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THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's speech on the 2nd anniversary of NLD Government

My fellow citizens of our Union,

It is now two years that the National League for Democracy (NLD) government, elected by the people, has been in office.

Just as I am doing so, all Government Ministries will be reporting to the people on what they have accomplished, their strengths as well as weaknesses. They will be reporting to you earnestly in keeping with the motto we chose last year, "together with the people".

In our report to the people this year, the item of singular importance is the election of a new President. One of the reasons we value the democratic system highly is that it provides for smooth political transition without harming citizens. That is why in electing a new President, we exercised extreme care to ensure that it was done in accordance with the law, was for the benefit of the nation and provided solace to the people.

I wish to express my appreciation to the Members of the Hluttaw, the Hluttaw staff and government personnel who endeavored to ensure that the election process for the new President was completed within seven working days from 21 March, the date President U Htin Kyaw tendered his resignation. The fact that important matters could be successfully addressed in a short time stands testimony to the stability and maturity of the state.

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi delivers speech on the 2nd anniversary of NLD Government. **PHOTO: MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY**

> In the coming year 1380, our Union Government has decided to keep in high regard the need for **"collective strength"** to overcome our country's challenges.

Our ability to elect U Win Myint as President of the Union is also a reflection of the growing maturity of our democratic and political processes. President U Win Myint became a member of the NLD right from the time the party was founded. He has served the party with devotion and performed all duties, big or small and in whatever position he was assigned, for the benefit of the country and fellow citizens.

The name and reputation of those who take up the mantle of leadership depend on the ability to train new generations who are trustworthy and well-qualified. The founding fathers of the National League for Democracy as well as those in the first generation who participated in the struggle for democracy can justifiably be proud of the fact that we have been able to appoint a President, from among what may be regarded as the second generation, who is able to perform the duties of State with good moral character, steadfastness and wisdom (Sila, Samadhi and Panna). I would like to take this occasion to express my profound gratitude to President U Htin Kyaw who has retired, for the performance of his Presidential duties in full measure. The transfer of State duties, from the old to the new, with grace and dignity, demonstrate respect for the people as well as high regard for the nation. For this we are all deeply satisfied.

President U Win Myint, in his inaugural address delivered in the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw following the Oath of Office, declared that he would strive to implement the following priority goals of our Union Government:

1. Rule of law and improvement of the socio-economic life of the people;
2. National Reconciliation and internal peace; and
3. Amendment of the Constitution to provide foundation for building a democratic federal republic.

He also outlined the priority tasks of the Union Government.

We face various kinds of internal and external challenges while we endeavor for political, economic and social development of our country. As we are aware of the importance of our international responsibility, we have adopted a path consistent with the needs and situation of our country respecting at the same time the views and opinions of the international community. We have many opportunities to learn in order to overcome and eliminate the evil legacies of the past and to fulfill the aspirations for the future of the nation. We know how much loving kindness, truth and bravery are needed; how greed, anger and ignorance can impact negatively. We have learnt the importance of having good friends. The most important lesson we learned is the value of understanding and unqualified support of our people.

SEE PAGE-3

Yangon welcomes President U Win Myint

A ceremony in honour of newly-elected President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, U Win Myint was held in front of the Maha Bandoola Park near the City Hall of Yangon yesterday afternoon.

At first, the public sang the National Anthem of Myanmar.

Afterwards, master of ceremonies read out the biography of the President U Win Myint followed with the public group discussions.

Similarly, some quarters in Yangon were providing free public meals in honouring President U Win Myint. —Myanmar News Agency ■

The MC delivers a speech welcoming the new President as onlookers listen in front of Maha Bandoola Park in the middle of Yangon City. **PHOTO MNA**

Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein, second from right, sees off Vice Chairman Mr. Edmund Ho Hau Wah, center. **PHOTO: MNA**

Mr. Edmund Ho Hau Wah departs from Yangon

A delegation led by Mr. Edmund Ho Hau Wah, Vice-Chairman of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference and former Chief Executive of the Macau Special Administrative Region departed from Yangon yesterday afternoon.

The delegation was seen off by Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein, Yangon Mayor U Maung Maung Soe, Director-General of the Strategic Studies and Training Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Daw Kay Thi Soe, Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Hong Liang at the Yangon International Airport. —Myanmar News Agency ■

Electrical substation opens in Yathedaung Township

A ceremony was held in Yathedaung Township, Rakhine State, yesterday, to commemorate the opening of a 66-KV power line that connects Ponnagyun to Yathedaung electrical substation.

Union Minister for Electricity and Energy U Win Khaing delivered an opening speech. He said the substation was the first phase of a project to supply electricity to Yathedaung, Buthidaung and Maungtaw townships by constructing a 64.5-mile power line for Ponnagyun-Yathedaung-Buthidaung-Maungtaw.

Union Minister for Construction, Electricity and Energy U Win Khaing, center, unveils the commemorative memorial for the electrical substation in Yathedaung, Rakhine State. **PHOTO: MNA**

The substation will make use of a 22.2-mile power line from Ponnagyun to Yathedaung, which is connected to the main 230-KV station in Ponnagyun.

The Union Minister said the government would install a 66-KV switch bay at the main electrical station in Ponnagyun, and continue building substations in Buthidaung and Maungtaw. He said the aim was to complete these plans by December this year. The entire project, which aims to provide 24-hour electricity to the three townships, will cost an estimated Ks30 billion.

The Union Minister said that upon completion of the project, a steady supply of electricity would be made available to 26 of the 196 villages in Yathedaung, 11 of the 339 villages in Buthidaung, and 15 of the 347 villages in Maungtaw. He said the remaining villages would be supplied electricity later.

The Union Minister then concluded his speech with remarks on the opening of the substation, while a local resident expressed gratitude on behalf of the local public.

Attendees at the ceremony were then shown a video clip detailing the works undertaken by the Ministry of Electricity and Energy in the last two years.

Next, the AccorHotels Group donated 400 solar lights to villages in Yathedaung, Buthidaung and Maungtaw, which will not be connected to a power line in the next five years.

Rakhine State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu accepted the donations and presented an honorary certificate to the representative from AccorHotels Group. This was followed by Amyotha Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Aye Tha Aung, Chief Minster U Nyi Pu, Rakhine State Hluttaw Speaker U San Kyaw Hla, Rakhine State Minister for Electricity, Industry and Transport U Aung Kyaw Zan, Yathedaung constituency representative for Pyithu Hluttaw Daw Khin Saw Wai, and Rakhine State Hluttaw representative from Yathedaung constituency U Oo Than Naing cutting the ribbon to formally open the electrical substation. The attendees then took a group photograph, and Union Minister U Win Khaing unveiled the memorial for the substation.

Later, Deputy Speaker U Aye Tha Aung, Union Minister U Win Khaing and Chief Minister U Nyi Pu pressed the button to start the substation's process, thereby providing electricity to the three townships.

The attendants then toured the substation.—Myanmar News Agency ■

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's speech on the 2nd anniversary of NLD Government

FROM PAGE-1

That is why in the coming year 1380, our Union Government has decided to keep in high regard the need for "collective strength" to overcome our country's challenges. Collective strength is vital to build peace and stability which we need.

We need to have mutual understanding and mutual respect as the basic foundation to bring to an end the armed conflicts which have existed for many years among the ethnic nationalities. We can make this foundation strong with our collective strength. I would like the people to assist and support the peace efforts of our Union Government. I would especially want the youth to look to the future and join in this effort. I have observed that youth have been participating in these efforts.

I have been deeply heartened by the youths who have been assisting and participating in the work of the Union Enterprise for Humanitarian Assistance Resettlement and Development(UEHRD). Let us strive collectively for the emergence of a just and free nation— a nation which will guarantee equal rights and equality, a nation which practices a pure ideology. Not only in Rakhine State which has received the attention of the world, but in the entire country collectively for security of mind and body.

Among the main goals of our Union Government is the development of the socio-economic life. Only the people know how much we have achieved. As a Government which places great importance on openness and transparency, I have instructed all Union Ministries to inform the public how many miles of roads and new bridges have been constructed and how many new villages and towns have electricity; how much the neonatal and maternal mortality rate has fallen; how the foreign investment is still low; how high the inflation rate remain. However, it is not possible to show the progress of a country adequately in terms of facts and figures. (Some times, different organizations have different ways of calculating indices so it is difficult to know the true picture). The most important thing is to know how much real impact these economic indices have on the socio-economic life of the people. For example, last year, the amount of rice exported reached the highest level since our independence. What is important is how this increase has impacted on the lives of our farmers. We need to formulate our policies and implement plans after making an assessment of the situation.

> Let us strive collectively for the emergence of a just and free nation—a nation which will guarantee equal rights and equality, a nation which practices a pure ideology.

In the coming year we will adopt programmes that will bring real benefits to the citizens. We will inform the people about our plans as we enter the New Year. No matter what kind of projects we implement, the main factor for success is collective endeavor.

I am firmly convinced that we can overcome any challenge— no matter how big or difficult— if we can set aside prejudices of organizations and select groups, and work without pointing fingers and if every one of us makes concerted efforts with goodwill, wisdom, and courage.

