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State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi addresses the first coordination meeting of e-Government Steering Committee. PHOTO: MNA

Maungtaw residents to begin farming with gov't help

AUTHORITIES pledged to assist in improving the livelihoods of people in Maungtaw and Buthidaung townships, Rakhine State, who have not left for a neighbouring country.

The remark came at the meeting among locals from Maungtaw and Buthidaung and the Deputy Minister for the Office of the State Counsellor U Khin Maung Tin, the Deputy Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement U Soe Aung, and Rakhine State Transport and Electricity Minister U Aung Kyaw Zan at the Maungtaw District General Administration Department yesterday.

At the meeting, the deputy ministers said the government would provide assistance to the local people in the form of job creation in fields such as agriculture and fish and prawn farming.

The authorities requested all communities of Muslims, Hindus and Rakhine to cooperate with the government for the development, security and peace of the Maungtaw District.

The deputy ministers also requested religious leaders in the area to advise their followers not to leave for the neighbouring country, as there are provocations occurring that may be resulting in people leaving their homes. The religious leaders from Buthidaung and Maungtaw townships also urged authorities to create opportunities for them for their education, health, and economic welfare.

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For e-Government, rules needed from the start: State Counsellor

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi attended and addressed the First Coordination Meeting of e-Government Steering Committee held in the meeting hall of the Ministry of Transport and Communications in Nay Pyi

Taw yesterday morning.

In her address to the meeting Steering Committee Patron State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi said "right from the beginning, e-Government has been included as one of

the policy items in the 12-point Economic policy statement. It was written there that we would strive to implement it. Although it was supposed to be implemented successfully, I have noted that this year, there

has been a slowing down. For e-Government to be implemented speedily and to achieve progress, there are three requirements: skills, investment and cooperation.

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5th Coordination Meeting of Central Committee for Reviewing Confiscated Farmlands and Other Lands held in Nay Pyi Taw

THE fifth coordination meeting (1/2018) of the Central Committee for Reviewing Confiscated Farmlands and Other Lands was held in the assembly hall of the Ministry of Home Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

Vice President U Henry Van Thio, Chairman of the committee, delivered an address.

Present at the meeting were Committee Vice Chairmen Union Minister Lt-Gen Kyaw Swe and Dr. Aung Thu, committee members Union Minister Lt-Gen Sein Win and U Khin Maung Cho, Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman Dr. Myo Aung, Chief Ministers of the states/regions, and other officials.

At the meeting, the Vice President said that following the instruction of the President and the State Counsellor, and with the approval of the Union Government, the central committee had amended the policies, work processes and guidelines to conduct works effectively on the ground. The amended policies, work processes and guidelines were distributed to the central committee members, Nay Pyi Taw, and states/regions committees, and they in turn, will distribute it to committees under them, so that complaints related to land matters would be effectively handled, according to these policies and work processes.

Due to the weaknesses of some states and regions in handling the complaints, according to the policies and work processes of the central committee, and the provision on insufficient supporting records and evidences, some cases need to be sent back for re-assessment. At the moment, ministries are releasing the lands they no longer require, and the Ministry of Defence has released the most number of lands. Al-



Vice President U Henry Van Thio delivers an address at the fifth coordination meeting (1/2018) of the Central Committee for Scrutinising Confiscated Farmlands and Other Lands in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

though these lands were released by the ministries, in many cases the former owners received them only after considerable time had elapsed. Some were returned to the wrong persons, while the ownership of some is yet to be resolved between former and current owners. As such, many cases were delayed and not closed. The committee chairmen have proposed organizing groups of officials who could conduct a ground survey to prevent discrepancies in the findings from below and the on ground situation.

To strengthen the assessment of complaint letters on land confiscation and assess the matter of the land released in Nay Pyi Taw, states and regions, four work assessment groups consisting of Deputy Ministers from Union Ministries were formed, and these groups are conducting field trips in the relevant regions. Chief Ministers who are leaders of these groups have to provide the necessary assistance.

Some 6,320 cases of complaints were received by the central committee, and they are being transferred to the relevant

committees. Of these, the central committee found that only 669 cases were resolved and more emphasis needs to be placed on resolving the remaining 5,651 cases.

The latest status on cases of confiscated farmlands and other lands in Nay Pyi Taw, states and regions, and complaints made directly to the review committee, the action taken on the findings of the investigation commission's report on confiscated farmlands and other lands during the term of the previous Pyidaungsu Hluttaw must be explained, said the Vice President.

Press announcements in state-owned newspapers on 13 August 2017 and 4 December 2017 on the work of the central committee were made to inform the people about it. The questions raised by the media on the works of the central committee and the various levels of the committees were answered by the joint secretary, and the question-and-answer session was published on 23 August 2017 in the Kyae Mon (The Mirror) newspaper. The states and regions committees need to

make similar press announcements to inform the people about the action taken on complaints regarding land in their respective regions, the status of returning the lands to former owners and the lands released by the ministries and departments. The strengths and weaknesses of the central committee and the various stages of the committees will be discussed and coordinated in this meeting, added the Vice President. The committees are to form separate offices down to the grassroots level and appoint sufficient staff members. Training courses and workshops must be conducted to raise the capacity of the committee members and the staff. The central committee members must discuss and give suggestions on the difficulties faced on the ground, while conducting the work of the central committee, said the Vice President. Next, Central Committee Joint and Permanent Secretary U Tin Myint explained the works conducted by the committee, its future works and policy work processes.

Later, the Chief Ministers

of the states/regions explained and discussed matters related to reviewing confiscated farmlands and other lands, while Union Minister Lt-Gen Sein Win, Dr. Aung Thu and U Khin Maung Cho provided additional explanations.

In response to the discussions and explanations, the Chairman of the committee Vice President U Henry Van Thio said a record number of rice was exported this year. To export in such large volumes, farmlands, which are the basis for developing the agricultural sector, need to be in the hands of farmers, and everyone must strive to return the lands to them as soon as possible. A degree of experience has been gained, as two years have passed since the committee was formed, and all levels of states/regions committees should coordinate and work with goodwill. He concluded the meeting after stating that the central committee would coordinate and resolve with the relevant ministerial departments matters submitted by the relevant committees after their field visits. —Myanmar News Agency ■

Ministry of Construction issues clarification on collapse of Myaungmya bridge

THE Myaungmya suspension bridge collapsed at around 1.45 a.m. when a 16-tonne 6-wheel truck was passing over the bridge on 1 April 2018.

The suspension bridge was built in 1994 and became operational in 1996.

Since its construction, it had weakened significantly and a few repair works were carried out subsequently.

Moreover, the bridge was inspected several times since

2016. After the inspection, the authorities made the necessary changes, such as changing the deck, nuts and bolts, expansion joints and suspender rods, instantly.

On examination, it was found the suspension bridge collapsed owing to the corrosion of steel wire ropes.

A new bridge is under construction with the cooperation of Japanese engineers, starting from the 2016-2017 fiscal year.

Technically, the construction will take some three years. Nevertheless, the construction of the new bridge will be completed within a year owing to the exigency.

The process of restoring and renovating bridges in Myanmar is being conducted regularly, twice a year.

There are some 30 suspension bridges, including the Myaungmya bridge, in Myanmar. Moreover, more detailed

inspections will be carried out immediately to prevent a serious incident of this nature again.

The special bridge construction team, including Japanese and Chinese engineers, will inspect the strength of the bridges.

The Ministry for Construction condoles U Mae Gyi@ U Thant Zaw Htike, the driver, and Ko Ju Ju@ Ko Win Htike Aung, the car spare, and will provide

the necessary assistance required.

We urge the public to not hesitate to use the remaining 29 suspension bridges across the country. Concerted efforts are being made to ensure the sustainable maintenance of the bridges.

The ministry also requests the public to ensure vehicles are driven within the posted speed limit and are not overloaded. —Myanmar News Agency ■

“I would firstly like to address the three branches of the sovereign power of the State, who have been entrusted with power according to the Constitution, to exercise mutual respect, understanding, and trust as they collaborate for the good of the people. Additionally, I wish to urge the media, which serve as the ears and eyes of the public, to understand the seriousness of their duties and to hold in high regard the public sector that they serve.

(Excerpt from the speech by President U Win Myint at the ceremony to take oath of office at Pyidaungsu Hluttaw on 30th March 2018)

“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.

(Excerpt from the speech by State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi on the 2nd Anniversary of NLD Government on 1st April 2018)

For e-Government, rules needed from the start: State Counsellor

FROM PAGE-1

The understanding is that this meeting is called to fulfill these requirements. The Steering Committee Chairman Vice President U Myint Swe will lead this. Of the three, cooperation is the first thing that can be done quickly. If there is no cooperation between government departments, states and regional governments, e-Government will not come about.

Regarding investments and skills, we need to wait for the financial situation of the government and the situation of the education system. But I believe that cooperation can be done immediately today. Only with cooperation can the aim of e-Government be achieved.

