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THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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Director, writer, and artist Sithu Bogale Tint Aung, left, receives a lifetime achievement award from State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi last night at the Myanmar Academy Awards presentation ceremony. **PHOTO:ZAW MIN LATT**

State Counsellor attends Myanmar Academy Awards event in Yangon

STATE Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi attended the Myanmar Motion Picture Academy Awards event last night in Yangon, during which she presented awards for outstanding Aachievemnt in film and the arts.

"Duty is very important. If everyone, including parents, sons, daughters, teachers, students, artistes, and the audience fulfil their duties, our country will have no requirements. No country can compete with a country of dutiful people" she said.

The State Counsellor made the remarks in her speech delivered during the Myanmar Motion Picture Academy Awards Presentation Ceremony for 2017, which was held at Myanmar Event Park (MEP) yesterday evening.

SEE PAGE-3

U Win Myint elected as a Vice President

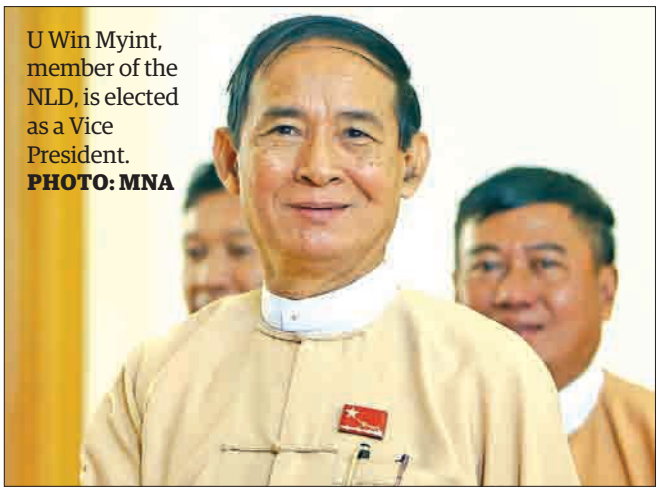
The next president will be selected from among three vice presidents

U WIN MYINT, a member of the National League for Democracy (NLD) and representing the Tamway Constituency in Yangon Region as an MP, was elected as a vice president yesterday.

A vote by secret ballot of 304 Pyithu Hluttaw representatives was taken yesterday, in which U Win Myint received 273 votes and U Thaung Aye received 27 votes. Four votes were rejected. After the results were learned, the Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat officially announced the election of U Win Myint as Vice President. The Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker also announced that U Win Myint's name will be submitted to the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker.

The nomination of U Win Myint of Tamway constituency as Vice-Presidential candidate was tabled by Dr. Daw May Win Myint of Mayangon constituency and the motion was supported by U Aung Soe of Thayetchaung constituency.

SEE PAGE-2



U Win Myint, member of the NLD, is elected as a Vice President. **PHOTO: MNA**

Pyithu Hluttaw

An official shows the voting list to the ethnic representatives of Pyithu Hluttaw. **PHOTO: MNA**

U Win Myint elected as Vice President

FROM PAGE-1

Similarly, a motion nominating U Thaung Aye of Pyawbwe constituency as Vice-Presidential candidate was tabled by U HlaHtay Win of Zeyathiri constituency and was supported by Dr. Maung Thin of Meiktila constituency.

Yesterday before the voting, the Elected Pyithu Hluttaw representative group of the Presidential Electoral College met in the Pyithu Hluttaw meeting hall in Nay Pyi Taw. Of the 323 elected PyithuHluttaw representatives, 307 were present and 16 were absent.

Before the voting, the Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker explained to the Hluttaw about the Vice President assessment and selection process and informed the Hluttaw to nominate a Pyithu Hluttaw representative to the Presidential Electoral College.

Daw Khin San Hlaing of Pale constituency and U Sai Ngaung Hsai Hein of Maukmai constituency were nominated by the Hluttaw representatives as Pyithu Hluttaw representative candidates to the Presidential Electoral College. When a vote was taken, Daw Khin San Hlaing of Pale constituency received the majority and she was approved as Pyithu Hluttaw representative to the Presidential Electoral College.

The president will then be elected from among the vice presidents.—Thuya Zaw, Aung Ye Thwin ■

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Office of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw
Order 22/2018

7th Waxing of Tagu 1379 ME
23 March 2018

Formation of Presidential Electoral College

1. In accordance with Rules of Procedure 26 for the election of the President and Vice Presidents, the Presidential Electoral College has been formed with the following persons to scrutinize the Vice-President selected by representatives of the Pyithu Hluttaw.

(a) U T Khun Myat	Speaker, Pyithu Hluttaw
(b) Mahn Win Khaing Than	Speaker, Amyotha Hluttaw
(c) U Tun Aung (a) U Tun Tun Hein	Deputy Speaker, Pyithu Hluttaw
(d) U Aye Tha Aung	Deputy Speaker, Amyotha Hluttaw
(e) Daw Khin San Hlaing	Pale Constituency, Representatives Group Pyithu Hluttaw
(f) U Aung Kyi Nyunt	Magway Region Constituency-4, Amyotha Hluttaw Representatives Group
(g) Maj-Gen Than Soe	Tatmadaw Representatives Group

2. The Presidential Electoral College is to carry out its duty in accordance with the Rules of Procedure 27 and 28 for the election of the President and Vice Presidents.

Sd/
(Mahn Win Khaing Than)
Speaker

Amyotha Hluttaw

Amyotha Hluttaw discusses water supply to towns

Aye Aye Thant
(MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY)

The seventh session of the second Amyotha Hluttaw held its 32nd-day meeting at the Amyotha Hluttaw meeting hall in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

At the meeting, asterisk-marked questions were raised and answered by Nay Pyi Taw Council member U Aung Myin Tun.

U Sai Than Naing of Kayin State constituency (5) asked about the plan to distribute water to wards in Papun Town from Yunslin Creek and to Papun Township, Kamamaung Town, from Thanlwin River by pumping the river water. Nay Pyi Taw Council member U Aung Myin Tun replied that the two towns would be provided river water through a settling tank, a preliminary sediment tank and a secondary sediment tank to purify the water, and pressure pumps to distribute the water.

As town water distribution systems rely on electricity, power line connections for the two towns will be built, and once this is done, priority will be given to the town water distribution work, explained U Aung Myin Tun, on behalf of the state government.

The second question was posed by U Mya Min Swe of Magway constituency (9), who asked about the government's plan to establish modern and scenic towns. Nay Pyi Taw Council member U Aung Myin Tun replied that the state or regional government must first earmark funds in the budget, and later, submit and discuss it with the financial commission. The funds will be provided after the Hluttaw approves the funding request made with the recommendation of the chief minister.

The municipal or development works are distributed among the states and regions, according to the 2008 Constitution, and there is no separate ministry at the union level for development (municipal) affairs. States/regional governments will be contacted and guided to obtain and utilise funding for their development affairs, said U Aung Myin Tun.

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

Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khain Than then informed the Hluttaw about receiving the second amendment of the public servant bill, sent back by the Pyithu Hluttaw with amendments.

The Hluttaw representatives who wanted to discuss the bill were asked to register their names.

Next, a motion to agree and accept a report on the work of the Amyotha Hluttaw's Fundamental Rights of the Citizens, Democracy and Human Rights Committee was tabled by committee secretary U Myo Htat @ Salai Myo Htike, and after the Hluttaw's acceptance was obtained, an announcement about the same was made.

Later, a report on the work of the Ethnic Affairs Committee, Conflict Alleviation and Peace Process Committee, a report on the work of the Amyotha Hluttaw Agriculture, Livestock and Fishery Development Committee and a report of the Women and Children's Rights Committee were read by committee secretary U Naing Thiha, committee member Daw Ma Ma Lay and committee member Daw Ei Ei Pyone, respectively. After each report was read, the Amyotha Hluttaw speaker requested the Hluttaw representatives who wanted to discuss the reports to enrol their names.

Following this, Mahn Win Khaing Than announced the nomination of U Aung Kyi Nyunt of Magway Region constituency (4) to the Presidential Electoral College and sought the decision of the Hluttaw.

As there was no objection from the Hluttaw, it was then announced that he would be nominated as a member of the Presidential Electoral College.

The 33rd-day meeting of the seventh session of the second Amyotha Hluttaw will be held on 29 March. ■

Myanmar motion picture community asked to turn their art to soft power to assist the country in overcoming challenges being faced by the country

FOLLOWING are excerpts of the speech delivered by State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi at the 2017 Myanmar Motion Picture Academy Awards Presentation ceremony in Yangon yesterday.

She said she attended the 2017 Myanmar Motion Picture Academy Awards Presentation ceremony as the NLD government owes gratitude to the Myanmar movie community who helped the NLD win the 2015 election. She expressed her thanks to the community.

As the entertainment industry may also be considered as the soft power, people are urged to seek ways how to bring peace, unity and development to Myanmar making the best use of this soft power.

She urged the Myanmar motion picture community how to turn their art to soft power to assist the country in overcoming challenges being faced by the country.

Myanmar must be gentle than other countries. How seriously Myanmar is criticized or insulted, the country's response must be gentle, correct and have standard. For being gentle, the role of artistes is very important.

Today, no other entertainment industry is better than the movie industry. It is the soft power of movies that can immensely influence the people.