In conclusion, let me solemnly thank all our friends at home and abroad,who have helped us and are still helping us; organizations, business entrepreneurs, people from academia and professionals, and especially our people who have supported and assisted us with understanding and empathy. Those who have helped us once, we should never forget. Those who have helped us again and again are our real friends; they bring fulfillment to our lives.

May all those who live within our Union, son and daughters of our Union who live near and far, those who have goodwill, loving-kindness and compassion for us and all the peoples of the world, have good health and peace of mind. May you all be free from all kinds of dangers. May your hearts and minds be at peace. May we all be able to build the peaceful, modern, prosperous and genuine Democratic Federal Republic which is the dream of the fathers of our independence and which is what our people desire.

Vice President U Henry Van Thio visits Ho Chi Minh Museum

Vice President U Henry Van Thio visited the residence of Viet Nam's national leader Ho Chi Minh and the Ho Chi Minh Museum in Hanoi yesterday morning.

Accompanied by Union Minister U Kyaw Win, Myanmar Ambassador to Viet Nam U Kyaw Soe Win and other departmental personnel, U Henry Van Thio arrived at the residence and viewed his work room, library, bedroom, personal items and books. The officials then took the Vice President and his delegation around the residence.

Later, the Vice President signed the visitor's book.

Vice President U Henry Van Thio being seen off by official at Noi Bai International Airport. **PHOTO: MNA**

At the Ho Chi Minh Museum, the Vice President viewed the statue of Ho Chi Minh, booths displaying traditions and lifestyles of the Vietnamese people and historical items of Viet Nam. The officials explained the salient points to the visitors.

Later, the Vice President met with Ambassador U Kyaw Soe Win, Military Attaché Col Aung Kyaw Oo, staff and families of the Myanmar Embassy and the Military Attaché's office at the Embassy, and explained about the prevailing economic, social and political situations. The Vice President then gave them gifts. Next, the Vice President and his delegation enjoyed a luncheon hosted by the Embassy families. They left Viet Nam for Yangon in the evening and were seen off at Noi Bal International Airport by a Vietnamese Ministerof Information and Communications, Mr Truong Minh Tuan Ambassador U Kyaw Soe Win, Military Attaché Col Aung Kyaw Oo, and staff of the Myanmar Embassy and the Military Attaché's office.

They arrived in Yangon in the late evening and were welcomed by Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein, the regional cabinet members and other officials at the Yangon International Airport.

— Myanmar News Agency ■

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Deputy Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw U Aye Tha Aung, center, walks along the ceremonial procession opening the Sittway Ponnagyun-Yathedaung-Buthidaung-Maungtaw highway. **PHOTO: MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY**

Rakhine State gets another vital highway

ONE of the main highways in Rakhine State, linking Maungtaw with its capital Sittway, was opened along with its five major bridges, yesterday, said Deputy Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw (Upper House) U Aye Tha Aung.

U Aye Tha Aung said Rakhine State was the least developed area in the union because of poor transport and insufficient electricity.

He said the highway linking Sittway and Maungtaw, via Ponnagyun, Yathedaung and Buthedaung, and the five bridges were opened. The road and the five bridges are important to the state. A developed area needs better infrastructure, such as road and bridges, power supply and transport. Now, Yathedaung gets round-the-clock power supply. Hence, all should strive for the development of the state, their townships and their own lives. Solidarity and harmony of the entire nation are required at a time when the country and Rakhine State are facing numerous challenges. Unity is the only means to solve problems, he noted.

Union Minister for Construction U Han Zaw said the people-elected government, during its two-year period, built the road and the bridges, which are important for Rakhine State. Good and safe transport will improve the social, educational, health and economic status of the natives. The Union Minister then explained the improvements made in the transport sector for the progress of Maungtaw and Yathedaung townships. The gravelling of a 46-mile road connecting Buthedaung and other places in the east of Mayu mountain range is in progress for the development of the Maungtaw region.

Some 52 bridges have been built in Rakhine State. The lengths of the bridges varied from more than 200 feet to 800 feet, he said.

In his speech, Rakhine State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu pointed out the importance of unity, mutual trust and cooperation. A local then thanked the government for opening the road and the bridges.

The Deputy Speaker, the Union Minister, the State Chief Minister and the delegation formally opened the facilities.

The Deputy Speaker inspected the road and the bridges in a motorcade. —Myanmar News Agency ■

Non-formal basic education project celebrates 10th anniversary

THE 10th anniversary of the non-formal basic education project was held with the aim of supporting the Myanmar literacy movement at the Diamond Jubilee Hall of Yangon University on 31 March morning.

Present at the ceremony were Speaker of Yangon Region Hluttaw U Tin Maung Tun, Region Social Affairs Minister U Naing Ngan Lin, departmental officials, members of UNICEF and UNESCO, World Education, partner organisations, donors, outstanding teachers, students and their families.

Speaking on the occasion, U Tin Maung Tun said the non-formal basic education began in the 2008-2009 academic year, and the Education Ministry and the UNICEF jointly launched the initial programme in five townships.

In the 2017-2018 academic year, the project covered 93 townships. Kyaikhto, Sittway and Pyay implemented the project for 10 consecutive years. A video on the 10-year accomplishments of the project was then shown to the attendees.

U Tin Maung Tun and U Naing Ngan Lin presented certificates of honour to the donors. International adviser of Thailand Ms Kannikar Yeamgeasorn, on behalf of the donors, gave the vote of thanks. Prizes were then given to the outstanding students.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Yangon Region Hluttaw Speaker U Tin Maung Tun confers an honorary certificate to a representative of the donors at the event. **PHOTO: MNA**

Local, foreign investors invited to participate in Yangon's new satellite towns project

May Thet Hnin

THE New Yangon Development Co. Ltd (NYDC) has invited third parties — local and foreign entrepreneurs — to invest in the urban city extension project with new satellite townships.

The project is expected to create massive job opportunities for some 2 million people.

NYDC invited investments to facilitate infrastructure development through public-private partnerships at the launch event of the NYDC at Lotte Hotel, Yangon, last Saturday. Officials from the Yangon Region government and several enthusiastic local and foreign investors attended the event.

NYDC is wholly owned by the Yangon Region government. The implementation of phase 1 includes core and social infrastructure projects, which are slated to be completed by 2020.

In the first phase, some 1,500 square kilometres on the west side of Yangon river will be developed to build five townships, two bridges, a 26km-long arterial road, 10 square kilometres of industrial zone, electric power generation factory and facilities, and water treatment plants, said Serge Pun, CEO and Vice Chair of NYDC.

Some US$1.5 billion will be needed to execute this plan, and the Yangon Region government will provide a capital of $7 million.

The new satellite town project will be carried out through public-private partnerships. Private sector role plays a crucial role in providing financial assistance, said Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein.

"The Yangon Region government will strive to provide a one-stop service to cut red tape in office procedures. NYDC will take responsibility for the project on behalf of the Yangon Region government.

Therefore, it will facilitate more than what the government offices do," he maintained. Serge Pun noted that "most of the investors come to Myanmar to build high-rise buildings, shopping centres and condominiums.

However, factories are required to employ local residents. Accommodation, schools and hospitals are more necessary. Fair-cost apartments must be built.

We will try to manage NYDC in a bid to facilitate job opportunities for 2 million people in a short time."

Daw Nilar Kyaw, Yangon Region Minister for Electricity, Industry and Transportation, will be the chair of the NYDC board of directors. U Han Tun, Yangon Region Minister for Agriculture, Livestock, Forestry and Energy, will assume the role of independent director, along with George Yoe and U Tun Myat.

"I have promised that affiliated companies will not be part of this new city project. We will conduct the public procurement through fair jurisdiction. Affiliates will not make a bid," said Serge Pun.

NYDC will adopt the widely used Swiss Challenge System. The Swiss Challenge System will be slightly amended to make it adaptable to the local situation, and its name will be changed to NYDC Challenge.

FDA introduces alternative drugs for formalin

May Thet Hnin

THE Food and Drug Administration (FDA) demonstrated the use of preservation drugs to businesspersons at its office in Yangon last Saturday.

The demonstration was held to eliminate the use of formalin in noodles and glass noodles in the market.

The FDA introduced three methods to the businessmen after a year-long experiment with 14 formulae in food preservation, which are not harmful and are in line with internationally recognised healthcare guidelines.

The potassium sorbate and sodium benzoate preservatives that were demonstrated can preserve fermented rice noodles for three to four days.

An experimentation video was also shown at the FDA office. The FDA purchased 85 samples of rice noodles from a few townships in Yangon and found that few were free of formalin. This being so, the FDA initiated a substitution formula, said Dr Than Htut, Director-General of FDA.

"The toxic effects of formalin are serious, as it can damage the internal organs. So, we were determined to get rid of this chemical substance from the market. We will take stringent action against unscrupulous persons who continue to use formalin," he said.