The main aim is to benefit the country and the people. To be in line with the world, usage of new systems of the new age cannot be avoided. If not, our country will be left behind other countries. Here I have facts about e-Government given to me. There are people in this meeting who know about these facts in detail more than us.

As mentioned earlier, cooperation is very important. Without cooperation between one department and another department, don't talk about e-Government. Even in other matters the rate of success would not be as fast as it should. E-Government concerns the whole government. In fact it is related to the whole country.

The main aim of conducting e-Government is for the convenience of the people and this includes completing tasks quickly. Another aim is to eradicate corruption. Some say there is no country in the world which is free from corruption. But we should strive towards reducing it as much as possible.

E-Government can greatly



Vice President U Myint Swe.
PHOTO: MNA

support this (reducing corruption). Another thing is our country and government has been said to be slow in work, work is not completed quickly and there is too much red tape. To avoid this, it is important to implement e-Government quickly. At the same time the advances in science and technology brings both benefits and dangers. To understand this at an early stage and to avoid these dangers, rules, regulations, procedures need to be adopted and established with care.

We need to balance good effects and bad effects all the time. We should not push e-Government hastily saying that everything about it is good. It is well known that not only e-Government but modern technologies are affecting the personal security and the security of all of us. If preventive measures are not put in place right now despite knowing about it, we could reach a stage where it would be impossible to handle it anymore.

It is very important not to misuse and abuse these technologies and new systems. Misuse and abuses must be prevented from both the government side as well as the public side. That is

why when a new project is implemented I want you to make your decisions only after looking at it from both sides.

We shouldn't see only what we want to see. If we ignore the pitfalls and see only the benefits to push ahead, we will reach a stage where we couldn't handle the problems anymore.

Under the leadership of Vice President U Myint Swe, decisions related to e-Government need to be taken transparently and in a straight forward manner. What are our strengths? What are our weaknesses? Some matters shouldn't be implemented at this moment. Why? Is it because we are unable or lack the skill or money? Is it something that shouldn't be implemented? These must be openly discussed.

Answers should be found through open discussions. I think all chief ministers from states and regions are present here. There can be challenges in your states and regions. This meeting is the opportunity to discuss these matters.

That is why you need to submit (these matters). Some put emphasis on the weaknesses of their state/region governments because they want assistance and support. Some will say more about their strength to show off. Both need to be avoided. Don't show off. And don't point out the weakness to gain sympathy. State the situation objectively and correctly.

What can be done to establish e-Government quickly and successfully? I want you all to think of how your department, state or region can support in what way.

All will have their respective strengths and weaknesses. The Ministry of Transport and Communications has been working for the establishment of e-Gov-

ernment throughout the two-year period of the incumbent government. Due to weaknesses in co-operation, coordination and communications, the desired success and progress was not achieved. As this group has been formed, you all need to discuss together. This sort of meeting couldn't be conducted all the time as Chief Ministers of states and regions had to leave behind their duties and responsibilities for a while.

Use this opportunity for the best. Discuss fully and completely while there is this opportunity. The Ministry of Home Affairs and Ministry of Defence need to participate from the security side.

Our country's Security Advisor U Thaung Tun needs to participate in the discussion on security. It is important to take lessons from the experience of other countries.

Going back to the facts given to me, mobile telephone network is now covering 89 per cent of our population. The plan is to cover 92 per cent by 2020. I know that the Minister for Transport and Communications can explain more about this. In e-Government, there will be instances where we will get the opportunity to think about certain matters that we had not thought about before.

For example, we will clearly know how much e-Government can be of support to health only after the Ministry of Health has presented their views. The same applies to the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation. Being an agriculture country this ministry needs to point out how e-Government can support the development of agriculture, livestock and irrigation sector.

In conclusion, the State Counsellor requested the respective departments to openly discuss how their departments could provide support for the success

of e-Government.

Next, Steering Committee Chairman Vice President U Myint Swe said all know that implementation of e-Government work processes were attempted starting from the year 2000 but there were delays due to various requirements. The successful development of an e-Government system in a democracy government will make the people know and trust the works of the government and the government will become a government that the people rely upon. Establishing an e-Government is not only providing service using modern technologies but the success of an e-Government system is measured by the two main points of the majority of the people using the online services with trust and to create online services that the people need.

The e-Government Steering Committee and work committees were formed to establish and implement required policies to conduct effective e-Government work processes.

With the financial support of the Asian Development Bank and technical support of India's Infosys Limited, government departments, ministries, business owner groups, research organizations, work agencies, local and foreign experts on e-Government and ICT are studying and comparing the experiences of the countries of the world and is preparing an e-Government Master Plan for Myanmar to achieve the aim of e-Government system and to systematically draw and implement a good strategy, policies and work process framework. After this programmes which need to be done on a priority basis such as short, mid and long term work programmes need to be successfully managed and implemented.

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ACTING CHIEF EDITORAye Min Soe,
ce@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
dce@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com**EXPATRIATE CONSULTANT EDITOR**Mark Angeles,
markrangeles@gmail.com**SENIOR EDITORIAL CONSULTANT**

Kyaw Myaing

SENIOR TRANSLATORSZaw Min,
zawmin.gnlm@gmail.com
Win Ko Ko Aung,
kowink2aung@gmail.com**INTERNATIONAL NEWS EDITOR**Ye Htut Tin,
editor1@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com**LOCAL NEWS EDITORS**Tun Tun Naing (Editor),
intlnews@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
Nwe Nwe Tun (Sub-editor),
nwenwe9131@gmail.com**TRANSLATORS**Khaing Thanda Lwin,
Hay Mar Tin Win,
Ei Myat Mon
Zaw Htet Oo
Kyaw Zin Lin
Kyaw Zin Tun**REPORTER**May Thet Hnin,
reporter1@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
mayreporter.mm@gmail.com**PHOTOGRAPHER**

Kyaw Zeya Win @ Phoe Khwar

COMPUTER TEAMTun Zaw,
Thein Ngwe, Zaw Zaw Aung,
Ye Naing Soe, Nyi Zaw Moe,
Hnin Pwint, Kay Khaing Win,
Sanda Hnin**EDITORIAL SECTION**(+95) (01) 8604529,
Fax – (+95) (01) 8604305**CIRCULATION & DISTRIBUTION**San Lwin, (+95) (01) 8604512,
Hotline - 09 974424114**ADVERTISING & MARKETING**(+95) (01) 8604530,
Hotline - 09 974424848
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Sculptor hands working on his wood sculpture in his work place with hammer. PHOTO: MYANMAR DIGITAL NEWS

Dealers happy to see liberalizing control over exporting sculptures

DEALERS of artistic sculptures have planned to demand the government relax its restrictions on exporting sculptures.

If the government loosens its restrictions on exporting sculptures, the livelihood of dealers and sculptors will be better and the country can generate foreign revenue, said U Ye Min Thu, chairman of the Forest Product Merchants Association in Mandalay Region.

Currently, sculptures that are worth up to US\$ 500 can be purchased as gifts from Myanmar. So, the association has planned to put forward an idea to liberalize the government's restriction on exporting sculptures to the proper departments.

The association wants the government to allow exporting

sculptures that are worth more than \$500. "Exporting sculptures can generate more foreign income than exporting logs," U Ye Min Thu said. He explained why the association wants to demand the government to ease up the regulation on exporting sculptures by sharing his experience.

He said that a foreigner visited Bagan last month and wanted to buy a large number of elephant sculptures, but he was not allowed to buy the desired number of sculptures due to the regulations in Myanmar. So the art dealer couldn't sell sculptures to the foreigner.

Because of the regulations, vendors and sculptors lost a chance to sell out their products. In addition, the country lost a chance to get revenues, he added.

"Most of the wood to create a sculpture is cheap timber that is discarded; most people feel it has no value. However artists see it differently, they view this "useless" wood as something that can be transformed into a thing of artistic beauty. That's why we will submit a proposal to the government to relax its regulations on exporting sculptures more than the current limit," he said. If Myanmar exports more sculptures, Myanmar's art can have a greater presence across the globe and the local's sculpture market will improve.

However the practice of traditional Myanmar sculpturing seems to be in jeopardy and could possibly disappear: one reason is that the younger generation has no interest in it.

"In the past, sculptors from Tampawady ward in Mandalay were busy and the wood sculpting market was booming. Now most sculptors have changed jobs and work as a motor cycle taxi driver or horse cart driver. Their children are not interested in making sculptures because they couldn't earn respectable amount money as sculptors. So, traditional sculpture may disappear one day," he added.

As a liberalization policy of the government, it has currently extended license terms for timber merchants from one year to five years. It allows foreigners to buy sculptures that are worth up to \$1000 at the shops under the Department of Co-operatives and up to \$500 at other shops.— Myanmar Digital News ■

Myanmar seamen face high competition for employment

DESPITE the increasing number of registered seafarers, fewer seamen from Myanmar are being recruited, according to a report in Myawady Daily yesterday.

Foreign cruise lines prefer to employ seafarers from the Philippines, China and Bangladesh due to cheaper labour costs. The employment rate of Myanmar seafarers is declining

each year, said U San Oo, Chair of Myanmar Seafarer Employment Services Federation.

