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THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Vol. V, No. 3, 5th Waxing of Kason 1380 ME

www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

Thursday, 19 April 2018



Union Minister Dr. Win Myat Aye, centre, meeting with Mro and other ethnic families from Bangladesh in Maungtaw Township. PHOTO: MNA

Authorities assist Bangladeshi families in Maungtaw, Rakhine

A delegation representing the Union Government assisted in providing accommodation to 35 Mro and Daing Net families from Bangladesh at Thitonna Gwason

Village in Maungtaw Township, Rakhine State, yesterday.

The delegation led by Dr. Win Myat Aye, the Chairman of the Committee for Implement-

ing Recommendations on Rakhine State and Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, comprised of Rakhine State Chief Minister U Nyi

Pu, Deputy Minister U Soe Aung and other officials, flew to the village yesterday by helicopter and met with Mro ethnic people.

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Gale storm kills one, damages over 800 houses

STRONG winds hit the Bago, Ayeyawady and Sagaing regions on 15, 16 and 17 April, killing one person and damaging more than 800 houses.

The gale winds hit four village-tracts in Paungde Township, Bago Region, on 16 April destroying 34 houses and ripping off the roofs of some 500 houses and four monasteries. One man died in the disaster.

The gale storm also hit three village-tracts in Nattalin Township in the same region on 16 April, damaging more than 150 houses and destroying two houses and five monasteries.

On 17 April, strong winds tore off the roofs of some 50 houses in seven village-tracts in Hinthada Township, Ayeyawady region.

The winds tore off the roofs of some 156 houses in three village-tracts in Homalin Township, Sagaing Region, on 15 April.

The Disaster Management Department of the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement provided cash and supplies worth more than Ks7 million to the victims of the disaster.

The Meteorology and Hydrology Department issued a severe weather warning three days ago, asking the public to be alert to the possibility of thunderstorms, lightning, gale storms and hail in April and May.

Such weather patterns follow the movement of cumulus clouds in the pre-monsoon period.—GNLM ■

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Senior General Min Aung Hlaing meets senior army officials in Pyin Oo Lwin

COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF Senior General Min Aung Hlaing met senior army officials attending the Law Officer Diploma Course at the Defence Service Administration School in Pyin Oo Lwin yesterday morning.

During the meeting, the Senior General said that as the Tatmadaw was a legally armed organisation, its officials should obey the law and ethics of soldiers, including those stipulated in the Geneva Convention. He said it was inexcusable for Tat-

madaw officials to be ignorant of military and civilian laws.

He said the Tatmadaw would recruit only those who were above 18 years of age.

The Tatmadaw is handling the cases in Rakhine according to the Geneva Convention and taking action against army personnel breaking the laws.

The Tatmadaw has been criticised severely by some international organizations, he noted.—Myanmar News Agency ■



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing delivers the speech at the Defence Service Administration School in Pyin Oo Lwin. **PHOTO: MNA**



Union Minister U Ohn Maung meeting with local ethnic Pa-O people in Nyaung Shwe. **PHOTO: MOHT**

Union Minister U Ohn Maung inspects CBT in Nyaung Shwe

HOTELS and Tourism Union Minister U Ohn Maung, Shan State Hotel and Tourism Department Director U Htein Aung Naing and other officials inspected community-based tourism (CBT) in Star Village in Nyaung Shwe township on 16 April. The CBT committee members from Star Village welcomed the minister and other officials and explained their activities. The union minister inspected the CBT buildings and highlighted the requirements.

CBT was implemented in Star Village, Nyaung Shwe, in 2016. In the 2016-2017 fiscal year (FY), Star Village accepted some 400 visitors. In the 2017-2018 FY, the village received some 546 visitors. The union minister and

his delegation watched the traditional boat race of the local people and gave away cash prizes to the winners. The union minister then visited Phayar Taung Village in the evening.

Phayar Taung Village implemented CBT in 2016. It welcomed 326 visitors in 2017 and 187 visitors, as of April 2018. Star Village and Phayar Taung Village is located to the south of Inle Lake. The region government can earn revenue by implementing CBT in these villages. Besides creating job opportunities for the local people, CBT has helped revive boat racing, fishing and traditional massages, which had almost disappeared from these villages.—GNLM ■

Naga villages to get water and electricity in 2018

SIXTEEN villages in the Naga Self-administered Zone are expected to get access to electricity and water within six months of this budget year, according to the Department of Rural Development in Sagaing Region. The department is going to conduct village development programs between April and September this year. The Sagaing Regional Government allocated Ks.127.250

million of funds to be used for a project to provide water to six villages and another project that will furnish electricity to 10 villages is using union funds. The department will distribute 60 watt solar panels to more than 900 households in 10 villages and execute projects that will supply electricity to the same 10 villages within six months, the department said.—MDN ■

Authorities assist Bangladeshi families ...

FROM PAGE-1

After the meeting, the Union Minister inspected the progress of construction of housing for the Mro ethnic people and for their resettlement at the village.

Following the visit to Thitona Gwason Village, the delegation went to Khontaing Village and inspected the progress of construction of houses by the Daw Khin Kyi Foundation and Ministry of Border Affairs. The Daw Khin Kyi Foundation is a non-profit charitable organization that seeks to achieve its goals of promoting the health, education and living standards of the people of the country irrespective of ethnicity, race or religion. In the afternoon, Union Minister Dr. Win Myat Aye and officials visited Ngakhuya Village, which saw a fire outbreak on 12 April, and inspected a temporary settlement for the fire victims. At the meeting with the fire victims, the Union minister

pledged that his Ministry would assist in rebuilding houses for them as soon as possible. During the visit to the village, the authorities also inspected the Ngakhuya Reception Centre. The delegation also visited the Hla Phoe Khaung Transit Centre and inspected its readiness for repatriation and progress in completing the remaining houses for returnees.

When the delegation arrived back in Maungtown, Union Minister Dr. Win Myat Aye, Chief Minister U Nyi Pu and other officials met with a five-member family, which had recently returned from Bangladesh at the Maungtown District General Administration Department and provided cash assistance to them.

During his tour of Sittway, Union Minister Dr. Win Myat Aye and party visited the Khaungdokka camp for displaced persons and held a meeting with officials of the camp over closing

the camp and resettling displaced persons.

In the evening, the Union minister held a meeting with the Rakhine State Cabinet and departmental officials at the state government's meeting hall relating to development matters in Rakhine State. He called for local authorities to step up efforts for the closing of the camps for IDPs (Internally Displaced Persons), which were opened in 2012, and for raising awareness about the benefits of holding National Verification Cards in the state. Union Minister Dr. Win Myat Aye and local authorities also discussed promoting efforts for better education, resettlement, livelihood and farming for NV card holders in the state. They also discussed matters related to implementation of projects to which the Indian government would fund US\$5 million annually for five years.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Maungtown celebrates Rakhine traditional Thingyan festival

DESPITE the unseasonal rain, Maungtown celebrated the second day of the Rakhine traditional Thingyan festival yesterday.