Movies influence the people and it immensely with its soft power. The soft power of movies should be used not only for benefit of Myanmar but also for the world.

"The gentle culture" is also important in politics. The support of the art and artistes is considered very valuable for the political movement in the right way. She expressed thanks to the movie community for their support and help which played a part in NLD winning the 2015 elections.

She said following the talks with some people of the movie community just before the opening ceremony, she came to understand that the State and the government is required to help and assist the Myanmar's movie industry to improve itself. She pledged to support the movie industry in terms of necessary assistance including technical and material assistance. She also requested the business tycoons to encourage the Myanmar movie industry not for profits but for the country.

She urged the Myanmar movie industry to transform itself in accordance with the current age.

She urged Myanmar's artistes not to have a feeling of inferiority, advising them to value themselves, their profession and the country.—MNA ■

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi delivers a speech at the Myanmar Motion Picture Academy Awards Presentation Ceremony for 2017 at Myanmar Event Park yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

State Counsellor attends Myanmar Academy Awards event in Yangon

FROM PAGE-1

"In today's world, there is much talk about rights, but there isn't much talk about duty. This is the present situation in the world. If our country has equal rights and duties, we will be better off than other countries. If not physically, we can be mentally better off. By being mentally better off, we can raise the physical standards step by step. I would like to urge our artistes to value themselves, value their art and value the country," added the State Counsellor.

In 2017, some 53 Myanmar movies were released, and of these, the 15 best were nominated for Academy Awards. Before the start of the ceremony, the artists, accompanied by the Myanmar national orchestra, entertained the audience with music.

The Myanmar Motion Picture Academy Awards Presentation Ceremony for 2017 started with State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's speech.

Union Minister for Information Dr. Pe Myint delivered an opening speech, followed by a speech from Myanmar Motion Picture Organisation Chairman U Zin Wine.

The 2017 Academy Awards were then presented, beginning with the special lifetime achievement award presented to Sithu Bogale Tint Aung by the State Counsellor.

The ceremony was attended by the State Counsellor, Vice President U Henry Van Thio's wife Dr. Shwe Hlwan; union ministers Dr. Pe Myint, Dr. Myo Thein Gyi, Dr. Win Myat Aye and Nai Thet Lwin; Peace Commission Chairman Dr. Tin Myo Win; Yangon Region Chief Minister Dr. Phyo Min Thein; Yangon region ministers; members of the Myanmar Motion Picture Organization, Thabin and Music Asiayone; artists; 2017 Academy Award nominees and winners; judges and other invited guests.

Last year, some 10 awards were presented. During the 63-year period from 1952 to 2016, about 398 awards have been presented.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Dr. Pe Myint delivers speech at Motion Picture Academy Awards ceremony

(Following is the excerpts of the speech of Union Minister for Information Dr. Pe Myint.)

It can be seen clearly that the status of a movie is directly related to whether it benefits the people or not.

Although movies are seen as entertainment, it has a great attraction and through it, ideas, thoughts, feelings and mindsets can be passed on. Movies affect and give either good or bad moral, practices and habits to the people, especially the youth. Thus, raising the standard of movies will entertain the people and at the same time raise their knowledge and benefit them.

Movies benefit the people on one side and it also support the creation of a good image for the country that produces it. Movies also raise international interest, attract attention, make the viewer like and have high esteem towards the producing country. The countries of the world including our neighbouring countries use the motion picture sector to develop their countries. If the members of the Myanmar Motion Picture Organization and personnel of the Myanmar movie sector work together in unity, Myanmar movies as well as culture will spread throughout the world. The name and honour of the country will also be raised.

By then it is believed that the Myanmar Academy Award presentation ceremony will be viewed by the world and distinguished Myanmar artistes' fame will be known throughout the world. The Ministry of Information pledges to work with partner organisations like the Myanmar Motion Picture Organization and cooperate with peoples and organisations from various sectors who are striving toward the development of Myanmar motion pictures, said the Union Minister.—MNA ■

Union Minister for Information Dr. Pe Myint addresses the Myanmar Motion Picture Academy Awards Presentation Ceremony for 2017 at Myanmar Event Park yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

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Deputy Minister for Information U Aung Hla Tun addresses the meeting at the Global New Light of Myanmar. **PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR**

Deputy Minister for Information meets editorial, staff of newspapers under NPE

U Aung Hla Tun, deputy minister for information, said the state-owned media were telling the world about Myanmar, and the Global New Light of Myanmar had an important role to play in this regard.

The deputy minister was talking to the editorial staff, reporters and other staff members working at state-owned newspapers under the News and Periodicals Enterprise (NPE) at the meeting hall of the Global New Light of Myanmar in Nga Htat Kyee Pagoda Road, Yangon, yesterday morning.

The deputy minister said he wanted newspapers to achieve more success and, for that, he wished to become acquainted with their requirements. He urged everybody present to openly make suggestions and discuss the difficulties they faced.

Next, NPE Managing Director U Kyaw Soe spoke to the deputy minister about the state-owned media.

The editorial staff, reporters and other members briefed him about their work status and gave suggestions, to which the deputy minister responded accordingly. The deputy minister then inspected the work being done by the Global New Light of Myanmar. — Myanmar News Agency

Mizo young lad and lass perform Chapchar Kut, one of the Chin tribes' dance at the athletic field in Kalay Town yesterday. **PHOTO:MDN**

Mizo people celebrate Chapchar Kut in Kalay

THE Chapchar Kut, one of the Chin tribes' festivals, was held yesterday morning in Kalay Town in Sagaing Region.

It is the Mizo people's traditional festival, and was held at the athletic field in Kalay Town. There are three major kinds of festivals namely Chapchar Kut, Mim Kut and Pawl Kut.

The festival is annually held in the month of March. The word Kut means festival and Chapchar means drying bamboo and trees farmers cut in order to start farming. The festival is celebrated as a way to show thanks to the gods for protecting them from harm while they are clearing the forest for cultivation work.

Mizo people prepare food and home brewed liquor one month before the festival. At the festival they entertain visitors with bamboo dances and other traditional dances. In Kalay Township, there are 26 villages where Mizo people are living. Mizo people also live in Sei Pui village in Falam, Chin State.—Myanmar Digital News

"Voices for Wildlife" concert to be held in Yangon

THE "Voices for Wildlife" concert will be held in Mahabandoola Park, Yangon, on 7 April 2018.

The World Wildlife Fund (WWF), in partnership with the Embassy of Denmark in Myanmar, will host the first-ever wildlife music festival in the country.

Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein, along with his wife, will attend the concert as the guest of honour. Many famous singers will be part of the concert.

Acclaimed composer Lin Htet, known for mixing traditional and Western musical instruments, will serve as the music director. Entry to the concert is free.

Peter Lysholt Hansen, Danish Ambassador to Myanmar, said, "Through the concert, we hope to put the spotlight on one of the biggest global challenges faced not only by Myanmar but several countries— the illegal wildlife trade. Ending wildlife trafficking is our responsibility.

We congratulate the government of Myanmar on the steps taken to protect wildlife, and we urge the government to develop a solid framework to end this trade."

WWF-Myanmar has also launched an elephant-focused campaign against illegal trade in November 2017. The campaign is named "Voices for Momos", a friendly term used for elephants in Myanmar.

The campaign was launched with the aim of encouraging the public to not sell, buy or use elephants.

Every week, at least one elephant is hunted in Myanmar. Elephant skin, tail, hair, teeth and ivory are sold at Kyaiktiyo pagoda in the Mon State.

There are large markets along the border regions of China, Myanmar, Laos and Thailand that engage in the trade of elephant parts.— GNLM ■

MYTEL, Myanmar's Newest Telco, Officially Launches Services in Myanmar

Operations begin in network-ready regions, with focus on providing to rural areas

MYTEL, Myanmar's fourth and newest telecommunications firm, started selling SIM cards in several locations across Myanmar and giving customers access to its 4G capable network for the first time on Thursday.

MYTEL commenced commercial operations in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area, East Bago, and Kayin State on 15 March, 2018. Plans to expand to all 14 states and regions of Myanmar will be completed when the network in each region and state reaches peak network readiness, and will be finished within the next month.

"At MYTEL, we're extremely happy to begin unveiling our services to our eagerly waiting customers," said U Zaw Min Oo, Chief External Relations Officer of MYTEL. "A key point of our launch plan has always been a focus on more rural areas, and the provinces away from the large cities like Yangon and Mandalay. We are excited to see what our superior technology, our 4G capable network, and our commitment to empowering the people of Myanmar will do for the future of this country's telecommunications market."

SIM cards for MYTEL start at 1,500 MMK per sim card, and under the new MYLIFE plan, users will get a Welcome bonus of 750 MB + 100 minutes On-net to use for 60 days after activation of SIM. Consumers can also enjoy 50% top-up bonus every time they recharge from March 15 onwards. This top-up bonus can also be rolled over to the succeeding month if subscriber is not able to consume the credit. MYTEL's base tariff for calls will be 10 MMK/minute for on-net, and 23 MMK/minute for off-net; the base rates for SMS on-net and off-net will be 10 MMK/SMS.

MYTEL launched on 11 February 2018 with their "First Call" event hosted in Nay Pyi Taw. The company, Myanmar's newest telco operator, was founded in 2016, as a premier example of public-private partnerships in Myanmar, and ASEAN, by pairing a group of 11 Myanmar telco operators and infrastructure providers with Viettel, Vietnam's largest mobile operator.

