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State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi delivers the opening speech at the Myanmar Development Effectiveness Roundtable in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY**

Development Effectiveness Roundtable held

State Counsellor stresses greater need for exploring diverse ways of surmounting country's daunting challenges

“OUR country is facing a plethora of daunting challenges. The more daunting these challenges are, the greater the need for us to explore diverse ways of surmounting them and we look to our friends across the world to join us in our ventures and adventures,” said State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, in her capacity as the chairperson

of the Development Assistance Coordination Unit-DACU.

She made the comment in her opening address at the Development Effectiveness Roundtable at the Myanmar International Convention Centre II in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

The participants of the roundtable first met in late 2016 shortly after the Development

Assistance Coordination Unit was established.

The roundtable would provide the Union Government with an opportunity to greet 2018 with a common vision for the development of Myanmar and to discuss how development assistance could bring the Union Government closer to the realisation of this vision, said

the State Counsellor.

“The support of the international community can play an important and encouraging role, inspiring reformers to press on when obstacles loom large, and invigorating our institutions, some of which had ossified over a number of decades,” said Daw Aung San Suu Kyi.

Myanmar has always ap-

preciated such support from the international community.

She also expressed her hope that the various presentations and dialogues at the roundtable will enable Myanmar to work together to overcome the obstacles that developing countries inevitably have to meet.

SEE PAGE-3



‘BEST BANK IN MYANMAR’

Awarded by EUROMONEY 2017

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw discusses construction ministry, tax collection

Aung Ye Thwin,
Aye Aye Thant

THE seventh regular session of the second Pyidaungsu Hluttaw held its 10th-day meeting yesterday morning at the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw meeting hall in the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw building, Nay Pyi Taw.

During the meeting, a discussion and explanation about the union-level organisations on the reports of the two joint committees on the findings and comments of the National Planning Bill and the Union Budget Bill for the six-month period from April to September 2018, as well as a discussion by the Hluttaw representatives on the basic policy, were conducted.

Deputy Minister for Construction U Kyaw Lin said during the Pyithu Hluttaw meeting on 14 February, the Hluttaw Speaker had instructed the ministry to move forward as much as possible the conversion to regulatory body, as all would be converted to the regulatory body after 2020. Of the five departments operating under the Ministry of Construction — Department of Buildings, Department of Road, Department of Bridge, Department of Urban and Housing Development, and Department of Rural Development — the Department of Building is the easiest to start with, and it will be the first to become a regulatory body, said the deputy minister.

Starting from 1 April 2018, the Department of Rural Development will not conduct any work on its own with the union budget. However, if governments of states/regions request the ministry, the department will continue to work until 30 September 2019, and starting from 1 October 2019, it will become a regulatory body, said the Deputy Minister.

For the Department of

Road and Department of Bridge to become a regulatory body, standards and specifications, rules and regulations, laws, standard operation procedures, policies and plans are being drawn up with the help of the Asian Development Bank. Once this is done, the plan is for the two departments to become a regulatory body before December 2020, explained the Deputy Minister.

Once the Department of Building becomes a regulatory body from April 2018, it will no longer construct any building on its own, and the ministries and the relevant chief ministers of states/regions will have to do so under a tender system, and only the required rules, regulations, notifications and guidelines will be issued. Of the departments under the ministry, the Department of Building and the Department of Rural Development will become regulatory bodies on 1 April 2018, and the others will also become regulatory bodies as soon as possible in a step-by-step manner, explained the Deputy Minister.

Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation U Hla Kyaw explained that the capital fund allocated for projects earmarked to be conducted in the six-month period from April to September 2018 are for projects that can be completed within this period only.

As the period extends over the rainy season and time is short to complete people-centric projects during this period, only the projects that can be completed based on the ground situation have been submitted, said the Deputy Minister.

The Emerald Green Village Project and the rural water supply project will also be conducted in the same manner. The rural electrification project requires an international



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

tender, and the tender will be called during the six-month period between April to September 2018, while the work will be implemented during the 12-month period of the 2018-2019 fiscal year (FY). Based on the ground situation, only projects that can be completed during the six-month period from April to September 2018 have been submitted, and for the 2018-2019 FY, all the project works that can be conducted during the 12-month period will be included, explained the Deputy Minister.

Union ministers and deputy ministers of the Ministry of Industry, Ministry of Commerce, Ministry of Health and Sports, Ministry of Hotels and Tourism, Ministry for Transport and Communications, Ministry of Electricity and Energy, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, Union Civil Service Board, Nay Pyi Taw Council (including Nay Pyi Taw City Development Committee), Central Bank of Myanmar, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation, and Ministry

of Planning and Finance also explained similar matters to their respective ministries and organisations.

Regarding the report on the tax collected for the first six months of the 2017-2018 FY, Deputy Minister for Planning and Finance U Maung Maung Win said the initial estimate of the tax collected in the 2017-2018 FY was Ks6.481.008 trillion, of which Ks2.553.685 trillion was planned for the first six months. In reality, Ks3.078.799 trillion was collected and the implementation was 120.56 per cent, said the Deputy Minister.

In future, the government will depend mainly on tax collection for its expenditures. Tax collection and the gross domestic product ratio are still low in Myanmar, and efforts are being made to collect all the taxes that should be collected and expand the tax base.

With the help of foreign experts, the Internal Revenue Department is working towards a tax system reform that includes changing the outlook and views of tax payers,

effective usage of the carrot and stick principle, spreading knowledge about tax and ensuring the tax system meets international standards.

Public Account Joint Committee Secretary Dr. Sai Hsai Kyauksan then explained the committee's report (4/2018) in relation to this matter, after which Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than requested MPs interested in discussing the matter to enrol their names in the list.

Next, the matter of Myanmar signing the UNIDROIT Convention (1995) on stolen or illegally exported cultural objects and the second agreement on the amendment to the ASEAN all-round agreement, sent by the President, were explained by Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture Thura U Aung Ko and U Maung Maung Win, after which the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker requested the MPs interested in discussing the matter to enrol their names.

The 11th-day meeting of the seventh regular session of the second Pyidaungsu Hluttaw will be held on 28 February. ■

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Joint Bill Committee holds coordination meeting

A JOINT bill committee of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw held its coordination meeting on the National Tax Bill yesterday afternoon in the second-floor meeting hall of building D of the

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw.

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 Planning and Finance and Union Attorney General's of-

fice; business persons from the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry; and officials from the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Office. — Myanmar News Agency ■

State Counsellor addresses meeting of Central Committee for Implementation of Peace, Stability and Development in Rakhine State

CHAIRPERSON of the Central Committee for Implementation of Peace, Stability and Development in Rakhine State and State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi addressed the coordination meeting 1/2018 of the committee, which was held at the Presidential Palace meeting hall yesterday afternoon.

Also present at the meeting were Central Committee Deputy Chairmen Union Minister for Border Affairs Lt-Gen Ye Aung and Rakhine State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu, Central Committee members Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Kyaw Swe, Union Minister for Defence Lt-Gen Sein Win, Union Minister for Office of the State Counsellor U Kyaw Tint Swe, Union Minister for Information Dr. Pe Myint, Union Minister for the Office of the Union Government U Thaung Tun, Union Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation Dr. Aung Thu, Union Minister for Electricity and Energy U Win Khaing, Union Minister for Labour, Immigration and Population U Thein Swe, Union Minister for Industry U Khin Maung Cho, Union Minister for Commerce Dr. Than Myint,



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi attends the coordination meeting of Central Committee for Implementation of Peace, Stability and Development in Rakhine State. PHOTO: MNA

Union Minister for Education Dr. Myo Thein Gyi, Union Minister for Health and Sports Dr. Myint Htwe, Union Minister for Planning and Finance U Kyaw Win, Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr. Win Myat Aye, Union Minister for Hotels and Tourism U Ohn Maung, Union Minister for Ethnic Affairs Nai That Lwin, Union Attorney-General U Tun Tun Oo, Deputy Minister for the Office of the President U Min Thu, Deputy Minister for Border

Affairs Maj-Gen Than Htut, Deputy Minister for the Ministry of State Counsellor's Office U Khin Maung Tin, Deputy Minister for Transport and Communications U Tha Oo, Deputy Minister for Construction U Kyaw Lin and other officials.

First, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi delivered an opening speech. Next, Central Committee for Implementation of Peace, Stability and Development in Rakhine State Secretary and Deputy Minister Maj-Gen Than

Htut explained the status of implementing the decisions of the past meeting and future works.

This was followed by Central Committee Vice Chairman and Rakhine State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu explaining the present situation in Rakhine State.

Working Committee on Cooperation with UN Agencies and International Organizations Chairman Union Minister U Kyaw Tint Swe explained the effects of the international community on Rakhine State affairs,

while Central Committee Vice Chairman and Union Minister Lt-Gen Ye Aung explained the cases sent to the central committee by the Ministry of the Office of the State Counsellor and the Office of the Union Government.

Later, the Security, Peace and Stability and the Rule of Law Working Committee Chairman and Union Minister Lt-Gen Kyaw Swe explained works conducted regarding security matters; Immigration and Citizenship Scrutinizing Working Committee Chairman and Union Minister U Thein Swe explained works on immigration matters, while Settlement and Socio-economic Development Working Committee Chairman and Union Minister Dr. Win Myat Aye explained the works of the committee and the UEHRD.

The attendees at the meeting then discussed and suggested works for the implementation of peace, stability and development in Rakhine State and other general matters.

Lastly, State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi gave a concluding speech. — Myanmar News Agency ■

Development Effectiveness Roundtable held

FROM PAGE-1

The State Counsellor also expressed her delight to see, in addition to partners in development, representatives of private sector, both domestic and international, and of the many local and international non-governmental organisations that make up the rich social and economic tapestry of contemporary Myanmar.

"This is a place for open and frank discussions concerning the development challenges we face and it provides us with an opportunity to share constructive, forward looking and innovative approaches to invigorating and supporting Myanmar's long term sustainable socio-economic development," said the State Counsellor.

"This is one of the most challenging periods in our nation's post-transition process. These challenges present us with opportunities to strengthen our commitment to peace and national reconciliation as a foundation

tion for democratic consolidation in Myanmar," she added.