Two female officials inspect food at a super market in Yangon. **HOTO: PHOE KHWAR**

The FDA will proceed to conduct the awareness event and formulae training plan in Mandalay and other regions and states.

Dr Than Htut has encouraged businesspersons to adopt responsible business practices. As we are dealing with perishable products with short-shelf lives, we should produce limited amounts, according to the demand. Some unscrupulous businessmen are still using formalin. We have now realised this formula for food preservation is dangerous," said U Tun Lin, owner of Kyel Sin Lin rice noodles business.

The FDA encouraged rice noodles businessmen to exercise the best practices in packaging, warehouse, production and distribution to preserve noodles. Short shelf life foods should be produced in limited volumes, depending on the daily demand. If they want to use preservatives, they must choose only authorised drugs and formulae.

Watermelons, muskmelons fetch good price in Muse market

THE local production of watermelons and muskmelons cannot meet the demand in China, and therefore, are fetching high prices in the market, according to a recent report in Myawady Daily.

The price is likely to remain on the higher side, as of the end of the fruit season, U Naing Win, chair of Myanmar Watermelon, Muskmelon Growers and Exporters Association, told Myawady Daily.

Watermelons and muskmelons are in high demand in China due to the scorching heat. Some 420 trucks loaded with watermelons and some 340 trucks carrying muskmelons enter the Muse market daily.

"Both fruits fetch good prices in the market. As the supply cannot keep pace with the demand, there is a shortage in the market. The fruits will fetch a good price unless it rains," said U Naing Win.

The price of good quality watermelons ranges from 2.5 yuan to 3.8 yuan. Muskmelons bring in a maximum of 4.5 yuan to 5.5 yuan and a minimum of 3.3 yuan (1 yuan = Ks250).

Watermelon and muskmelon prices depend on the supply and demand, along with their quality. Therefore, growers need to exercise good agricultural practices to reap quality fruits.

The Sagaing Region is the main producer of watermelons and muskmelons in the country. The melon season extends from October to May, but growers usually grow them throughout the year. –GNLM

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Ministry of Transport and Communications providing full service to the public

News: KhinYadana
PHOTO: MAY OO MOE

THE member of the public and government personnel riding on train carriages with air bag suspension will soon be reaching Nay Pyi Taw. Passengers were checking their baggage in preparation to alight from the train. The new train carriages were quite satisfactory for the riders. However, the riders say travel time and service compared to other transport services show that much still need to be done.

"We want to do a lot for the people. During the two years period of the government, much was done for transport and communications sector including the rail transport. It would be difficult to do everything to the full extent but we did our best," said Union Minister for Transport and Communications U Thant Sin Maung.

Union Minister for Transport and Communications U Thant Sin Maung.

Myanmar airline passenger planes docked in Yangon International Airport.

> During fiscal year 2016-2017, a total of 44 million railway passengers were transported said the Union Minister.

A train passes through a tunnel somewhere along railway tracks in Nay Pyi Taw.

Ma Ma (Myanmar acronym for Myanma Railways or MR) for the people

During the two-year period of the incumbent government, 38 express trains, 60 mail trains, 50 passenger and freight trains and 220 circular trains were operated daily. During fiscal year 2016-2017, a total of 44 million railway passengers were transported said the Union Minister.

"Myitnge Carriages Workshop will construct 21 passenger carriages with air bag suspension and Nay Pyi Taw locomotive factory will produce ten 2000 H.P. locomotives this year," added the Union Minister.

Furthermore Bago-Mawlamyine-Ye line is being constructed under a four-year plan until 2020 while upgrade of 24 miles section Gyohtaung-Meza and 10 miles section Mawhan-Kadu on Mandalay-Myitkyina line will be conducted under a five-year plan that will start soon it is learnt.

"Ground survey to upgrade Yangon-Pyay line is underway and talks are being conducted with ADB (Asian Development Bank) to obtain loan. 447 bridges along the line has been inspected," said the Union Minister.

166 miles Yangon-Taungoo section will be completed by 2021 with loan from Japan and the government budget. Installation of signaling equipment in Yangon Central Railway Station is about 90 per cent complete while 59 miles of Yangon circular rail line is being upgraded with loan from Japan and the government budget. It will be completed in 2021.

MR from red to black

Investment in railway is high and is a state owned enterprise that is incurring losses. To reduce the losses, rental of railway areas are being conducted transparently. Restoration this year of the former Myanma Railways headquarters, a symbol of the region, into an international level five star hotel is an example of such rental. Similar rental to businesses were also being conducted under a tender system.

During the two-year period, rentals were made to businesses in Ywathagyi, Myitnge and Botahtaung Township. Railway station area development projects will be conducted under a tender system in Pyu, Chanayethazan, Kyaukse townships, Monywa, Shwebo, Mawlamyine, PyinOoLwin, Bagan and Mandalay Railway station.

Air transport sector

It is quite satisfactory that in fiscal year 2017-2018, construction of an airport that can handle ATR-72 airplanes on Surbung mountain range, Falam Township, Chin State was completed 33.7 per cent said the Union Minister. Upgrade of Yangon International Airport is ongoing while Mandalay International Airport is planned to handle 4,000 tons of freight per year starting from March 2019.

In fiscal year 2016-2017 there were 39,264 landings and 203,294 over flights. In fiscal year 2017-2018, there were 32,362 landings and 277,159 over flights. Air traffic control services was also provided it is learnt.

"During the two-year period ADS-B Station was installed on Coco Island and 24 hours service was provided. VOR Station in Kengtung airport and four AFTN Terminals were installed in Lashio, Tachilek, Sittway and Myeik airports. On passenger side, domestic sector saw 2,609,732 arriving passengers and 2,624,913 departing passengers in 2016 and 2,865,972 arriving and 2,881,205 departing passengers in 2017. In the international arrival, there were 2,017,950 and 2,199,398 passengers in 2016 and 2017 respectively while in the international departure, there were 2,014,561 and 2,181,676 passengers in 2016 and 2017 respectively" said the Union Minister in his explanation about air transport sector.

During the two-year period of the incumbent government, Myitkyina Airport was opened, Lashio, Sittway, Thandwe, Kawthoung and Mawlamyine airports were upgraded, runways on Manaung and Loikaw were extended and preliminary assessment for Bagan-Nyaung U to become an Eco Friendly Green Airport has been done. Construction of a small air strip in Lalengpi will begin this year in September and is planned to be used in 2020.

Waterway transport sector

Along the rivers on the border of the country, Directorate of Water Resources and Improvement of River Systems is constructing revetments so that the country's lands are not loss to due to river bank erosion.

Buoys and markers are placed in the shipping lanes of inland rivers to guide the inland waterway ships. Dredging and revetment construction are also conducted to improve water flow, prevent river bank erosion and to pump river water for irrigation purpose in Ayeyawady and Chindwin rivers.

Hydrology inspections are conducted before and after bridges are constructed and during the two year period, a total of 70 bridges were inspected.

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Ministry of Transport and Communication providing full service to the public

Kispanadi (2) is one of the vessels obtained from Japan and now operating along the Sittway-Kyaukpyu route in Rakhine State.

FROM PAGE-6

A project to maintain the banks of Twanty canal was started in 2018 and will complete in 2023. Developing a modern port in Mandalay was also started and will be done until 2020 October it is learnt.

During the two-year period, according to figures obtained from the ministry, the ministry trained 3,954 marine engineers and registered 38 ocean going cargo ships; 64 coastal passenger ships; 1,544 coastal cargo ships; 6,178 inland waterway cargo ships; and 69,207 boats with engine power under 20 H.P.

The Myanmar Coastal and Inland Water Transport Service License Law was amended and a 2017 bill amending the Myanmar Merchant Shipping Act was also submitted to the President said the Union Minister.

During the two-year period, 623 attended Myanmar Mercantile Marine College and 162 were employed.

Similarly 184 mercantile nautical cadets and 202 mercantile marine engineer cadets as well as many trainees to marine courses were trained.

Inland water transport sector

Two vessels Kispanadi(1) and Kispanadi(2) were obtained using the Japanese Yen 500 million provided by the government of Japan. From March 2017, Kispanadi(1) runs the Sittway-Manaung-Kyaukphyu - Taungup route while starting from September 2017, Kispanadi(2) runs the Sittway-Myebon-Kyaukpyu route. It is learnt that plans are being made to have the vessels available for charter. A new fast vessel Kispanadi(3) will also arrive from Japan in 2019 April and Rakhine State routes will be extended with this vessel.

A container barge was constructed with the assistance of Japan International Cooperation Agency. The aim is to transport goods along the Ayeyawady River between Yangon and Mandalay as well as to transport containers between Thilawa Port and Shwe Pyit Tha Shwe Me (Black Gold) port. Yangon Port handles more than 90 per cent of international waterway trade and during the two-year period a total of six wharves were constructed.

At the Thilawa port area, two international standard multi-purpose terminals were constructed with loan from Japan and more than fifty per cent of the work is being completed. A total of 57 cruise ships with more than 28,000 visitors had visited Yangon, Kawthoung and Myeik port Macleod Island it is learnt. According to information from relevant department, US$ 3.6 million is used until 2021 to dredge the Yangon River so that ocean going ships can enter the port with ease.