MYTEL is Myanmar's newest telecommunications provider, founded in 2016, bringing together a pre-existing network of Myanmar telco infrastructure from a group of 11 Myanmar companies, and the Vietnamese Viettel's decade-plus experience operating in frontier markets. MYTEL will launch Myanmar's first, and only, entirely-4G network across the country through 18 business branches to empower Myanmar users, and give people the ability to reach the goals, and their friends and family, all around Myanmar.
—MNA ■

Ooredoo expands network in Myanmar

Ooredoo Myanmar, the widest and the strongest 4G network provider in Myanmar, has expanded its 4G Plus network in another 21 townships in Myanmar. Ooredoo 4G Plus network continues to lead as the widest 4G network in Myanmar to offer the best data experience to its customers.

The new towns which have been added to the network are Kyonepyaw, Zalun, Thabaung, Yekyi, Kyaiklat and Mawlamyainegyun in Ayeyawady Region, Yesagyo, Seikpyu and Minhla in Magway Region, Salingyi , KhinU, Kanbalu, Pinlebu and Tigyaing in Sagaing Region, Hopong and Mongmit in Shan State and Taungtha and Myitha in Mandalay Region, Taungup in Rakhine State, Gyobingauk in Bago Region and Thongwa in Yangon Region. Now 221 townships are under Ooredoo 4G Plus network.

Daw Pwint Oo Swe, Marketing and Communication Director of Ooredoo Myanmar said, "We would like to support Myanmar people to increase the efficiency and gain the benefits for education, lifestyle and economic development through Ooredoo superfast 4G network".

Ooredoo is not only offering the widest and strongest 4G network in Myanmar but also it offers the best value data packs "Data Lite Pwel" with the longest validity data bonus for the people to enjoy the internet.
— The Peninsula ■

24 MARCH 2018
THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Winners of Academy Awards for 2017

Eleven Academy Awards for 2017 and one lifetime achievement award were presented artistes at the Academy Awards Presentation yesterday in Yangon.

Nay Toe (Right) accepts the best actor award.

Eaindra Kyaw Zin (Right) accepts the best actress award.

Union Minister Dr. Pe Myint (Right) presents the best movie award to Mingalarzaw Production.

Myint Myat, in yellow dress, is honoured by others after he is announced for winning the best supporting award .

Director Wyne (Right) accepts the best manuscript award.

Director Zin Yaw Mg Mg (Right) accepts the best director award.

Paing Phyoe Thu, in red dress, is honoured by others after she is announced for winning the best supporting award.

Winners of the Academy Awards for 2017 celebrate after receiving the awards at the Myanmar Event Park in Yangon. **PHOTO: MNA**

Supervisory Committee for Political Dialogue formed in Mon State

The Union Peace Dialogue Joint Committee issued Notification 1/2018 yesterday. Following is an unofficial translation of the full text of the announcement.

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Union Peace Dialogue Joint Committee
Notification 1/2018

7th Waxing of Tagu 1379 ME
23 March 2018

1. In accordance with the guidance provided on the working process for political dialogues at the national level and the principles on political dialogue included in the framework of political dialogue, a political dialogue based on race at the national level will be held in Mon State.

To monitor the dialogue, a supervisory committee at the national level for Mon State has been formed as follows:

(a) Daw San Wint Khaing (Minister for Ethnic Affairs)
(b) Col Tin Htut (Tatmadaw)
(c) Dr. Khin Saung (Pyithu Hluttaw MP)
(d) Naing Win Hla (ethnic armed group)
(e) Naing Aung Ma Ngae (ethnic armed group)
(f) Pado Saw Hla Tun (ethnic armed group)
(g) Dr. Aung Tun Khaing (political party)
(h) Min Kyaw Zeya Oo (political party)
(i) U Chan Myint (political party)

2. The supervisory committee for the political dialogue at the national level is obliged to make efforts for the successful and systematic holding of the political dialogue, in line with the provisions and respective directives approved by the Union Peace Dialogue Joint Committee.

Sd/-
(Aung San Suu Kyi)
Chairperson
Union Peace Dialogue Joint Committee.

Union Minister U Kyaw Tint Swe holds talks with Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Government of Japan His Excellency Mr. Iwao Horii. **PHOTO: MNA**

Union Minister for the Office of the State Counsellor meets Parliamentary Vice–Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan

Union Minister for the Office of the State Counsellor U Kyaw Tint Swe received the delegation led by Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Government of Japan His Excellency Mr. Iwao Horii at the Ministry of the Office of the State Counsellor yesterday afternoon.

During the meeting, the two sides discussed matters relating to the cooperation between Myanmar and Japan. Also present at the meeting were Senior Officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of the Office of the State Counsellor.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Decisions made at 15th JMC-U meeting

The 15th Union Joint Monitoring Committee (JMC-U) was held from 21 to 23 March in National Reconciliation and Peace Center on Shweli Road in Yangon, during which numerous issues were addressed, including the ongoing skirmishes between the Tatmadaw and the Karen National Union in Papun.

During the three-day meeting, discussions on works implemented between 14th and 15th meetings, the inclusion of New Mon State Party (NMSP) in the JMC, skirmishes between Tatmadaw and KNU Brigade 5 in the Papun area, decisions made at the third JMC civilian representatives meeting, policy matters to be set by JMC-U, expanding and forming more local level joint monitoring committees (JMC-L), forming of Local Civilians Monitoring (LCM), fund flow from the UNDP to the JMC, and setting of date and venue for JMC Conference were discussed.

A decision was also made to include Nai Lyi Kaung of NMSP as a member of JMC-U and to continue the process of including NMSP in state-level joint monitoring committee (JMC-S). It was also decided to hold the JMC Conference in Yangon on the second week of May 2018, with the 16th JMC-U meeting held consecutively.

With regards to forming JMC-L, Dr. Shwe Khar said, "Initially ten JMC-Ls were planned to be established in a year but only two were formed. We'll try to form more. But the first priority is to ensure that the formed JMC-Ls are strong and firm. It is decided to form more JMC-Ls only after this." — Ye Kaung Nyunt ■

Anti-Corruption Commission holds workshop to produce investigation manual

U Aung Kyi, Chairman of Anti-Corruption Commission, delivers the address at the workshop on Investigation Maunal. **PHOTO: MNA**

The Anti-Corruption Commission held a workshop on producing an investigation manual at Thingaha Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw on Thursday.

At the event, Chairman of Anti-Corruption Commission U Aung Kyi said the mission of the commission was to prevent corruption across the nation. Complaints received will be investigated and preventive works will also be carried out across the country. The work of the commission must be implemented ethically, with accountability and transparency. The making of rules and regulations for investigation is essential for the commission to be able to implement its works with accountability. The establishment of rules and regulations needs to be in accordance with Myanmar's current laws and international standards, and to be practically carried out.

The drawing up of rules and regulations began in December 2017 and has now reached the final stage; it will soon be released to the public. The code of conduct for the staff of the commission written presently will also be released in April. The commission will try to become a deserving, responsible and accountable organisation, the chairman said.

Present at the workshop were Anti-Corruption Commission secretary U San Win and members, UNODC's Anti-Corruption and Law Enforcement international expert Rhghavan Kuppuswamy and staff from the commission's office. —Myanmar News Agency ■

24 MARCH 2018
THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Work together to end sexual violence against children

EVERY day, millions of children throughout the world are subjected to different forms of abuse, neglect, exploitation and violence. Sexual violence against children is one of the most appalling violations of a child's rights.

Sexual violence against children is a challenge for every country, and Myanmar is no exception.

It is a global reality across all strata of society and in all countries of the world. It can take the form of sexual abuse, harassment, rape or sexual exploitation in prostitution or pornography. It is usually a silent, hidden, indivisible crime that both boys and girls face at home or outside, often at the hands of trusted adults.

Talking about sexual violence is difficult because of the many taboos that surround the issues of sexuality, abuse and exploitation. In fact, cases of sexual violence against children are even more difficult to talk about because a culture of silence and shame suppresses any discussion concerning sex and children.

World Vision Myanmar will form committees to carry out educational activities targeting some 50,000 parents, teachers and children as part of the effort to prevent crime in Myanmar and protect the rights of children.

Almost every country in the world, including Myanmar, has committed to protecting the rights of children by ratifying the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC). It is the most universally ratified human rights treaty in human history. Myanmar became a State Party of that optional protocol in 2012.

In order to address the sexual violence against children issue, we have to collaborate and cooperate with many partners. In effect, preventing and responding to sexual violence against children should be everybody's business. Children's hopes and expectations require the State to act now with real urgency to fulfill their obligations to children as rights-holders.

To end physical violence against children, Myanmar has been working with local and foreign organizations to end sexual abuse against children and rehabilitate them.

After assuming office, the new government has made efforts to improve the livelihoods of people so they can enjoy basic human rights and live with integrity.

A five-year campaign to end physical and sexual violence against children was launched two days ago in Nay Pyi Taw by the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement and World Vision Myanmar.

World Vision Myanmar will form committees to carry out educational activities targeting some 50,000 parents, teachers and children as part of the effort to prevent crime in Myanmar and protect the rights of children.