Regarding the Rakhine issue, she said as part of the Union Government's commitment to finding lasting stability and harmony, and supporting broad-based, inclusive socio-economic development in Rakhine State, and indeed, throughout the nation, the government has es-

tablished the Union Enterprise

tion for democratic consolidation in Myanmar," she added. "Although peace and national reconciliation are essential to the sustainable development of our nation, the purpose of holding this Roundtable is not to focus unduly on one sector, issue or location, but rather to establish a broad ranging, deep and strategic dialogue on the major developmental challenges

"This is one of the most challenging periods in our nation's post-transition process. These challenges present us with opportunities to strengthen our commitment to peace and national reconciliation as a foundation for democratic consolidation in Myanmar,"...

tablished the Union Enterprise for Humanitarian Assistance, Resettlement and Development in Rakhine State, the Rakhine Advisory Commission Implementation Committee and the

and opportunities that must be tackled in the year ahead, and in the longer-term, without prejudice to any particular source of financing," said the State Counsellor.

DACU is keenly aware of this new global reality, and are actively looking at how best the government can position Myanmar to take advantage of this brave new world, she added.

"We are also keenly aware of our latecomer's advantage, and wish to make use of the lessons available to us to avoid or possibly leapfrog over challenges and obstacles that had been faced by others," said Daw Aung San Suu Kyi.

(Full text of the speech of State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi is covered separately.)

Following the opening ceremony, the State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and attendees of the opening ceremony had the documentary photos taken.

In Session-1 of the roundtable, Union Minister for Planning and Finance U Kyaw Win, Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr. Win Myat Aye, Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany

Dorothee Janetzke-Wenzel and United Nations Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator a.i. in Myanmar Mr. Knut Ostby discussed Myanmar Socio-Economic issue. In Session-2, U Set Aung, Deputy Minister for Planning and Finance and Ms. Ellen Goldstein, Country Director for Myanmar, Cambodia and Lao PDR, World Bank, discussed Myanmar's Sustainable Development Plan and Development Assistance Policy.

In Session-3, Daw Pansy Tun Thein, Director, Local Resource Centre-LRC, Dr. Sidney Naing, Country Director, Marie Stopes International-MSI, Daw Khine Khine Nwe, Joint Secretary General of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry-UMFCCI and Ms. Jodi Weedon, Chief Executive Officer, Aust Cham Myanmar, discussed the role of NGO and INGOs in providing assistance for development.

Afterwards, governmental officials from ministries discussed the matters related to their respective ministries.— Myanmar News Agency ■

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Deputy Minister U Aung Hla Tun meets staff of state-owned newspapers

DURING his meeting with staff of state-owned newspapers, Deputy Minister for Information U Aung Hla Tun said the duty of newspaper persons was to report news from Myanmar accurately and effectively to the world media, while the duty of the Ministry of Information is to demonstrate the voice of Myanmar.

Yesterday, the Deputy Minister, for the first time, met with state-owned newspapers Myanma Alinn, Kyemon, Myanmar News Agency (Internal), Myanmar News Agency (External), chief editors and editorial groups of newspapers in Nay Pyi Taw and their staff at Kyaemon newspaper house, Zeyathiri Township, Nay Pyi Taw.

"Compared with other news agencies, the news appearing in our newspapers is considered to be weak in news value and presentation. There is a need to intensify observation and provide follow-ups. It is good to meet with the staff and know about their work,



Deputy Minister U Aung Hla Tun delivers the speech during meeting with staff of state-owned newspapers in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

requirements and difficulties," said the Deputy Minister.

Furthermore, the Deputy Minister discussed fulfilling the requirements of the staff, especially providing them with a good internet connection, as newspaper work requires such facilities to provide timely news. The basic

infrastructure required for the work site must be developed, besides the systematic development of human resources, livelihood, health and education of families of the staff living in staff houses of the newspaper.

The Deputy Minister also mentioned the aim of the minis-

try to conduct courses to increase the quality of the newsrooms, as well as courses on news editing, reform of newsrooms, management and news page organisations. Next, the Deputy Minister inspected the training rooms in Myanma Alinn and Kyemon.—
Khin Yadana ■

Grade 5,9 final examinations held in Maungtaw

Hein Htet Zaw

THE basic education final examinations for grade 5 and grade 9 are being held countrywide from 19 February in examination centres across the states/regions, while the last subject of the grade 9 final examination was held in Rakhine State, Maungtaw Town, yesterday morning.

Headmistress of Maungtaw Township Basic Education High School (2) Daw Hla Myint Thein said, "The fourth standard and eighth standard examinations started on 19 February, and the fourth standard examination was completed on 23 February.

The examination for the final subject for the eighth standard will be held today."

Headmaster of Maungtaw Basic Education High School (1) [BEHS (1)] U Aung Myint Thein said, "Hindus who were displaced by terrorist acts were temporarily put in at BEHS (1), so students from BEHS (1)



Students sitting for the final examination in Maungtaw, Rakhine State. **PHOTO: YAMANYA**

took the examination on the second floor of BEHS (2), while students from BEHS (2) took the examination on the ground floor of BEHS (2).

This is how two examination centres were combined into one centre for convenience."

According to the record of the office of the head of township education, Maungtaw

Township had more than 3,140 class 4 students, of which more than 1,700 are sitting for the final examination across 93 examination centres, while 15 examination centres were opened for 1,541 class 8 students, of which 777 students sat for the final examination.

Examination entrance cards are being issued since 19 February for the matricula-

tion examination to be held on 7 March. Three examination centres have been opened in Maungtaw Township for the matriculation examination, of which two were in BEHS (1) and another was in BEHS (2).

There are some 878 students, but there can be some changes in the number, according to head of education department of Maungtaw Township. ■



Myanmar's regional trade via the sea route brought in US\$8.6 billion. PHOTO: PHOE KHWAH

Myanmar's regional trade hit \$8.6 billion this FY

THE value of Myanmar's regional trade with the ASEAN countries through the sea route and border gates totalled some US\$8.6 billion from April to December of the current fiscal year, including \$3.1 billion in exports and \$5.4 billion in imports, according to statistics released by the Ministry of Commerce last Friday.

Since April, Thailand was ranked first among the ASEAN countries for having the largest trade value of \$3.7 billion with Myanmar, followed by Singa-

pore in second place with some \$2.7 billion. Malaysia was listed third with a trade value of some \$836 million, while Indonesia stood fourth with an estimated value of \$754 million. Myanmar's trade with Viet Nam reached some \$539 million.

The value of bilateral trade with the Philippines was \$37 million. Bilateral trade with Cambodia reached some \$3.8 million, while the value of trade with Laos was some \$1.4 million. Brunei's trade with Myanmar was worth less than \$1

million.

The country mainly exported agricultural products, fishery products and minerals, while food and beverages, electronic tools, motor vehicles and consumer goods were imported into Myanmar.

Apart from its main trade partner China, Myanmar's external trade is mostly carried out with regional partners. Trade with countries of the European Union still cannot compete against regional trade. — Ko Htet

Imports surpass exports in bilateral trade with Singapore

MYANMAR'S imports from Singapore performed better than its exports in the current fiscal year (FY), with exports valued at US\$696 million and imports at \$2 billion.

Bilateral trade between Singapore and Myanmar in the last 10 months of the current FY reached \$2.72 billion. Among the regional countries, Singapore is placed second in bilateral trade after Thailand.

Fruits, vegetables, rice, corn, green gram and other pulses, ginger and flowers are exported to Singapore, while capital goods, raw industrial materials such as petroleum products and chemicals, as well as consumer products, are imported into Myanmar.

The value of bilateral trade was some \$2.96 billion in the 2016-2017 FY, \$3.69 billion in the 2015-16 FY, \$4.89 billion in

the 2014-2015 FY, \$3.6 billion in the 2013-2014 FY, \$2.82 billion in the 2012-2013 FY and some \$3 billion in the 2011-2012 FY.

In addition to this, Singapore is the main investor in Myanmar, having invested some \$1.8 billion into the country as of the end of January, according to statistics provided by the Myanmar Investment Commission (MIC).—Mon Mon

India-Myanmar border trade decreases by \$9 million

THE India-Myanmar border trade was valued at US\$70 million between 1 April and 16 February in the current fiscal year, registering a decrease of \$9 million compared with last week.

During the week extending from 3 to 9 February, some 817 tonnes of betel nuts with

an estimated value of \$0.69 million were exported to India through the India-Myanmar border gates — Tamu and Reed — according to recent news released by the Commerce Ministry.

The volume of betel nuts exported from 3 to 9 February was 523 tonnes less than

the quantity exported in the preceding week, when more than 1,340 tonnes were exported. In addition to betel nuts, the India-Myanmar checkpoints saw the re-export of gasoline and the export of spices, cement, footwear, blankets, snack items, apparel and cigarettes. —Htet Myat

Thai-Myanmar border trade shows increase of \$92 million

THE value of trade through the Thai-Myanmar border gates reached US\$1.26 billion between 1 April and 16 February of the current fiscal year (FY), which is some \$92 million more compared with the same period last FY.

Of the seven Thai-Myanmar border gates, Myawady is the main hub for Thai-Myanmar trade, but the value of trade this FY was nearly \$10 million less than last FY. Similarly, Hteekhee and Tachilek also showed a slight decline in trade. The other gates, however, registered an increase in trading activity. Further, exports via the Kawthoung and Myeik checkpoints significantly surpassed the imports.

The value of border trade was worth \$74 million at Tachil-

ek, \$784 million at Myawady, \$167 million at Kawthoung, \$218 at Myeik, \$11 million at Hteekhee, \$6 million at Mawtaung and \$0.76 million at Maese.

The Myawady gate sees a high volume of fishery exports daily. Nevertheless, the import of vehicles through the checkpoint ceased, owing to changes in the automobile policy.

Industrial machinery, trucks, agricultural equipment, tractors, motorcycles, cars, food and beverages, cosmetics, fuel oil, fertilisers, cement, construction materials and sugar for re-export are imported through the Myawady gate. Fish, prawns, crabs, onions, sesame, turmeric, herbs and forestry products are sent to Thailand. —Htet Myat

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သတင်းစာများကို ဤဆိုင်များတွင်ဝယ်ယူဖတ်ရှုနိုင်ပါပြီ

- Market Place by City Mart (6.5 Mile)
- Market Place by City Mart (Damasidi Road)
- Market Place by City Mart (Junction City)
- City Mart (Aung San Stadium)
- City Mart (47th street)
- City Mart (Yankin)
- City Mart (China Town)
- City Mart (Myay Ni Gone)
- City Mart (FMI)
- City Mart (Junction Square)
- City Mart (Junction Maw Tin)
- City Mart (Sule Square)
- City Mart (Star City - Thanlyin)
- City Mart (Waizayandar)
- City Mart (Hledan)
- City Mart (Myanmar Plaza)
- City Mart (Junction 8)
- City Mart (St. John)
- Ocean North Point (9 mile)
- Ocean Shwegonedine

Ocean City SUPERCENTER **City Mart** Supermarket

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Trade Mark Ads

Structural reform will accelerate private sector development and create economic opportunities for all communities in Myanmar: WB Country Director

Interviewer:

Kyaw Htike Soe, Aye Hnin Nyo, Su Yi Mon, Thiri Min Tun, Moe Ma Ma

The following is an interview with Ms. Ellen Goldstein, Director for Myanmar, Cambodia and Lao PDR, World Bank Group at Myanmar Development Effectiveness Roundtable at Myanmar International Convention Center-2 in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Q: How important do you think this event is for our country?