According to statistics provided by the Department of Marine Administration, the number of registered seamen was up by some 10,000 per year between 2010 and 2017.

In 2010, some 50.3 per cent of seafarers were employed, while the rate declined to 20.6

per cent in 2017.

Additionally, Myanmar's women seafarers are facing difficulties, as they were not issued the Seaman Identification and Record Book (SIRB), and so, they have to work with only a passport. If they are provided the SIRB like the men, it will facilitate their working process.

Currently, seamen recruitment agencies, which have

sought the seafarer recruitment and placement services licence, are not allowed to take service charges from seafarers, in line with rules and regulations of the International Labour Organisation and the Department of Marine Administration. Only ocean lines and foreign cruise companies offer service charges to recruitment agencies.— GNLM ■

Myanmar entrepreneurs want government to negotiate with China on sugar re-export

MYANMAR entrepreneurs have requested the government to negotiate the ban on sugar re-exports with China's commerce commission.

The issue was raised by U Soe Lin, chair of Myanmar Sugar and Sugarcane Product Entrepreneurs Association, during the 16th regular meeting of vice president 1 with Myanmar entrepreneurs.

Chinese entrepreneurs have set up sugar factories in China and purchase Myanmar's sugarcane through the border trade route.

However, Myanmar's merchants have to deal with problems such as the confiscation of the imported sugar, as this trade is considered illegitimate in China.

Myanmar has authorised its traders to conduct sugar re-export businesses with an aim to boost trade. However, China does not allow sugar imports through the border gate.

A ban on sugar re-exports to China can trigger a sugar glut in the domestic market and harm the interests of local sugar mills



A farmer prepares to plant sugarcane in a farmland. **PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE**

and sugarcane growers.

Myanmar must grant approvals to sugar import businesses only if they have discussed the tariff rate quota, as

in Cambodia, according to sugar entrepreneurs.

The commerce ministry gave its nod to the re-export of sugar in September 2017 to earn

hard currency, enhance trade and create job opportunities.

However, the authorised companies have to strictly adhere to the prescribed rules

and regulations. The companies will be inspected to ensure they abide by the set rules, and action will be taken against companies that violate them.

Some companies reportedly sell sugar imported under the re-export system in the domestic market. If the import list does not tally with the volume of re-exports, such companies will face legal action.

Therefore, companies must check their re-export list against the actual record within a month at the trade department, according to news recently released by the commerce ministry.

Myanmar merchants import sugar mostly from Thailand and India, as well as from Brazil, Qatar and the UAE, and then re-export it to China through the Sino-Myanmar checkpoint.

Myanmar sugar millers are unable to produce quality sugar that meets the export criteria for the lack of advanced refining machinery.

Some 2 million tonnes of sugar are annually traded under the re-export system. —Ko Khant ■

Volume of traded stocks on YSX drops three-fold in March

THE volume of traded stocks of five listed companies on the Yangon Stock Exchange (YSX) last month was some 127,307 shares, which is three times lower than the quantity traded during the same period last year.

The estimated value of the shares traded was Ks778 million, according to data released online by YSX.

Some 421,594 shares, worth Ks3.4 billion, were traded in March 2017. The trading values plummeted drastically even though new companies listed on the YSX.

The trading value of the listed companies in February 2018 registered an all-time record low of Ks740 million, according to the YSX online statistics. Also, the figure showed

a drastic decline compared with the trading value of Ks1.2 billion.

The poor economic climate, low income and the lack of publicity about the stock market contributed to the steep drop in trading of stocks, said an official from the YSX.

Officials from the YSX, under the guidance of the Planning and Finance Ministry, will conduct awareness campaigns about the stock market in Yangon and other towns outside Yangon, in cooperation with the securities companies to draw the public's attention.

The shares of five listed companies — First Myanmar Investment (FMI), Myanmar Thilawa SEZ Holdings (MTSH), Myanmar Citizens Bank (MCB), First Private Bank (FPB) and TMH Telecom Public Co. Ltd

(TMH) — are being traded on the YSX.

More than 2.5 million shares were traded in 2016, at an estimated value of Ks70 billion. In 2017, despite the increase in the volume of traded stocks to 2.6 million, the trading value was only 22 billion. The value of traded stocks was the highest at Ks3.4 billion in March 2017, whereas this year, the trading in February reached an all-time low of some Ks740 million.

Some 1,100 shares were traded yesterday, at an estimated value of Ks55 million. The shares were trading at lower than their base price. It was Ks11,500 for FMI, Ks2,850 for MTSH, Ks7,900 for MCB, Ks25,500 for FPB and Ks3,000 for TMH at closing time. —Ko Khant ■

Live hog supply not enough to meet demand from China

THE supply of live hogs from Myanmar cannot cope with the massive demand from China, said Muse merchants.

"Last year, we did not meet China's demand. Even now, we cannot keep pace with the demand. As almost all pig farms are working on a manageable scale in the countryside, there is not enough supply. The high price of raw feed must also be controlled," said U Mya Han Soe, a merchant.

"We will connect with breeders from Kyaukse, Singaing, My-

ittha, Wundwin, TadaU, Myingyan, Yamethin, Pyawbwe and Mahlaing townships in Mandalay to shift to commercial farming," U Mya Han Soe added. The price of live hogs depends on their weight. The price varies every day. Some 41,470 goats, with an estimated value of US\$1.42 million, and some 4,000 live hogs, worth \$0.48 million, were exported in the 2016-2017 fiscal year (FY). Some 1,250 live hogs were sent to China, as of 25 January, in the 2017-2018 FY, bringing in \$0.15 million. —Zar Lin Thu (AMIA) ■

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Union Supreme Court aims to make courts trustworthy for people

By Naing Lin Kyi

Following is the interview with the Director-General of the Office of the Union Supreme Court of the Union, U Ko Ko Naing, and Director-General for the Judiciary Supervision Office of the Supreme Court, Daw Tin Nwe Soe, on the Supreme Court's progress in the second year of the incumbent government.

Director-General
U Ko Ko Naing

Q: What were some of the targets for serving the public sector?

A: It's always in the Supreme Court of the Union's interest to maintain fairness and equality regarding justice and to make the courts a place the people can rely on. There are five parts to our 2018-2022 Master Strategic Plan; 1. Ensuring judicial services is accessible by all, 2. Raising the public's awareness, 3. Improving the freedom and administration regarding judicial decisions, 4. Raising the skills and accountability of the judicial sector, 5. Improving the works on criminal and special criminal cases.

As for recent accomplishments, we've managed to release the 2016 judiciary report on 15 June 2017. The report is exact and shows the changes and improvements of the justice system in Myanmar for all to see. We released the code of ethics for judges on 2 August 2017, and I think it will raise awareness on how the justice system works for not only the judges but anyone involved in the judiciary sector.

We've distributed pamphlets to the public, conducted tours of the courts for people interested, distributed a court media guidebook, and had 150 sessions between the court information officers and media throughout the entire country.

We've also issued official certificates to 1,819 internship lawyers and 879 high court lawyers in 2017. We announce the candidates' names on our website and on our Facebook page too. Our very own Supreme Court Judges conferred the certificates to 2,352 candidates in an official ceremony.

Director-General
Daw Tin Nwe Soe

Q: Could you tell us the work done for effective



Union Chief Justice
U Htun Htun Oo. **PHOTO: MNA**



Director-General U Ko Ko Naing



The opening ceremony of Hlinethaya Township Court held on 5 April 2017. **PHOTO: MNA**

It's always in the Union Supreme Court's interest to maintain fairness and equality regarding justice and to make the courts a place the people can rely on.

judicial decisions?

A: For my part, what I have done over the previous years is inspect the criminal procedures of all levels of court, overlook the formation of new courts, hand-over of court responsibilities, and the rights of inmates and prisoners.

We've managed to reduce court sessions and modernize criminal investigation procedures. This strategy was applied to three courts in June 2015 and to five in August 2016. What that means is that if witnesses do not come to court hearings then the case is revoked, reducing

unnecessary procedures, and systemizing and informing both sides of a case how evidence and witnesses will be called upon and in which hearing. We're digitizing these processes for effective tracking.

In the Taungoo, Hlinethaya, and Hpa-An District Courts, pub-

lic satisfaction has risen to 68 per cent as of 2017. We have relayed power to Kokan administration for the court in Laukkai and also in Danu Self Administrative Zone. We've amended four Laws and a Bylaw and drafted a new Bylaw for the judicial sector too.

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Union Chief Justice U Htun Htun Oo addresses the 14th coordination meeting of the Union Supreme Court and states/regions High Courts. **PHOTO: MNA**



Participants pose for the documentary photo at the ceremony for the start of the introduction to judicial ethics for judges at the Thingaha Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

Union Supreme Court aims to make courts trustworthy for people

FROM PAGE-6

Q: Can you tell us a bit about improvements to the rights of inmates?