We hope that the programme will help end physical and sexual violence in Myanmar.

It's about time we take urgent measures to stop sexual violence against children. ■

Health Vs Smoking and Betel-chewing

By Dr. Mya Than

PHOTO: AFP

IN one fine morning , I went shopping by observing nearby environments; white concrete and asphalt roads were littered with dogs' excrement, betel spittles,rubbish and mucus and I had to walk away with deft footwork, making me disgusted with breathing smells of faeces, urine, ammonia and sulpha dioxide all along the way.

Bad habits and traits of the people tend to make environments dirtier, causing communicable diseases such as TB and drug-immune TB; non-communicable diseases such as heart, hypertension, diabetes and cancer have become rampant, with cancer risks putting Myanmar in No.2 ranking in the world. The above observations have compelled me to write this article in a spirit of goodwill in order to understand evils originated from these bad habits.

Smoking and betel-chewing

In the past, village elders used to consume cheroots, tobacco and betel quid , but now schoolchildren secretly develop a habit of smoking and betel-chewing. So roadside betel shops are mushrooming all over the city. People are often seen standing in a queue to buy a tin of betel quid which might cost Ks 500- 1000. It is unthinkable for new generations because of diseases and deaths resulting from abuses of cannabis, alcohol, smoking and betel-chewing. These abuses happen to destroy the beauty of our country for no reason.

Reasons of being addicted to betel-chewing, smoking and drinking

1. Start smoking and betel-chewing in the context of an uneasy sensation and bad smells in the mouth
2. Their parents often let them buy cigars and cigarettes, leaving the youth to get addicted to smoking
3. The youth of today easily imitate the styles of actors and actresses
4. Bad imitations from companions and advertising
5. To prevent from dozing fitfully , people tend to develop a habit of smoking and betel-chewing during driving , writing and hard labour.
6. Smoking is substituted by betel-chewing , thereby getting addicted to both bad habits.

PHOTO: AFP

Cancer-causing cigarettes

Cancer-causing ingredients include tobacco leaves, benzene, tar(nicotine), ammonia, stearic acid , carbon monoxide and nuclear compounds. People get addicted to nicotine in the tobacco leaf which is bound to include sixty types of cancerous compounds. A quid of betel includes betel leaf, areca nut, lime, tobacco leaf, sisal hemps, liquorice and official plant. These ingredients are mostly imported from India. There are two types of betel quid: a sweet one and K. a balmy one which includes tobacco leaves compounded with spraying poppy oils.

Disadvantages of betel-chewing

Damages in outer cover of enamel, foul smells of betel and sweating in the mouth, early decaying of teeth and pyorrhea.

1. Make beauty and age become older
2. Clothes get easily stained with betel-chewing
3. Consumption of betel-chewing could cost K.500-1000 daily
4. Betel spittle makes the environments and nearby buildings dirty.
5. Nicotine and cancer-causing chemicals seeping through blood in cheek, buccal cavity , throat and oesophagus. These chemicals could go through blood circulation systems throughout the body. Hypertension, myocardinal infarct, stroke, blockage and narrowing in the arteries, nervous breakdown and other related disease could follow.

Betel-chewing and risks of cancer

Keeping tobacco leaf in the mouth and putting it in betel quid could put consumers in a great risk of causing cancer. Mouldy areca nuts and other ingredients can cause cancer in cheek, buccal cavity, tongue, gum, throat, oesophagus, stomach and liver. They also can cause liver cirrhosis, a pain in the chest and bladder. They are bound to create a lot of problems for pregnant women: abortion, asthma and respiratory diseases. Babies are born with innate heart disease and deafness.

Nicotine in tobacco leaf which are part and parcel of smoking and betel-chewing can cause gangrene in the body, thereby leading to cut off a limb.

Heartburn(Pyrosis)

Betel-chewing can hurt in the throat, blocking the naval cavity and it may lead to death. Nicotine from tobacco leaf can create poisons, thereby causing dizziness, vomiting, diarrhea and cold sweating.

Lime in betel quid can cause damages in enamel, toothache, gum diseases, leading to cancerous conditions in liver, kidney, gall bladder, urinary track and bladder.

The farther , the better

The youth of today should avoid buying cigars, tobacco leaf, and betel quid because they could cause many horrible diseases including cancer.

" Stay away from tobacco leaf, cigarette and betel quid." This motto should be instilled in the mind of the youth of today. Even if addicted, the youth are advised to stop smoking and betel-chewing once and for all.

Parents, teachers and the intelligentsia are responsible for guiding the youth to stay away from legacy of undesirable traits and characteristics. Strict discipline should be imposed in all schools across the country. Selling alcohol, cigarettes and betel quid near schools must be strictly prohibited.

While we are on the transition to democracy, healthy energetic and educated youths are greatly in need of building modernized cities.

Each and every one must take duties and responsibilities to keep the young people away from smoking and betel-chewing. ■

Translated by Arakan Sein

Implementing digital trade facilitation could cut trade costs in Asia-Pacific by $673 billion annually, says UN report

ACCORDING to the Digital Trade Facilitation in Asia and the Pacific report released yesterday by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), full implementation of the World Trade Organization's (WTO) Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA) together with other digital trade facilitation or paperless trade measures is projected to reduce trade costs in Asia and the Pacific by 26 per cent – or $673 billion of savings every year.

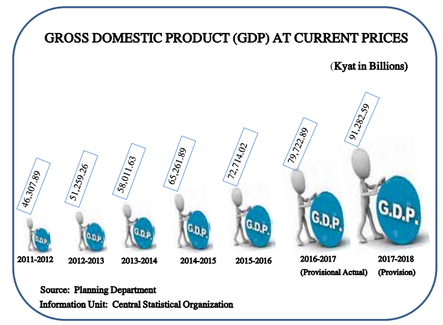
The report shows that potential trade cost reductions for all ASEAN countries exceeds 15 per cent, with Indonesia, Cambodia and Viet Nam seeing the sharpest reductions. Potential trade cost reductions in South Asia exceed 20 per cent in all countries of that subregion, including in India and Sri Lanka. Least Developed Countries and Pacific Island countries, such as Bangladesh and Samoa, have the most to gain, with trade cost reductions from digital trade facilitation exceeding 30 per cent.

Digital trade facilitation refers to the application of modern information and communications technologies (ICTs) to procedures involved in moving physical goods across borders. Implementing digital trade facilitation including paperless trade measures, to the level currently seen in China could increase the region's annual GDP by more than 3.8 per cent, and its exports by 11.2 per cent by 2030. At the same time, the report notes that achieving cross-border paperless trade is expected to be a long and complicated process, and it cannot be achieved without close collaboration between countries.

The report also finds that more than half of the regional trade agreements (RTAs) which have entered into force since 2005 globally include paperless trade provisions, with a large majority of these agreements now featuring one or more commitments aiming to exchange trade-related data and information electronically. Recent RTAs such as Republic of Korea-Viet Nam Free Trade Agreement (FTA), Australia-China FTA, among others, are found to go further than the WTO TFA in promoting digital trade facilitation and the application of modern ICTs to trade procedures.

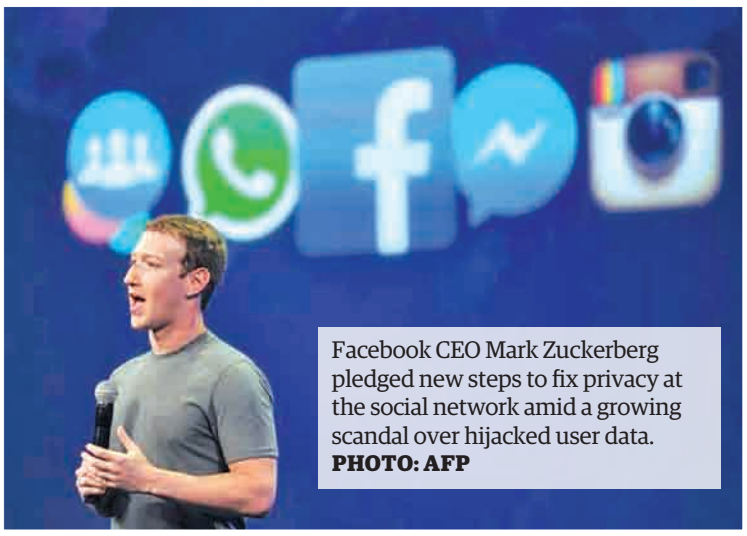
"Trade facilitation is about making trade easier for all," said UN Under-Secretary-General and Executive Secretary of ESCAP Dr. Shamshad Akhtar. "Countries need to work closer together to streamline and digitalise trade procedures."

"The Framework Agreement on Facilitation of Cross-border Paperless Trade in Asia and the Pacific can support this process. I am pleased to see so many countries coming together this week to support drafting of an implementation roadmap for this agreement." she added, noting that Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, Armenia, and the Islamic Republic of Iran formally signed the UN treaty in 2017. — ESCAP ■



As Facebook scandal mushrooms, Zuckerberg vows to 'step up'

SAN FRANCISCO — Facebook chief Mark Zuckerberg has vowed to "step up" to fix problems at the social media giant, as it fights a snowballing scandal over the hijacking of personal data from millions of its users. "We have a responsibility to protect your data, and if we can't then we don't deserve to serve you," Zuckerberg said Wednesday in his first public comments on the harvesting of Facebook user data by a British firm linked to President Donald Trump's 2016 campaign. Zuckerberg announced new steps to rein in the leakage of data to outside developers and third-party apps, while giving users more control over their information through a special toolbar.



Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg pledged new steps to fix privacy at the social network amid a growing scandal over hijacked user data. **PHOTO: AFP**

"This was a major breach of trust and I'm really sorry that this happened," Zuckerberg said in a televised interview with CNN.

"Our responsibility now is to make sure this doesn't happen again." Zuckerberg said he will testify before Congress if he is the person at Facebook best placed to answer their questions, and that he is not opposed to regulating internet titans such as the social network. "I am actually not sure we shouldn't be regulated," the Facebook co-founder and chief told CNN. "Technology is an increasingly important trend in the world; the question is more the right regulation than should it be regulated." Zuckerberg said measures had been in place since 2014 to prevent the sort of abuse revealed over the weekend but the social network needed to "step up" to do more.

The scandal erupted when a whistleblower revealed that British data consultant Cambridge Analytica (CA) had created psychological profiles on 50 million Facebook users via a personality prediction app, created by a researcher named Aleksandr Kogan. The app was downloaded by 270,000 people, but also scooped up their friends' data without consent — as was possible under Facebook's rules at the time.

Facebook says it discovered last week that CA may not have deleted the data as it certified.

"We should not have trusted Cambridge Analytica's certification, and we are not going to make that mistake again," Zuckerberg said. Facebook is reviewing how much data was accessed by every app at the social network, and will conduct full forensic audits if it notices anything suspicious, according to its chief executive.

'Breach of trust'

"This was a breach of trust between Kogan, Cambridge Analytica and Facebook," Zuckerberg wrote in a post at the social network.

"But it was also a breach of trust between Facebook and the people who share their data with us and expect us to protect it."

"We need to fix that."

Separately, in an interview with The New York Times, Zuckerberg said that even if the platform cuts developer access to Facebook data, as it plans to do, "there's still this issue of: Are there other Cambridge Analyticas out there, or other Kogans who, when the platform worked a certain way in the past, were there apps which could have gotten access to more information, and potentially sold it without us knowing."

He also said that since the 2016 US election, Facebook has taken steps that make it harder for foreign governments to interfere in elections.—AFP ■

Indonesia women face daily swim for clean water

MAKASSAR — Indonesian villager Mama Hasria swims upstream with about 200 empty jerry cans tied to her back, a daily trip she and other local women make to get clean water for their community on Sulawesi island.

As a scorching sun beats down, Hasria makes the four kilometre (2.5 mile), hour-long trip along the murky Mandar river to clean water wells built along the riverbank.

There, the 46-year-old fills up her cans with clean water made drinkable by the surrounding soil which acts as a natural filter and purifier.

The work of Hasria and her fellow water collectors, who get paid about 500 rupiah (3.5 US cents) for each can, or $7 for the whole load, is vital for some 5,800 families in Tinambung district.

Thursday is World Water Day, a UN initiative which this year focuses on "nature-based" solutions for sourcing potable water globally.

It is a challenge in Tinambung where residents have complained for years about limited access to clean water in the remote fishing village.

Mama Hasria swims with hundreds of jerry cans to collect clean drinking water for her village. **PHOTO: AFP**

"We have to collect water from upstream for drinking and cooking," Hasria said. "Water in the village can only be used for bathing and doing laundry."

Other communities struggle with similar challenges in Indonesia, which has myriad environmental problems and the dubious distinction of hosting the filthy Citarum river, which empties into the sea near Jakarta.

A decade ago, the World Bank declared it the most-polluted river in the world.

Faced with a health emergency after decades of failed clean-up efforts, the government is stepping in with the seemingly impossible goal of making the Citarum's water drinkable by 2025.—AFP ■

Japanese glass maker's joint venture in Philippines gets nod to expand

MANILA - The Philippine government's industrial promotional arm said Thursday it has approved a $7.6 million expansion by the joint venture between local conglomerate San Miguel Corp. and Japan's Nihon Yamamura Glass Co.

The Board of Investments said it approved the construction of a second glass packaging manufacturing facility by San Miguel Yamamura Packaging Corp. The plant is to be built in Cavite province south of Manila. "The expansion aims to address the increasing demand for glass packaging products in the country and export markets," the Board of Investments said, adding that 60 per cent of the company's production is sold to local clients in the Philippine beverage industry. The 32,000-square-meter facility is scheduled to begin operating in March 2019 and employ 138 people, the board said. —Kyodo News ■

Obesity could become chief avoidable cancer cause: UK charity

Research published in the British Journal of Cancer shows that obesity causes 13 different types of cancer, including bowel, breast, womb and kidney. **PHOTO: AFP**

LONDON — Obesity could overtake smoking as the chief avoidable cause of cancer-related deaths, the world's largest independent funder of cancer research said Friday.

With smoking rates in decline and obesity on the rise, it could surpass smoking as the biggest killer, the chief executive of Cancer Research UK said as it published new research.

"Obesity is potentially the new smoking, if we're not careful," said Harpal Kumar.

"My sense would be it'll be some time in next couple of decades that we'll see those two switch around."

Following a major new study of 2015 cancer data, the charity found that 37.7 per cent of all cancers diagnosed in Britain each year could be prevented through lifestyle changes.

Smoking remains the biggest avoidable cause of cancer, a factor in 15.1 per cent of preventable cases -- down from 19.4 per cent in 2011 -- followed by obesity at 6.3 per cent -- up from 5.5 per cent.

Next came overexposure to ultraviolet radiation from the sun and sunbeds and occupational exposure at 3.8 per cent each, infections (3.6 per cent), alcohol (3.3 per cent) and eating too little fibre (3.3 per cent).

The research published in the British Journal of Cancer shows that obesity causes 13 different types of cancer, including bowel, breast, womb and kidney. "Leading a healthy life doesn't guarantee that a person won't get cancer, but it can stack the odds in your favour," Kumar said.

"These figures show that we each can take positive steps to help reduce our individual risk of the disease.

"Prevention is the most cost-effective way of beating cancer."—AFP ■

Facing labour shortfall, Japan firms turn to refugees

Japan accepts only a handful of refugees each year and they face hurdles to employment that can seem almost insurmountable, including language requirements, cultural barriers and discrimination. **PHOTO: AFP**

TOKYO — Japan accepts only a handful of refugees each year and they face hurdles to employment that can seem almost insurmountable, including language requirements, cultural barriers and discrimination.

But a handful of companies, driven partly by labour shortages, are now hiring refugees.

Among them is Dairyu, a styrofoam manufacturer whose CEO Kenichi Osaka was hoping to find two new employees at a job fair held Monday by the Japan Association for Refugees, an NGO.

"We need your work, and your novel ideas that Japanese people don't come up with," he told the asylum seekers in English. With its rapidly ageing society, Japan has an unemployment rate of just 2.4 per cent, the lowest in 25 years.

"We want to hire refugees because there are not enough workers in Japan," said Osaka, whose 200 employees include around 20 foreigners.

"And Japanese are so strict with rules… we are looking for ideas that are unexpected and not predictable," he told AFP.

Dairyu was offering a starting salary of 813 yen an hour ($7.63), around the government's recommended minimum wage, along with accommodation and three weeks of holiday.

As prospective employees lined up, Osaka admitted to some apprehension about how his staff would react to working with asylum seekers from African nations.

"I don't mind, but my employees have never seen a black person." He said his foreign and Japanese workers would be paid the same wage, but activists say asylum seekers regularly face wage discrimination in Japan.

Vulnerable to exploitation

The country is notoriously strict on asylum, granting refugee status to just 20 people out of nearly 20,000 applicants last year. The government says most applicants are economic migrants, but activists and the UN say Japan imposes onerous evidence requirements that can be impossible to meet, even for those in real danger.

The process is also torturously slow, with applicants waiting an average of three years for a decision. "They are not allowed to work, nor access social security, so how can they survive?" said Eri Ishikawa, chair of JAR's board.

"They are really more vulnerable to be exploited as well."

For those granted asylum, or temporary work permits, job opportunities are often a far cry from the work they did at home.

An asylum seeker at JAR's job fair, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said he had nine years of experience in customer service in the aviation and tourism industries.

Now, he was hoping to land a job cleaning at a Tokyo hotel.

"Here you are forced to take any option to survive," he said, his eyes welling up as he described waiting to hear whether his asylum claim would be accepted.

"I can't see my wife and my kid," he said, wishing the authorities would speed up his application. JAR organises job fairs every few months, and is seeing increasing interest from companies. "Many companies approach us because of the labour shortage, but to hire refugees just to meet the labour shortage doesn't work well," said Ishikawa.

JAR wants companies to train refugees and see them as assets who can help them expand their customer base.

"Quite a few companies who have hired refugees find real value in it, some companies see them as global marketers who can sell their goods abroad, especially wherever they are coming from," she said.

An 'incredible' position

Among them is Japanese fashion firm Uniqlo, part of the Fast Retailing group whose CEO Tadashi Yanai has committed to hiring refugees worldwide.

Uniqlo currently employs 46 refugees at its stores in Japan and organises seminars "to increase the interest of other companies in hiring refugees", said Kurumi Shindo, of Uniqlo's sustainability department.