A: I think this is an important step forward for your country and for your government. Because it is very important and it has a clear vision where you see the country two years, three years and five years on the road. It is very difficult to move to a particular goal you don't have a clear vision. So you will have to try to reach your goal. A sustainable development plan is a very important plan and the government is now engaged in the process of consultation with the participation of international partners and stakeholders in the country in order to help achieve a very clear goal and targets so that when the time comes you can actually assess how Myanmar will achieve its goals.

Q: What do you think are the biggest challenges for our country in the democratic transition?

A: Well. The World Bank is focusing on Myanmar's economic transition and what we see is that since the country began its transition in 2011, we see quite a bit of progress with liberalization in many different kinds of market. This is the last country having 7 percent GDP each year with doubling of trade and foreign direct investment. There has also a significant increase in per capita income and a marked reduction in poverty and this is a very important indicator for human capital development. So we see quite a bit of progress today, and in the transition, we see there are many challenges ahead.

I think one of the biggest challenges I would like to highlight today include the need to remain vigilant and maintain macroeconomic and physical stability. Because there is a visible stability and the most important area is the reform related to private sector growth in order to create an environment in which everyone from small farmers to make investments in Myanmar.

Another area that needs to address is with respect to basic services delivery where infrastructure building, bigger electricity grid and building motor road are you do need. There is no question about it. There are a lot of policy reforms that need to happen to think about health, education and electricity supply.

One of the most challenging areas for Myanmar has always been how to create a peaceful



MS Ellen Goldstein. PHOTO: MNA

nation across the different states and regions. Development is very important but the situation is very complicated. And different areas, different states, and different regions needed solutions which have customized in the communities there. So having a consultation process, developing plans there is customized towards community is really needed. I think that includes focusing on Rakhine State, where travelling is curbed there.

I think through Myanmar sustainable development, this is an opportunity for the government to articulate how they intend to address the situation in Rakhine State and how they intend to implement the recommendations of Kofi Annan Commission on Rakhine State. And it is really clear about what is an ambitious and reasonable step for progress can be made for the next six months or twelve months or two years for repatriation or resettlement process in Rakhine

State. This is some of the most important issues.

Q: What recommendations would you like to make for achieving economic success?

A: Well. It is important to implement Myanmar sustainable economic plan. The plan is very ambitious and it has 28 different strategies and five goals along with hundred of action plans. And it will be a very important task for the government to monitor a very manageable sense of goal. You have five big goals and 28 strategies. It will be very good for the country to have a clear vision of the one outcome they want to achieve each strategy and to monitor one indicator each of this strategy. So the entire government, the entire country, and different stakeholders will know what the definition of success in each area is. Everyone can together solve problems about how it implemented to achieve this goal.

Q: Some local economists criticize that Myanmar's economic development is stagnant in the time of incumbent government. So I would like to know your opinion about the economic reform processes being initiated by the government?

A: I think the country is growing quite rapidly and the country is going about 7 percent GDP each year. We don't see some particular areas slow down against some concern about tour-

ism and investment which may be linked to the perception of the peace in the country. But now it is good prospect for economic development and the progress in poverty reduction and social welfare is continuing. At the same time, what I think so nice about Myanmar sustainable development plan is that it is very important to accelerate the pace of economic reform in the country.

The country was able to manage many things very quickly because some of the reforms tended to be the easier than legal reforms. One of the finished reforms is called first generation reform and it is easy to do. The left reform which we have to implement is much more difficult. This is becoming challenges and Myanmar government now really needs to look at many structural issues.

Q: Do you believe Myanmar can become a fastest growing economy in the region?

A: I think it could be possible. Because we know Myanmar is coming from behind. We never come from behind.

The key to achieving ambitious tasks is very deep to implement structural reforms. So it is too early to say about it but I think the country is growing well and the intention to this kind of reform especially structural reform will accelerate private sector development and create economic opportunities for all communities. ■

Myanmar people are very clever, capable and a lot of prospects

Interview with Dr. Stephan Paul Jost (WHO representative to Myanmar)

Q: How important do you think this event is for our country?

A: I think it's a very important event. The Development Assistance Policy is a key framework for partners and the different institutions and sectors in the government and civil society. And the Draft Myanmar Sustainable Development Plan too is a new departure, and both together are going to be very important markers for the development debate and implementation.

Q: What do you think are the biggest challenges for our country in the democratic

transition?

A: That's a very big question; I hope I can do justice to its magnitude. I think there are many challenges but also significant progress has already been made. If anyone were to predict how far Myanmar had come in the last 5 years, I think very few people would have dared to actually say so. So the country has moved ahead fast both socially and economically and I hope also in terms of protecting the environment. In addition, of course, many, many problems remain as well. For peace, in certain areas of the country, it's still the key to achieve for sustainable development, continued progress and induction of poverty in economic development and in doing so in an environmentally sustainable



Dr. Stephan Paul Jost.

way so that all future generations will not suffer, but benefit.

Q: What suggestions or recommendations would you like to make on our country for achieving sustainable development?

A: I'm the WHO represent-

ative here and I'm privileged to work in this country. Our assessment is that a key thing would be to strengthen the state and regional level effectively so that these different states and regions can really fulfill the functions they were designed to do and that will really help Myanmar move forward in a much faster and more equitable way as well. Because development cannot just be directed from the center, it does need to be multipolar and here, I think the states and regions in this country are the key level to strengthen next in terms of human resources, capacity building, and material resources in a comprehensive and serious way.

Attention to implementation and implementation capacity is key because we all know that

it's already difficult enough to do good plans and policies but to implement them is even a much bigger challenge still. And to give sustained attention to implementation capacity and progress will be crucial.

Perhaps, finally, people should be at the center of our endeavors and the end of communal strife in the country where it still exists will be very important for development to be sustained and for the fruits of development to be shared with all. It's very important that the different ethnic nationalities and all groups of societies are included and feel that they have a stake in the future of Myanmar because ultimately it's a beautiful country and has tremendous potential.

SEE PAGE-7

I think, Myanmar's economic prospect is very bright indeed particularly in the medium to the long run

Interview with Dr Sean Turnell, Special Economic Consultant to the State Counsellor

Q: How important do you think this event is for our country?

A: Its very important. As we know Myanmar is a recipient of a lot of donor assistance. Its very important that systems be coordinated. and that is consistent with the gov to overall economy policy. So what this meeting is about to meet a donor communities but likewise all active in Myanmar government as well as in society business to make sure all those plans are consistent, spending and the revenue rising capacity, and so on, all integrated in one program.

Q: What do you think are the biggest challenges for Myanmar in the democratic transition?

A: There are many economic challenges here we'd like to

practical transitional as well. So as we know Myanmar is in very much in a transition from an economy that used to very rigid, there was innocent locked up, we would also vested in interest and so on. Political transition is about in economic role. Its about liking something different opening things up competition allowing people that didn't have access before, to have access to the economy, to be employed to start business, to have the full economic freedom. That is part of the whole democratic process.

Q: What recommendations would you like to make for achieving economic success?

A: The major thing is broad based by economic reform. The major thing is really the extension of the economic freedoms. I'm Always struck by the ability of people of Myanmar by the skills, enthusiasm, capacity etc..particularly among young people. In very much what they mainly need is freedom to be allowed to



Dr Sean Turnell.

follow their dreams...Again we get back to the past, Myanmar economy was very much locked in high bound by old rules and regulations probably the most important thing we can do in terms of economic policy allow people to follow their own interest, to follow their dreams, and so deregulation, liberalization those are main strategies as well as more other things such as institution building and so on. But as a side to me, the extension of economic freedoms to the people

of the country is the most important thing they could do to deliver genuine transformation growth.

Q: Please make short detail about economic prospect about Myanmar?

A: I think, Myanmar's economic prospect is very bright indeed particularly in the medium to the long run. Its ...around at the moment, but I think the country is very prime for the growth. One of the interesting thing is the government done nearly two years has been office ,has been to establish microeconomic stability. So if we look at in the kind of like inflation, budget deficit current account deficit, debt levels, money printing from the central bank , all of those areas which are key indicators of microeconomic stability. they are all better, then they have ever been basically. So another words one of the gov done is put things on very sound footing and now really the opportunity is to engage in the second wave of reforms to

really push on the growth.so the economy growing quite strongly at the moment, faster growing economy in ASEAN , one of the fast is growing economy in the world , but it can go that be faster as well with ...as a second round of the reforms on the basis of the really good foundation has been laid already.

Q: What is your suggestion to initiate a wider ratio of economic reform in the country?

A: Its really just to extend those economic freedoms I imagined earlier. I think one thing we could be done to be ordered every sector of the economy, and just looking for the rules and regulations that currently keep it and economic activity and just order to that saying which are those rules and regulation necessary which one are not, that ones are not ,just removed them, and extend doesn't seen them as an economic freedom of people just to do the thing to follow their dreams.

Myanmar people are very clever...

FRMPAGE-6

Q: Some economists say that Myanmar's economy is stagnant in this time of the new government, so I want to know your opinion about the prospect on Myanmar's economy and the achieving of sustainable economic and potential investment from western countries.

A: I think the prospects for Myanmar's economy are good. We've heard from the World Bank representative this morning saying that growth has averaged 8 per cent close to it since 2011 and that future prospects for growth are also good, provided of course that there are further structural reforms and the improvement of implementation capacity which is really building up people's ability to also implement for foreign investment in the country, and to do it in the different sectors. Education and health will remain crucial for this investment to come because you need good human capital, so to speak; healthy and well-educated people for sustainable progress to be made. Myanmar people are very clever; capable and a

lot of prospect. Plus it's a young population overall so there's a demographic dividend as well and there is still a lot of catching up to do especially in the different parts of the country. Some people suffer more than others and it's very important that this is addressed. That, again, will give more confidence for economic investment. I think western investment will remain good and strong but it's really getting the structure of things right in the country, and sustained equitable development will be the keys to promote further investment.