Artists from Yangon and local Rakhine vocalists entertained the revelers with songs and music. "It is a lovely custom of this region that local damsels grind the sandalwood with water to make a fragrant liquid first, and then clean the Buddha images before celebrating the water festival," said singer Athin Chay.

"This year's celebration has attracted more revelers than last year," said Rakhine ethnic singer Win Ko Khaing. Local people



Thingyan revellers enjoy water festival in Maungtown, Rakhine. **PHOTO: MNA**

from rural areas and wards in Maungtown Township erected

small pandals to celebrate the festival.—Aung Kyaw Oo ■



I will carry out the implementation of the priority goals of the Union Government which are as follows:

1. Rule of law and improvement of the socio-economic life of the people,
2. National Reconciliation and internal peace,
3. Amending the Constitution which is the foundation for building a Democratic Federal Republic.

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



That is why in the coming year 1380, our Union Government has decided to keep in high regard the need for “collective strength” to overcome our country’s challenges.

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



Union Minister for Health and Sports Dr. Myint Htwe addresses the coordination meeting on pharmaceutical distribution in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Ministry of Health and Sports discusses pharmaceutical distribution

UNION Minister for Health and Sports Dr. Myint Htwe delivered the keynote speech during a coordination meeting on pharmaceutical distribution, which was held at the meeting room of the Ministry of Health and Sports in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

The Union Minister noted that medicines must be purchased, stored and distributed to people punctually by incurring minimal costs.

One of the objectives of the meeting was to plan the purchase and storage of medicines by ensuring minimum wastage in the first six months of the 2018-2019 fiscal year. The meeting intended to provide detailed answers on the ministry’s processes, as his answers during the Myaungmya peace talk

on 10 April were not satisfactory.

The Union Minister said it was difficult to establish a perfect system in any area, and therefore, it must be constantly reviewed and monitored to keep it up to date and effective. He asked the audience to not view the decisions made at the meeting as final, but as points of discussion for smaller meetings in their respective fields and organisations, while factoring in the needs of the patients and the actual field of work of the employees, as well as the means to reduce wastage of medicines and additional expenses.

Shifting of hospital records, storage of medicines and relaying of hospital information to a computer networked infrastructure will provide

faster and more precise data, he said.

The purchasing and distribution department under the ministry was formed during the incumbent government’s administration, and it has contributed by reducing the wastage of medicines.

The Union Minister said the ministry was working to ensure hospitals will be able to provide essential medicines at no cost to patients, and vendors in hospitals sell branded or tender-purchased medicines at the correct price, and they are of high-quality. These vendors will be under the administration of the hospital’s support team.

He said the ministry would also work on reducing the spread of infectious and non-infectious diseases among

the public and raise the standard of health for the people.

Later, Head of Department of Public Health from Union territory Dr. Myat Wunna Soe and Deputy Director-General of the Purchasing and Distribution Department Dr. Win Nang explained the various processes for the purchase and distribution of medicines.

This was followed by a discussion on various topics. Also present at the meeting were permanent secretary, directors-general and deputy directors-general of the ministry, heads of Department of Public Health, from regions and states, Medical Superintendents, project managers and other officials from various hospitals.— Myanmar News Agency

Ministry rectifies error regarding salary increase in President’s Speech

THE Ministry of Planning and Finance has apologised for an error made in the President’s speech that was delivered on Myanmar New Year (Thingyan) on 17 April 2018.

While speaking about a salary increase for civil servants, instead

of “the salary of a lowest level clerical staff will increase from Ks120,000 to Ks138,000,” it should have been “the salary of a lowest level clerical staff will increase from Ks120,000 to Ks144,000.”

Ministry of Planning and Finance ■

92 prisoners released on order from President’s office

ON an order from the President’s office, authorities have released 92 prisoners from Sin Phyu Shin Agriculture, Livestock and Vocational training camps in Taninthayi Township, Tein Khun Village tract, Htone Khar Village, on Tuesday afternoon.

Head of Township Police Force Police Major Saw Maung and Office-in-charge of Sin Phyu Shin camp U Aung Min met and encouraged those released from the Sin Phyu

Shin Camp.

Of the 92 prisoners, some nine were released from Section 15, 55 from Section 16 (C) of the Anti-narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law, eight from 15/16 (C) of the Anti-narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law and 20 from the Defence Services Act.

The labour money earned by the prisoners totalled Ks9,966,400.— Nann Tha Yi, Htein Win (IPRD) ■

Press Conference on visit to Cox’s Bazar to be held at NRPC today

A MYANMAR delegation, led by Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr. Win Myat Aye, visited Cox’s Bazar, Bangladesh, recently.

A press conference

on the visit will be held at the National Reconciliation and Peace Centre in Yangon at 10 a.m. today. Local and foreign media are invited to cover the event.— Myanmar News Agency ■

GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

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subscription@globalnewlightofmyanmar.comPrinted and published at the **Global New Light of Myanmar Printing Factory** at No.150, Nga Htat Kyee Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon, by the **Global New Light of Myanmar Daily** under Printing Permit No. 00510 and Publishing Permit No. 00629.gnlmdaily@gmail.com
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Due to limitation of space we are only able to publish "Letter to the Editor" that do not exceed 500 words. Should you submit a text longer than 500 words please be aware that your letter will be edited.

Paung Laung river crowded with visitors on Myanmar New Year

PAUNG LAUNG river in Zeyathiri, Nay Pyi Taw, was packed with thousands of holidaymakers on the first day of the Myanmar New Year.

Visitors came from the nearest townships on motorcycles or in cars to enjoy the scenic Paung Laung river and mountain ranges.

Many picnickers flocked to the river on the first day of the new year. Some came here from towns outside Nay Pyi Taw, said a local.

A team led by officer U Myo Thura Win from the Zeyathiri Fire Service Department ensured the security of the vacationers, warning holidaymakers to not swim in the deep waters. They patrolled along the riv-



Several people enjoying Paung Laung river on the first day of Myanmar New Year in Zeyathiri Township, Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: TUN LIN (IPRD)**

er in speedboats, in cooperation with members of the Township Red Cross Society, to rescue

victims and provide health services.

The number of picnic-

ers increases each year along Paung Laung river, Zeyathiri Township.—Tun Lin (IPRD)■

Road accidents drop 30% on Yangon-Mandalay highway

THE number of road accidents on the Yangon-Mandalay highway has dropped 30 per cent following the enforcement of the traffic law, according to a report in Myawady Daily.

The number of road accidents has declined on the Yangon-Mandalay highway in 2017, compared with the same period last year, said Police Lt-Col Khin Maung Shwe of the highway traffic police force.

"Traffic accidents can be reduced if the rules are followed. Vehicle collisions

happen occasionally on the highway, and most of them are caused by speeding.

Therefore, more speed-measuring devices have been installed on the Yangon-Mandalay highway to reduce accidents. With the installation of speed-measuring devices along the highway road, motorists are riding within the speed limit. Therefore, the number of road accidents has declined," he added.