A: We've conducted numerous field inspections to prisons to check on the conditions of inmates. To be exact, judges from all levels of the judiciary sector visited prisons 61 times, jail cells 445 times, and police detention centers 26 times in 2017.

Despite our efforts, we are not at 100 per cent efficiency yet. There has been some drawbacks and challenges along the way. The main reason for this is a shortage of a capable workforce, supplies, and the allotted budget. Of course, we cannot do it alone. Government departments, the private and public sector are all involved in judicial matters so their input are necessary for effectiveness too.

A noticeable difference in our new strategic plan is that the Union Supreme Court is not the all-powerful facilitator of the implementation phases but rather all level of judiciary are responsible for their own administration.

Q: Could you tell us about the shortcomings of the security of courts?

A: Well, it's plain for everyone to see how sorrowful it is. We consider the safety of all who come to court, from the judges to the laymen. We've included it in section-4 of our strategic plan.

On a different note, we're continuously conducting capacity building workshops from international relations, human rights, and to democratic justice. We're also building residences for the judges and other staff of the courts in line with our allotted budget.

Q: What else is needed to strengthen the judiciary sector?

A: It's not just Myanmar, but all the countries in the world have to continuously strengthen the judiciary sector. It is something that involves everyone from the State to the individual citizen. We are tasked with representing the State in all matters of legal affairs and we will strive to improve it. If everyone cooperates then it will get better.

Q: What should the public do to become more aware of legal matters?

A: Here is where the media

Judges from all levels of the judiciary sector visited prisons 61 times, jail cells 445 times, and police detention centers 26 times in 2017.



Supreme Court of the Union.



Director-General Daw Tin Nwe Soe. **PHOTO: MNA**



U Aye Myint. **PHOTO: MNA**



Kokang administration for the court in Laukkaing. **PHOTO: MNA**

sector plays a major role. We need to be transparent of our proceedings and changes we make to the justice system. We have information officers in every court and we hold discussions or press conferences to relay information.

Q: Is there anything else you'd like to add?

A: We've released the strate-

gic plan for 2018-2022 in January and we've held a press conference for that. We will need much support from international organisations to achieve our goals. But it will be a better judiciary system for everyone.

U Aye Myint, Independent Lawyer's Association of Myanmar, Nay Pyi Taw

Council

There have been many improvements in the past two years. The nature of court cases is that one side will lose and it is the court's job to reach a just decision from paper evidence. But the situation has improved a lot.

There needs to be more legal awareness among the people as

it not only informs them of their rights but also deters some from disobeying the law. There are still some cases where people break the law unintentionally but the court does not forgive that fact. So I think there needs to be more awareness.

Translated by Chris

Be alert to potentially dangerous weather in April, May

THE Meteorology and Hydrology Department on Monday warned people to be alert to the possibility of thunderstorms, lighting, isolated heavy rainfall, gale-force winds and hailstones caused by dense cumulus clouds in April and May.

Generally, thunderstorms mostly occur in April and May in Myanmar. But, this year has seen early untimely weather patterns across the country.

The change of weather patterns in Myanmar could be due to global warming.

With global warming, the evil effects of natural disasters related to climate change are threatening the safety of our planet. There are increased occurrences of natural disasters with greater destructive impact. The consequences of climate change can cause physical and mental damage. It is obvious that we need to be ready to resist and respond to natural disasters. Since 1980, the country has seen an increase in the number of thunderstorms.

Gale-force winds which tend to follow heavy rainfall hit parts of Myanmar every year, destroying homes and toppling trees.

With rain showers, relief from ultra-violet (UV) rays will arrive in some parts of Myanmar, which have been experiencing dangerous UV index levels.

Cumulus clouds form in the afternoon and evening across the country in the current pre-monsoon season as daytime temperatures increase.

It was found that cumulus clouds have been

forming in wider areas, including Ayeyawady, Bago and Yangon, in the past few years.

Meanwhile, we have experienced more lightning and hailstorms from these clouds and we had more reports of people being killed by lightning strikes.

The death toll from lightning strikes is expected to continue to rise year by year. There were also fatalities and injuries from strong winds. Most areas across the country have experienced lightning and strong winds during the day due to high temperatures.

We should switch off electrical appliances such as televisions and mobile phones when there are rainstorms with thunder and lightning.

Gale-force winds which tend to follow heavy rainfall hit parts of Myanmar every year, destroying homes and toppling trees.

Flash floods kill people and animals every year, and twisters caused by cumulus clouds are also seen every year.

In April and May, with more rain showers, people should be alerted to flash floods, landslides, gales, lightning and hailstones due to cumulus clouds.

Operators of vessels in rivers in those areas should be alert to tornadoes that can occur during thunderstorms.

State-owned dailies serving as bridges between public needs and gov't actions

“The government dailies are giving priority to news beneficial to the State in addition to government's accomplishments, goals, policies, departmental announcements, public information and parliamentary reports and other legal issues.

By Khin Yadanar

THE long march to democracy needs harmonious changes so that everything may be in conformity with the advancing era. In this regard, the News and Periodicals Enterprise-NPE of the Ministry of Information-MOI has been transforming the state-owned newspapers through new versions, visions, creations and techniques.

Digital newspaper

The current government has been in office for two full years, and the NPE launched the digital newspaper on 11-1-2018 in applying the quickest public information means apart from releasing news on the government's accomplishments and information for the public.

“Although the print media has a firm market till now, sooner or later, it will be overpassed by the digital system. Hence the NPE launched the Myanmar Digital News that is disseminating information about multiple events happening all around the country and government announcements such as notifications and orders in real time. Thanks to the digital newspaper, the world can hear the voices of the government and the people in real time”, said an official of the NPE.

Unlike the print media, the digital media has no space or time

limit. As all the social media, it will feature news and photos for the public.

In addition to publishing the over 100-year old Myanma Alinn daily and over 60-year old The Mirror daily and the English newspaper Global New Light of Myanmar, the NPE has now successfully launched its digital news outlet -- Myanmar Digital News-MDN. According to a MDN official, Myanmar Digital News will also serve as the source in the information flow towards the print dailies.

Myanmar Digital News is available at www.mdn.gov.mm and can be downloaded free. It can be read both in Unicode and Zawgyi.

The MDN has a 24-hour-working editorial team that is uploading important news in time. Latest news is available in video clips, photos and exclusive interviews. It is also uploading the English version.

Workshops, talks and trainings are being conducted and newsroom and other staff are being sent abroad to write and compile quality news, articles through excellent displays. In addition there are English proficiency courses, computer courses and designing courses for them.

Real time news

The NPE has also made contacts with international news

agencies to inform the public about the global events through opinions, different views and pictures in real time.

“As we are state-owned media, we are trying to release news that benefits the nation, that provides public knowledge and the government programs that need special care. In the same time, we are trying our best to avoid news or style of writings that may cause conflicts and that may lead to wrong interpretations and to be free from mistakes. As NPE is a bridge between the government and the people, it is taking special care in spreading true news through correct spelling, grammar and choice of words. In this way, it is serving the public,” the MDN official said.

Thanks to all the changes in the policy and techniques, more news and sectors that are beneficial and attractive for the public are appearing on the newspaper pages within a two-year period. Additionally, dailies are using more pages on special news, breaking news, public voices, educative articles and opinions.

The dailies are featuring three to five articles on general knowledge a day. They are also issuing reviews, editorials, announcements, warnings daily and their total number reaches between 40 and 60. In this ways they are serving the public.



PHOTO: GNLM

Multiple sectors

More sectors can be inserted in the dailies within the two-year period of the government in accord with the public demand and market demand. They are the sectors including new generation sector for students all around the country, Sunday cartoon for children, the public forum where people's views can be seen and voices can be heard, letters to the editor, the sector for legal knowledge, travelogue, traditional foods, farming in various parts of the country, sports and socio-economy.

There are also weekly supplements. They are: Today Yangon which deals with information for Yangonites, their voices, their aspirations and difficulties, the Golden Rakhine Land for ethnic Rakhines, ethnic sections where news appeared in Kachin, Mon, Sakaw Kayin, Poe Kayin, Pa-O languages, ethnic supplement which aims at preserving culture, traditions and customs of national races, and the Mandalay section which concentrates more on Mandalay and the upper part of Myanmar.

State-owned dailies are normally weak in scooping. The views of readers are varied. Some view the state-owned dailies as tools representing the government. In fact, the government dailies are giving priority to news beneficial to the State in addition to government's accomplishments, goals, policies, departmental announcements, public information and parliamentary reports and other legal issues.

Annual profits

The NPE is one of the successful state enterprises. The enterprise is also paying various taxes including income tax and commercial tax. It has its own capital for expenditure. It does not rely on the Union Funds. The NPE spared 55 per cent of the profits for its own operational expenditure. Although the government dailies are running under the economic policy, and programs of the State, they are trying to make profits.

The two State-owned dailies the Myanma Alinn daily and The Mirror daily, the joint-venture The Global New Light of Myanmar and the Online daily Myanmar Digital News are providing scoops, true information on various sectors including the Myanmar politics through sincere news collecting and approaching methods while always abiding by the newspaper codes of conducts, occasionally issued ethics, and service personnel rules. Efforts are being made for every page of every daily to inform, educate and entertain the public in accord with the goal of the Ministry of Information.