Of course, the less conflict, the better. The more peace there is, the better. The idea of a federal democratic union is basically very sound. I come from Germany, which is a federal country and has done well with the federal constitution. We have 16 states and Myanmar has 17 states so it sounds very similar. I think there is a good prospect here if not everything is directed from the center and relative autonomy can be given to the states and regions to look after their own affairs as best as they can. If they are really enabled to do that then

that will be very important for the future of the country.

Q: What are the key to Myanmar economic development?

A: I think the social sector needs to be strongly supported. Education is key, training for people both in the school and universities and also for vocational training and skill-building. The modern world is moving so fast that a lot of new skills and technologies are coming in. For that training an open mind will be crucial. Health is also key because you do need to be healthy in order to lead a fulfilling life and to contribute socially and economically.

We know from experience around the world that Public Health is a key thing to move further and faster and to have the greatest benefit for the people. Here Myanmar has quite a good record and the current union minister is a public health expert himself. So I think there are a lot of good things happening that need to continue. Strong support for states and regions and for implementation capacity will remain crucial. ■

We are like a bridge linking the people and the government



Daw Pansy Tun Thein.

Daw Pansy Tun Thein (Executive Director of Local Resource Centre)

I think this is a wonderful event because all the groups that can help Myanmar's development are here. There are development parliaments, embassies, NGOs and INGOs, and the private sector. I am grateful for the private sector being invited.

We need to listen to the voice of the people on this democratic path and working closely with community based organizations ensures you always hear what you need to hear from the people.

We are like a bridge linking the people and the government. The Myanmar Civil Society Platform for Aid and Development with its forty members brings the voice from the grassroots to events like today's DACU meeting.

I hope the government will give more opportunities for CSOs to engage in roundtable discussions.

The meeting for the Association Registration Law in 2014 was attended by CSOs and helped create the environment CSOs needed.

We got more opportunities and gained more trust from the government and that will help Myanmar's overall development. ■

Coordinate with DACU before issuing guidance to development partners

MYANMAR is currently in one of the most challenging periods in the country's post-transition process. But these challenges present us with opportunities to strengthen our commitment to peace and national reconciliation as a foundation for democratic consolidation in Myanmar.

Two recent signatories to the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement are the latest steps taken in our peace process, while the country is looking forward to hosting the next Panglong Conference in the very near future.

The Union Government has committed to finding lasting stability and harmony, and supporting broad-based, inclusive socio-economic development in Rakhine State. To this end, it has established the Union Enterprise for Humanitarian Assistance, Resettlement and Development in Rakhine State, the Rakhine Advisory Commission Implementation Committee and the Rakhine Advisory Board.

Myanmar established the Development Assistance Coordination Unit in late 2016 and held a roundtable discussion believing it would provide the country with an opportunity to greet 2018 with a common vision for the development of Myanmar.

While Myanmar continues to enjoy the goodwill of the international community in the form of development assistance, the DACU has not lost sight of the fact that, if this country is to make meaningful progress toward the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, we must join together with the private sector, an important partner and the most reliable engine for growth.

When we transform our developmental and financial landscape, we welcome all forms of responsible investment: public and private, national and global, in the form of both capital and capacity.

Although peace and national reconciliation, which are the commitment made by the Union Government, are essential to the sustainable development of our nation, the purpose of holding the Myanmar Development Effectiveness Roundtable is not to focus unduly on one sector, issue or location, but rather to establish a broad-ranging, deep and strategic dialogue on the major developmental challenges and opportunities that must be tackled in the year ahead, and in the longer-term, without prejudice to any particular source of financing.

DACU is keenly aware of this new global reality, and are actively looking at how best we can position Myanmar to take advantage of this brave new world.

We are also keenly aware of our latecomer advantage, and wish to make use of the lessons available to us to avoid or possibly leapfrog over challenges and obstacles that have been faced by others.

Myanmar would like to request all international communities to engage with the DACU regularly, and to coordinate with it before issuing guidance to development partners. ■

Benefits of Irrigations and Dams using Modern Technology

By Phone Tin Hlaing

FROM the beginning of human existence, the most essential needs of human beings are regarded as food, clothing and shelter. At the time, there were no stores to buy food, shelter and clothing; people had to cooperate in small groups to make clothing and shelter. The earth's climate was very different and the world was a much colder place to live on than our modern world. Wild herds of animals roamed the land in search of food, which was scarce at that time. In order for Stone Age people to survive, they had to move with these herds of animals. Many of the world's inventions and discoveries were made gradually thanks to these basic necessities of mankind. Many inventions have greatly changed human's life and they can fulfill many basic human needs and improve the living standards of humankind.

Among these inventions, electricity is presumably one of the most important blessings that science has given to mankind and it has also become a part of modern life and one cannot think of a world without it. Electricity has many uses in our day to day life.

Due to growing populations and modern technologies, many countries including Myanmar have built many dams and irrigation canals which can store water for later release for such purposes as irrigation, domestic and industrial use, and power generation. Dams provide a wide range of economic, environmental and social benefits to the country.

Reducing the Impact of Drought

Many countries including Myanmar suffer climate change, issues of loss and damage due to global warming which can cause enormous environmental, social and economic consequences. Myanmar faces more extreme weather events as temperatures

rise: cyclones, storms, floods and droughts, fire hazards, earthquake, tsunami and landslides.

As for the Ministry for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation preventive measures are being made to mitigate the effects of flood and drought in the country. The ministry has performed state management functions in the fields of agriculture, forestry, salt production, fishery, irrigation/water services and rural development nationwide.

Many dams are constructed in the world, mainly for power generation, irrigation/water supply or flood prevention.

The dams have positive as well as negative impacts on the environment: the environmental consequences of large dams are numerous and varied, and includes direct impacts to the biological, chemical and physical properties of rivers and riparian environments.

The dam wall itself blocks fish migrations, which in some cases and with some species completely separate spawning habitats from rearing habitats.

Moreover, it also traps sediments, which are critical for maintaining physical processes and habitats downstream of the dam (include the maintenance of productive deltas, barrier islands, fertile floodplains and coastal wetlands).

Another significant and obvious impact is the transformation and upstream of the dam from a free-flowing river ecosystem to an artificial slack-water reservoir habitat.

Changes in temperature, chemical composition, dissolved oxygen levels and the physical properties of a reservoir are often not suitable to the aquatic plants and animals that evolved with a given river system.

Indeed, reservoirs often host non-native and invasive species (e.g. snails, algae, and predatory fish) that further undermine the



Phyu Creek Dam in Pyu Township of the Bago Region. PHOTO: SUPPLIED

river's natural communities of plants and animals.

The alteration of a river's flow and sediment transport downstream of a dam often causes the greatest sustained environmental impacts.

Life in and around a river evolves and is conditioned on the timing and quantities of river flow. Disrupted and altered water flows can be as severe as completely de-watering river reaches and the life they contain.

Yet even subtle changes in the quantity and timing of water flows impact aquatic and riparian life, which can unravel the ecological web of a river system.

A dam also holds back sediments that would naturally replenish downstream ecosystems. When a river is deprived of its sediment load, it seeks to recapture it by eroding the downstream river bed and banks which can undermine bridges and other riverbank structures, as well as riverside woodlands.

Riverbeds downstream of dams are typically eroded by several meters within the decade of first closing a dam; the damage can extend for tens or even hundreds of kilometers below a dam.

Large dams have led to the

extinction of many fish and other aquatic species, the disappearance of birds in floodplains, huge losses of forest, wetland and farmland, erosion of coastal deltas, and many other immitigable impacts. **Top 10 Deadliest Natural Disasters**

A natural disaster is the consequence of a natural hazard (e.g. volcanic eruption, earthquake, and landslide) which moves from potential in to an active phase, and as a result affects human activities. In some cases these disasters have led to the loss of millions of lives.

This is a list consisting of the deadliest floods worldwide:

(1) Yellow River Flood – 1931, China (2) Yellow River Flood – 1887, China (3) Severe earthquake -1556, China (4) Cyclone _ 1970, Bangladesh (5) Cyclone _ 1839, India (6) Antioch Earthquake in the Byzantine Empire in 526 (7) Tangshan earthquake _ 1976, China (8) Haiyuan earthquake _ 1920, China (9) Banqiao Reservoir Dam Flood _ 1975, China (10) The 2004 Indian Ocean earthquake and tsunami.

Benefits of Dams

Dams are designed to last many decades and so can contribute to the generation of electricity for many years. The lake

that forms behind the dam can be used for water sports and pleasure activities. Often large dams become tourist attractions in their own right. The lake's water can be used for irrigation purposes and the buildup of water in the lake means that energy can be stored until needed, when the water is released to produce electricity. When in use, electricity produced by dam systems does not produce greenhouse gases. They do not pollute the atmosphere.

Dams provide a range of economic, environmental, and social benefits, including recreation, flood control, water supply, hydroelectric power, waste management, river navigation, and wildlife habitat and it can provide prime recreational facilities such as boating, skiing, camping, picnic areas, and boat launch facilities.

In addition to helping farmers, dams help prevent the loss of life and property caused by flooding. Flood control dams impound floodwaters and then either release them under control to the river below the dam or store or divert the water for other uses. For centuries, people have built dams to help control devastating floods. ■

Translated by Win Ko Ko Aung

Lawyers and Reading

By U Han Nyunt (Law)

Introduction

‘Sayar’

‘Yes’

‘What is the title of your article this week?’

‘Lawyers and Reading’

‘What do you want to point out?’

‘Reading brings everyone knowledge, wit and wisdom.’

‘Oh! I see.’

Ten countries: Myanmar and 9 countries with different administrative systems by Mor Tha Htwe (Mandalay) Nine other countries are North Korea, South Korea, England, Mexico, the United States of America, China, Zimbabwe, the USSR (Russia) and Singapore. Photos of State leaders representing their countries are on the front cover: those of Bogoyoke Aung San, Mao Zedong, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, U Ne Win, Richard Nixon, Abraham Lincoln and Lee Kuan Yew.

At the back cover of the book Bogoyoke's speech was quoted: “Bamars think highly of themselves and they show off their skills where they are unnecessary. They don't use their skills in fighting for independence for their country. They wish to fight with one another.

These actions are of no benefits.” The writer pointed out in his foreword there are different countries with different systems in the world.

- different location and geography of a country
- different race and religion
- their lack of knowledge
- foreign aids different from one country from another

e. different political and commercial systems The writer is eager to know why some countries are poor and some are extremely rich That is the reason he chose the above 10 countries to write this book. The writer once served as a Deputy Minister and of course a prolific writer indeed. Only after reading this book I tried to take his ideas and style of writing in consideration. In North Korea, teenagers are not allowed to have sweethearts with one another until they join college or university If lovers are found at secret rendezvous, they are certainly sent to rigorous labour camps. Young unmarried women are examined for their virginity. They are allowed to get married in due course, not for love but for giving birth to a lot of workers or soldiers. Parental love is not taken in consideration, the people should show a deep respect for their leader.