Some 46 traffic police stations have been constructed

on the Yangon-Mandalay highway. Motorists who drive faster than 100 kilometres per hour on the highway will face fines and possible prison sentences, according to the highway police.

To reduce road accidents, the traffic police are conducting regular awareness talks and distributing pamphlets. The traffic police have filed charges against suspected reckless drivers under sections 279, 337, 338 and 304 (A) of the Penal Code.—GNLM ■

One man fatally shot near his home in Tachilek

One man was shot dead near his residence in Tachilek, Eastern Shan State this morning. Following a tipoff that a shooting broke out at a house in Mekong Ward, Tachilek, a local police led by head of District Police Force Police Lt-Col Htein Win and Tachilek Myoma Police Station Commander Police Major Myo Khaing went to a scene to check the situation. The police found a bullet riddled dead body identified as U Yaw Han, a company owner, 35 years of age, and son of U Kya Mu at an entrance to his house. Four bullet shells which are believed to be from a 9mm Luger pistol were also discovered near the dead body. The police launched a probe into the case in order to arrest the gunman.—MDN

Slight earthquake strikes near Ayeyawady Region's Pyapon

No immediate reports of damage or casualties are available following a slight earthquake with the magnitude of 4.2 on the Richter Scale with its epicenter inside Myanmar about 35 miles southeast of Pyapon, latitude 16.20°N, longitude 96.19°E, depth 10 kilometers about 46 miles south of Kaba-Aye seismological observatory was recorded at 02:42 pm Myanmar Standard Time yesterday, the Department of Meteorology and Hydrology announced.—MDN

Fire destroys eight homes, one injured

EIGHT homes were destroyed in a fire in Rihkhawdar, Chin State, on 16 April, according to the township fire services department.

The fire broke out in a house owned by U Ngwe Hlan Htaung and spread to seven other houses on Bogyoke road, Ward-2, Rihkhawdar town, at around 4.10 p.m. in the evening. The flame quickly spread to the

other houses.

All the eight houses were destroyed in the blaze and one person was injured but no deaths were reported.

"The fire was caused by a gas leak from a heater in U Ngwe Hlan Htaung's house. A 17-year-old girl sustained minor injuries and is undergoing medical treatment at Rihkhawdar station hospital.

The Fire Service Department deployed many firefighters and fire engines to put out the blaze. The fire destroyed eight houses and some 48 were rendered homeless. The fire damaged property worth Ks7 million. The police have taken action against U Ngwe Hlan Htaung under sections 285/338 of the Penal Code for negligence.—Township IPRD

One person killed after storm in Paungde

MORE than 30 houses collapsed and a woman was killed after strong winds and heavy rain swept through Paungde Town in Bago Region on the night of 16 April.

The strong wind also ripped off the roofs of more than 350 buildings including

two monasteries and a religious community hall from different villages in Paungde.

A 44-year-old woman from Kyobinai village got injured when a wooden support post of her house fell on her when the house collapsed during storm which started at about 5 pm.

She was sent to the Paungde hospital, and transferred to Pyay hospital. However she died while she was undergoing treatment at the hospital. The high winds also destroyed a betel leaf farm in Kyobintha village tract.—Myanmar Digital News



Photo shows the Myanmar Insurance Building in Yangon. **PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR**

Foreign companies to enter Myanmar insurance sector

FOREIGN insurance companies will be allowed to operate in Myanmar for the development of the Myanmar insurance sector, according to a report in Myawady Daily yesterday.

The Myanmar insurance sector is different from others, as it lacks experts. Foreign insurance companies that are allowed to operate in Myanmar are expected to bring in investment, technology and expertise. Moreover, the Myanmar insurance sector will also develop rapidly.

“To be able to develop the

Myanmar insurance sector in the country, we need to conduct awareness training regarding insurance for the local people. The local insurance companies must try their best to compete with foreign companies after the authorities grant permission to foreign insurance companies to enter the country,” said U Thaung Han, secretary of Myanmar Insurance Association.

Currently, the Insurance Business Regulatory Board has already granted licences to some 1,200 agencies in the

country. However, the numbers are few compared to neighbouring countries.

Comprehensive motor insurance, fire insurance, life insurance, health insurance and travelling insurance topped the list of insurance bought from among 48 types of policies. Myanma Insurance is also planning to provide more awareness training regarding the benefits of insurance to the local people.

Myanmar earns just 0.07 per cent income from insurance services. Only 86 in 1,000 people have insurance.—GNLM ■

Singapore becomes top investor in Myanmar last FY

SINGAPORE brought in foreign direct investment (FDI) worth US\$2.16 billion with 42 projects last fiscal year (FY), according to official figures released by the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA).

Singapore made the largest investment in the real estate sector. Singapore was used as a capital inflow channel by western countries when sanctions were imposed on Myanmar. Singapore thus topped the investment chart.

China was second with investments worth some \$1.39 billion. The Netherlands was the third largest investor in Myanmar, making investments worth some \$534 million.

The Myanmar Investment Commission approved 222 foreign enterprises in the 2017-2018 FY, with \$5.72 billion brought in as capital. However, the figure dropped compared to FDI of \$6.64 billion in the 2016-2017 FY.

Additionally, Bangladesh, Brunei Darussalam, Canada, France, Germany, Hong Kong,

India, Indonesia, Japan, Macau, Malaysia, South Korea, Sri Lanka, Thailand, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom, the United States, Viet Nam and Marshall Islands also invested in Myanmar.

Singapore brought in foreign investments of \$1.79 billion in hotels and commercial complexes so far. Some 26 hotels and apartments came up with investments from Singapore, according to the statistics of the hotels and tourism ministry.—Ko Khant ■

Sino-Myanmar border trade up by \$457m last FY

THE border trade between Myanmar and China in the 2017-2018 fiscal year (FY) reached US\$6.75 billion, increasing by \$457 million compared with the 2016-2017 FY.

Among the five checkpoints between Myanmar and China, the Muse border gate conducts the largest volume of trade. Trade through the Muse border point was valued at \$5.82 billion, including \$4.1 billion in exports and \$1.7 billion in imports.

Between 1 April and 31 March in the 2017-2018 FY, the Sino-Myanmar border gates — Muse, Lwejel and Kanpikete

— showed an increase in trade. Meanwhile, Chinshwehaw and Kengtung showed a slight decline against the previous FY.

The value of trade was some \$235 million at Lwejel, \$572 million at Chinshwehaw, \$117 million at Kanpikete and \$1.9 million at Kengtung.

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

Myanmar-Philippines trade exceeds \$40 million in 2017-18 FY

THE external trade between Myanmar and the Philippines reached US\$41.670 million before the end of the 2017-18 fiscal year (FY), according to the Commerce Ministry's monthly data report.

The total trade between the two ASEAN member states, from last April to this January, included \$15.789 million in exports and \$25.881 million in imports.