Construction and maintaining retaining walls for Mayyu Lighthouse was started on December 2017 and Ks. 3,085.77 million was allocated for it in fiscal year 2018-2019. To upgrade and computerize management of port and related services, Port Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) system will become operational in May 2018.

A Maritime University student explains his project at the ROV (Remotely Operated Vehicle) competition in Yangon.

Heavy machinery at work in developing the Thilawa Port.

Land transport sector

A total of 1,296,480 vehicles were registered during the two-year period. At the same time a total of 950,989 motorcycle licenses were issued. Registration of vehicles was being extended from a year to a two-year period.

Online booking system for vehicle registration was also started and driving licenses are being arranged to be issued in a smart card format with an imbedded chip. During the two-year period of the incumbent government, 12 vehicle inspection equipments and 16 motorcycle inspection equipments were installed in States, Regions and District (vehicle inspection) offices according to the two-year report of the government.

For the establishment of a fully functional and competitive logistic sector in Myanmar that is environmentally friendly, a National Logistic Master Plan was drawn up with the assistance of JICA in 2016 and it will be completed in March 2018. It will reduce the urban-rural gap as well as help reduce poverty. It is done with an aim to review the projects in the National Transport Master Plan said the Union Minister.

Telecommunication and Information Technology sector

Mobile phone usage in Myanmar had reach 110.44 per cent and during the two-year period, the government had granted license to the fourth operator, Telecom International Myanmar (MyTel) it is learnt.

In the telecommunication sector Universal Service Fund will be used to cover telecommunication network to about 94 per cent of the country's population and during the five year license period, the population coverage will reach 99 per cent said the Union Minister.

Countrywide, about 40,000 km. of main fiber connection was laid and six Spectrum Monitoring centers were established in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon and Mandalay to monitor and prevent illegal usage of radio signals. An additional international submarine cable connection and three onland border network connections were made increasing the total bandwidth to more than 300 Gbps. Up to sixteen operators were permitted in the International Gateway (IGW) service explained the Union Minister.

To improve the satellite communication system, an agreement was signed with Intelsat Satellite.

Cheap and good quality C Band 252 MHz and Ku Band 144 MHz was rented through MyanmarSat-1 system and soon, Myanmar owned satellite system MyanmarSat-2 is planned to be implemented with US$ 155.7 million.

Discussions are underway with Hokkaido University of Japan to put into orbit a 50 kg. Earth Observing Satellite (EOS) that can take photographs. In the two-year period more than 800 personnel from union level organizations, ministries and CIO were provided with ICT trainings for development of e-Government system and cyber security. To be in line with market economy, Myanmar Telecom is planned to be transformed into a state owned corporation said the Union Minister.

Myanma Post is conducting financial services with banks and Mobile Money for online shopping, airplane and bus ticket sale, single day and 24-hour delivery it is learnt.

Issuing of commemorative stamps on the occasion of Independence Day, Union Peace Conference, hosting of ASEAN meetings, anniversary of ministry and special edition stamps honouring Myanmar xylophone and harp were also learnt to be made.

Meteorology and Hydrology sector

During the two-year period of the incumbent government, 80 sets of Automatic Weather Observation System (AWOS) and ten automatic water level measuring machine were being installed in six states and regions where the most flooding occurs as per World Bank emergency response programme and the installation were close to completion it is learnt. ■

(Translated by ZM)

2 APRIL 2018
THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Collective strength is vital for overcoming our challenges

THE end of the current 1379 ME is around the corner and we are also ready to bid farewell to the old year on the New Year's Day which falls in mid-April. There is no denying that everybody has made some sort of New Year resolution, whether they realize it or not. Taken seriously New Year resolutions provide us with an opportunity to gauge our goals.

Our country, which needs stability and national reconciliation, is facing great challenges. Myanmar has not had total peace since it became an independent nation. This is why peace is the country's most important goal. Without peace, we cannot achieve sustainable prosperity.

Our new President U Win Myint has outlined the priorities: Rule of law and improvement of the socio-economic life of the people, National Reconciliation and internal peace and amending the Constitution which is the foundation for building a Democratic Federal Republic.

In the main goals of our Union Government, the development of the socio-economic life of the people is included.

The country is facing various kinds of internal and external challenges while struggling and working for political, economic and social development. In order to overcome the challenges and eliminate the bad legacies of the past, and in order to fulfill the aspirations for the future of the country, we have encountered many opportunities for learning lessons. Out of all these, for the Union Government, the most important lesson was the priceless value of the understanding and support of our people. That is why in the coming year 1380, our Union Government has decided to keep in high regard "collective strength" in our efforts to overcome our country's challenges.

> With our collective strength, we can build foundations of mutual respect and mutual understanding for ending armed conflicts which have existed for many years among the ethnic nationalities.

Collective strength is most vital in building peace and stability which we need the most.

With our collective strength, we can build foundations of mutual respect and mutual understanding for ending armed conflicts which have existed for many years among the ethnic nationalities.

We would like to urge the people to assist and support the peace efforts of our Union Government as the country is moving towards national peace, stability and development with collective strength of the people, without discrimination based on race, religion and political beliefs.

Collective endeavors of the people will play a vital role in implementing the plans to be adopted by the Union Government as we enter the New Year. ■

84th Anniversary of Innwa Bridge

Hsu Hnet

THE mighty Ayeyawady River flows through the central part of Myanmar and it is regarded as one the most important commercial waterways as well as lifeblood of the country. The name "Ayeyawady" is believed to have been derived from the Sanskrit word airavati, meaning "Elephant River." One striking feather is that the Ayeyawady River flows wholly within the territory of Myanmar. Its total drainage area is about 158,700 square miles which is approximately about 1,550 km long.

The Ayeyawady River starts in Kachin State, at the confluence of the Mali Hka and Mai Hka rivers. The western Mali Hka branch arises from the end of the southern Himalayas, north of Putao.

Geographical Features

Geographically, the Irrawaddy is originated by the confluence of the Nmai and Mali rivers. About 30 miles south of the confluence lays Myitkyina, the capital of Kachin State where the steamers can flow to the northernmost limit of seasonal navigation. Thus the Ayeyarwaddy River divides the country from north to south and empties through a delta into the Indian Ocean.

During the colonial period, the Ayeyarwady River was known as the "Road to Mandalay" in the world and the river is full of sandbanks and islands, making the navigation more difficult for the travellers. For many years to come, the only bridge built to cross the Ayeyawady is Bago City.

Irrigation

The Ayeyawady has been used for irrigation in the central dry zone and its tributary, the Mu River, has been used for this purpose since the 9th century which can permit the dry-season cropping of corn (maize), peanuts (groundnuts), sesame, wheat, cotton, millet, and other dry crops.

It is estimated that about a vast volume of rice grown in Myanmar comes from the irrigated areas of Mandalay, Sagaing, and Magway divisions. The river itself also serves to irrigate the delta during the dry season.

Historical Background

The old Ava (Innwa) across the Ayeyawady had a span of 3,948 feet and built by the British in 1934. It was the only bridge which spanned the Ayeyawady River which can carry heavily laden vehicles crossed the river, resulting in efficient transportation of goods. Moreover this bridge can be able ease the traffic congestion and to help improve the overall economic conditions of Myanmar.

> As early as the 6th century, the ancestors of the Myanmar arrived from the China-Tibet border area. Using the Ayeyarwady River as a means of transport, they gradually spread onto the Kyaukse plain and became the major power in the rice-growing region of the north.

As the principal axis of the old Myanmar kingdom, the Ayeyawady River has shaped the history, settlement patterns, and economic development of the country.

As early as the 6th century, the ancestors of the Myanmar arrived from the China-Tibet border area. Using the Ayeyawady River as a means of transport, they gradually spread onto the Kyaukse plain and became the major power in the rice-growing region of the north.

Later ancient Myanmar fortified the town of Bagan and eventually gained control over the Ayeyawady and Sittang river valleys and the trade routes between India and China.

During the 12th century the town supported a flourishing civilization through rice cultivation and a well-developed network of irrigation canals.

In the 13th century, the area dissolved into a number of states and Myanmar kingdoms intermittently reunified the Ayeyarwady basin.

Beginning in the 16th century, traders from Europe were eager to set up trading companies in ports along the coast of Myanmar.

In 1886, Myanmar was under the control of the British and along with it shipping rights on the Ayeyawady, which also had been sought by the French in an effort to gain a direct route to China.

The British tried to open up of the Ayeyarwady delta and the rise of the port of Yangon eventually paid off in terms of rice exports.

Old Innwa Bridge

The bridge used to be the longest in Myanmar and it is just over 20 kms from Mandalay and is still used for both rail and road traffic with the rail line going down the centre of the bridge.

Its 16 spans are certainly impressive although the British destroyed 2 spans in 1942 in a vain attempt to stop the advancing Japanese and in fact the bridge was not repaired till 1954, long after the war had ended.