Rakhine State Government receives UN's Deputy Emergency Relief Coordinator

THE Rakhine State Government received Assistant Secretary General for Humanitarian Affairs and Deputy Emergency Relief Coordinator of the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) Ursula Mueller and party at the State Government assembly hall yesterday afternoon.

At the meeting, matters relating to providing humanitarian assistance, implementing the recommendations of the Advisory Commission on Rakhine State, the Rakhine State socio-economic development programme being drawn up with international organisations, international organisations freely providing assistance in the state, freedom of travel and health care services provided, preparations made to receive and resettle returnees according to the bilateral agree-



Deputy Emergency Relief Coordinator Ursula Mueller and party visit relief camps in Sittway, Rakhine State yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

ment were some of the topics discussed.

The party, led by Ursula Mueller, then went to That-kepyin relief camp, Dahpine relief camp and Aung Mingalar

Ward in Sittway Township and met with Muslims. Later, Ursula Mueller and party met with ethnic Rakhine nationals in Mingan Ward, Sittway Town. — Tin Tun (IPRD) ■

Fighter plane pilot posthumously honoured for preventing crash into village

COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing called the fallen pilot, who died on Tuesday when his fighter plane crashed, as a hero for his efforts to prevent a crash into a village.

“Without consideration for his own safety, Pilot Maj Arkar Win controlled his fighter up un-

til the last moments so as not to crash into Kyungon Village,” said a news report from the Myawady Daily. A delegation led by General Mya Tun Oo of the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army) comforted the family of the pilot at the airbase yesterday. They also visited the site of the F-7 fighter crash and expressed

thanks to villagers who tried to save the pilot, who was found amid scattered debris.

A military investigation team announced that the cause of the crash was “technical failure”. The F-7 is a Cold War-era fighter jet, a Chinese-made variant of the Soviet Union's MiG-21.—MNA ■

One killed in terrorist attack on Mro ethnic villagers

ONE woman was killed and another woman injured yesterday when eight Mro ethnic villagers from Khamaungseik Village, Maungtau Township, were attacked while on their way to catch fish by three armed men, authorities said.

Three men armed with machetes and iron rods at-

tacked the villagers near the Shwezun Creek around 12pm yesterday, police said. Six villagers, including three men and three women, ran away and managed to escape from the attack, but Daw Saung Shwe, 40, was found dead later with deep cuts on her head.

Another woman, Daw

Hmwe Shwe, who was missing after the attack, was found alive at around 5pm.

Authorities said action will be taken against the attackers, whom they described as terrorists. Police said prosecution will occur to the fullest extent of the law for the murder of the ethnic female villager.—Kyaw Thu Htet ■

For e-Government, rules needed from the start: State Counsellor

FROM PAGE-3

While implementing in this manner, we must not lose sight of the country's work on regional development work processes jointly implemented within ASEAN countries.

The first requirement for a successful implementation of e-Government works is to establish a strategic vision. In implementing Government to Government (G2G), Government to Business (G2B) and Government to Citizen (G2C) works, services required by the people need to be reviewed first. Only then can the services be effective and beneficial to the people and create a good environment that provides good public services.

Implementing some of the work processes would require much coordination between departments, central offices, Union government and states/regions governments. By that time, it is important to aim toward benefiting the people. Some works will not show visible results in the short term but will have to be conducted to achieve long term results. Relevant government organizations need to specifically designate and assign duties and responsibilities to e-Government (or) IT sub section. Only then can the e-Government works be implemented and run smoothly.

Instead of setting up ICT basic infrastructures individually and separately, setting it up together and sharing it will be more effective and speed up the works. It can be seen that this was how it was done internationally.

It is important to put special emphasis on cyber security and information security in distributing e-Government services. Only when the personal data of the users are safe and secure can the people trust, accept and use e-Government services. Laws and work processes required for cyber, information and data

security need to be drawn up and implemented said the Vice President.

If the e-Government process is successful, sectors like education, health, social and economy will develop. This can be seen clearly if the public services provided in developed countries are studied. The Vice President added to specially concentrate and strive toward successful implementation of e-Government system as per the remark of the Patron of the Steering Committee. All are urged to openly discuss and coordinate based on the Master Plan drawn up in alignment with the economic policy set by the government, said the Vice President.

Afterwards, e-Government Steering Committee Vice Chairman (1) Union Minister U Thaung Tun and Vice Chairman (2) Union Minister U Thant Sin Maung discussed and explained extensively about e-Government work processes.

Following this, Union Ministers, states/regions Chief Ministers, technicians and experts provided their suggestions and discussed about requirements on implementing the e-Government work processes. Steering Committee Chairman the Vice President and officials explained and discussed about the suggestions and discussions made.

The meeting came to a conclusion after e-Government Steering Committee Chairman Vice President U Myint Swe delivered a concluding speech.

Present at the meeting were members of the e-Government Steering Committee, Union Ministers, Union Attorney General, Union Auditor General, Union Civil Service Board Chairman, Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman, States/Regions Chief Ministers, Central Bank of Myanmar Governor, Deputy Ministers, Myanmar Computer Federation patron U Thaung Tin and officials.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Maungtau residents to begin farming with government help

FROM PAGE-1

Following the meeting, the delegation led by the two deputy ministers visited Hla Phoe Khaung Transit Centre, which can accommodate about

30,000 people.

The centre is comprised of 525 buildings, and work on construction of the buildings started on 13 January.

Afterwards, the delegation

met with Rakhine and Mro ethnic people from Kaigy, Mawrawady, Udaung, Tharaykonbaung, Shwebaho and pledged to provide seeds, inputs and machinery to them in time for the coming rain-

fed farming season. Authorities are also planning to assist in livestock farming for the villagers.

Following the meeting, they toured the buildings constructed for the Mro ethnic people.

The Yangon Region Government constructed 56 houses and Bago Region Government 64 houses for local Mro ethnic people.—Kyaw Thu Win and Aye Min Thu ■

Foreign heads of state send congratulations messages to President U Win Myint

FOREIGN heads of state congratulated President U Win Myint sending messages to him for his election as the President of Myanmar.

Mr. Petro Poroshenko, President of the Ukraine, said in his message that he was confident that President U Win Myint's activities at the highest state post will promote ideas of freedom, democratic values and the rule of law in the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

"I hope the development of the mutually beneficial cooperation between Ukraine and the Republic of the Union of Myanmar both on bilateral and multilateral tracks will be intensified further for the benefit of our peoples," said Mr. Petro Poroshenko.

"I wish You, Your Excellency, sound health and success in Your responsible state activity, as well as peace, unity and prosperity to the friendly people of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar," he added.

Mr. Sauli Niinisto, President of the Republic of Finland, extended his sincere congratulations to President U Win Myint on the occasion of your taking office as the President of the Union of Myanmar and wished President U Win Myint every success in his high office.

"Our two countries enjoy close friendship and good cooperation. Finland is a strong supporter of Myanmar's democratic transition and peace process and I look forward to continuing the active and fruitful cooperation in the coming years," said Mr. Sauli Niinisto.

Mr. Bounnhang Vorachith, President of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, said in his message that on behalf of the Government and people of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, he had the great pleasure to convey his congratulations to President U Win Myint on the occasion of your election as the President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

"I am confident that under your able leadership, the traditional and friendly relations as neighboring countries and good cooperation between our Lao and Myanmar peoples will be further expanded and enhanced and I stand ready to work closely with Your Excellency in order to continue strengthening the existing friendly relations and cooperation between our two nations to new heights," said Mr. Bounnhang Vorachith.

Mr. Thongloun Sisoulith, Prime Minister of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, said in his message that "I am convinced that the existing traditional friendship and relations and close cooperation between the Lao People's Democratic Republic and the Republic of the Union of Myanmar will be further strengthened in the coming years for the mutual benefits of our two countries as well as for the strengthened ASAEN Community and for regional and international cooperation."

"May I take this opportunity to wish Your Excellency a very good health and greater success in your noble task and lead the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to further progress and prosperity," he added.

Mr. Alexander Lukashenko, President of the Republic of Belarus, expressed his sincere congratulations to President U Win Myint on the occasion of successful elections as the President of the Union of Myanmar.

"I am convinced that Your activity on such a responsible position will contribute to the further development of the all-round Belarusian-Myanmar cooperation for the prosperity of the nation of the two countries," said Mr. Alexander Lukashenko.

"Please accept, Your Excellency, my wishes of strong health and success in the execution of Your responsible state duties, peace and wellbeing for Your country, as well as the assurances of my highest consideration," said Mr. Alexander Lukashenko.

Mr. Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia, conveyed his sincere congratulations to President U Win Myint on his election as the President of Myanmar.