The Commerce Ministry's yearly statistics show that the Myanmar-Philippines bilateral trade amounted to \$56.483 million in the 2016-17 FY, \$28.998 million in the 2015-16

FY, \$28.2 billion in the 2014-15 FY, \$33.353 million in the 2013-14 FY, \$44.012 million in the 2012-13 FY and \$48.959 million in the 2011-12 FY.

Myanmar chiefly imports capital goods, consumer products and intermediate goods from overseas countries, including ASEAN member countries, Southeast Asian and African states, European countries and some Western nations. Myanmar mainly exports agriculture products, animals products, marine products, mineral products, forest products and manufactured goods.—Khine Khant ■

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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Performance over two years - Hluttaw marks milestone in implementing the People's Voice, Will and Expectations

By Khin Yadana

SECTION 11, Paragraph (a) of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar states, "The three branches of the sovereign power namely legislative power, executive power and judicial power are separated, to the extent possible and exert reciprocal control, check and balance among them."

Hluttaw is a deliberative assembly with the authority to make laws. Hluttaw, practicing the legislative power, focuses on making laws that will bring about peace, law enforcement and national reconciliation for emergence of a federal democracy country in which the entire people enjoy prosperity.

Hluttaw is an entity that most effectively represents the people and according to the Hluttaw's motto of "People's voice, Hluttaw's voice, people's will, Hluttaw's will, People's Expectation, Hluttaw's Implementation." the Hluttaw listened to the people's voice and implemented the hope and wishes of the people.

The Hluttaw has been two years since the regular session of the second Pyithu Hluttaw was convened on February 1, 2016. Therefore the Hluttaw has become two years old while the government was formed by the Hluttaw.

Hluttaw representatives are the elected voices of the people and Hluttaw has the power to enact laws which can enable the performance of works to be carried out and to improve the performance of the preparatory works in accord with rules and regulations.

So long as the people are actively engaged in its functions of Legislation and Hluttaw affairs, it is no doubt that the democracy will thrive in the country and the people can fully enjoy the fruitful results of democracy.

Although the Hluttaw is still young in Myanmar, it also plays a fundamental role for the democratization process of the country. It is now in the second year of its second term following the first five-year-term.

People are relying on the Hluttaw as an institution that



President U Win Myint delivers the inaugural speech after taking the oath of office at Pyidaungsu Hluttaw. **PHOTO: MNA**



President U Win Myint, centre, flanked by vice presidents U Myint Swe, left, and U Henry Van Thio, right, take their oaths of office at the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw. **PHOTO: MNA**



Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than addresses the ceremony of the International Day of Democracy 2017. **PHOTO: MNA**

will enact laws for the interests of the people. A country's development, strength and power depend much upon peace and stability. Peace and stability is sustainable

only when there is rule of law which is a good sign for Hluttaw and each independent human being must be treated equally by the law and law is made by people.

Therefore Hluttaw is an essential institution and law is needed for the stability of a country and to keep the machinery of the government running and thus laws are be-

ing enacted. It will be valuable for the people and the country only if these laws are fair. The Hluttaw should be an institution that will lead towards rule of law.

Hluttaw consists of Hluttaw representatives from all over the country who came about with union spirit. Representatives meet at the Hluttaw and they can learn and understand each other more. Thus representatives of Hluttaw are needed to strive for perpetuation and unity of the country and the union.

In this regard, the Hluttaw doesn't include only various ethnic nationals but also various organizations. It is evident that this is the sign of a democratic Hluttaw. There are many good opportunities to learn how to work together with different organizations in the Hluttaw for the interest of the country.

But for a democracy to thrive and survive, cooperation is needed to strive towards keeping on the right path. Hluttaw representatives are duty-bound to stand on the frontline in this endeavor and they need to understand that they not only represent the people but also the democratic system.

Those who work for the country do so for the next generation. Each and every representative needs to have this firmly in their minds.

Myanmar is a union formed with many ethnic nationals and they also take part in this Hluttaw. For a democratic system to progress and become established, legislative, judicial and administrative sectors play a vital role to serve the people in tandem, that's why this check and balance is a competition or alienation against each other. In order to work for the country, Hluttaw representatives should treat one another as friends and comrades so that they can effectively work for the country.

Each Hluttaw representative is needed to have goodwill towards the people and the country. It is the duty of the Hluttaw representative to use their skills properly for the interests of the people and the country.



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi delivers a speech at the ceremony to celebrate the 2nd anniversary of the 2nd Hluttaw held in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

In exercising the legislative powers entrusted to it, the Hluttaw had been enacting new laws, amending existing laws and removing outdated laws for the benefit of the country and the people.

Looking from all directions, the value of our representatives is very important.

All are needed to work together for the sake of the country. All Hluttaw representatives have an opportunity to vote correctly and they need to consider one another equally as brothers, sisters and comrades.

During the two-year-period of Hluttaw, it was evident that there has been progress in the Hluttaw representatives doing the check and balance functions which is important for the three pillars to work together.

Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than said, “During the two years period of Hluttaw session, Amyotha Hluttaw representatives have listened to the wishes and wills of the people and tabled 13 motions, asked 715 asterisk marked questions and 649 questions to which relevant ministries and union level organizations have replied to the Hluttaw.

The Hluttaw has the responsibility of overseeing the work of the judiciary and executive branches of the government to ensure that there were checks and balances. In

exercising the legislative powers entrusted to it, the Hluttaw had been enacting new laws, amending existing laws and revoked outdated laws for the benefits of the country and the people.

He stressed that the Hluttaw had enacted totaling 57 laws including 24 new laws, 24 Amendment Laws and 9 Withdrawal Law besides electing a new president in the 7th Pyidaungsu Hluttaw meeting.

There were altogether 17 committees in Amyotha Hluttaw in which each committee has performs its respective duties and regulations. During the previous two years, Amyotha Hluttaw had submitted 15 motions, and approved 8 motions which are very beneficial to the state.

Efforts are being made for the Union Government and the Hluttaws to make dramatic changes as well as reforms in the various sectors of the country and it is of vital importance to cooperate with strength and high spirits so that fruitful results will come out in the near future.

*Translated by
Win Ko Ko Aung*



Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than presents a certificate of honour to a police officer. **PHOTO: MNA**



Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than.



Pyidaungsu Hluttaw representatives arrive to attend the Hluttaw meeting. **PHOTO: MNA**



A cultural troupe performs a dance depicting “Panglong Truth” at Pyidaungsu Hluttaw. **PHOTO: MNA**

Groundless accusations are not helpful for resolving Rakhine issue

ACCUSATIONS without any strong evidence are dangerous, and it makes it difficult for any government to handle sensitive situations.

When the international community views the issues in Rakhine, the use of sensitive terms should be considered only after there is solid evidence.

The Annual Report of the Secretary-General on Conflict-Related Sexual Violence acknowledges important steps taken by Myanmar to protect the rights of women and children. However, it is most regrettable that the Tatmadaw has been in the annex of the report based on unverified allegations in spite of Myanmar's attempts to interview the alleged victims in the camps of Cox's Bazar to investigate the case. The denial of Myanmar's request for proper investigations has dashed the hopes of the Government of Myanmar.