We only saw the Inwa Bridge as we crossed over the Irrawaddy over the newer Yadanabon Bridge (New Ava Bridge) and we all felt that the Inwa Bridge had a lot more character than the average more modern bridge.

Historical Landmark

The Innwa Bridge can spans between Amarapura and Sagaing. On the Mandalay and Innwa side of the bridge, one can still see the Thabyedan Fort, one of the historical landmarks of Myanmar.

The Innwa Bridge plays an important role during the Second World War and for that reason was partially destroyed by the British. In 1942, in an attempts: It also carries a railway line across the river.

Structure

The Ava (Innwa) Bridge. is over a 1000 yards in length and spans between Amarapura and Sagaing. On the Mandalay and Innwa side of the bridge, one can still see the Thabyedan Fort, which was built by Ancient Myanmar Kings as a last defence against the British during the third Anglo-Myanmar war in the 19th century. ■

Translated by Win Ko Ko Aung

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor

Diverse species of insect pollinators around the globe including honeybees, naïve bees, moths, butterflies, some specialized species of beetles and flies are showing a trend of sharp decline in their numbers due to numerous anthropogenic factors like over application of agri-chemicals, industrial pollution, Global Warming and Climate Change, parasitic diseases of bees, colony collapse disorder, lack of suitable nectar foraging plants and habitats to mention only a few. Pollinator insects are essential for agriculture, apiculture and forestry industries and for securing the dynamics of our ecology and economy.

Conservation of insect pollinators is therefore important from the perspective of food security as they are responsible for pollinating over 70% of food crops around the planet. Hence we have the future in our hands to protect the insect pollinators like bees today; to secure our future for tomorrow. There is an important issue that deserved serious attention and strong support to secure the future of both our ecology and economics together.

We must realize that loss of key insect pollinators means significant loss to the stability of our natural ecosystems, agricultural, horticultural and apicultural productivity. We need to connect our local communities to this grave ecological crisis facing our farmer-friendly, natural insect pollinators. We need to educate the public; more importantly our younger generations to the importance of conservation of the highly endangered insect pollinators. Often important research articles published in prestigious science journals and magazines escape the attention of ordinary citizens. It is also important to explain to the public the importance and challenges pollinator conservation in non-technical terms; and in as simple language as possible to spread the urgent message. Hence both print and electronic media can serve as excellent outlets to reach potential stakeholders; who could play significant roles in the efforts towards successful conservation of insect pollinators.

Thanking you
Sincerely yours
Saikat Kumar Basu
Apt 6-409, 43 Street South,
Lethbridge AB Canada T1J 4B3

Invitation to young writers for Sunday section

The Global New Light of Myanmar is accepting submissions of poetry, opinion, articles, essays and short stories from young people for its weekly Sunday Next Generation Platform. Interested candidates can send their works to the **Global New Light of Myanmar** at No. 150, Nga Htat Kyee Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon or by email to **dce@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com** with the following information: **(1)** Sector you wish to be included in (poetry, opinion, etc.), **(2)** Real name and (if different) your penname, **(3)** Your level of education, **(4)** Name of your School/College/University, **(5)** A written note of declaration that the submitted piece is your original work and has not been submitted to any other news or magazine publishing houses, **(6)** A color photo of the submitter, **(7)** Copy of your NRC card, **(8)** Contact information (email address, mobile number, etc.).– Editorial Department, The Global New Light of Myanmar news office

Transportation smoother as five bridges open in Rakhine State

By Kyaw Thu Win, Aye Min Thu

RAKHINE State officially opened five bridges that will ensure smoother and faster transportation for its people yesterday. The five bridges are Sai Din bridge, Yathedaung Bridge, Thaungdara Bridge, Nga Sam Paw Bridge, and Ywa Haung Bridge and they connect the Ponnagyun-Yathedaung-Buthidaung Road.

U Maung Than Hlaing, a resident of Phone Nyo Leik Village, told media that he and other villagers are extremely pleased now that the bridges are open as it means easier access to healthcare and businesses between each area.

"We used to travel by motorcycle, then when we reach the river we'd haul them on a boat and cross the river. It took a lot of time and was cumbersome," he said.

He said that what used to be an hour's journey from his village to Buthidaung now only takes 15 minutes. The bridges connects the roads to the Yangon-Sittway highway too which U Maung Than Hlaing says allows direct travel to Yangon now instead of going around via Sittway.

Ma Nwe Nwe Win, a local resident from Aleachaung Village, says that soon commodity trucks will coming directly to their villages as they don't need to carry them via boats across the river anymore. "It was a hassle, we had to carry things by motorbikes, load them on a ship, unload on the opposite bank, and you can't carry alot," said Ma Nwe Nwe Win. "But now it won't be long until trucks come directly to us. These new bridges will help our economy a lot."

The Ministry of Construction has been continuously working to better the transportation system in Rakhine State and now they have simultaneously opened the five bridges.

"I am very grateful for these new bridges. Now we have faster access to hospitals, schools and better ways to transport merchandise," said Ma Nan Cherry from Thayetpyin Village. Since the bridges connect to the Yangon Highway, local residents in Rakhine will soon be able to do direct business with Yangon too. ■

The new bridges in Rakhine State mean local residents will no longer need to spend hours travelling to and fro between villages and districts. **PHOTO: KYAW THU WIN, AYE MIN THU**

U Maung Than Hlaing.

Ma Nwe Nwe Win.

Ma Nan Cherry.

Heavy rains, strong winds damage Nay Pyi Taw infrastructure

UNTIMELY heavy rainfall and strong winds hit the Nay Pyi Taw Council on 31 March, damaging buildings and public infrastructure.

In Zabuthiri Township, Crime Investigation Police building No. 45 incurred damages worth Ks6.5 million, while eight police boxes were damaged, as well. In Danatheikdi Ward, four utility poles near building numbers (1308/1309/1312/1328) were knocked down, causing damages worth Ks480,000, along with 43 other utility poles in the area.

The spectator stage of Practice Field-(3) in the ward was destroyed, and the roof of the 1,000-bed Nay Pyi Taw General Hospital was blown off and damaged.

A police box in Dekkhinathiri Township and three police boxes in Uttarathiri Township were damaged.

Utility poles and trees fallen by strong winds on 31 March in Nay Pyi Taw, which also cost high property damage. **PHOTO: KO NAING WIN (KYOKYAR KAN)**

The Nay-Yaung-Pya-Inn Pagoda in Pobbathiri Township was also damaged, as its diamond bud, vane and the umbrella crown were blown off.

Four utility poles near a six-building residency in Nyaungpingyi Village tract fell due to strong winds, while two utility poles lost their footing.

Two more utility poles in Yanaung (1) Ward, Pyinmana City, were knocked down. —Myanmar News Agency ■

Thandwe Judge and lawyer charged with corruption in criminal case

A township judge and a higher grade pleader were charged with corruption following a complaint submitted to the Anti-Corruption Commission by a plaintiff.

The plaintiff reported to the Anti-Corruption Commission that U Oo Thein Tun, while he was a judge in Thandwe Township in southern Rakhine State, took a total of K 6217000 from him in installments in connection with a criminal case at the court.

The report also said that judge U Oo Thein Tun acquitted the defendant after taking Ks 10 million as bribes and made changes and addition to the testimony report.

After investigating the case the Commission found out that U Oo Thein Tun misused his power as a township judge in demanding K 6217000 from the plaintiff in the said legal case.

In addition, the Commission also revealed that of the total amount of K 6217000 the judge took as bribes, K 4755000 was demanded by higher grade pleader Daw Khin Cho Win on behalf U Oo Thein Tun.

Hence the police in Thandwe have filed a legal suit against U Oo Thein Tun now a township judge in Kyaikhto in Mon State and Daw Khin Cho Win.—Myanmar News Agency ■

All flights departing from Swedish airports will now have an added charge in a bid to lessen air travel's impact on the climate. **PHOTO: AFP**

Sweden introduces eco-friendly aviation tax

STOCKHOLM — Sweden introduced a new aviation tax on Sunday that will add an extra charge to all passenger flights from the country in a bid to lessen air travel's impact on the climate. "The objective of the tax is to minimise the carbon footprint of flights following a sharp increase in air travel," climate minister and Greens spokeswoman Isabella Lovin wrote in Swedish newspaper Dagens Nyheter.

All flights departing from Swedish airports will have an added charge of between 60 to 400 krona ($7 to $49, six to 39 euros), depending on the destination.

It will apply to everyone except babes in arms, flight crews, passengers stopping over without changing planes and — in some circumstances — those in transit to take another flight. According to a survey published on 25 March by Dagens Nyheter, 53 per cent of Swedes are in the favour of the new tax.