Assassination of South Korean President in Myanmar It is a fact not a fiction. The story is retold and in a detailed account of assassination. Two containers from a North Korean ship were lowered slowly in a powered schooner with five North Koreans impersonating sailors. Two disappeared and three were later identified. Who were they? Where had they gone?

South Korea

South Korea' Presidents Park Chung-hee. Chun Doo-hwan and Roh Tae-woo were a rough ride by their opposition parties, but they managed their country on the path to democracy putting South Korea after Japan in East Asia in terms of economic development and modernization.

Bribery and corruption

In 17th century England, wealthy businessmen tacitly approached to those in authority in

various ways at all times to seek their advantages. Bribery and corruption was surprisingly found in England in those days.

Twists and turns

George Washington was a commander of the Continental Army in the American Revolution who became the first President and one of the Founding Fathers of the United States. Most of the US presidents had come from all walks of life.

China

A lot has been written about the People's Republic of China What I like to point out would be highlighted in the following: Chinese Communist leader Deng Xiaoping wanted China to become a country of bicycles. Old men standing I a queue even though they are unwilling to defecate. Whoever it is says and cannot stand by itself should be amended. Too many problems; students don't study their lessons. No reading leads to no culture.

Singapore

Corruptin-free government of Singapore; 1937 anti-corruption Act was amended by substituting stricter and harsher sessions. With complete trust by the people, the government led by Lee Kuan Yew came into power in 1959. He forged a system of meritocratic, highly effective and incorrupt government and civil service. He was from bribery and corruption; if his ministers were found corrupted, stern actions were taken against them.

Spitting in public places is not allowed; discipline is still enforced by the cane in Singapore. Outcries from human rights groups are ignored. The Government sticks to strict law and order. On the contrary, enough salaries for government and private staff are paid to meet their daily basic human needs. The result is that law and order is surprisingly found prevailing in Singapore.

Myanmar

Now let us have look at our own country of Myanmar How do we do to increase our country's Gross National Product? Do extensive research to solve the problems of producing skilled workers for development and modernization of our country. Which country should we emulate for all-round developments of our country? We must take a lesson from historical disunities among our nationalities; we should not forget the causes of dissension among us during colonial period.

After independence, a split story in 1958: clean Anti—Fascist People's Freedom League led by Prime Minister U Nu; the other by Kyaw Nyein and Ba Swe. Military takeover of the country in 1962. With a total of 31 reference books, Maw Tha Htwe concluded by quoting speeches of Bogoyoke Aung San.

Conclusion

- Reading is highly beneficial to the public. Literacy is a bridge from misery to hope.
- I have been studying hard under a pile of books on law.
- Countries with different systems and Myanmar by Maw Tha Htwe (Mandalay) a book I found exciting to read
- Wishing all my readers to read

Translated by Hla Maung (Arakan Sein)

Development Effectiveness Roundtable

Keynote Address

By

H.E. Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, State Counsellor
26th February 2018, 09:30 am, MICC-II, Nay Pyi Taw

Excellencies and Distinguished guests,

It is a pleasure to welcome you to this first Myanmar Development Effectiveness Roundtable, Nay Pyi Taw and to see you again.

I recall that we first met in late 2016 shortly after the Development Assistance Coordination Unit was established.

The Government of Myanmar is convening this Roundtable at the beginning of the year, as we believe it will provide us with an opportunity to greet 2018 with a common vision for the development of Myanmar and to discuss how development assistance could bring us closer to the realisation of this vision.

The support of the international community can play an important and encouraging role, inspiring reformers to press on when obstacles loom large, and invigorating our institutions, some of which had ossified over a number of decades.

Myanmar has always appreciated such support from the international community.

Our country is facing a plethora of daunting challenges. The more daunting these challenges are, the greater the need for us to explore diverse ways of surmounting them and we look to our friends across the world to join us in our ventures and adventures.

It is my hope that the various presentations and dialogues we share today will enable us to work together to overcome the obstacles that developing countries inevitably have to meet.

I am happy to see that in addition to our partners in development, there are also present here representatives of our private sector, both domestic and international, and of the many local and international non-governmental organisations that make up the rich social and economic tapestry of contemporary Myanmar.

This is a place for open and frank discussions concerning the development challenges we face and it provides us with an opportunity to share constructive, forward looking and innovative approaches to invigorating and supporting Myanmar's long term sustainable socio-economic development.

Ladies and gentlemen, Distinguished guests,

This is one of the most challenging periods in our nation's post-transition process. These challenges present us with opportunities to strengthen our commitment to peace and national reconciliation as a foundation for democratic consolidation in Myanmar.

As you will be aware, as the latest step in our peace process, we recently welcomed two new signatories to

the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement and we look forward to hosting the next Panglong Conference in the very near future. As part of our Government's commitment to finding lasting stability and harmony, and supporting broad-based, inclusive socio-economic development in Rakhine State, and indeed, throughout the nation, we have established the Union Enterprise for Humanitarian Assistance, Resettlement and Development in Rakhine State, the Rakhine Advisory Commission Implementation Committee and the Rakhine Advisory Board.

Although peace and national reconciliation are essential to the sustainable development of our nation, the purpose of holding this Roundtable is not to focus unduly on one sector, issue or location, but rather to establish a broad ranging, deep and strategic dialogue on the major developmental challenges and opportunities that must be tackled in the year ahead, and in the longer-term, without prejudice to any particular source of financing.

While Myanmar continues to enjoy the good will of the international community in the form of development assistance, we as the DACU have not lost sight of the fact that, if this country is to make meaningful progress toward the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, we must join together with the private sector, an important partner and the most reliable engine for growth. It is in this way that we will transform Myanmar's development finance landscape, welcoming all forms of responsible investment: public and private, national and global, in the form of both capital and capacity.

I am pleased to say that the DACU is keenly aware of this new global reality, and are actively looking at how best we can position Myanmar to take advantage of this brave new world.

We are also keenly aware of our latecomer's advantage, and wish to make use of the lessons available to us to avoid or possibly leapfrog over challenges and obstacles that had been faced by others.

Excellencies and distinguished guests,

You will be able to see from today's agenda, that DACU is thinking broad, strategic and long-term.

DACU was established with the clear goal of identifying long-term, strategic opportunities to leverage development assistance, and indeed all forms of development financing, for the benefit of our people. The DACUs' members came up with a series of proposed work-streams to take their mandate forward.

- Drafting a Development Assistance Policy;
- Identifying Development Assistance Priorities;
- Refreshing the Thematic/Sectoral Working Groups;
- Establishing Effective Project Screening, Processing and Approval Mechanisms; and

- Addressing Major Implementation Constraints.

As Chair of the DACU, I am pleased to inform you all that we have managed to deliver very real progress in each of those five work streams.

Amongst our highest priorities was the establishment of a Development Assistance Policy, or DAP in short. The DAP, which will be launched officially here today, for the first time in Myanmar's history, provides a comprehensive set of policy guidelines, an articulation of procedures and other key related information to ensure that development assistance is used as effectively, and as transparently as possible in the interests of our people.

In drafting this DAP, the DACU was asked to streamline procedures to the greatest extent possible without sacrificing the need for proper monitoring, evaluation and scrutinization of this assistance. In particular, the DAP has been drafted to place greater responsibility on line ministries and other government entities, allowing them to take greater ownership for the management of the assistance they receive - technical assistance, in particular.

I hope that all of you will help to ensure the successful implementation of the DAP. The DAP will enable us to remove the practice of ministries establishing separate or parallel processes for the approval and scrutinization of development assistance, and issuing directives which might impact the timely delivery of assistance.

I would like to request all of you to engage with the DACU regularly, and to coordinate with it before issuing guidance to development partners.

Ladies and gentlemen,

The second and third on the list of tasks for the DACU are the identification of priorities for development assistance, and the organization of a new set of refreshed sector and thematic coordination groups.

I am looking forward to hearing reports from the new set of ten Sector Coordination Groups that were established last year. I hear that some are functioning better than others - so DACU will need to keep a close eye on those that are at risk of falling behind and to learn from those that are performing well.

The Sector Coordination Groups are essential for ensuring that development assistance is well-coordinated, and transparent, so that ministers are provided with the information they require to excel in their roles.

I am happy to hear that some Groups have moved forward with the creation of sector plans and strategies, and that others have been making strong progress toward developing associated costings. These important steps, if executed successfully, will allow us to break free of single year planning and budgeting cycles, allowing us to think strategically and to plan for the medium and long-term.

I would like ministers to redouble their efforts in this regard. And I would like to ask our partners in development to consider making the necessary resources available, technical, financial or otherwise, to help us to get the job done.

Now, a message to our civil society and private sector representatives - your participation in these Sector Coordination Groups is also essential. In many cases you are in the front line, implementing projects and programmes, and so your perspectives and expertise are very much valued and welcome.

SEE PAGE 11

Our country is facing a plethora of daunting challenges. The more daunting these challenges are, the greater the need for us to explore diverse ways of surmounting them and we look to our friends across the world to join us in our ventures and adventures.

Development Effectiveness Roundtable

FROM PAGE 10

We expect all the representatives from these various stakeholder groups, including the private sector and civil society, both local and international to be in position very soon.

DACU will have to ensure that the SCGs are living up to their commitments. I would appreciate a report on their current functioning within the next four weeks.

Excellencies and distinguished guests,

When determining what areas should serve as the priorities for development assistance, the DACU also had to determine what should be the priorities that would guide Myanmar's overall development.

The 12 Point Economic Policy of the Union of Myanmar provides high level guidance, but at a more strategic level, we need to go deeper into de-

tail.

Therefore, the teams drafting the DAP also have to work on what we are now calling the Myanmar Sustainable Development Plan or MSDP. This strategic document will soon be followed by the Myanmar Public Investment Programme, a list of costed and prioritized national development projects to be implemented.

I am pleased to say that we now have a draft Plan for consultation, and I would like to use this event to bring all stakeholder groups into the consultation process.

The Deputy Minister of Planning and Finance will present the MSDP in greater detail. I would like to stress that this document will be critical to ensuring that all our projects and initiatives, regardless of their source of financing, are properly linked and directed towards the same goals.

Ladies and gentlemen,

We hope that one of the

outcomes of this event will be a set of recommendations - short, concise, practical and actionable, recommendations that focus on the critical steps that must be taken both in 2018, and in the medium-term, to sustain positive momentum as we move forward.