We call for a constructive approach and understanding on the complexity of the challenges in Rakhine State. We also seek support from the international community to help our efforts in finding a durable solution.

The United Nations, as well as the ongoing bilateral cooperation with Bangladesh in the efforts to find a lasting solution to the current humanitarian problem as well as the complex situation in Rakhine.

We call for a constructive approach and understanding on the complexity of the challenges in Rakhine State. We also seek support from the international community to help our efforts in finding a durable solution.

Myanmar hopes that the international community will constructively contribute to our efforts to advance the democratization process and promote and protect human rights in line with the country's circumstances and needs.

We all condemn conflict-related sexual violence; we should also deplore the exploitation of this sensitive issue by certain groups as a tool to achieve their own political goals. The problem of sexual violence cannot be resolved through naming and blaming.

History, not the United Nations, will be the ultimate judge of what has occurred in Rakhine State. ■

Offering Myanmar fishermen some kind of assistance

By Khin Yadana

PAING Paing earned his living as a fisherman in Thai deep-sea fishing. He gazed out to sea and the open sea was his world and it was a hard life. He dreamt of staying with his family, investing a lot of energy in fishing for his family. "A living reality was worse; frankly speaking, we had to work outside the law, struggling more than 16 hours a day," he recounted his personal experience.

Brokers came to our villages to look for those who are eager to work to earn some money domestic or foreign. In addition, family members and relatives believed easily in those human traffickers, falling right into their traps. Some brokers sent them directly to the owners of fishing trawlers; some had to contact them indirectly. Through different links some Myanmar youths went to Thailand, shouldering heavy burden of debts. Very few fishermen knew they had been working under fake documents. These occurrences happened during 1990s.

Fishing trawlers are still found to fish illegally near the Thai borders or Myanmar territory, according to some estimates of International Labour Organization. "In 2015, Thai government allowed registered fishing trawlers in their waters. For example, before letting the trawlers go out for fishing, examination of a number of crew is carried out; Myanmar crew were left behind in the sea; in this way they had to spend in sea or on islands for months; and through a lack of extensive search and arrest, the crew secretly came to land. Some crew while on land and thinking of abandoning the boat, they realized they had no legal documents to go anywhere. Once the trawlers dock into dock, the crew are closed or cornered." In accordance with investigations by the Associated Press about the Bungina accident, as many as 1000 sailors or crew were sent back to their



them back to human traffickers and bullying, threatening and frightening them, according to a survey by International Labor Organization.

"In 2015, Thai government allowed registered fishing trawlers in their waters. For example, before letting the trawlers go out for fishing, examination of a number of crew is carried out; Myanmar crew were left behind in the sea; in this way they had to spend in sea or on islands for months; and through a lack of extensive search and arrest, the crew secretly came to land. Some crew while on land and thinking of abandoning the boat, they realized they had no legal documents to go anywhere. Once the trawlers dock into dock, the crew are closed or cornered." In accordance with investigations by the Associated Press about the Bungina accident, as many as 1000 sailors or crew were sent back to their

Fishing trawlers are still found to fish illegally near the Thai borders or Myanmar territory, according to some estimates of International Labour Organization.

respective countries in cooperation with their governments.

Free but without getting any chance

After spending several years on the islands, fishermen were swindled out of five-year earnings by promising in a matter of few months; after rescue they had to spend some years for the second time in guest-houses. "we were rescued as we were in trouble. We were put in guest

houses if something happened. This is the second time I had been trafficked and stayed at a guest house more than a year. We had to abide by strict laws; we had to deal with officers cleverly; while in court, we had to restrain ourselves from saying something rude. Again under investigation we had to rely on the interpreters. When Myanmar authorities concerned came to us, we were very happy. For most of the time strict actions

were not taken against us. After all, our salaries amounted to more than a million Baht. Not settled yet, but legal proceedings went on as usual. Little support from our side. It all happened in Thailand. Thanks for authorities who brought us back to our homeland." Ko Myo recounted his personal experiences while he stayed in a guest house facing charges against him.

Why are we suffering like this?

Due to lack of knowledge about Thai laws; working rules

and regulations for Myanmar workers; Very few people go to Thailand with work permits; easily falling into a trick of lies and deceits, according to estimates of Isara Institute. On the Myanmar workers' side when in trouble, they are very weak in solving their problems; they haven't made any enquiries about the work and salaries and not conversant about working conditions when they are in need. Myanmar workers should be prevented not to go without any preparations and documents.

"Our workers are highly exploited in terms of workforce, services, trafficking and other matters; The standard of accountability and responsibility. For instance a certain brand cannot measure the only quality of the material. Where do they get raw materials from? Step-by-step inspection is carried out to put the end products on the shelves in the market.

That is why fishermen as well as factory workers could send their complaint about how raw materials are obtained and which brand belongs to whom. The end products made with full rights should go to real consumers. This kind of practice is being done internationally" said Daw Ei Ei Chaw, Executive director from Myanmar Isara.

Isara Institute in cooperation with Departments of Labor, Immigration and Manpower have held workshops since 3 April for migrant workers on how to avoid dangers and health hazards; to submit a survey report on them and ways and means of protecting Myanmar migrant workers with a close cooperation with civil departments.

In this way, ways and means of protecting Myanmar migrant workers including fishermen and their working conditions in fishing trawlers and factories will soon be successfully carried out in the near future. ■

Translated by Arakan Sein

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

It is shocking to read the article "when red silk trees bloom, rabbit dogs roam" on your esteemed newspaper dated on 23rd March 2018. It is surprising to know that 75 % of stray dogs in this country have rabies. "unconfirmed report". It is too alarming that Myanmar ranks second with 1000 people dying from rabies infection, while India stands first with 20000 deaths annually.

Myanmar is a home of 50 million, sharing a living space with a dog population of 4 million. Sadly enough, out of these, 60000 people, mostly children are fallen prey to dog bites each year. Does the authorities know it? The answer is yes. Then why these stray rabid dogs are roaming unchecked. Mostly our residential areas are swarming with stray dogs and hence dogs poo and feces are littered everywhere on pavements. Serenity of night and dawn are overwhelmed with barking, howling and whining. The parade of venerable monks in the morning, school children, pedestrians are manytimes a hinderance and feel disgusting due to littered feces. Many dogs lovers blindly feed them on walking street, sometimes at door step. Some let their pets to pee and poo in the street indiscriminately. Feeding them is appreciative and meritorious but disturbing others is dismerit. Once solve it, taking injection after bite is not a solution for rabies. If bitten, how would not be able to find owners. Nobody comes out to wonder why not a sustainable long term solution such as registering the dogs vaccination of the dogs, leashing area for the dogs and shed for the dogs.

I am not an opponent of dogs. I am not with the dogs killing and culling by poisoning them.