"This reflected Myanmar's high hope and trust is Your Excellency for the past contribution to the nation, especially in your former capacity as Speaker of the Pyithu Hluttaw. I sincerely hope that under your leadership, Myanmar and its peoples will further embrace peace, stability and prosperity," said Mr. Samdech Hun Sen.

"I am very pleased that Cambodia and Myanmar have enjoyed good bilateral relations and cooperation. I look forward to working closely with you and the Government of Myanmar to further strengthen the traditional friendship and mutually beneficial cooperation in bilateral multilateral and ASEAN frameworks," he added. — Myanmar News Agency ■

Union Attorney-General U Htun Htun Oo receives Singaporean Ambassador

UNION Attorney-General U Htun Htun Oo received the Singaporean Ambassador to Myanmar H.E Ms. Vanessa Chan Yuen Ying yesterday afternoon at the office of the Union Attorney-General in Nay Pyi Taw.

During the meeting, they exchanged views and cordially discussed matters relating to scrutiny of draft laws, legal affairs, the coordination process of rules of laws, human resource development, and cooperation between the two countries.

Also present at the meeting were Deputy Attorney General



Union Attorney-General U Htun Htun Oo holds talks with Singaporean Ambassador Ms. Vanessa Chan Yuen Ying yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

U Win Myint, Permanent Secretary Daw Nu Nu Yin and Director-General Dr. Thida Oo. — Myanmar News Agency ■

Anti-Corruption Commission Chairman U Aung Kyi receives Singaporean Ambassador

U Aung Kyi, the chairman of the Anti-Corruption Commission, received Singaporean Ambassador to Myanmar Ms. Vanessa Chan Yuen Ying yesterday afternoon at the office of Anti-Corruption Commission in Nay Pyi Taw.

During the meeting, they discussed matters regarding the implementation process of Anti-Corruption procedures, the draft of the strategic plans

of the Anti-corruption 2018-2021 Investigation Manual and Code of Conduct of the members of the Anti-Corruption Commission, Cooperation with the Ministry of Education to put moral lessons about corruption into the school curriculum, Singapore's Anti-Corruption process and bilateral cooperation between the two countries. — Myanmar News Agency ■



Anti-Corruption Commission Chairman U Aung Kyi meets with Singaporean Ambassador Ms. Vanessa Chan Yuen Ying in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

5th Myanmar-China (Yunnan) Cooperation Forum in Kunming

THE 11-member delegation led by U Myint Thu, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar attended the Fifth Myanmar-China (Yunnan) Cooperation Forum in Kunming, the People's Republic of China on 3

April 2018.

During the forum, both sides exchanged views on the matters relating to the existing bilateral cooperation between the People's Republic of China, specifically Yunnan Province, in various sectors such as trade, investment, ag-

riculture, livestock, tourism, education, health and border affairs as well as challenges in implementing mutual beneficial cooperation. The delegations agreed to accelerate the momentum of cooperation for mutual benefits. — Myanmar News Agency ■

We have been ready for repatriation since 23 January 2018: UEHRD Chief Coordinator

By Thi Thi Min,
Min Thit (MNA)

THE Union Enterprise for Humanitarian Assistance, Resettlement and Development in Rakhine (UEHRD) is setting up and implementing a work process to reconstruct and develop Rakhine State.

Following is the interview with UEHRD Chief Coordinator Prof. Dr. Aung Tun Thet on the present status of reconstruction and development works and works conducted to receive the returnees who left for another country.

Q. Explain about the reconstruction and development works conducted by UEHRD in Maungdaw region, Rakhine State.

A. The work was started since 17 October 2017. There are three basic works. First is humanitarian. Next is resettlement and the third is development. That is why we call it HRD. The first thing to know is the three works of HRD was in a way that was never done in our country before. The private sector is cooperating in it. It is a joint response by the government and private sector on events that occurred in Rakhine State. In the past, the usual response after such events is by the government only. This time, it is a national response. The government led, but the private sector, civil society organisations, media and youth all participated. We are doing emergency works as well as important works.

The emergency work is to be ready to receive the returnees. The first challenge was agreeing to start receiving the returnees according to the agreement on 23 January 2018. We took lessons from past experiences and readied Nga Khu Ya and Taung Pyo Letwe reception centres.

As we prepare the reception centres, we have to prepare to resettle them. We are striving toward resettling them nearest to where they stay in the past. Our understanding is to reconstruct Rakhine State into a better situation than it was in the past.

Rakhine State actually has a lot of potential. Outsiders

saw Rakhine State as only Maungdaw, Buthidaung and Yathedaung. Actually, there are 17 townships in Rakhine State. People don't see Ngapali when they hear the word Rakhine State. They don't see Myo Haung and Mrauk-U. They don't see Kyaukpyu Special Economic Zone. Rakhine State shouldn't be seen narrowly. Don't look at it selectively. Our duty is to complete the three tasks assigned by the State Counsellor up to standards. Resettlement is important and so is humanitarian.

Here, relevant ministry is assessing the people who left our country in order for them to return. If the people really lived in our country, relevant ministries are preparing to receive them according to international norm. On our part, we cooperate with private businesses and private sector organisations to construct buildings, build roads and provide health care. Not only doctors but business owners also provide health care. It is very encouraging to see businesses engaging deeply

in these matters.

On the other hand, a special economic zone is being established in Maungdaw. Maungdaw merchant's association is leading this with the support of the Myanmar chamber of commerce. Now the port is ready and goods can be sent through the port.

Another is the agriculture sector. After the event of 25 August 2017, rice fields became ripe. There was no one to reap it. The owners were nowhere nearby. Our UEHRD agriculture group provided machineries to harvest the rice. We are not confiscating the rice

as accused. We kept a record. Some were sold and this was also recorded. If owners can show that they are the rightful owners, they'll be provided with cash for what is sold or in kind in rice.

As assigned by the country, we are creating a situation to enable those who want to return. In the three townships, there are people who lived peacefully and we are creating job opportunity for them. Looking at the situation from an economic point of views, the root of the problems in Rakhine State is lack of economic development. Job creation was

low. Because there is no job, other problems happen. That is why we are discussing with businesses to create job opportunity and increase income. If we can do these and establish an economic zone, there can be changes in the situation.

The view from inside the country is important and so is the view from outside the country. We can ignore international views and concentrate only on the local views. On the other side, it is not possible to take the international views and neglect the local views. There is the matter of the sovereignty of our country. At this situation, the international side is not satisfied and so is the national side. So we have to be careful between the two.

Questions were raised for accepting the returnees and questions were raised for not accepting the returnees. But we will prove by our work.

Local media could not overwhelm the international media. News in the international media is in a different form. Due to that the view on our country is not clear. It is lopsided. We are now working on a strategy of proving with our work. This is the situation of our country. We will say it very simply. This is why the events happen. We are not being extreme as accused. But we could not counter it this way. We will counter it by our work.

For UEHRD's works, the role of the ministries and private sector are very important. As they are paying attention to the political situation, they have offered to throw their weight behind the activities of UEHRD. Some thought that the businessmen would participate in the activities of UEHRD first and take their own opportunities. There is no situation here to get such kinds of opportunities for them. We just seek help from them. No big developers from Yangon and Mandalay are involved in these activities. But they help to control the quality of the buildings. Developers for the buildings are ethnic Rakhine businessmen, developers from Sittway and Maungdaw. We are satisfied with this. It is the strength of the private sector.

We want to prove that the



UEHRD Chief Coordinator Prof. Dr. Aung Tun Thet talks during an interview with MNA. PHOTO: YE HTUT

They should return of their own free will. When they return, we'll provide them with opportunities to live a life of dignity.

role of the government, the private sector and SCOs are important for the UEHRD's works. We must build trust. At this point, one thing is we need to consider the opinion of ethnic people, and about their worries and anxieties. We need to understand that Rakhine State is the border region and the security of the border region is the first priority.

From an economic point of view, Rakhine State has significant prospects for business. There are natural gas fields off the Rakhine coast. The fishing industry can be expanded in Rakhine State. When we accomplished the airport in MraukU, we attracted many tourists. We consider these points not for businessmen, but for creating job opportunities for local people.

On the other side, the government is negotiating with the UN agencies and NGOs to provide aid from international communities to Rakhine.

International businesses are invited to Rakhine as a place for good investment. Invitations are made to come

to this place where there are good opportunities. But there is one thing. The security must be good.

As mentioned in current news, it is important to come back. If they don't come back, they will have more challenges to meet. Some don't come back and went to Thailand by boat. There are mentions of people from here going to Malaysia. We assured them three things.

We will provide security in the best possible way. Returnees shouldn't be forced to return. They should return of their own free will. When they return, we'll provide them with opportunities to live a life of dignity. These are the three assurances we gave to them. The UEHRD is doing its part to create job opportunities. Schools, hospitals and clinics are being built.

Ethnic Rakhine nationals are the majority in Rakhine State, but in northern Rakhine State, ethnic Rakhine nationals are the minority. The majority are of a different religion. The concerns and worries of the ethnic Rakhine nationals also



need to be put into consideration. Other society's concerns should also be noted. We have to keep in mind these two things.