However the opposition Centre party has criticised the move, calling for airlines to be required to use a percentage of biofuels.—AFP ■

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR
MANDALAY REGION GOVERNMENT
MANDALAY CITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
MANDALAY URBAN SERVICES IMPROVEMENT PROJECT (MUSIP)

Invitation for Prequalification

Invitation for Prequalification No: MYWS/10.0 /01
Contract No: MYWS/10.0
Contract Title: New Water Treatment Plant and Associated Pipeline Work

1. Mandalay City Development Committee,Mandalay Urban Services Improvement Project,intends to implement a New Water Treatment Plant and Associated Pipeline Work under financing from Agency of French Development.
2. Mandalay City Development Committee now invites applicants to submit sealed prequalification documents for Design and Build of New Water Treatment Plant and Associated Pipeline Work to be constructed in Mandalay.
3. Bidding will be conducted through the International Competitive Bidding (ICB) procedures as specified in the AFD Procurement Guidelines. The bidding documents shall be addressed only to the prequalified eligible firms following the evaluation result of the prequalification.
4. Interested firms may obtain the prequalification documents (PQD) from Project Manager, Project Management Office (MUSIP), Mandalay City Development Committee, pmomusip@gmail.com during office hours 9:30 to 16:30hr at the address given below starting from 2nd April 2018.
5. Application for prequalification must be delivered to the address below on or before local time 16:00hr, 31st May 2018. Electronic application of prequalification will not be permitted. Late application will be rejected.
6. A site visit and prequalification meeting will be held tentatively from 10:00hr until 12:00hr on 27th April 2018, at Mandalay City Development Committee Meeting Hall.
7. The address referred to above paragraph 4 and 5 is:

Attention : Project Manager
Project Management Office (MUSIP)
26th street between 71st and 72nd street
Mandalay City Development Committee
The Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Telephone : +95 261631
Email : pmomusip@gmail.com

China-Laos railway cross-border tunnel construction proceeds smoothly

VIENTIANE — The construction of cross-border Friendship Tunnel on China-Laos railway is proceeding smoothly, the Chinese company in charge of the project said on Sunday.

"We have made a 300-meter entrance into the cross-border mountains, and will have half of the job done in the Lao side at the end of this year," Wang Xiaodong, Chinese communist party secretary of the construction unit boring the Friendship Tunnel from the Lao side, told Xinhua in northern Lao border town Boten, some 400 km north of lao capital Vientiane.

China Railway No. 2 Group Co., Ltd, which is responsible for construction of the northernmost and southernmost sections of China-Laos railway, is boring the China-Laos Friendship Tunnel from each side. The tunnel, with the total length of 9,595 meters, is divided into two parts, 7,170 meters in the Chinese side and 2,425 meters in the Lao side.

The entrance to the tunnel of the Lao side had been completely finished, and the workers were planting shrubs and flowers on some 50-meter-long side slopes, Wang said.

"The construction is proceeding smoothly, with quality, safety and time schedule of the work under control," Wang said.

"We have confidence in achieving a model project," Wang said.

The China-Laos railway is promoted by leaders of the two countries as one of interconnectivity projects. Since the commence of construction in December 2016, building of tunnels, bridges, roadbed and other sections have been progressed smoothly along the route. The China-Laos railway has a total length of over 414 kilometers with over 60 per cent of bridges and tunnels, linking Mohan-Boten border gate in northern Laos and capital Vientiane. Operating speed on the route is designed at 160 km per hour. —Xinhua ■

Four dead, one missing after flooding hits Fiji

SUVA — Four people have been confirmed dead and one still missing after widespread flooding in the western part of Fiji as Tropical Cyclone Josie brought heavy rain throughout the Saturday night and Sunday.

According to Fijivillage, a Fiji leading news website, Director Operations Senior Superintendent of Police Livai Driu confirmed on Sunday night that five people have been washed away by flood waters and police have retrieved four bodies.

A woman was found dead in the town of Ba, 62 km from Fiji's third largest city of Nadi, a 55-year-old man was killed in Lautoka, Fiji's second largest city and two people have been found dead in Nadi, he said, adding that police are still searching for a 19-year-old man who was washed away by flood waters in Nadi.

Fiji's National Disaster Management Director Anare Leweniqila confirmed that 18 evacuation centers are now active in western part of Fiji, but he could not confirm how many people were in these evacuation centers by Sunday night.—Xinhua ■

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL SAFEGUARDS CONSULTANT
C4-CS2
INDIVIDUAL CONSULTANT

Client: Yangon City Development Committee (YCDC)
Country: Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Project: Myanmar Southeast Asia Disaster Risk Management Project
Loan No. 60800-MM
Assignment Title: International Environmental and Social Safeguards Consultant
Reference No. (as per Procurement Plan): C4-CS2

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar has received financing from the International Development Association (IDA) in the form of a loan toward the cost of Myanmar Southeast Asia Disaster Risk Management Project. The Yangon City Development Committee (YCDC), an implementing agency for the Project, intends to apply a portion of the proceeds of this loan for Consulting Services.
YCDC wishes to invite eligible Individual Consultant to express his/her interest in providing his/her services as International Safeguard Consultant.
The International Safeguards Consultant shall be responsible for inter alia: i) Provide technical oversight for the screening of sub-projects identified under the project, ensuring the screening process complies with the ESMF and RPF; and advice on the site-specific safeguard instruments required (e.g. Environmental and Social Management Plan, Resettlement Plans, etc.); ii) Assist YCDC with the review of contractors' proposals regarding safeguard requirements and identify gaps not covered by the proposed mitigation and environmental measures and/or budget; iii) Support the design, preparation, and implementation of the Safeguard Training Program for the Project coordinating as necessary with safeguards capacity building initiatives taking place in Myanmar, in coordination with YCDC's safeguard focal points and the to-be-recruited national social and environmental safeguards specialists; iv) Supervise the Contractor's performance, and handling of site-specific environmental and social issues, and provide corrective instructions if needed and prepare periodical environmental and social monitoring reports, including reports on ESMP implementation status to YCDC and prepare environmental supervision statement during the construction phase.
It is envisaged that the services will be carried out as short term assignments (total duration: estimation 180 days) over a period of one year and renewable for a further year subject to satisfactory performance.
YCDC now invites eligible Individual Consultant to indicate his/her interest in providing the Services. Interested individual consultant must provide information indicating that he/she is qualified to perform the services: Curriculum Vitae (should include a description of education and general qualifications, similar assignments, experience in similar conditions etc. and the names, business contacts and email addresses of three referees).
The successful candidate must have (Essential Qualifications and Knowledge/Experience): 1) At least in Master's degree in environmental management, environmental engineering, social science, or urban planning or related fields; 2) At least 7 years' international experience in the region regarding to the compliance of safeguards policies including environmental management and involuntary resettlement; 3) Experience in moderating and facilitating group discussions in public preferred; 4) Excellent written and oral communication skills in English language ; 5) Knowledge and experience of working with environmental and social safeguard policies of the World Bank and/or Asian Development Bank preferred and also working with Myanmar legislations related to ESIA, involuntary resettlement, and GRM preferred.

The attention of interested Consultants is drawn to paragraph 1.9 of the World Bank's *Guidelines: Selection and Employment of Consultants under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits & Grants by World Bank Borrowers* January 2011, revised July 2014 ("Consultant Guidelines"), setting forth the World Bank's policy on conflict of interest.
A Consultant will be selected in accordance with the Individual Consultant Selection method set out in the Consultant Guidelines.
Further information can be obtained at the address below during office hours [9.30a.m to 4.30p.m, Monday to Friday].

Expressions of interest must be delivered in a written form to the address below (in person, or by mail, or by fax, or by e-mail) by Thursday, April 19, 2018 before 3:00 pm.

Yangon City Hall
Contact Person: U Nyan Thar
1st Floor, Yangon City Hall,
Kyauktada Township, Yangon,
Republic of the Union of Myanmar.
Tel: ++95 1 371126
Fax No. : 951-371126, 01-371126
E-mail: *ycdcdba@gmail.com*

marketing@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
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The Brandon Shores Generating Station, a coal-fired power plant near Baltimore, seen on 9 March 2018. **PHOTO: AFP**

Some US states press ahead on climate change goals, despite Trump

WASHINGTON — US President Donald Trump has taken an axe to the environmental regulations he inherited from his predecessor Barack Obama, cutting dozens of rules ranging from fracking on public land to protections for endangered species.

Yet supporters of the Paris climate change accord believe state-level efforts could mean the US will meet greenhouse gas emissions targets envisaged under the landmark agreement, despite being the only country to announce its withdrawal.

Automobile fuel and emission standards are the latest regulations in the administration's crosshairs, according to a report by the New York Times. The paper reported Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) chief Scott Pruitt, a climate change skeptic with ties to the fossil fuel industry, has determined Obama-era controls placed too great a burden on manufacturers.

It comes on the heels of the EPA's announcement last fall it was seeking to repeal the Clean Power Plan, Obama's signature environmental policy that would have limited each state's greenhouse-gas emissions.

Already tied up by legal challenges, the Trump administration has vowed to bury it for good. These and other regulations constituted the building blocks of Obama's plan to fulfill US commitments to the 2015 pact. The targets, which were already modest compared to those of the European Union, are clearly in danger. But the United States' federal system of government and polarized political climate offer hope: states like California and New York are governed by opposition Democrats horrified by their Republican president's stance on global climate change, and are taking steps to oppose it.—AFP ■

TRADEMARK CAUTION

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BUGLES

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In respect of "Grain based or cereal derived ready to eat snacks" in **Class 30**.
Fraudulent or unauthorised use, or actual or colourable imitation of the said mark shall be dealt with according to law.