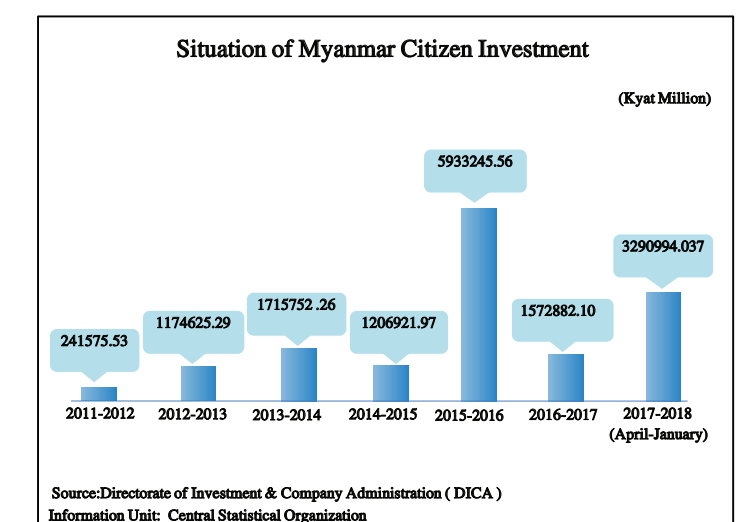
I love pets especially dogs but not with the stray dogs.

My concern is with valueable life of a man, school children.

Hope authority would beef up fight and find ways for it.

Sincerely

*Maung Ni
44, 89 th Street 2nd Floor
Kandaw Kalay
M.T.N.T T/S, YGN*



Invitation to young writers for Sunday section

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

The Office of the Union Attorney-General UAGO playing a role in the legislative sector, the administrative sector and the judicial sector



Participants speaking at the panel discussion on Path Forward to Implement the Code of Ethics in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**



Union Attorney-General U Tun Tun Oo delivers the address at the opening ceremony of Magway District and Township Court in Magway. **PHOTO: MNA**



During the second year we gave 745 advices in connection with international and regional agreements and MoUs and 31 advices to region and state governments.



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi delivers the address at the Conference on Justice Sector Coordinating for Rule of Law at the MICC-II in Nay Pyi Taw on 7 March 2018. **PHOTO: MNA**

By July Moe
(Myanma Alinn)

THE government has been combating corruption with all-out efforts in accord with the law, without any having favoritism. The Office of the Union Attorney-General UAGO is also a significant player in this endeavour. Law officers have the duty to give appropriate legal punishment to those who are guilty, and protect the innocent under the umbrella of the law. The following is an interview with the Union Attorney-General U Tun Tun Oo.

Q: The Office of the Union Attorney-General UAGO is involving in all the three organs of power – the legislative power, the administrative power and the judicial power. Please explain your role in the legislative sector and the effectiveness of the work.

A: The final body of the legislation is the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw (Union Parliament). First bills are written and submitted to discuss in the Hluttaw. There are two bodies to deal with the bills. The first is the government departments and the second the MPs of the Hluttaw.

Our office checks the bills and give suggestions on them. Then the bills are sent to the government for approval. Then they were discussed at the Hluttaw. The relevant bill committees continued discussions with the relevant departments and our office. Moreover, we also deal with bills drawn by Pyidaungsu Hluttaw's Legal Affairs and Special Cases Assessment Commission. We have scrutinized and gave suggestions on 118 bills and 165 rules, regulations, orders and directives during the two-year term of the government. We have to check whether the bills do not oppose the existing laws, they are just and fair, they serve the majority interest, they are practical, they are overlapping and they are in accord with the fundamental principles. During the period we could scrutinize a certain number of important bills in connection with registration, rural development, hate speech protection, consumer protection, violence against women, communications, companies act, forestry, and tax.

Q: What about UAGO's involvement in the government's administrative sector.

A: We gave legal advice to anybody whether it is the President's Office or the Union Gov-

ernment Office or any Union level bodies in connection with the administrative affairs.

During the second year we gave 745 advices in connection with international and regional agreements and MoUs and 31 advices to region and state governments. We gave legal advices for international conventions and protocols such as the Myanmar-EU investment promotion and protection and the Myanmar-Singapore investment promotion and protection in which Myanmar will become a member. We also deal with conventions and protocols on economy and most of them concern with production-sharing agreements on minerals and construction contracts. Recently we have checked 548 business agreements between the ministries and the local and foreign companies and 221 cases sent by the Offices of Advocate General of the regions and states governments and our branches. Our involvement with the administrative committees, legal affairs committees and investment committees of Dawei and Kyaukpadaung special economic zones is important. We have helped solve 433 general cases including social affairs, legal punishments, and paroles.

SEE PAGE-11



Members of Union Attorney-General's Office discuss matters project on establishment of Law Information System in Myanmar with KOICA's members. **PHOTO: MNA**

The Office of the Union Attorney-General-UAGO playing a role in the legislative sector, the administrative sector and the judicial sector



Workshop for prosecutors held in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA

FROM PAGE-10

Q: Your participation in cases in connection with the law suits and criminal cases.

A: UAGO at different levels serve as prosecutors of the government in various cases. The branches of UAGO at region/state levels, district levels and townships levels have gave nearly 77,000 legal advices in connection with this matter. Recently they have taken part in the over 9000 amended cases, over 5000 appeals, 10518 withdrawals and nearly 300 civil law cases. As for the UAGO it took part in the 86 certiorari cases at the Union level and two case at the Union Election Commission Office. It is striving for the rule of law and to prevent occurrence of delays in the legal cases. Since 2016 it has been opening pilot law officers to deal with the matter.

Q: We know that UAGO is serving as the chair of the co-ordination body to ensure the rule of law and justice. What are the functions in connection with the rule of law?

A: The Union government formed the body in February last year. It then formed the sub-committees in all regions and states for the effectiveness of the work. The coordination bodies are coordinating with the relevant departments in making fair decisions for the complaints presented by the people. Recently they have solved over 500 cases through coordinated efforts. The Conference on Justice Sector Coordinating for Rule of Law was held on March 7 and 8. The conference could find more effective ways and means to implement the tasks of the bodies. So, we hope that they will gain greater success in the future.

Q: Please elaborate on the establishment of the Myanmar Law Information System by the UAGO.

A: UAGO has set up the Myanmar Law Information System in cooperation with Ministry of Legislation of the Republic of Korea under the assistance of KOICA. The aim is to ensure a single Online site for the public to find all legal information and facts in disseminating awareness of the rule of law and legal knowledge.

The UAGO is making efforts to post a comprehensive array of gazettes issued in Myanmar since 1870, the Burma Code VOL 1 to 13, laws Myanmar has enacted since 1955 and their rules, principles, orders, directives, regulations on the Myanmar Law Information System website. In addition, latest developments on the laws including amendments and additions if any will be posted in real time. People can also easily find an international convention or a protocol in which Myanmar is a member on the website. Search can be made categorically or in alphabetic order or just by tying a word or a sentence of the respective law. The Myanmar Law Information System will be a reliable source or reference for legal experts, students, researchers, media persons and those who are interested in legal affairs.