Q. What is the current situation of areas where terrorist acts occurred?

A. Security operations were no longer conducted in areas where the UEHRD is working. What can be seen are the reception centres being readied to receive the returnees. There are no security operations near the reception centres, resettlement areas and villages built for ethnic nationals. There are only some border forces who

Whether they return or not, we are discussing with international organisations on what to do and how to coordinate for them to return.

are taking up normal security works. The area is stable and peaceful.

Q. Explain a bit more about the readiness to receive the returnees.

A. We were ready since 23 January 2018 to receive the returnees. It is included in the newspapers. A bilateral agreement was already signed. Since then, forms were sent for returnees to fill in so that it can be done quickly. Those who want to return are to fill out the forms. Detailed instructions were provided on how to fill out the form. Forms could not be entered in any way they

want. Requirement of a family photo and thumb prints were explained repeatedly. But the forms were not filled out completely. I don't know whether they don't understand what we say or don't know how to fill the form.

To answer the question of whether we are ready, I will have to say we are ready. The buildings are ready. The hospital and clinics are ready. Whether they return or not, we are discussing with international organisations on what to do and how to coordinate for them to return. ■

(To be continued)
(Unofficial translation)

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V YU CHANG VOY. NO. (1802)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V YU CHANG VOY. NO. (1802) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 5-4-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MITT-4 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 WILHELMSSEN SHIPS
SERVICE(S) PTE, LTD.**

Phone No: 2301928

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V K GARNET VOY. NO. (1807)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V K GARNET VOY. NO. (1807) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 5-4-2018 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 GLOBAL MARS
SHIPPING & LOGISTICS SERVICES CO,
LTD.**

Phone No: 2301928

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V DU BAI CROWN VOY. NO. (1066)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V DU BAI CROWN VOY. NO. (1066) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 5-4-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MITT-5 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

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V KOTA HASIL VOY. NO. (KHS 0079 N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V KOTA HASIL VOY. NO. (KHS 0079 N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 5-4-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V ANAN BHUM VOY. NO. (214 N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V ANAN BHUM VOY. NO. (214 N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 5-4-2018 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 NEW GOLDEN SEA LINES**

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V MAENAM-1 VOY. NO. (011 N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V MAENAM-1 VOY. NO. (011 N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 5-4-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of HPT where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

Hollywood honors Lynda Carter, who played Wonder Woman in 1970s

LOS ANGELES — Actress Lynda Carter, who played superhero Wonder Woman in the 1970s, was honored with a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame on Tuesday.

"It will be here forever, and maybe it needs to say Wonder Woman, or maybe not, we'll see. Hopefully this character and I will live on in the memories of people," 66-year-old Carter said.

"There was no women in television during my era. So they didn't really think that we could hold an audience," she said.

She addressed the #MeToo movement sparked by the Harvey Weinstein sex abuse scandal, which ended his career and those of numerous other power-

ful Hollywood figures.

The "#MeToo movement is strong and I give everything to this generation," she said. "What my generation can do is support you." "We've been screaming the same thing but it took this generation of women to make the difference."

Carter played the heroine between 1975 and 1979 on television, first on ABC and then CBS — part of an acting career that has spanned several decades. The ceremony was attended by Patty Jenkins, the director of the 2017 "Wonder Woman" film which took in \$821 million worldwide, as well as dozens of Carter's fans.—AFP ■



Actress Lynda Carter is honored with the 2,632nd star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame. **PHOTO: AFP**

S Korea musicians return after rare Pyongyang joint concert

SEOUL — Musicians from North and South Korea held hands, sang and cried together at a rare concert held in Pyongyang that ended with an emotional standing ovation by thousands of spectators.

The South Korean pop stars returned home on Wednesday after two concerts in the North's capital this week, the first of which was attended by leader Kim Jong Un who said he was "deeply moved" by their performance.

Their visit, part of a cultural charm offensive by Seoul, comes as a diplomatic thaw gathers pace on the peninsula ahead of a landmark inter-Korean summit this month.

The second concert, held Tuesday evening at a packed 12,000-capacity Ryugyong Jong Ju Yong Gymnasium in Pyongyang, saw the North's Samjiyon Orchestra join South Korean K-pop stars on stage, to rapturous applause.

"The performers sang of the ardent desire of the fellow countrymen for national reunification hands in hands," reported the North's official KCNA agency.



A joint performance of "We Are One" given by artistes from the North and South of Korea at the Ryugyong Jong Ju Yong Indoor Stadium in Pyongyang. **PHOTO: AFP**

The joint concert stirred the audience as those present "overflowed with patriotic and warm feelings", KCNA said.

Kim, who made a surprise appearance with his wife at the first concert, did not attend Tuesday's performance.

His high-profile appearance at the earlier concert was unusual as his authoritarian regime typically struggles to prevent any infiltration of the South's pop culture.

Kim even met and joked with Red Velvet, a K-pop girl band, about the high levels of

interest in the South about his attendance.

The girl group's performance of hit song "Red Flavour" Tuesday appeared too much for the North Korean audience, however, which was subdued throughout a provocative display, according to South Korean pool reports.

But the crowd responded with louder applause for 61-year-old musician Choi Jin-hee, who sang her 80s hit song "The Maze of Love" — reportedly former North Korean leader Kim Jong Il's favourite song.

The stadium also reacted

enthusiastically when female singers from the two countries jointly performed "Paektu and Halla are My Fatherland", a patriotic North Korean song about reunification.

The show culminated with all the musicians joining together to sing the North's "See You Again" and the common Korean children's song "Our Wish is Reunification", prompting a standing ovation that lasted more than 10 minutes.

"I think the performance was a success," said Hyon Song Wol, head of the North's art troupe, after the show.

"The South Korean singers did really well without any mistake even though they had only half a day to practice," Hyon said.

The rapprochement on the peninsula began with the South's Winter Olympics, to which the North's Kim sent athletes, cheerleaders and his sister as an envoy.

An inter-Korean summit will be held on 27 April. No date has been set for a planned US-North Korean summit although it is expected before the end of May.—AFP ■

Ryan Reynolds auctions off pink 'Deadpool' suit for cancer charity

LOS ANGELES — Actor Ryan Reynolds has put up a new pink "Deadpool" suit for sale to raise funds in the fight against cancer.

The 41-year-old actor, who plays the quirky antihero in the Marvel film franchise, shared a video on Twitter to announce the nonprofit F**k Cancer drive through an Omaze campaign.

In a "special message from Deadpool," Reynolds said that the new bright pink suit was for the "world to see that I have a big old heart-on... That's heart with a 't'... For my new obsession, pink - the colour, not the singer. Personally I'm more of a Celine guy." "This is one fight where everyone can be a hero, no superpowers, capes or lame CG costumes needed — just your money. Seriously, we need that - these suits aren't cheap," he added. Reynolds shared the link where one can make donations and captioned the video as, "Suit for sale. Worn once. Made lovingly with over 10,000 individually selected pink gummi bears." One can donate money ranging from USD 10 to USD 5,000 to the cause which would win the Deadpool suit. Participants who donate over over USD 1,000 would receive gifts such as a signed movie poster or a personalised voice-mail message from Reynolds as Deadpool.—PTI ■

Singapore's rebel filmmaker comes of age, rekindles Japan memories

SINGAPORE — He had furiously rebelled against Singapore's strict censorship policies, even producing a short film, "Cut" that mocked the system, but these days he gets invited to give talks in schools and work on government projects.

The award-winning Singaporean film director, Royston Tan, known for his bold portrayal of social realities, seems to have come of age, and so too has the wealthy city-state he grew up in that has formed the landscape and backdrop of his films.

"In the past, we would throw things at each other, but right now we can sit down and have a cup of coffee and talk about our differences," the 41-year-old said in a recent interview with Kyodo News.

"I realize that I have grown, I am still a rebel. I just rebel in different ways."

Reminiscing on the past, especially those early years of constant clashes with the censors, Tan said Japan occupies a special place in his heart.

"Japan has played a very, very big part in my life," he said, recalling how he spent two months in the northern Japanese city of Sapporo in 2004 for an artist-in-residence programme.

Back then, Tan was in his early 20s and had been ruffling feathers at home with his very short musical comedy "Cut" that rapped the censors. It appeared soon after his first feature film "15" about teenage gangsters,

which was subjected to a record-breaking 27 cuts.

Japan, he said, "was a refreshing journey for me because after I came back, my style had changed."

In Sapporo, "Not many people spoke English and I realized that I had to use the most basic words to communicate. As a result of this, I realized the beauty of not talking. We communicated with just eyes, a little bit of body language."

It was there he wrote his feature film "4:30," which was co-produced by Japan's national broadcaster NHK and released in 2005. It is about a young boy who wakes up at 4:30 am daily to spy on a suicidal Korean tenant of his family apartment.

In the film, "nobody talks," he said. "We have a universal language, which is the language of the eyes. That's what I really learned (in Japan)."