The company offers refugee hires extensive training, including language and cultural support, but says the investment is well worth it. "They have this enthusiasm to work… they encourage the other employees to work in a more positive attitude," said Shindo. Among Uniqlo's refugee hires is Cing, who obtained asylum in Japan after fleeing Myanmar in 2008. She began working at Uniqlo in 2013, after years working two jobs at restaurants to make ends meet, and acknowledges struggling to adapt at first.

"In Japanese, there are many ways to show respect to the customers, it's different talking to customers or to friends. I have experienced very difficult moments," she said.

But five years on, she is a confident presence and now advises Uniqlo's newer refugee recruits. "My friends say it's incredible I have this position," she says with a smile.—AFP ■

Ghouta evacuees arrive in Syria's rebel-held Idlib

DOUMA — Hundreds of fighters evacuated by the Syrian regime from their Eastern Ghouta bastion arrived in rebel-held Idlib province on Friday, a monitor said.

Buses carrying the fighters and their families entered the northwestern province after their evacuation from the rebel-held town of Harasta in Eastern Ghouta on Thursday, the Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said.

An AFP reporter at a camp for the displaced in the Maaret al-Ikhwan area in the north of Idlib province saw some of the evacuees arrive.

Families entered the camp but the fighters were not allowed in, he said.

Before dawn, some 400 fighters and hundreds of civilians on buses and ambulances had stopped in the town of Qalat al-Madiq in Hama province to the south, the Observatory said.

A first convoy evacuating rebel fighters and their families from the Eastern Ghouta enclave outside Damascus reaches the Hama province town of Qalaat al-Madiq where rebels and Red Crescent and White Helmets members await them early on 23 March 2018. **PHOTO: AFP**

Among them was a man who had died of his injuries on the way, said the monitor, which relies on a wide network sources inside Syria for its information.

The AFP reporter saw hundreds of people on buses draw into Qalat al-Madiq, where rebel fighters and members of the Red Crescent and of the White Helmets civil defence organisation were waiting.

The evacuation from Harasta comes after pro-regime forces launched a blistering air and ground offensive on Eastern Ghouta, the last rebel bastion near Damascus, on 18 February.

The assault has retaken 80 per cent of the enclave, the Observatory says, and divided what remains into three shrinking pockets, each controlled by a different rebel group.

The evacuation of rebels from Harasta could empty the smallest of these pockets and pile pressure on those controlling the two other to accept similar deals.

Eastern Ghouta is within mortar range of central Damascus, and the evacuation deal could be a major first step in the regime's efforts towards securing the capital.

The one-month offensive on Eastern Ghouta has killed more than 1,500 civilians, the Observatory says, and caused tens of thousands to flee into government-held areas.

More than 350,000 people have been killed in the Syrian conflict since it broke out in 2011 with the brutal repression of anti-government protests. —AFP ■

India launches first sign language dictionary

NEW DELHI — The Indian government Friday launched the country's first sign language dictionary, exclusively for the hearing and speech impaired people.

"The basic aim of developing the Indian Sign Language Dictionary is to remove communication barriers between the deaf and hearing impaired communities of the country," Indian Social Justice and Empowerment Minister Thaawarchand Gehlot said at the release event. The dictionary contains 3,000 English and Hindi words and their corresponding graphic image. And all these words are classified into five categories — everyday, legal, academic, medical and technical terms, an official statement said. "Gradually many new words will be added in the dictionary for the benefit of more and more people," the minister said.There are over 5 million deaf and 2 million people with speech disability in India.—Xinhua ■

Invitation for Bids

Myanmar
National Electrification Project
Credit No. 5727-MM
Contract Title: Supply, Installation and Maintenance of Solar PV System for Households and Public Facilities
Reference No. S&I - 3 (5 lots)

1. The *Government of Myanmar has received financing* from the International Development Association (IDA) of the World Bank Group toward the cost of the National Electrification Project, and intends to apply part of the proceeds toward payments under the contract for Supply, Installation and Maintenance of Solar PV System for Households and Public Facilities. This contract will be jointly financed by the Government of Myanmar.
2. The *Department of Rural Development, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation* now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for *supply, installation and maintenance of one or more of the 5 lots of solar PV for households and public facilities in 12 States/Regions/Territory (Kachin, Kayin, Tanintharyi, Chin, Sagaing, Shan, Bago, Magway, Mandalay, Yangon, Ayeyarwaddy, and Naypyidaw),*
3. For quick reference, some of the key qualification requirements include:
   - **The average annual turnover (or annual sales volume) of the last three years should be USD 4,000,000 or higher which varies by lot and is cumulative if bidding for multiple lots.**
   - **The bidder has successfully completed at least two (2) contracts in supplying, installing, supervising, commissioning and/or maintaining off-grid solar PV systems with batteries, in any year over the last five (5) years, and at least one of the two contracts had a value equivalent to or greater than 50% of the value of the corrected Bid Price.**

The details of the qualification requirements are seen in the bidding documents.
4. Bidding will be conducted through the International Competitive Bidding procedures as specified in the World Bank's *Guidelines: 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)* ("Procurement Guidelines"), and is open to all eligible bidders as defined in the Procurement Guidelines. In addition, please refer to paragraphs 1.6 and 1.7 setting forth the World Bank's policy on conflict of interest.
5. A Pre-Bid meeting will be held on **April 20, 2018** at 10.00 a.m at the Department of Rural Development, Office No. 14 (Main Conference Room, ground Floor), Nay Pyi Taw in order to answer any questions that potential bidders might have.
6. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from the address below and inspect the bidding documents during office hours 10:00 a.m to 04:00 p.m (*10:00 to 16:00 hours) Myanmar time* at the address given below.
7. A complete set of bidding documents in English may be obtained free of charge by interested eligible bidders upon the submission of a written application to the address below. The Bidding Documents will be issued through e-mail only.

In case of any difficulty in obtaining the bidding documents, interested parties may contact in writing:
Dr. Soe Soe Ohn, Director
Department of Rural Development, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation.,Office No. 14, Naypyitaw, Country: *Myanmar*
Fax +95 67 409529,Email: neppmo.drd@gmail.com; ksaung@gmail.com

8. Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before **May 11, 2018, 10:00 hrs**. (10.00 a.m.) Myanmar time. Electronic bidding *will not* be permitted. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be publicly opened in the presence of the bidders' designated representatives and anyone who choose to attend at the address below on ***May 11, 2018, 10:00 hrs. (10:00 a.m.)*** *Myanmar time*
9. All bids must be accompanied by a *Bid Security as stated in ITB 19.1- Bidding Data Sheet of the bidding document.*
10. The address referred to above is:

Attention: *Dr.Soe Soe Ohn, Director,Project Manager of National Electrification Project*
National Electrification Project,Department of Rural Development, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation. Office No. 14, Naypyitaw, Country: *Myanmar*
Tel /Fax: +95 67 409529, ksaung@gmail.com, dr.soesoeohn@gmail.com, neppmo.drd@gmail.com

Pacific plastic dump far larger than feared

PARIS — The vast dump of plastic waste swirling in the Pacific ocean is now bigger than France, Germany and Spain combined — far larger than previously feared — and is growing rapidly, a study published Thursday warned.

Researchers based in the Netherlands used a fleet of boats and aircraft to scan the immense accumulation of bottles, containers, fishing nets and microparticles known as the "Great Pacific Garbage Patch" (GPGP) and found an astonishing build-up of plastic waste.

"We found about 80,000 tonnes of buoyant plastic currently in the GPGP," Laurent Lebreton, lead author of the study published in the journal Scientific Reports, told AFP.

That's around the weight of 500 jumbo jets, and up to sixteen times greater than the plastic mass uncovered there in previous studies.

But what really shocked the team was the amount of plastic pieces that have built up on the marine gyre between Hawaii and California in recent years.

They found that the dump now contains around 1.8 trillion pieces of plastic, posing a dual threat to marine life.

Microplastics, tiny fragments of plastic smaller than 50mm in size that make up the vast majority of items in the GPGP, can enter the food chain when swallowed by fish.

The pollutants they contain become more concentrated as they work their way up through the food web, all the way to top level predators such as sharks, seals and polar bears.

"The other environmental impact comes from the larger debris, especially the fishing nets," said Lebreton.

These net fragments kill marine life by trapping fish and animals such as turtles in a process known as 'ghost fishing'.—AFP ■

Two dead as suspected IS gunman takes hostages in France

PARIS — At least two people were killed after a gunman claiming allegiance to the Islamic State group opened fire and took hostages at a supermarket in southwest France on Friday.

A security source said the two were killed in the attack at a Super U store in the town of Trebes.

Armed police were also responding to the earlier shooting of a policeman in the town of Carcassonne, 15 minutes drive away, which took place at around 11 am (1000 GMT).

It was unclear if the two incidents were linked.

In Trebes, a picturesque medieval town of around 5,000 people, the man "entered the Super U supermarket at around 11.15 am and shots were heard," a source told AFP on condition of anonymity.

A witness reported he shouted "Allahu Akbar" (God is greatest) before going into the premises, the source added.

- Site off-limits -

The gunman claimed allegiance to the Islamic State group, the local prosecutor's office said, and the incident was being treated as a terror attack.