As we progress further into 2018, as we prepare to celebrate the Myanmar New Year, and as we begin a rather complex transition into a new financial year, let us all use the opportunity provided by this Development Effectiveness Roundtable to take up the challenges we face with a renewed and stronger sense of purpose, and resolve to do our best to achieve peace and prosperity for our country with the support and cooperation of our people and of our friends throughout the globe. Together, bonded by good will and good sense, we can achieve our most ambitious goals.

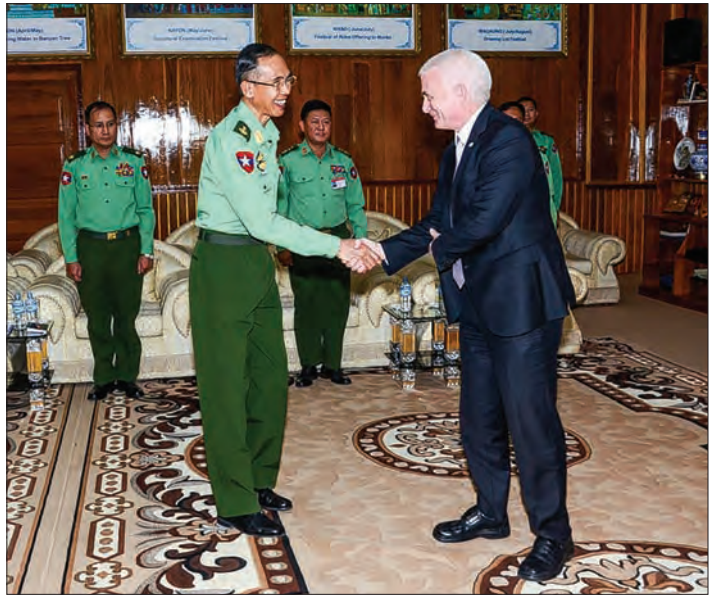
Thank you.

Lt-Gen Sein Win meets co-chairs of CTFMR

UNION Minister for Defence Lt-Gen Sein Win welcomed the newly appointed co-chairs of the United Nations (UN) Country Task Force on Monitoring and Reporting (CTFMR) at the headquarters of the Ministry of Defence yesterday.

The co-chairs, UN Res-

ident Coordinator Mr Knut Ostby and UNICEF Representative in Myanmar Mr June Kunugi discussed matters related to preventing the recruitment of child soldiers and other humanitarian cases with the union minister. —Myanmar News Agency ■



Lt-Gen Sein Win shakes hands with UN Resident Coordinator Mr Knut Ostby yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

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Registration No – 12227/2017	Registration No – 12228/2017	Registration No – 12229/2017	Registration No – 12230/2017	Registration No – 12231/2017	Registration No – 12232/2017
					
Registration No – 12233/2017	Registration No – 12234/2017	Registration No – 12235/2017	Registration No – 12236/2017	Registration No – 12237/2017	Registration No – 12238/2017
					
Registration No – 12239/2017	Registration No – 12240/2017	Registration No – 12241/2017	Registration No – 12242/2017	Registration No – 12243/2017	Registration No – 12244/2017
					
Registration No – 12245/2017	Registration No – 12246/2017	Registration No – 12247/2017	Registration No – 12248/2017	Registration No – 12249/2017	Registration No – 12250/2017
					
					Registration No – 12251/2017

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Daw Aye Aye Aung (Advocate) (License No – 8670)
LL. B, D.B.L, D.M.L, D. I. L
Telecom International Myanmar Company Limited
No (61, 63), Zoological Garden Road, Dagon, Township, Yangon

There’s been a lot of successes in Myanmar over the last couple of years, particularly in the regulatory regime and other things for the private sector

Ms. Jodi Weedon-Chief Executive Officer of Australia Chamber in Myanmar

Q: How important do you think this event is for Myanmar?

A: I think this event is a huge master in Myanmar’s development. There’s been a lot of successes in Myanmar over the last couple of years, particularly in the regulatory regime and other things for the private sector. But I do think this type of roundtable is a perfect forum for many different audiences but for me, I think this is a great chance for the private sector to show how valuable they are to Myanmar’s development effectiveness.

Q: What did you discuss in today’s events?

A: I talked about how the private sector could assist in development effectiveness. The private sector is able to provide assistance to development in very efficient time and costs. Across the world, the private sector is complying with sustainable development goals and there is a real emphasis on encouraging responsible investment. I spoke a lot about the responsible investment working group which I am the chair of and Vicky Bowman is the co-chair. Our working group has 26 private sector members, both foreign and Myanmar.

The Australian Government, the Trade Com-



Ms Jodi Weedon.

mission from Australia, and several NGOs work a lot with the Myanmar government in rolling out some of the work that we do in relation to responsible investment-encouraging responsible investment within member companies, as well as working with UMFCCI to make sure member companies are involved in this process.

Q: What challenges do you think are facing in building a democratic country?

A: I think in Myanmar, at the moment, peace and stability is at the forefront of everybody’s minds but I don’t think that it’s the only challenge that exists in Myanmar. In terms of doing business in Myanmar, I think there are still a lot that needs to be done in the regulatory regime. There are a lot of laws that need to be redrafted and a lot of work that needs to be done in that space. I know we’ve had great results in the company’s law and investment law and rules and regulations in the last 24 months, but I’d like to see the private sector getting more in-

volved in drafting and assisting with bringing other Myanmar laws up to best practice in world class standards.

Q: Did you attend last year’s conference?

A: No, this is my first conference.

Q: What is your impression on this event?

A: It’s very interesting and I think the reason this is my first is that this is the first time the private sector has been invited to attend. I think this shows that the private sector is invaluable in Myanmar’s development effectiveness. I think it’s a great step forward.

Q: What suggestions

would you like to give Myanmar in its journey to a democratic state?

A: I think peace and stability, which is obviously very difficult in this country, is at the forefront of everybody’s minds. I would really encourage all areas and sectors in Myanmar to really make this a priority.

Q: What do you think of the State Counsellor’s opening remark in today’s meeting?

A: I think it was very clear. She has a keen commitment to this Development Assistance Policy and also to her involvement in DACU (Development Assistance Coordination Unit) is critical in it being a successful unit. ■

Myanmar National Human Rights Commission attends GANHRI 2018

REPRESENTATIVES from the National Human Rights Institutions (NHRI) from across the world convened in Geneva from 21 to 23 February for the annual gathering of the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI). The Myanmar National Human Rights Commission (MNHRC), led by Chairman U Win Mra,

attended the three-day symposium.

MNHRC attended the GANHRI 2018 Annual Conference which focused on the rights of persons with disabilities and the role of NHRIs, the exchange of knowledge on good practices on the rights of older persons, the meeting of the Asia Pacific Forum of NHRIs, the meeting of the South-

east Asia National Human Rights Institutions Forum and the meeting of the Association for the Prevention of Torture.

GANHRI was established in 1993 to promote and strengthen NHRIs, to be in accordance with the Paris principles and has 117 members. MNHRC became a part of GANHRI in January 2016.— Myanmar News Agency ■

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR
MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS
MYANMA RAILWAYS

Announcement of Preferred Bidder
for
Yangon Central Railways Station Area Comprehensive Development Project

1. Myanma Railways, Ministry of Transport and Communications has requested submission of Expression of Interest - EOI from (6.8.2015) to (6.1.2016) and subsequently Request for Proposal - RFP from (6.3.2016) to (18.9.2016), from reputable local, international and joint venture developers to undertake Planning/Design, Build, Finance, Operate including improvement and Transfer (DBFOT) for Yangon Central Railways Station Area Comprehensive Development Project.
2. This is to announce that, the submitted Request for Proposals – RFPs have been evaluated and obtained approval from the Cabinet Meeting (2/2018) of the Union Government to confirm the consortium comprising, Oxley Holdings, Min Dhama Co., Ltd and Sino Great Wall Co., Ltd as Preferred Bidder.
3. Myanma Railways shall continue to conduct negotiation meetings with the Preferred Bidder and subject to the completion of negotiations and legal arrangements, shall make necessary announcement in due course.

Managing Director
Myanma Railways

THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR
MINISTRY OF ELECTRICITY AND ENERGY
MYANMA OIL AND GAS ENTERPRISE
(INVITATION FOR OPEN TENDER)
(5/ 2018)

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

Sr.No	Tender No	Description	Remark
(1)	DMP/L-100(17-18)	Spares for GEFCO Drawwork Ex GEFCO Drilling Rigs (41) Items	Ks
(2)	DMP/L-101(17-18)	5 1/2” & 9 5/8” Casing Centralizer(3)Items	Ks
(3)	DMP/L-102(17-18)	Fire Fighting Hose Pipe & Accessories (8) Items	Ks
(4)	IFB/002(17-18)	5” Drill Pipe (1850) Meter	US\$
(5)	IFB/003(17-18)	8 3/8” PDC Bits & 3 1/2”, 4 3/8” and 4 1/2” Junk Mill (5) Items	US\$

Tender Closing Date & Time- 23-3-2018, 16:30 pm

Tender Document shall be available during office hours commencing from 26 February 2018 at the Finance Department , Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise, No (44) Complex, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.

Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise
Ph . +95 67 - 411206

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 Electrification Project (NEP). The IDA No of the financing agreement is No-5727MM. The Department of Rural Development (DRD) of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation, in its role as implementing agency of the NEP, intends to apply a portion of the proceeds of this credit towards eligible payments under the Contracts for which this invitation for Quotation is issued.

DRD now invites eligible suppliers to express their interest in supplying the following items:

Reference No.	Description	Lot No.	Quantity	Units
C2-G.26	Poster & Vinyl Printing	1	Poster(1’6”x 2’6”)	Sheet
		2	Vinyl(3”x 4”)	

Eligible Suppliers having expressed interest will receive a REQUEST FOR QUOTATION by e-mail, Sealed Quotations will be submitted to the address below at the latest at the deadline, after which no Quotations will be accepted.

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(revised July 2014).

Please submit Sealed Quotations to: U Thein Lwin, 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 0673409529/ Email: neppmo.drd@gmail.com. Please indicate your e-mail address as only electronic copies of the RFQ will be send.