Communication between people who speak different languages again emerged in his more recent film, "Bunga Sayang," which clinched the Best Asian Short Film prize at the Sapporo International Short Film Festival and Market in 2016.

Part of the award-winning anthology of seven short stories directed by a like number of local directors to celebrate Singapore's 50th anniversary, the story is about a young Chinese boy who strikes up a friendship with an old Malay woman living next door. When his tap runs dry

mid-shower, the boy goes over to his neighbour's house for water.

Deceptively simple on the surface, the film can be seen as tackling a pertinent and delicate issue of multiracial relations.

As far back as 2001, the Short Shorts Film Festival & Asia, an annual international short film festival in Tokyo, had introduced his film "Sons" when it began screening Asian films and continued to give him more such international exposure over the years. "The Tokyo Short Shorts has been the very first festival I have been to in Japan, and usually the first experience...you will never forget," he said, adding that he would love to revisit "the magical feeling in Tokyo."

Giving a glimpse of his next film, he said, "I feel that it's very important after I cross the 40-years-old mark to have a reunion with all the important milestones, the people who made an impact in my life through my film."

After the turbulence of the early years, Tan's icy relationship with the authorities seems to have thawed.

These days, he gets invited by the National Arts Council to schools to give talks about his films and to reach out to teenagers. He has also been involved in video productions for government projects.

The film scene in Singapore is still tightly regulated.

All films shown here have to be submitted to the Board of



Award-winning Singaporean film director Royston Tan is pictured in Singapore on 6 March, 2018. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**

Film Censors for classification, and those deemed obscene or party politics, or regarded as undermining national security can be banned.

Local filmmaker Tan Pin Pin's film "To Singapore, With Love", about Singapore's political exiles, was banned in 2014.

However, Tan feels that there is now more space.

"Apart from religion and politics, there is a wider range of things that we can talk about now." "If a certain decision is being made, they will have a dialogue with us to tell what are their concerns, and they listen to us. In the past, it was not a two-way communication. So I feel that this is a huge improvement."

For example, in recent months the public has been consulted on the government's plan to amend the Films Act, although some aspects of the proposed amendments have raised concerns among film industry professionals here. Tan was among dozens of them who signed a position paper last December

expressing concern about the proposed amendments, such as those to give expanded powers to film classification or licensing officers in investigating breaches of the act.

Amid the lack of freedom of speech in the city-state where street protests are limited to a so-called Speakers' Corner in a small public park, Tan is keenly aware that as a filmmaker, he can at least implicitly protest in his film. "At least for me, I have my protest inside my films, I realize that I can address my concerns for Singapore through my films."

"Back then, it was very blunt, but now I think I know how to express it in a careful way — and it's still a very effective way."

He said his next film will be shot in Phuket, Thailand, as an international production with a cast that includes Japanese, Thai and Taiwanese actors.

"It's the first time I am moving out of Singapore to do something very different," he said, "It will be about forgiveness." —Kyodo News ■

UK Masterchef judges spark rendang ding dong

LONDON — Indonesians and Malaysians have their feathers in a flap over MasterChef UK's decision to eliminate a contestant from the popular cooking show because her chicken rendang wasn't crispy.

Netizens from the two Southeast Asian nations — including the Malaysian prime minister — put aside a longstanding culinary dispute about the origins of the slow-cooked coconut curry to express outrage at the cluelessness of the British show's judges.

Judge Gregg Wallace and co-judge John Torode sparked a storm this week by criticising Malaysia-born contestant Zaleha Kadir Olpin's dish because the "chicken skin isn't crispy, it can't be eaten". Rendang, which

originates from West Sumatra in Indonesia, is usually chicken or beef slow cooked in spices and coconut milk for hours and is not crispy. Olpin served her chicken rendang to accompany Nasi Lemak, a popular aromatic rice dish from Malaysia.

Hundreds of people took to social media to point out the judges' amateur mistake. In Malaysian cyberspace, a Facebook page "Justice for Chicken Rendang" was set up collecting signatures for a petition demanding an apology from chefs Wallace and Torode.

"As a Malaysian, if I could, I would personally go to the show and rendang their head. Uncultured swine, doesn't know variety of cuisine and claims to be Masterchef?" wrote Facebook user

Jin Wee on the page of Malaysian newspaper The Star.

A Jakarta-based critic added: "We should be proud of defending rendang's dignity over ridiculous statement made by an ignorant caucasian chef that Rendang should be 'crispy'." As controversy grew online, Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak waded into the debate, saying: "Who eats 'crispy' chicken rendang?" The British High Commissioner to Malaysia, Vicki Treadell — who was born in Malaysia — also tweeted at the embattled judges. "Rendang is an iconic Malaysian national dish ... It is never crispy & should also not be confused with the fried chicken," she wrote on Twitter. In response, Torode told his online followers: "Maybe



Rendang is beloved in both Indonesia and Malaysia and is definitely not crispy. **PHOTO: AFP**

Rendang is Indonesian!! Love this !! Brilliant how excited you are all getting .. Namaste." But his response did little to douse the social media flames, with many users pointing out that "namaste" is a greeting used in India. Despite sometimes rocky relations,

neighbours Indonesia and Malaysia share an intertwined history and share a number of cultural and culinary traditions.

Rendang is a popular dish in both countries and its origins are sometimes claimed by Malaysia.—AFP ■



Champion MIC futsal team celebrates their victory while receiving the trophy awarded by MFF President U Zaw Zaw. **PHOTO: MFF FUTSAL**

MIC wins MFF Futsal Open Cup, beats VUC

TWO well-regarded futsal teams battled in the final match of the MFF Futsal Open Cup 2018, with MIC emerging with the championship over VUC at Thuwunna Indoor Stadium in Yangon yesterday by a score of 2-0. The award for best player of the match went to Kyaw Htet Aung

from champion MIC team.

The awards ceremony followed the final match, with fans and officials from MFF in attendance.

The MIC team was awarded Ks5,000,000, while VUC received Ks3,000,000 and the bronze medal winner RDZ gained

Ks2,000,000. The fourth place team earned Ks1,000,000.

The fair-play award was garnered by the Titans Xii futsal team, receiving Ks500,000.

The best players of the tourney awards were won by Nyein Min Soe from VUC, who received Ks300,000, while the

best goalkeeper of the tourney award was garnered by Kyaw Htet Aung from MIC, who received Ks300,000.

The MFF Futsal Open Cup was started on 6 March. Fifty teams from various States and Regions in Myanmar participated.—Kyaw Zin Lin ■

Summer football courses for kids conclude

THREE summer football courses conducted in Yangon, Patheingyi and Mandalay concluded yesterday with ceremonies at which course completion certificates were given, according to the Myanmar Football Federation.

Under the supervision of the Myanmar Football Federation (MFF), the month-long football courses for children under the age of 18 were launched on the morning of 5 March at the football academies of Yangon, Mandalay and Patheingyi.

Over 600 children attended and concluded the course, according to the MFF.

"The courses are very convenient to attend as they were arranged to be held in the long summer holidays for all our children", said U Sai Aung Kham, the parent of children from Taunggyi, Shan State. The course was conducted and supervised by qualified football coaches including U Nyein Nyein Latt, the Myanmar U-16 national team head coach, along with AFC-licensed coaches from the MFF and the Myanmar National League. Retired Myanmar footballers also showed their brilliant football skills to the kids for part of the time, an official added. All the children who passed the training courses were given course completion certificates and will return home with enhanced football skills, officials said.—Kyaw Zin Lin ■

Ronaldo magic fires Real past 10-man Juventus

TURIN (Italy) — Cristiano Ronaldo became the first player to score in 10 successive Champions League games as he struck twice for holders Real Madrid in a 3-0 win at Juventus in Tuesday's quarter-final first leg.

Ronaldo grabbed the opening goal in Turin after just three minutes and added a second on the hour with a sensational overhead bicycle kick, taking him to 14 goals in this season's competition.

Juventus forward Paulo Dybala was sent off on 66 minutes before Ronaldo set up Marcelo

to cap the rout and leave Real in complete control of the tie going into the second leg in Madrid on 11 April. The 33-year-old Portugal star had shared the previous goalscoring record with former Manchester United team-mate Ruud van Nistelrooy, who found the net in nine consecutive matches between 2002 and 2003.

"You can say he's one of the most beautiful players in the history of football," said Real Madrid coach Zinedine Zidane.

"It's not easy to get three goals past Juve on their own pitch. But in the end it was team-

work, you have to work as a team to get this result."

"Of course Juventus aren't happy with the result tonight, but I will always have Juve in my heart," added Zidane, who spent five seasons at the Italian club as a player.

"This 3-0 is really hard to digest," said Juventus coach Massimiliano Allegri, who has guided the club to the final twice in the past three seasons.

"In my opinion, from Cardiff (last year's final defeat) to today we have even improved.—AFP ■



Real Madrid's Portuguese forward Cristiano Ronaldo (C) scores during the UEFA Champions League quarter-final first leg football match between Juventus and Real Madrid at the Allianz Stadium in Turin on 3 April, 2018. **PHOTO: AFP**