Local authorities tweeted that the area around the supermarket was off-limits to the public, while Prime Minister Edouard Philippe said it was a "serious" incident.

The shootings come with France still on high alert after a string of jihadist attacks since 2015, starting in January that year with the assault on satirical magazine Charlie Hebdo that left 12 people dead.

French gendarmes block access to the southwestern French town of Trebes, where a man took hostages at a supermarket. **PHOTO: AFP**

France also suffered major attacks in Paris in November 2015 when IS jihadists killed 130 people in bombings and shootings at bars, restaurants, the Bataclan concert venue and the national stadium.

In July 2016, in another attack claimed by IS, a man drove a truck through revellers celebrating Bastille Day in the Riviera resort of Nice, killing 84 people.

A state of emergency put in place just after the Paris attacks was finally lifted in October last year, but soldiers continue to patrol major tourist sites and transport hubs under an anti-terror mission.

If the link to Islamic State is confirmed, the hostage-taking would be the first deadly attack in France since October, when two young women were stabbed to death outside Marseille's main train station.

Interior Minister Gerard Collomb was heading to the scene, he wrote on Twitter.

The area of southwest France where Friday's shootings took place has been scarred by Islamic extremism before.

In 2012, Mohamed Merah shot dead seven people including three Jewish schoolchildren in the nearby city of Toulouse. — AFP ■

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V SPRING AMIR VOY. NO. (1)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V SPRING AMIR VOY. NO. (1) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 24-3-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MITT 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 TOKO KAIUN KAISHA LTD . JANPAN

Phone No: 2301191, 2301178

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V GSS YANGON VOY. NO. (1082 S/N)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V GSS YANGON VOY. NO. (1082 S/N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 24-3-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S NEW GOLDEN SEA SHIPPING

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V CAPE FLORES VOY. NO. (083N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V CAPE FLORES VOY. NO. (083N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 24-3-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S NEW GOLDEN SEA SHIPPING LINES

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V YANTRA BHUM VOY. NO. (1004W)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V YANTRA BHUM VOY. NO. (1004W) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 25-3-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MIP where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V PACITA VOY. NO. (021 W/E)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V PACITA VOY. NO. (021 W/E) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 24-3-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MITT/AIPT where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S NEW GOLDEN SEA LINES

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V BLUE ANGEL VOY. NO. (1060)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V BLUE ANGEL VOY. NO. (1060) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 25-3-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MITT-3 where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S CA SHIPPING PTE, LTD.

Phone No: 2301928

Canadian singer Celine Dion, seen here performing in Paris on 4 July 2017, has cancelled a series of Las Vegas concerts to have surgery for an ear condition. **PHOTO: AFP**

Celine Dion cancels shows for ear surgery

NEW YORK — Canadian superstar Celine Dion has canceled a stretch of concerts in Las Vegas as she undergoes surgery for an ear condition.

Dion, who turns 50 later this month, said she has been suffering from Patulous Eustachian tube, when a middle opening in the ear is abnormally open, affecting hearing.

The singer said that her medication was no longer succeeding in treating the condition, requiring her to undergo a "minimally invasive surgical procedure." She canceled shows set from 27 March to 18 April at The Colosseum at Caesars Palace. Dion, who last performed at the casino in January, will resume her performances on 22 May.

"My luck hasn't been very good lately," said Dion, whose husband and longtime manager Rene Angelil died in 2016.

"I apologize to everyone who planned to travel to Las Vegas to see my show. I know how disappointing this is, and I'm so sorry," Dion wrote on Facebook late Wednesday.

The prolific singer, whose best-known hits include the "Titanic" theme song "My Heart Will Go On," has been a top entertainment attraction in Las Vegas. Her 2003-2007 show at Caesars Palace, called "A New Day," is the highest grossing musical residency in the city's history, earning nearly $400 million.—AFP ■

'Pacific Rim: Uprising' sets sights on 'Black Panther'

MEXICO CITY — Fresh from his confirmation as the crown prince of feel-good fantasy, Guillermo del Toro is cranking the volume up to 11 as producer of the sequel to smash-'em-up blockbuster "Pacific Rim."

"Pacific Rim: Uprising" — an altogether brasher, more rambunctious sci-fi tentpole than the Mexican filmmaker's Oscar-winning 2017 opus "The Shape of Water" — is tracking to top the domestic box office with upwards of $22 million this weekend.

Del Toro — who helmed the original — has handed directing duties to TV creative Steven S. DeKnight ("Spartacus," "Smallville") for the sequel, which is not expected to turn the kind of profit of the 2013 film.

Box office observers are wagering nevertheless that even a modest debut weekend could be enough to end the historic reign of Marvel's "Black Panther," which has begun to slow down after five weeks at the top.

"As 'Black Panther' has week after week dispatched a string of high profile newcomers, 'Pacific Rim' likely has the goods to unseat the undisputed king of the box office," Paul Dergarabedian, senior analyst at comScore, told AFP.

"It's a testament to the power of 'Black Panther' that at six weeks into its run it still has everyone wondering if it could lead the charge once again."

Set 10 years later, the sequel follows a new generation of pilots of the first film's giant "Jaeger" military mechanoids — don't call them robots — fending off the truly enormous Kaiju monsters aiming to end humanity.

It has had mixed early reviews, and the San Francisco Chronicle's description of "a lot of pounding, smashing and driving, purely functional" a fair reflection of the more luke-warm write-ups.

Inspirational father

The movie centers around "Star Wars" sensation John Boyega, whose starring parts since alien attack thriller "Attack the Block" in 2011 have helped amass an impressive $3.4 billion worldwide. Boyega plays Jake Pentecost, the son of Idris Elba's character Stacker, who gave up his life to save the world in the first film.

The 25-year-old son of a British-Nigerian Pentecostal minister, Boyega said in a recent interview in Sydney, where he spent more than four months filming, that his father had been his inspiration.—AFP ■

US music sales hit decade high as streaming soars

NEW YORK — Music sales soared anew last year in the United States backed by the rise of streaming, bringing revenue to a level last seen a decade ago, the industry said Thursday.

The Recording Industry Association of America said that revenue grew a robust 16.5 per cent in 2017, marking the first time since 1999 at the dawn of online music that the business has expanded for two years in a row.

Recorded music sales in the world's largest music market from all formats totaled $8.7 billion, returning to the revenue level seen in 2008 even if it is still 40 per cent below the pre-internet peak.

Music sales are up in the United States led by subscriptions to paid platforms such as Spotify, Apple Music and Tidal, and including a resurgance of popularity in vinyl, which showed a 10 per cent sales jump. **PHOTO: AFP**

The growth was almost entirely attributable to the public's embrace of streaming, with subscriptions to paid platforms such as Spotify, Apple Music, Tidal and the new service of retail giant Amazon growing 56 per cent to 35.3 million users.

The biggest loser in the rise of on-demand streaming has been digital downloads on iTunes and elsewhere, which tumbled 25 per cent. Physical sales also fell but were propped up the continued resurgence among audiophiles of vinyl, for which revenue jumped 10 per cent.

With the countervailing trends, revenue from physical sales outpaced digital downloads in the United States for the first time since 2011.

Streaming has been transforming the music business in much of the world, although artists frequently complain that they see little of the industry's newfound bounty.

But Cary Sherman, chairman of the Recording Industry Association of America, pointed to a study that record labels worldwide invested $4.5 billion in artist development and marketing in 2015.

"More than any other creative industry, music companies successfully transformed themselves ahead of the transition to streaming, all while forging stronger relationships with their most important partner: the artist," he wrote in a blog post.

He reiterated the industry's concerns that antiquated laws have capped revenue from advancing even further. But he voiced hope that the US Congress will soon pass a bill, backed by members of both major parties, that would guarantee that online radio stations pay royalties for songs recorded before 1972, which are exempt under current law.—AFP ■

600 invited to Prince Harry and Meghan Markle's wedding

LONDON - Some 600 people have been invited to the wedding of Britain's Prince Harry and his fiancee Meghan Markle, Kensington Palace announced Thursday. The invitations were posted earlier this week, Harry's official residence said -- without revealing who had made the guest list.

Harry and his US actress fiancee are set to tie the knot at Windsor Castle, west of London, on 19 May.

The 600 invitees will attend the service in the castle's St George's Chapel, followed by the lunchtime reception hosted by Harry's grandmother Queen Elizabeth II at St George's Hall.

Later, around 200 guests are being invited to a private reception at Frogmore House given by Harry's father Prince Charles, the heir to the throne.

The venue for the evening party, in the park outside Windsor Castle, is where Harry and Markle posed for their official engagement photos.

The invitations, issued in Charles's name, were on thick white card gilded along the edge, which were die-stamped in gold and then burnished.

Britain's Prince Harry (R) and his fiancee US actress Meghan Markle attend a Commonwealth Day Service at Westminster Abbey in central London on 12 March 2018. **PHOTO: AFP**

The invitations read: "His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales... requests the pleasure of the company of... at the marriage of His Royal Highness Prince Henry of Wales with Ms Meghan Markle at St George's Chapel, Windsor Castle on Saturday 19th May, 2018 at 12 Noon followed by a reception at Windsor Castle."

The names of the invited guests were added in later by a calligraphy printer.