Q: Please share knowledge on the Supreme Court Lawyers Council.

I am the chair of the council. It is formed with 11 members. The council deals with the complaints against lawyers and the application for its membership. Recently we are making a review of the council act to introduce amendments as necessary to be

in conformity with the advancing era. The council holds its work meeting twice a year.

Q: What about the progress in the issuance of the Fair Trial Standards and codes of conduct for advocates.

A: We have published a book on Fair Trial Standards with the assistance of UNDP and IDLO with the aim of supporting the rule of law and justice.

The book includes international standards, internal laws and judicial procedures. The standards deal with matters to ensure equality before the law and social and legal benefits and protection.

Law officers will be able to handle the cases effectively by studying and applying the said standards. Civil rights can also be protected under the law thanks to the standards. Law officers should have the dignity as they are legal servants of the State. So codes of conduct for advocates have been issued in cooperation with UNDP. A law officer must have the Integrity, Impartiality, Propriety, Equality, Competence and Due Diligence, and Responsibility and Accountability in every case.

Q: What is your human resources development plan?

A: The UAGO is regularly conducting law officer grade-4 courses and refresher courses. And annually it is conducting special courses such as English proficiency courses and computer courses.

As for the UAGO it took part in the 86 certiorari cases at the Union level and two case at the Union Election Commission Office.

Nearly 600 attended the courses opened by the Central Institute of Civil Servant, other ministries and international organizations. Nearly 100 law officers were sent to 18 countries to attend international workshops,

meetings and courses. Arrangements are being made for law officers to attend master's degree courses and doctorate degree courses. Currently 21 per cent of laws officers are master's degree holders and there are 15 Ph.D. holders. Continuous efforts are being made for further development of human resources.

Q: What are your methods to inform the public?

A: We are trying to open public relations units at all law offices to provide necessary facts and legal knowledge for the people in serving their needs. We opened a media course in cooperation with the USAID. We have already adopted rules for the public relations officers. We have added extra space in our new branch buildings to serve as information counters.

Q: Any more to tell us?

A: We are training our law officers to become trustworthy persons for the people, who stand and work by the law and to provide legal protection for the people. We would like to request public participation to reach this end.

(Translated by TMT)



The signing ceremony of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Union Attorney-General's Office and Supreme Court of Japan. PHOTO: MNA



Participants pose for the documentary photo at workshop on Development of Police-Prosecutor Cooperation Guidelines at Parkroyal Hotel in Yangon. PHOTO: MNA

Spreading student protests, train strikes pressure Macron

PARIS (France) — Train drivers, public sector workers and students sought to pile pressure on French President Emmanuel Macron on Wednesday as fresh stoppages on the railways and new protests disrupted travel and universities.

Students occupied the prestigious Sciences Po university in Paris overnight, the latest campus to be blocked by protesters over university reforms which critics see as part of a rollback of public services.

“Sciences Po students against Macron’s dictatorship,” read a banner hung from a window of the Paris university, which has groomed gen-

erations of French politicians, including 40-year-old Macron.

The protest, which follows weeks of sit-ins and demonstrations at several universities around the country, came as railway workers launched a fourth round of strikes which led to mass cancellations nation-wide.

One in three high-speed TGVs and one in four inter-city trains were scheduled on Wednesday and Thursday.

Eurostar services to London will be only marginally affected however, with four out of five trains set to run as announced.

On Thursday, civil servants, workers in

state retirement homes and students have all been called to demonstrate — the second in a month after a day of protests on 22 March which brought around 300,000 onto the street, according to police figures.

Unlike last time, the Paris metro also faces disruptions on Thursday.

Adding to the growing picture of defiance, the head of the energy

branch of the hardline CGT union, Sebastien Menesplier, also announced on Wednesday that workers were looking at “targeted” power cuts.

Macron, who sees his own credibility as a reformer on the line as he prepares to mark the

first anniversary of his presidency on 14 May, has insisted he will not back down on his bid to shake up the big-spending public sector.

The ambitious young centrist, elected at the head of his own party last May, is also facing resistance in Europe to his plans to shake up the European Union where Germany has cooled on some of his plans.

On Tuesday, he received a rousing endorsement from the French parliament, however, where members of the lower house voted overwhelmingly in favour of his reform of the heavily indebted state rail operator SNCF. — AFP ■

WWII bomb to force mass evacuation in central Berlin Friday

BERLIN (Germany) — The discovery of an unexploded World War II bomb will force a mass evacuation around Berlin’s central railway station on Friday, covering several government ministries and a hospital, police said.

Buildings and streets in a radius of 800 metres (875 yards) around the site north of the busy train station will be cleared from 0700 GMT until the 500-kilogramme (1,100-pound) explosive is safely defused, they said on Twitter on Wednesday.

The evacuation zone covers the central railway station, the economy and transport ministries, an army hospital and the embassies of In-

donesia and Uzbekistan, a police spokesman told AFP.

Police said it was not yet clear how many thousands of people would be affected but predicted to local media that “it will be big, it will be a major hassle”.

The Deutsche Bahn rail company and urban transport operators prepared for large-scale disruptions around the central hub for trains, trams and buses.

The bomb, which was discovered during construction work on Heidestrasse in the district of Mitte, was “safe for now”, police said, reassuring nearby residents that “there is no immediate danger”. — AFP ■

CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE

M.V NAVI SUNNY VOY. NO. (-)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V NAVI SUNNY VOY. NO. (-) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 19-4-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of SPW-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.

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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.

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M.V K SPINEL VOY. NO. (-)

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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.

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The comments came after US President Donald Trump said the summit between North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and the South's President Moon Jae-in could include a discussion about a peace treaty. Pictured: Kim meeting South Korean chief delegator Chung Eui-yong on 5 March during a meeting to defuse tensions between the Koreas. **PHOTO: AFP**

Seoul to seek deal on formally ending war with North Korea

SEOUL — South Korea is seeking to open discussions about formally declaring an end to the war with the nuclear-armed North at a rare inter-Korean summit next week, officials said on Wednesday.

“We are looking at the possibility of replacing the armistice regime on the Korean peninsula with a peace regime,” a senior official at the presidential Blue House told reporters.

“But this is not something we can do by ourselves. It needs close discussions with relevant parties including North Korea.”

The comments came after US President Donald Trump said that the summit between North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and the South's President Moon Jae-in could, with his “blessing”, discuss a peace treaty to formally close the conflict.

The 1950-53 Korean War ended in an armistice rather than a peace treaty, leaving the two sides technically at war. The Demilitarised Zone between them bristles with minefields and fortifications.

But reaching any final treaty would be

fraught with complications.

“The peace treaty is a very difficult problem,” said Koo Kab-woo, a professor at the University of North Korean Studies.

While the US-led United Nations command, China and North Korea are signatories to the decades-old armistice, South Korea is not.