Daw La Min May, *H.G.P*
For **General Mills, Inc.**,
C/o **Kelvin Chia Yangon Ltd,**
Level 8A, Union Financial Centre (UFC),
Corner of Mahabandoola Road & Thein Phyu Road,
Botahtaung Township, Yangon,
The Republic of the Union of Myanmar.
Dated **2nd April 2018** lmm@kcyangon.com

Veteran Russian governor resigns over mall fire

MOSCOW — Aman Tuleyev, the longtime governor of Russia's Kemerovo region where a huge mall fire killed at least 64 people including 41 children last weekend, resigned on Sunday.

"I submitted my resignation letter to the Russian president," he said in a three-minute video address released by his office.

Tuleyev, who had been at the helm of the key coal-mining region since 1997, said he could no longer remain at his post with "such a heavy burden" and added that his resignation was "the only right choice".

At least 64 people -- including 41 children -- died when a huge fire ravaged a mall in the industrial city of Kemerovo in western Siberia last Sunday.

The tragedy — in which some parents lost all their children — plunged Russia into shock.

Many people who lost relatives have said they died because of the inaction of firefighters and police lacking the necessary equipment and skills.

Tuleyev himself came under heavy criticism for failing to visit the scene of the tragedy in the first few days or meet with angry relatives.

President Vladimir Putin had initially refused to sack the 73-year-old governor despite rare protests in the city. Officials have said that multiple safety rules were violated, the fire alarm system was not working and staff did not follow correct emergency procedures.—AFP ■

At least 64 people – including 41 children -- died when a huge fire ravaged a mall in the industrial city of Kemerovo in western Siberia. **PHOTO: AFP**

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South Korea pop stars to perform in rare North Korea concert

SEOUL — Top South Korean musical acts including a K-pop girlband are set to hold a rare concert in North Korea Sunday evening in the latest reconciliatory gesture before a rare inter-Korean summit.

Sunday's event -- which will be the first concert by South Korean artists in the North for more than a decade -- comes as a diplomatic thaw quickens on the peninsula after months of military tensions.

The 120-member group — 11 musical acts as well as dancers, technicians and taekwondo artists -- flew to Pyongyang on Saturday to perform concerts on Sunday as well as on Tuesday.

South Korean singers held a rehearsal Sunday afternoon at the 1,500-seat East Pyongyang Grand Theatre where the concert is set to begin at 7 pm (1030 GMT), according to South Korean pool photos.

The taekwondo athletes are also expected to stage a performance in Pyongyang on Sunday before performing together with the North's practitioners on Monday.

The rapprochement was triggered by the South's Winter Olympics, to which the North's leader Kim Jong Un sent athletes, cheerleaders and his powerful sister as an envoy.

K-pop, South Korean musicians. **PHOTO: AFP**

Kim followed up by agreeing to a summit with the South's President Moon Jae-in, and reportedly to another with US President Donald Trump. The young leader also met Chinese President Xi Jinping in Beijing last week during his first overseas trip.

The inter-Korean summit, the third after meetings in 2000 and 2007, will be held on 27 April. No date has been set for the US-North Korean summit although it is expected before the end of May.

In another sign of eased tensions, annual US-South Korean military exercises which got under way in the South Sunday will last for just one month compared to some two months normally.

This year's drills feature fewer strategic weapons such as a nuclear-powered aircraft carrier, Seoul's military has said. The deployment of such powerful weaponry during past drills has frequently drawn an angry response from the North.

The most closely-watched group due to perform Sunday is Red Velvet, part of the South's hugely popular K-pop phenomenon that has taken audiences in Asia and beyond by storm in recent decades.

The five-member girlband is known for a mix of upbeat electronic music, stylish fashion and high-voltage choreography.

Joy, one of the five members, would miss the trip to Pyongyang due to her TV drama shooting schedule, their agency has said.

Despite the North's isolation and strict curbs on unauthorised foreign culture, backed up by prison terms, K-pop has become increasingly popular there thanks to flash drives smuggled across the border with China.

Other Seoul stars to join the concerts include Cho Yong-pil, a singer who held a solo sell-out concert in Pyongyang in 2005.

Kim's late father and longtime ruler, Kim Jong Il, was known to be a fan of the 68-year-old singer. Another famed singer, Choi Jin-hee, is set to perform for the fourth time in the North and to sing "Maze of Love" — a pan-peninsula hit and one of the late Kim's favourites.

It was unclear whether Kim Jong Un would make an appearance at the concerts. President Moon attended a concert by North Korean singers in Seoul to mark the opening of the Pyeongchang Winter Olympics in February.

"I hope that something similar will happen during this concert held in response (to the North's Seoul concert)," Do Jong-hwan, Seoul's culture minister leading the delegation, told reporters in Pyongyang. —AFP ■

Stars turn out for Stephen Hawking's funeral

LONDON — Film stars, supermodels, comics and astronomers joined Stephen Hawking's family and friends for his funeral in Cambridge Saturday, the city where he dedicated his life's work to unravelling the mysteries of the universe.

The theoretical physicist who captured the imagination of millions around the world died on 14 March at the age of 76.

His death triggered a flood of tributes from Queen Elizabeth II to NASA, reflecting his impact both as a scientist and for his refusal to give up in the face of crippling motor neurone disease.

Hawking was famously an atheist but his children Lucy, Robert and Tim chose the church of St Mary the Great to say their farewell.

"Our father's life and work meant many things to many people, both religious and non-religious," they said, adding that for that reason the funeral was "both inclusive and traditional, reflecting the breadth and diversity of his life".

Hundreds packed the streets and applauded when Hawking's coffin arrived, carried by six porters from his university college, Gonville and Caius.

White lilies representing the universe and white roses for the polar star were placed on Hawking's oak coffin.

The church bell tolled 76 times, once for each year of his life.

People applaud as Stephen Hawking's coffin is carried into church in Cambridge for his funeral. **PHOTO :AFP**

Legacy will live forever'

Actor Eddie Redmayne, who played Hawking in the 2014 biopic "The Theory of Everything", read from the Bible at the service attended by around 500 people.

Queen guitarist Brian May, model Lily Cole, comic Dara O Briain and US film producer Barbara Broccoli, known for the James Bond movies, were among the mourners.

"He inspired people with the excitement and importance of pure scientific enquiry and was admired and revered for his devotion, as a scholar, to the pursuit of knowledge," Professor Fay Dowker, a former student, told mourners. "His influence and legacy will live forever."

A thanksgiving service will be held at Westminster Abbey in London on 15 June, when Hawking's remains will be buried near the grave of another legendary scientist, Isaac Newton.

Visionary genius

Among the well-wishers outside, many praised Hawking's achievement in expanding the boundaries of knowledge.

"He's made a major contribution to thinking about space, the black holes, to the whole atmosphere," lawyer Trevor Angle told AFP. "He has had a major rethinking influence in the way people think about science and the wider world we live in."

Professor Chris Imafidon, who consulted Hawking in 2007 about encouraging higher level mathematics students, said: "He is not just a scientist; he is an inspiration.—AFP ■

Spanish Guitar Strums in Yangon

Rafael Serrallet, International renowned artist playing guitar. **PHOTO: SUPPLIED**

INTERNATIONAL renowned artist Rafael Serrallet has been performing and teaching in Myanmar on the 31st of April being the first ever musician to play a guitar concerto in the country.

Gitameit Music Center, non-profit community center and music school in downtown Yangon has been delighted to be hosting and collaborating with world renowned Spanish Classical Guitarist, Rafael Serrallet in his first visit to Myanmar with a concert and a master class. These events are part of the Gitameit exchange activities with international institutions, teachers and performers.

With a career spanning twenty five years and more than a thousand concerts across almost eighty countries, Serrallet is probably the most internationally experienced concertist among the Spanish performers with an outstanding performance gift. He has become from his own merits one of Spain's global music ambassadors. Rafael keeps ploughing the path laid by the Maestro Andrés Segovia, taking the guitar to every corner in the planet.

Rafael Serrallet played solo works by Arcas, Tárrega, Sanz and Rodrigo. He also be performed with the Yangon Youth Chamber Orchestra a guitar Concerto by Vivaldi. It happens to be the very first time that an orchestra and a guitar soloist play together in Myanmar.

As a gesture of respect Mr. Serrallet worn the traditional longy like the rest of the orchestra was dressed. More than a guitarist, Serrallet is also a comprehensive musician having studied and performed extensively in conducting, chamber music and choral singing. He has been a resident teacher in Santiago de Compostela and Lliria conservatories in Spain and today teaches master classes in universities and conservatories throughout the world. —GNLM ■

Nolan bats for celluloid filmmaking on India trip

HOLLYWOOD — Hollywood director Christopher Nolan on Saturday made an impassioned plea to the Indian film industry to revive celluloid as a medium for movies.