Uniforms and elderflower cake

The invites indicated that the dress code is uniform, morning coat or lounge suit, or day dress with a hat. Harry, a former soldier who also holds ceremonial military roles, is therefore likely to be wearing his highest-ranking uniform for the wedding.

The prince and his bride-to-be have been increasingly busy this month in the build-up to the big day.

On Tuesday, the couple announced they had chosen London-based US pastry chef Claire Ptak to make a lemon elderflower wedding cake, to be covered with buttercream and decorated with flowers.

Queen Elizabeth published her formal consent to the marriage on 15 March.

By law, the monarch must give consent for the marriage of the first six people in line to inherit the throne.

Harry, 33, is fifth in line after his father Charles, brother Prince William and William's children Prince George and Princess Charlotte.

He will be bumped down to sixth place when William's wife Kate gives birth next month.

On 12 March, Markle took part in her first official event with Queen Elizabeth, accompanying Harry to a Commonwealth Day service at London's Westminster Abbey. Markle, 36, was baptised by the leader of the Church of England earlier this month out of respect for the sovereign's role as head of the denomination. — AFP ■

Joshua Leonard: Hollywood's go-to guy for daring movie-making

HOLLYWOOD — Ever since Joshua Leonard helped reinvent indie filmmaking as a star of found-footage pioneer "The Blair Witch Project," he has been something of a go-to guy for groundbreaking, no-budget cinema.

Two decades on he's at it again, in an acclaimed but deeply unsettling role as a stalker in "Unsane" -- filmed entirely on an iPhone by Oscar-winning auteur Steven Soderbergh ("Erin Brockovich," "Traffic").

"The only reason I have a career still is that we availed ourselves of new technology and unprecedented techniques 20 years ago with 'Blair Witch,'" said Leonard, 42, enthusing about how low-fi filmmaking appeals to his impatient streak.

"I think it's the reason that I was so excited when I got called in to make this project, because I love making films much more than I love waiting to make films," he told AFP ahead its US release on Friday. "Unsane" stars British actress Claire Foy, of the Netflix series "The Crown", as Pennsylvania office worker Sawyer Valentini, who has left her hometown under mysterious circumstances.

After an online dating encounter leaves her upset, she seeks help from a counselor at a local clinic, who tells her to sign a routine form before she leaves.

Within minutes, she is committed to a mental institution against her will and pumped full of pills.

A fellow patient whose background may be more interesting than he is letting on, tells her she's been locked away as part of an insurance scam but that if she keeps her head down, she will be released within days.

However when Sawyer encounters Leonard's character, an orderly she claims has been stalking her for two years, the audience begins to question her sanity as well.

Kafkaesque

Leonard's nuanced, half-pathetic, half-terrifying performance has been roundly praised since the movie premiered in Berlin's film festival in February, although the acclaim has done nothing for his family life.

"I just I felt terrible that my wife had to watch it, come home and sleep next to me. I want to try to figure out a way that my 15-month-old daughter never sees it when she's a teenager," he says, laughing.

Understandably, much has been made of the iPhone novelty but the medium has overshadowed the message to some extent, with headlines concentrating on how the film was made, rather than what it has to say.

Ostensibly a Kafkaesque satire of the medical insurance racket, "Unsane" is as much a part of the #MeToo moment as any red carpet protest since the Harvey Weinstein sexual misconduct scandal ignited.

US actor Joshua Leonard has become something of a go-to guy for groundbreaking, no-budget cinema. **PHOTO: AFP**

Foy's brittle, irritable Sawyer isn't believed when she complains about her stalker, those in charge of her care assuming she is delusional.

The significance of a woman screaming to be heard in the face of threatening male sexuality, as various characters try to "gaslight" her by telling her the ordeal is all in her head, is not lost on Leonard.

"Unsane," he points out, was filmed before Weinstein was accused of litany of sex offenses, but he adds that "anything that furthers the discussion is a good thing." Ironically, real-life unfair treatment of women has thrust Foy into the limelight recently, with the producers of "The Crown" admitting she was paid less for her award-winning performances than co-star Matt Smith. "It's a conversation that is long overdue, and I think we've been operating off an old paradigm for far too long," Leonard told AFP.

"Bringing some of this information to light, like the pay gap disparity, is the first step in actually making real and lasting change."—AFP ■

VUC, YTD and Panda win big in MFF Futsal tourney

VUC, YTD and Panda futsal teams notched double digit, lopsided wins in Group (F), (G) and (H) matches of the MFF Futsal Open Cup 2018 yesterday at Thuwunna National Indoor Stadium in Yangon. In Group (F) matches, Panda futsal team trounced YTD by a score of 11-4, while Titans XII beat MMU Exclamation futsal team by a score of 4-1.

In Group (G) matches, Futsal Club Brother team defeated Marinars team by a score of 14-4 while MIC beat Dala United by a score of 9-0.

In Group (H) matches, Winner Futsal team beat 14/15 futsal team by a score of 12-4 while VUC eliminated Shwe Thiha by a score of 18-2. Officials also recognized the standout play of individual players from each game played yesterday. The best players' performance awards were garnered by Kaung Htet Kyaw from Panda team, Pyae Phyo Maung from Titans XII team, Naing Ye Kyaw from MIC team, Soe Min Htet from Winner team, and Nyein Min Soe from VUC.—Kyaw Zin Lin ■

Futsal players from Shwe Thiha (yellow) and VUC (Red) vie for the ball in yesterday's futsal match at Thuwunna Indoor Stadium. **PHOTO:MFF FUTSAL**

F1 teams urge better deal to avoid breakaway series

MELBOURNE — Mercedes boss Toto Wolff on Friday urged Formula One owners Liberty Media and the sport's regulators FIA to come up with an improved deal to avoid a breakaway championship.

Formula One's biggest teams Mercedes and Ferrari are questioning some of Liberty's plans for the sport beyond the expiration of the Concorde Agreement -- a deal which binds teams and stakeholders together until the end of 2020.

Disgruntled Ferrari chairman Sergio Marchionne has voiced dissatisfaction with Liberty's proposed re-distribution of prize money, and the concept of a simpler engine. Wolff, who has overseen the Lewis Hamilton-led Mercedes' dominance of F1 for the past four years, supports Ferrari's stance and did not rule out the prospect of a rebel championship formed by leading teams.

Mercedes boss Toto Wolff did not rule out the prospect of a rebel championship formed by leading teams and urged Formula One owners Liberty Media and regulators FIA to come up with an improved deal. **PHOTO: AFP**

"We are all carrying the torch of a great series and a great brand that was built 40-50 years ago and has tremendous value," he told a news conference ahead of this weekend's season-opening Australian Grand Prix in Melbourne.

"Everybody is trying to position themselves, but all the time with respect for the series and comments that have been made by the Ferrari chairman Sergio Marchionne show that he cares," he added.—AFP ■

Myanmar traditional Lethwei contest to be held in Maungtaw

In commemoration of 73rd-Armed Forces Day, a Myanmar traditional lethwei (Burmese bare-knuckled boxing) contest will be held at Township Gymnasium in Maungtaw, Rakhine State on 27 March, according to the Myanmar Traditional Boxing Federation.

The lethwei contest will be held with the intention of preserving Myanma Lethwei and to show Myanmar's brilliant martial arts, or lethwei, to the youngsters. The event will be held under the supervision of Ministry of Health and Sports and Myanmar Traditional Lethwei Federation. There will be both men's and women's fights in the contest. For the men's matches,, the fights will be in a variety of weight classes.

In the three-round ,46 kilo match, Shwe Yan Shinn will fight against Shine Nay Zar.

In the three-round, 48 kilo matches, Soe Oo will fight against Naing Lin Tun while Zwe Mg Mg will fight against Saw Mg Lay. In the three-round, 51 kilo matches, Wai Yan Kyaw will fight against Aung Myo Latt, Barmahti will fight Ye Mhan and Htet Htet Aung will fight Shwe Ngar.

In the three-round, 57 Kilo match, Inntha will fight Saw Htet Lin. In the three-round, 60 Kilo match, MeGyi will fight Sithu.

In the five-round, 60 Kilo match, Ko Ko Aung will fight Sue Mite, while in the 62 kilo match, Sai Thura will fight against Than Zaw Htay, while Thwe Thit Win Hlaing will fight with Saw Ba Oo.

In the women's open weight fights, Lin Yone May will fight Nann Cho Cho Win Maung while Naw Ohnmar Soe will fight Shwe Nadi.—KyawZin Lin ■

Ricciardo's grid penalty for red flag infringement

MEXICO CITY — Australia's Daniel Ricciardo received a three-place grid penalty at his home Formula One race for driving too fast under red flag conditions during practice in Melbourne on Friday.

The Red Bull driver was found to have failed to stay above the mandatory minimum time set by the FIA in the final two mini sectors of the lap in the second practice session.

As a result, Ricciardo was handed a three-place grid penalty and two penalty points.

Stewards said the penalty was lessened as Ricciardo had slowed to a degree, and no 'danger was created'. "The stewards reviewed the data and video and found that Ricciardo did in fact fail to stay above the minimum time set by the FIA ECU in the penultimate and final mini marshalling sectors," read the report. "The stewards also found that Ricciardo slowed by as much as 175km/h from his fast times at Turn 12 and was consistently and significantly slower in the final three turns, indicating that he was fully complying with the requirements of the International Sporting Code.—AFP ■