Thura U Shwe Mann meets UN resident coordinator

THURA U Shwe Mann, Chairman of the Legal Affairs and Special Cases Assessment Commission of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, met with United Nations Resident Coordinator Knut Ostby in the Hluttaw Hall (I-11) in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

They discussed the UN's development efforts in Myanmar. Also present at the meeting were commission member U San Shwe Aung and other commission officials.—Myanmar News Agency ■



Thura U Shwe Mann holds talks with United Nations Resident Coordinator Knut Ostby in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Myanmar's perspectives should be voiced at Berlin Conference on Myanmar Genocide: Dr Aung Tun Thet

A press briefing was held yesterday by members of the Forum on Strategies for Peace, Harmony and Reconciliation to address the denial by the organizers of the Berlin Conference on Myanmar Genocide to attend their event. The press conference was held at the Myanmar Institute of Strategic and International Studies (MISIS) in Dagon Township, Yangon.

The eight-member group from Myanmar — who are part of the Forum on Strategies for Peace, Harmony and Reconciliation — comprised Dr. Aung Tun Thet, the chief coordinator of the government's Union Enterprise for Humanitarian Assistance, Resettlement and Development in Rakhine and Daw Pyone Kaythi Niang, an NLD lawmaker and member of the International Relations Parliamentary Committee as well as others from the private and public sectors.

According to the press briefing, the group said that on 22 February, members of the Forum on Strategies for Peace, Harmony and Reconciliation registered via Eventbrite online registration platform and received confirmation emails that registration had been successful with tickets being issued. However, around midnight on 23 February,



The press conference held in Dagon Township, Yangon. **PHOTO: MNA**

each team member received individual emails that registration for the Berlin conference has been cancelled "due to overbooking of the event".

Dr. Aung Tun Thet told the press conference that the objective of joining the conference in Berlin was to listen and engage with the participants of the event who are all concerned on Myanmar's situation. He said they were going as members of the private sector and not as representatives of the government.

The delegation members told the press briefing that they were disappointed to be denied the chance to participate in the conference as their attendance would have created a well-rounded audience that brought in

independent voices. However, they now shared genuine concerns that the organizers of the Berlin conference had deliberately sought to exclude participants from Myanmar.

"This leads us to question the real intention behind this particular event as well as fuel our concerns that the conference will create more complexities, which in turn will be very counter-productive to finding a long-lasting solution for the people from all communities in Rakhine," the members told the briefing.

In a private interview after the press conference, Dr. Aung Tun Thet told our journalists that the papers that will be read at the Berlin Con-

ference are one-sided and posed a cynical view of Myanmar.

"International conferences need all-rounded discussions with different viewpoints. We thought that Myanmar's perspectives should be heard at the conference so we registered for it but they denied us at the last moment," said Dr. Aung Tun Thet.

"We are not condemning other people from talking about Myanmar's situations. We just want our voice to be heard too.

We're just concerned now that the results from the conference will be one-sided and so we want the world to know of their denial for us to attend the conference." —Nandar Win, Zaw Gyi ■

UPDJC Secretariat meeting held

THE meeting of the Union Peace Dialogue Joint Committee (UPDJC) Secretariat was held at the National Reconciliation and Peace Centre (NRPC) in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

During the meeting, its agenda was confirmed and matters related to representatives of the New Mon State Party (NMSP) and Lahu Democratic Union (LDU), which had signed the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA), holding of national-level political dialogues, the UPDJC meeting schedule, the work com-

mittee and public meetings were discussed.

The meeting was attended by UPDJC secretariat members U Khin Zaw Oo, U Zaw Htay, U Hla Maung Shwe, U Aung Soe, Maj-Gen Soe Naing Oo, Brig-Gen Sein Tun Hla, Pado Saw Tado Hmu, U Sai Ngay, U Myo Win, Khun Myint Tun, Saw Mya Yarzar Lin, Sai Kyaw Nyunt, Min Kyaw Zayar Oo, Tar Hla Pe, U Myint Soe, U Naing Ngan Lin, Saw Kyaw Nyunt, Nai Aung Mangae of NMSP and Navis Bon of LDU. — Myanmar News Agency ■

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V MCC HALONG VOY. NO. (1805/06)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V MCC HALONG VOY. NO. (1805/06) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 27-2-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T/M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

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Dated 27th February 2018

Imm@kcyangon.com

November release set for highly anticipated Michelle Obama memoir

NEW YORK — A much-awaited memoir by former first lady Michelle Obama will be published in North America on 13 November and will appear simultaneously in 24 languages worldwide.

In making the announcement on Sunday, Penguin Random House publishers' chief executive Markus Dohle called Obama "one of the most iconic and compelling women of our era." In an unusual gesture, one million copies are to be donated in the Obama family's name to "children in need," the publisher's statement said.

"Writing BECOMING has been a deeply personal experience," Obama tweeted on Sunday. "I talk about my roots and how a girl from the South Side found her voice. I hope my journey inspires readers to find the courage to become whoever they aspire to be."



A much-anticipated memoir by Michelle Obama, seen here signing a copy of her previous book "American Grown" in 2013, will be released on 13 November. **PHOTO: AFP**

Having grown up in a modest Chicago neighbourhood, Obama defied a teacher's advice that she was "setting (her) sights too high," applying and getting accepted into Princeton University, then earning a Harvard Law School degree.

She met Barack Obama while he was an intern and she his adviser at a Chicago law firm, and they were soon married. She became his closest confidante during his political rise.

- An 'intimate reckoning' -

At the White House, under a sometimes-harsh spotlight, she advocated for the rights of women and girls and campaigned for Americans to live healthier lives.

The publisher's announcement describes "Becoming" as "an unusually intimate reckoning from a woman of soul and substance who has steadily defied expectations."

It said Obama would embark on an international book tour when "Becoming" comes out, with details to be announced.

The former first couple last year negotiated a deal with Penguin Random House, reportedly worth more than \$60 million, for books by both Obamas.

That amount would be the highest ever paid for books by former presidents or their spouses. The release is certain to attract very high interest, and sales.

"Becoming" will be released in the US and Canada by Crown Publishing Group, a division of Penguin Random House, and in Britain by Viking, a Penguin imprint. It will also appear in audio format, read by the author.

Obama's only previous book — "American Grown," about the White House garden — was published in 2013.—AFP ■

Australia media join forces to fight record Rebel Wilson payout

SYDNEY — Australia's major media organizations on Monday joined forces to back publisher Bauer's appeal against the nation's largest defamation payout awarded to Hollywood actor Rebel Wilson, arguing the size of the damages could stifle public-interest journalism.

Newspaper publishers News Corp and Fairfax, radio station owner Macquarie and television broadcasters ABC, Seven and Nine filed the documents with the Victorian Court of Appeal on Monday.

Their joint lawyer Justin Quill said the six "unlikely bedfellows" were seeking leave to intervene in Bauer Media's appeal against the damages award.

"The fact six media companies have combined demonstrates how serious this issue is," he wrote in News Corp's Melbourne Herald Sun newspaper.

Quill said the media organisations were appealing Justice John Dixon's decision to award Wilson Aus\$3.9 million (US\$3.1 million) in special damages and Aus\$650,000 in general and aggravated damages.

The award was far higher than the statutory cap of Aus\$389,500 for general damages, which has risen from Aus\$250,000 since the ceiling was introduced under uniform defamation laws across all Australian jurisdictions in 2005. Quill said after Dixon's decision, other plaintiffs pursuing

court action against media companies were seeking aggravated damages — and therefore higher payouts — claiming that the cap did not apply to their cases either.

"The damages cap provides certainty and creates a fair balance between the competing interests of protection of reputation and freedom of speech," Quill wrote. "Freedom of speech is important and the media's ability to uncover dodgy politicians or expose unscrupulous business practices benefits society."

The "Pitch Perfect" star was awarded the damages against Bauer Media by an Australian court in September over magazine articles claiming she lied about her age and background



Wilson was awarded the damages over magazine articles claiming she lied about her age and background. **PHOTO: AFP**

to further her career. Wilson has said she would give the defamation payout to charity. Bauer's parent company, Bauer Media Group, is a worldwide publishing

house based in Hamburg with magazine titles in 15 countries including Britain, the US, China and Russia, as well as various television and radio assets.—AFP ■

"Black Panther" dominates North American box office with record-breaking second weekend

LOS ANGELES — Disney and Marvel Studios' "Black Panther" continued to dominate North American box office with an estimated 108.04 million US dollars, becoming the second-highest second weekend of all-time behind "Star Wars: Force Awakens."

The superhero film has grossed a spectacular 400 million dollars in North America through Sunday and is the highest grossing movie ever released in the month of

February.

It's also the fourth film to cross 100 million dollars in its second weekend. The film brought in 83.8 million dollars for an international tally of 304 million dollars and global haul of 704 million dollars to date, according to the studio figures collected by comScore.

"Black Panther" is the 18th film in the Marvel Cinematic Universe.

Directed by Ryan Coogler, the film stars Chadwick Bose-

man as T'Challa / Black Panther who returns home as king of Wakanda but finds his sovereignty challenged by a long-time adversary in a conflict with global consequences. Far behind in second place, Warner Bros' dark comedy mystery film "Game Night" opened with an estimated 16.6 million dollars.

Directed by John Francis Daley and Jonathan Goldstein, the film stars Jason Bateman, Rachel McAdams and Kyle Chandler. It follows a group of

friends whose game night turns into a murder mystery.

Sony's animated adventure comedy film "Peter Rabbit" landed in third place with an estimated 12.54 million dollars in its third weekend, pushing its North American cume to 71.29 million dollars through Sunday. Directed by Will Gluck, "Peter Rabbit" is based on the stories of the character of the same name created by Beatrix Potter.

The film features voice

roles played by James Corden, Daisy Ridley, Margot Robbie, and Elizabeth Debicki, and live action roles played by Domhnall Gleeson, Rose Byrne, and Sam Neill.

Paramount's science fiction horror film "Annihilation" opened in fourth place with an estimated 11 million dollars. Universal's erotic romantic film "Fifty Shades Freed" landed fifth with an estimated 6.91 million dollars in its third weekend.—Xinhua ■

Swing time: Thais go dancing in the streets

NAKHON PATHOM (Thailand) — Dressed in top hats, vintage outfits and shiny shoes, hundreds of Thais grooved to swing music in a town more famous for its ancient Buddhist stupa.

More than 300 enthusiasts, including foreign dancers, came out for the shindig on a street in Nakhon Pathom, about an hour from Bangkok.

Thailand's swing dance community has grown in recent years and Sunday's street party was organized by a group called "Bangkok Swing," founded in 2011. They have held three such parties in Nakhon Pathom and hope to make it an annual event.

The group's co-founder Chayapong Naviroj, 29, said he discovered swing dancing while attending university in the US.

"I wanted to dance and it's a happy dance with swing music," he said.