Nolan is on a three-day trip to the country aimed at drumming up support for shooting on film, as he did for his 2017 World War II epic "Dunkirk", going against the trend in an industry which has widely embraced digital technology.

"Filmmaking is full of obstacles... it is not about being logical and pragmatic... it's about magic, dreams, experiences and bracing your emotional side," Nolan said after a round table dialogue in Mumbai, the home of Bollywood.

The 47-year-old Oscar-nominated director said he had "a very productive" meeting with members of Bollywood, the world's largest film industry.

"I am really trying to engage filmmakers in this conversation about how we can maintain, improve and continue to enjoy the celluloid photochemical analogue infrastructure for filmmaking," Nolan said.

Famed for his extravagant vision in films such as "Interstellar" and "Inception", Nolan is one of the few big names globally who still use celluloid for film-making.

"We are trying to preserve for future generation the history of films, especially the way the filmmakers originally intended to make the films in," Nolan said.

He was joined in the discussion by visual artist Tacita Dean and archivist Shivendra Singh Dungarpur who has been working to preserve and restore celluloid films in India.

"We are fighting to save celluloid films in India whereas people are disbanding it without realising their importance," said Dungarpur.—AFP ■

Acclaimed director Christopher Nolan is among the few big names who prefer to use film rather than digital. **PHOTO: AFP**

Martin Luther King Jr: the dream, the man, the legacy

CHICAGO — Towards the end of his life, Martin Luther King Jr. lamented that his dream had "turned into a nightmare."

The US civil rights leader was a weary man when he was cut down by an assassin's bullet at the age of 39 on the balcony of a motel in Memphis, Tennessee on 4 April, 1968.

He was also a controversial man — unlike the iconic figure celebrated today with a national holiday and an imposing granite memorial in Washington.

"He's become frozen in time — not as the man he was in 1968, but in the image of August 1963 when he gives the 'I Have a Dream' speech," said David Farber, a history professor at the University of Kansas.

"It's easy for Americans to forget how polarizing a figure King actually was in the 1960s," Farber said. "He'd become a really radical figure in the United States — an outspoken opponent of American foreign policy, demanding that justice extend not just to African-Americans but to all poor Americans."

A seminal moment came in April 1967, when King made a speech in New York opposing the war in Viet Nam, where more than 11,000 US troops were to die that year.

"King raised the ire of the entire civil rights movement and of government and much of the political structure when he came out against the Viet Nam War," said Henry Louis Taylor Jr., director of the Center for Urban Studies at the University of Buffalo.

US civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr. at the "March on Washington" in August 1963 where he delivered his celebrated "I Have a Dream" speech. **PHOTO: AFP**

David Garrow, author of "Bearing the Cross: Martin Luther King Jr., and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference," said opposition to the war was seen as "fringe" at the time, and anti-war sentiment was "not widely popular like it is, say, come 1972."

'Beyond civil rights'

At the time of his murder by James Earl Ray, a white drifter with racist leanings, King had also been living for years under the constant surveillance of the FBI, which had dubbed him the "most dangerous" man in America.

And his unwavering defense of non-violence as the way to bring about change was facing a challenge from a younger, impatient generation of militant black youth. "The final 12 months of his life, King is so exhausted, so pessimistic about the future, so depressed," Garrow said. "A dozen or more times in his final two years, he says 'The dream I had in Washington in 1963 has turned into a nightmare.'"

"One of the things we miss about King is how hard it was to do the work he's doing, the toll it takes," said Jeanne Theoharis, a political science professor at CUNY's Brooklyn College.

"How much hate, how much opposition he's facing, and how some of that is in the form of horrible violence," said Theoharis, author of "A More Beautiful and Terrible History: The Uses and Misuses of Civil Rights History."—AFP ■

Hanthawady beat Yadanabon in MPT MNL 2018

Kyaw Zin Lin

Well-regarded Yadanabon FC was beaten by Hanthawady FC in a Week-9 match of MPT Myanmar National League 2018 played at Mandalar Thiri Stadium in Mandalay yesterday 4pm.

Yadanabon FC lined up with Goalkeeper Chan Nyein Kyaw, Captain Thein Than Win, Ye Yint Aung, Ye Yint Tun, Shine Thura, ThetNaing, Hlaing Bo Bo, Pyae Sone Naing, Aung Wunna Soe, Win Naing Soe, Htalan Hote Htan.

Hantha wady United lined up with Keeper KoKoNaing, Captain Aung Zaw, Aung Moe Htwe, Joseph, Aung Myo Thu Ya, Ny iNyi Aung, Lar Din Maw Yar, Hein Htet Aung, Micheal, Bo Bo Naing and Htet Lin Lin.

Both teams played energetically from the start.

The first half ended in a scoreless tie as Hanthawady withstood Yadanabon's attacks with stable defensive and midfield play.

Hanthawady's power play was significantly better in the other half after players' substitution.

Hanthawady made its opening goal at the 58 minute mark by the left-wing kick scored by Hanthawady's wing fielder Htet Lin Lin.

The goal seemed to deflate the spirit of Yadanabon from getting more goals. Nevertheless, Yadanabon gained the consolation goal at the 79 minute mark.

The goal was scored by its star player Si Thu Aung with his speedy passes over the Hanthawady defenders.

Unfortunately, just before the final whistle, Hanthawady celebrated their win along with the long kick of Joseph. ■

Yadanabon(blue) and Hanthawady (red) vie for the ball in yesterday's MNL match at Mandalarthiri Stadium in Mandalay. **PHOTO:MNL**

AFC "B" Football Coaching Course concludes in Yangon

Kyaw Zin Lin

A closing ceremony for the AFC "Grade B" Football Coaching Certificate Course was held in the office of the Myanmar Football Federation in Yangon yesterday.

About 30 trainees attended and became qualified after the course. The course was designed to educate coaches in the advanced techniques and skills of the game, and to help football coaches develop a better understanding of individual or groups of players, tactics and the mental requirements of the game.

The duration of the course lasted about 20 days started from 13 March to 1 April, containing more than 107 hours of theoretical and practical contents. The examination focuses on the coaches' practical coaching abilities, knowledge and understanding of the theoretical contents of the game, in addition to a brief presentation of a dissertation to the class. The AFC 'B' Coaching Certificate is for coaches who already have the 'C' Certificate, said an official from the Myanmar Football Federation. ■

Joshua goes distance before beating Parker in heavyweight clash

CARDIFF — Anthony Joshua was taken the distance for the first time in his professional career before winning a unanimous points decision in his world heavyweight title unification fight with Joseph Parker in Cardiff on Saturday.

After 12 rounds, Britain's Joshua triumphed 118-110, 118-110, 119-109 on the three judges' scorecards.

Victory extended the London 2012 Olympic champion' perfect professional record to 21 wins from as many bouts but all of his previous successes had been by way of knockouts.

It also saw International Boxing Federation and World Boxing Association champion Joshua add Parker's World Boxing Organisation belt to his collection.

This result was New Zealand boxer Parker's first defeat in his 25-fight pro career.

Saturday's contest in front of a 78,000 capacity crowd at the Principality Stadium was the first time two previously undefeated heavyweight champions had met for a world title in Britain.

Joshua's win should move him closer to a bout against Deontay Wilder, the American who holds the World Boxing Council's version of the heavyweight title.

Wilder had been due at ringside but didn't show and a confident Joshua, speaking to Sky Sports, after his win was confirmed, said: "I want Wilder... Get him in the ring and I'll knock him spark out."

Joshua added: "That is 21 professional fights with six world title fights in it.

"My strategy was to stick behind the jab and that secured me another world title belt."

'Finesse'

And he insisted he felt no disappointment in going 12 rounds.

"I know the bookies say I might get a knockout but forget the hype, Parker was a world champion," Joshua said.

"This was a boxing match, not a fight. Parker said this would be war, I said this would be boxing finesse."

With Joshua earning a reported £15 million ($21 million, 17 million euros) and Parker £7 million, this was easily the biggest fight of the beaten boxer's career.

The way in which referee Giuseppe Quartarone refused to let any inside close-quarter work develop proved a frustration to both boxers and Parker said: "We could have worked inside more, we can't change it.

"Of course, I'm young, fit and strong. I'm fit to go 12 rounds, thanks to all the New Zealanders here and back home," he added.

Britain's Anthony Joshua triumphed 118-110, 118-110, 119-109 on the three judges' scorecards after 12 rounds against Joseph Parker (L) of New Zealand . **PHOTO: AFP**

"He (Joshua) is a good big man and was better on the day. We'll be back."

Wrap row

Shortly before the bout started, Parker's promoter, David Higgins, came to the press seats at ringside to allege Joshua's camp had tried to get his boxer's hand wraps changed in a bid to unsettle his man, although he added the wraps eventually remained as they were once British Boxing Board of Control general secretary Robert Smith had been consulted.

Joshua had weighed in at 17st 4lbs (110.4kgs) on Friday, well down from a career high of 18st 2lbs (115.5) against Carlos Takam last time out, while Parker came in at 16st 12lbs (102.3).—AFP ■