jamaican drug gangs that control Hackney's streets.

Along with the conflicts that have been carried from Jamaica, D finds an immigrant community in London that has maintained the familiar patois and the vibrant dancehall and reggae scene from home that Elba said he was keen to faithfully recreate.

Idris Elba's "Yardie" is based on a groundbreaking Victor Headley novel about the black cultural experience in Britain. **PHOTO: AFP**

"Jamaicans, west Africans — we all live together so I was very close to that culture. England was an explosion of culture in the 80s — it just blew up," he said.

"West Indians have been coming to England since the early 50s, 60s and then in the 70s and 80s, that fusion of London culture became rich and that's when I was born."

Elba, 45, said that he managed to largely avoid run-ins with the police and thugs in Hackney but that their influence was all around him.

"Alongside good boys like me there were gangs, there were drug dealers and there were what you typically find in urban areas of any city of the world where there's poor," he said.

"When I relate to the story, it's not because I was a gangster, I wasn't.—AFP

Aung La N Sang claims two division world champion with head kick to Machado

Machado knocked over by a head kick from Aung La; the referee intervened before follow up strikes could be delivered. **PHOTO: GNLM/PHOE KHWAR**

Aung La N Sang carrying his ONE middle weight championship belt before heading into the cage for the ONE light heavyweight world championship. **PHOTO: GNLM/PHOE KHWAR**

KyawZin Lin & Chris

IN the main event of ONE: QUEST FOR GOLD, hometown hero "The Burmese Python" Aung La N Sang scored a quick knockout victory over Alexandre Machado to win the vacant ONE Light Heavyweight World Championship at the Thuwunna Indoor Stadium in Yangon yesterday night.

Aung La N Sang needed less than a minute to finish Alexandre Machado to become a two-division champion at ONE: Quest For Gold last night. With his remarkable conquest of Machado, Aung La N Sang now has both the ONE Middleweight World Championship and ONE Light Heavyweight World Championship titles in his possession.

Machado looked significantly bigger but Aung La was much more confident in the early exchanges. He landed a hard body kick which the Brazilian attempted to block with his arms and, seconds later, the Burmese fighter launched a head kick.

Once again, Machado tried to use his hand to block, but the force of the kick was too great and it knocked him down. Aung La moved in for the kill, but the referee could see that his opponent had not recovered and he stepped in to stop the fight before the middleweight champion could land any follow-up strikes.

The finish came at the 0:56 mark and earned Aung La N Sang the light heavyweight belt, which had been vacated by Roger Gracie. His record moves to 22-10-0-1 and he now holds titles in two divisions, while Machado drops to 8-3.

Aung La's swift victory was received with mix emotions by the audience. Myanmar applauded Aung La for bringing yet another win for the country but many felt that the fight ended so fast that it defeated the momentum building up to the match, leaving a sense of longing in his fans.

In another event, Phoe Thaw remains unbeaten in the ONE cage, and elevates his perfect record to 6-0.

The undefeated 33-year-old lethwei specialist Phoe Thaw also knocked out Cambodia's Sor Sey with a powerful right push kick to the chin at ONE: QUEST FOR GOLD. ■

Injured Matsuyama to skip Mexico C'ship to prep for Masters

TOKYO — Hideki Matsuyama, who has yet to recover from a left thumb injury sustained three weeks ago, will not compete in the upcoming World Golf Championship-Mexico Championship, his management company said Friday.

The world No. 6 withdrew from the Phoenix Open early this month, ending his hopes of winning the tournament for a third straight year, after he injured the base of his thumb. The 25-year-old Japanese also missed last weekend's Genesis Open.

The Mexico Championship will be held on March 1-4 in Mexico City.

Matsuyama returned to Japan temporarily to undergo medical tests and is making progress in his recovery, the company said.

He is hoping to be back in time for the 5-8 April Masters at Augusta National where he will be chasing his first major championship. —Kyodo News ■

Yangon still leads the table with beating defending champs

YANGON United played against defending Champion Shan United in Week-7 of the MPT Myanmar National League at the Yangon United Sports Complex yesterday.

Yangon seized victory with a single goal from their player Aee Soe.

The lineup for Yangon United were keeper Kyaw Zin Htet, and players Pyaw Phyo Zaw, David Htan, Kyi Lin, Mg Mg Lwin, Sekou Sylla, Kosuke Yamazaki and Aee Soe.

Shan also used its reliable keeper Thiha Sithu, Asare Patrick, Chizoba Christopher, Yan Naing Oo and Zaw Lin.

Yangon could take over the match in the early minutes with its star Aee Soe. The icebreaker and winning goal was scored by Aee Soe's strong kick at 21 minute far from the net, with the ball entering the net from the left side of the keeper.

The match was heated up after the goal with both teams making substitutions. Min Kyaw Khant from Yangon United attained a direct red card for his rough manner to an opponent at 27 minutes. Yangon United had to play with 10 players along the match.

The Shan team fared much better in the second half after they changed tactics. At the 55 minutes mark Shan's Lee Hankuk tried to score from the right wing but Yangon's keeper Kyaw Zin Htet knocked the ball away. There were continuous chances for goals but the Shan team could not convert the chances into goals.

However, Yangon, even with only 10 players on the field, could defend well and the win was maintained even at the final whistle and its fans were cheering for the win. —KyawZin Lin ■