Phra Pathom Chedi, one of Thailand's most revered Buddhist structures, looms in the distance. **PHOTO: AFP**

"Humans like to dance. Humans like to touch. Humans like music. It can go on forever."

Nakhon Pathom is home to Phra Pathom Chedi, one of Thailand's most revered Buddhist structures, which loomed in the distance as the dancers stomped to music by

bands The Shirt Tail Stompers from the UK and the US-based Casey Macgill & Friends.

"It's just meeting people, beautiful people... Having really beautiful music and it's just great fun actually," said Kris Asvanon, a 61-year-old creative consultant based in

Bangkok. Nan Kitnichee, a 33-year-old art director also from Bangkok, said she enjoyed the event's throwback theme.

"We dress up just to pay respect to the culture and how people in the old days dressed up very nicely and went social dancing," she said.—AFP ■

Japanese makeup artist Tsuji wins guild award for "Darkest Hour"

LOS ANGELES — Japanese makeup artist Kazuhiro Tsuji on 24 Saturday shared a Make-up Artists and Hair Stylists Guild award with two colleagues in Los Angeles for their work in the film "Darkest Hour" about British wartime leader Winston Churchill.

Tsuji, David Malinowski and Lucy Sibbick, who transformed actor Gary Oldman into Churchill in the film,

were honored in the category of the Best Special Make-up Effects at the

MUAHS Guild Awards ceremony. The three have also been nom-

inated for this year's Academy Award for best makeup and hairstyling.

Oldman was also nominated for the Academy Award in the category of best actor.

The Academy Awards will be announced on 4 March.

Tsuji and other makeup artists for the film won the British Academy Film Awards' makeup and hair section on 18 February.—Kyodo News ■



Photo: **KYODOW NEWS**

Cartoonist Leiji Matsumoto to roll out new "Galaxy Express 999"

TOKYO — Japanese cartoonist Leiji Matsumoto is set to roll out the latest work of the popular "Galaxy Express 999," following a hiatus of more than a decade, sources close to the matter said on 23 Friday.

The latest story titled "Dream Black Hole" will be carried in the chroni-

cle of the 80-year-old manga artist to be released Wednesday, unfolding a new stage in the science fiction tale that fueled a craze in the 1970s and 1980s.

The new piece is hitting bookstore shelves for the first time in 11 years after Matsumoto suspended the manga unfinished

in 2007. The work has been widely adopted in anime films and television series.

The story, set in a future world controlled by machines, depicts the growth of the main character Tetsuro, a boy who sets out on a space journey with a mysterious woman named Maetel on Galaxy Express 999.

Between 1977 and 1981, the cartoon series ran in manga magazine Weekly Shonen King. Its sequel later began in a separate publication in 1996 but was suspended after the last piece was published 11 years ago to commemorate the 30-year anniversary of the serial.

According to the sources, the 32-page new story illustrates "the beginning of an endless journey" by Tetsuro and Maetel, who get on the 999 to venture into a mysterious dark tunnel.

The Conductor, Captain Harlock and Queen Emeraldas are among the supporting characters re-

turning in the new piece that continues to feature exquisite mechanical designs. "It is an endless story. The 999 has departed full of energy again after stopping for a while," Matsumoto said. "I myself am looking forward to finding out what lies ahead on the new journey."—Kyodo News ■

In memoriam
Pray on Maung Zaw Win Latt alias Maung Tutpi who passed away two months ago

In memory of Maung Zaw Win Latt alias Maung Tutpi who left us two months ago (25 December 2017) at 2114 Howard gap rd apt, 16 Hendersonville, NC 28792, in the United States of America, we: your parents, wife, brothers and sisters and relatives, remember you. We, your family members, share with you the merits gained.

Grandmother	- Daw Khin Sein
Father and mother	- U Khin Maung Win + Daw Khin Mar Kyi receding at 4 th floor, No45, Thittaw Street, Ahlon Township, Yangon
Wife	- Ma Khin Myo Nwe (NY, USA)

Friends and Relatives

Sales of online manga overtake book editions for 1st time

TOKYO — Sales of online manga comics in 2017 surpassed those of printed books for the first time, a Japanese industry research institute said on Monday, highlighting a shift in readers' preferences.

According to a survey by the Research Institute for Publications, sales of digital manga last year are estimated to have risen 17.2 per cent from a year earlier to 171.1 billion yen (\$1.6 billion), while sales of book editions fell roughly 14.4 per cent to 166.6 billion yen. The research body of the All Japan Magazine

and Book Publisher's and Editor's Association said consumers are increasingly drawn to viewing online content partly due to discount campaigns for popular e-works in the past.

The conclusion of some popular manga series and a lack of new blockbuster hits are also believed to be behind the decline in sales of book editions, said the Tokyo-based research body.

Combined sales of books and online manga were almost unchanged in 2017, down 0.9 per cent from a year earlier.—Kyodo News ■



File photo taken on 18 October, 2007, shows a man reading a manga comic book at a manga cafe in Tokyo. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**

Gattuso calls for cool heads as AC Milan catch fire

MILAN — Gennaro Gattuso has sparked a fire in AC Milan.

Unbeaten in 12 games with five wins in a row, the Italian coach has transformed the demoralised squad he took over three months ago from Vincenzo Montella.

Sunday's 2-0 win against AS Roma in the Stadio Olimpico was an important one, against a direct European rival which allows AC Milan to dream even of Champions League qualification.

Gattuso's side are just seven points adrift of the last spot for the elite European competition. When he took over fourth place was 11 points away.

"At the end of the match I congratulated the group, but I also said that we have to keep our feet on the ground," said 2006 World Cup winner Gattuso whose appointment last November raised eyebrows.

In Gattuso, the Chinese-owned club — who spent 230 million euros (\$270 million) in last summer's transfer market — turned to a member of one of their most successful sides, but one with little coaching pedigree who was training Milan's youth team at the time of his appointment.

But the former defensive midfielder, who also spent a



Players say AC Milan coach Gennaro Gattuso's recipe of hard work is the secret that has got the seven-time European champions winning consistently again. **PHOTO: AFP**

season at Scottish club Rangers during his playing career, has proved an astute choice and wants to seize his chance.

"I need to thank (directors Marco) Fassone, (Massimiliano) Mirabelli and (owner) Mr Li (Yonghong) for the opportunity they gave me. I love Milan and they are my priority. It's like a family for me," said the 40-year-old after Sunday's win.

"A beautiful relationship

was born between me and these guys."

- The secret? Hard work -

But what is the secret that has got the seven-time European champions winning consistently again.

For the players the answer is simple - hard work.

"Gattuso is making us work harder, especially on tactics," explained Ivorian midfielder

Franck Kessie, 21.

"With Montella we did very little work in training, but it's different with Gattuso and you can see the results on the pitch.

"It's like a family here and the results are arriving."

Patrick Cutrone, 20, who scored the opener on Sunday for his 13th goal in all competitions his season, added: "It's an important win, one that will make a difference."

"The coach really cares about the squad and we've come together under him. We are really united now."

"Gattuso made us understand from the first day what it means to wear this jersey," added left-back Davide Calabria, who scored the second goal against Roma.

"The winning mentality that Gattuso brings is incredible, as he focuses on every detail. We are working with great intensity."

Older players have benefited as Giacomo Bonaventura has scored five goals under Gattuso. Their defensive base is also strong with just four goals conceded in the last 12 games.

AC Milan will play Lazio in Wednesday's Italian Cup semi-final back in the Stadio Olimpico, Inter Milan in next weekend's derby clash and Arsenal in the Europa League round of 16 on 8 March.

"From tomorrow the head goes to the Lazio," said Gattuso. "We are playing something important and we will think about the (Milan) derby from Thursday. "Has Arsenal lost today (League Cup final)? We are not Manchester City, we have to put on a helmet and go to battle."—AFP ■

Ronaldinho: Neymar to bring Brazil World Cup joy

RIO DE JANEIRO — Ronaldinho has delivered a warning to Brazil's 2018 World Cup rivals, predicting that attacking talisman Neymar will bring the team "a lot of joy" in Russia.

Neymar has been in fine form for Paris Saint-Germain season, scoring 28 goals in 30 matches after leaving Barcelona for a world record transfer fee of 222 million euros.

"Neymar is our best player at the moment, the man who will give us great joy along with the others," Ronaldinho, who announced his retirement last month, told Globo Esporte.

Ronaldinho said Brazil have rediscovered their old

swagger after a harrowing 7-1 semifinal defeat to Germany in the 2014 World Cup on home soil. Under coach Tite, who replaced Dunga following the team's group-phase elimination at the 2016 Copa America, Brazil rose from sixth in the South American zone 2018 World Cup qualifying standings to finish at the top of the group.

The Selecao have lost just one of Tite's 15 matches in charge: a 1-0 friendly defeat to Argentina last year.

"I'll be cheering the team on a lot. It's a group of great quality, young players, who are already playing at great clubs, meaning they will arrive with a certain level of experience,"

Ronaldinho said of the World Cup. "We also have a great coach. Everyone is confident," he added.

Brazil have been drawn in the same group as Costa Rica, Switzerland and Serbia for the 14 June-15 July tournament.

Meanwhile Ronaldinho, who won the World Cup, Champions League and two FIFA world player of the year awards in a decorated career, said he has no regrets about quitting football.

"It was not difficult to stop because I was completely fulfilled, very happy. In the national team, our generation spent 10 years playing together. It was a long time," he said.—Xinhua ■

Tevez helps Boca Juniors extend lead

BUENOS AIRES — Carlos Tevez scored one goal and set up another as Boca Juniors defeated San Martin 4-2 on Sunday to extend their lead at the top of the Superliga Argentina standings.

Tevez opened the scoring in the fourth minute by rifling a first-time shot into the top corner after an Edwin Cardona effort was saved by goalkeeper Luis Ardenete.

Cristian Pavon added another goal five minutes later when he latched onto a Tevez through ball and rounded Ardenete before firing into an unguarded net.

Alvaro Fernandez pegged a goal back for the visitors, heading in after a Gabriel Carabajal set piece.

Nahitan Nandez restored Boca's two-goal lead by tapping in a Pavon cross but Claudio Spinelli made it 3-2 after some fancy footwork from Maximiliano Rodriguez.

Ramon Abila put the result beyond doubt with an 89th-minute strike following a 60-yard pass from Frank Fabra.

The result left Boca on 43 points from 17 matches with second-placed Talleres Cordoba and third-placed San Lorenzo due to play on Monday.

In other matches on Sunday, Belgrano won 1-0 at Chacarita Juniors, hosts Independiente overcame Banfield 1-0 and Colon drew 1-1 at Union de Santa Fe.—Xinhua ■