Both Pyongyang and Seoul claim sovereignty over the whole Korean peninsula, but a treaty could imply mutual recognition of each other.

The North would be likely to demand the withdrawal of US troops, while the South's national security adviser Chung Eui-yong said on Wednesday that Seoul and Washington wanted to see Pyongyang give up its nuclear ambitions.

In meetings with his newly-appointed US counterpart John Bolton, the two had discussed ways to “establish an ultimate peace regime”, but only if the North “makes the correct decision”, he said.

Pyongyang has in the past demanded a peace treaty with the US, describing them as the two direct parties in the conflict.

“South Korea is a di-

rect party. Who can argue that?” the Blue House official said.

The two Koreas could first reach an agreement which would be followed by a meeting between Kim and Trump and a trilateral summit to seal the deal, he suggested.

But four-party talks could also be needed, he added, in a reference to China.

But he cautioned “I am not sure if we will use the expression ‘ending the war’” at the summit. “We want to reach an agreement on banning hostile activities between the South and North,” he added.

Even if such an agreement was reached, professor Koo said, it would be largely “symbolic”.

“There is no mention of how to go from declaring an end to the war to signing a peace treaty, he added.

The two Koreas will hold what will be their third summit since the 1950-53 Korean War next Friday, with a subsequent meeting planned between Kim and Trump — which would be the first time a sitting US president had met the North's leader.

—AFP ■

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

Tender No: 1/MR(MC)/EDCF(MYA-9)/2018-19

Date : 20th April, 2018

Invitation for Bids (IFB)

1. Myanma Railways invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for Procurement of 100 Nos. Passenger Coaches. Only Korea Companies can be participated under EDCF Loan Agreement No. MYA-9 by Export-Import Bank of Korea.
2. Bidding will be conducted through Competitive Bidding (CB) procedures specified in the Guideline for Procurement under EDCF Loans and it is open to all eligible bidders that meet the minimum qualification criteria. Details for minimum qualification criteria are available at “www.motc.gov.mm/my/tenders_listing”.
3. Interested eligible Bidders may purchase the bidding documents at the address below from 9:30 am to 4:30 pm on business days up to **22nd May, 2018**. A complete set of bidding documents may be purchased by any eligible Bidders on the submission of a written application to the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee of USD 400 (United States Dollar four hundred only) in cash.
 - Deputy General Manager (Planning), Head Office of Myanma Railways at Nay Pyi Taw Railways Station Compound, Pobba Thiri Township, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.
 - Telephone: +95-67-77024
4. Bids must be delivered to the address above mentioned on or before the closing date and time for submission of Bid **5th June, 2018 at 1:00pm** (Myanmar Standard Time).
5. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security of USD 900,000.00 (United States Dollar nine hundred thousand only). Late bids shall be rejected.
6. Technical bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidder's representatives who choose to attend at the address above mentioned at **5th June, 2018 at 2:00pm** (Myanmar Standard Time).
7. Myanma Railways will not be responsible for any costs or expenses incurred by Bidders in connection with the preparation or delivery of Bids.

Managing Director, Myanma Railways

For clarification (E-mail: dgmplan.rail@mrt.gov.mm/dgm.planning.mr@gmail.com)

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population Social Security Board Postponing of Tender Proposal Deadline for Social Security Board Information System

1. Social Security Board has announced the open tender to implement the Social Security Board Information System for promoting the employer and employee registration process, contribution collection process, medical services provision process and benefit and claims management process on national newspapers from 17-3-2018 to 20-3-2018 and the tender proposal (RFP) submitting date was already defined as 11-5-2018 by the tender form buying companies.
2. According to the request letters of the companies, the Social Security Board Information System project was very complex and it needs to have enough time for studying the social security's core business processes, therefore, all tender submitting companies have to submit the proposal (RFP) on 2018, May (31) instead of 11-5-2018 at Social Security Board (Head Office), No (OU- 77), Corner of /Between ThiriYadanar Road and Naykyar (8) Street, Ottarathiri Township, Naypyitaw, Myanmar during office hours. Any tender proposal will not be received after the deadline for submission and the tendering processes are described as follows:

No	Description	Date and Time
(A)	The tender proposal submitting date (Both Technical Proposal and Commercial Proposal)	31-5-2018 (within office hour)
(B)	For evaluating the Technical proposals (the selected companies will be evaluated) (the companies that have the technical evaluation 70 % will select as the selected companies)	From 4-6-2018 To 15-6-2018
(C)	Presentation by the selected companies (2 hours per company including questions and answers)	From 18-6-2018 To 19-6-2018 20-6-2018 (Reserved Day) (10:00) AM
(D)	The commercial proposal that submitted by the selected companies opening and tender evaluation process	25-6-2018 (Or) 27-6-2018 (10:00) AM
(E)	The winner tender company inform and announce at the ministry website	29-6-2018

3. Any Tender Proposal that are torn sealed envelopes and applied by e-mail cannot be accepted.
4. For further detail information, please visit Ministry of Labor, Immigration and Population website <http://www.mol.gov.mm> and inquire, phone number 067- 3417925 and 067-3417951 and e-mail (ssbitsection@gmail.com) during office hours.

Tender Invitation and Appraisal Committee
Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population

circulation@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

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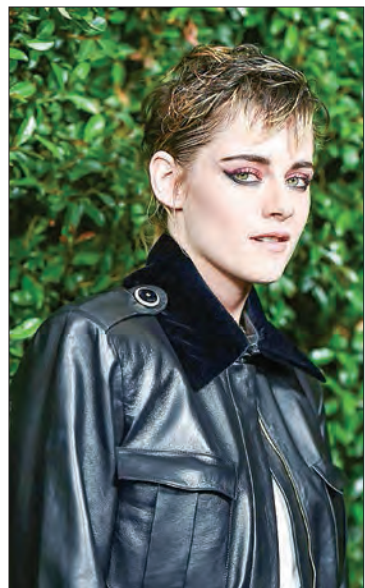
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09-254435478

Female stars dominate Cannes festival jury

PARIS (France) — Hollywood actresses Cate Blanchett, Kristen Stewart and Lea Seydoux will head a starry female-dominated jury at the Cannes film festival next month, the organisers said on Wednesday.

American writer-director Ava DuVernay of “Selma” fame and Burundian singer and composer Khadja Nin complete the five women on the nine-person jury that will decide the top Palme d’Or prize.

In a year when the #MeToo movement has dominated the headlines, and with only three female directors among the 18 in competition, the organisers clearly felt the need to make a stronger gesture towards women.



Kristen Stewart . PHOTO: AFP

They had already announced earlier this year that the Australian-born Blanchett would head the jury.

At least four of the assaults on actresses of which the disgraced movie mogul Harvey Weinstein is accused are alleged to have taken place at Cannes.

Italian actress Asia Argento said that the producer raped her in his hotel there when she was 21.

Von Trier may return

Yet as the majority-female jury was unveiled talks were under way behind the scenes to allow the banned Danish director Lars Von Trier, who has denied sexual harassment claims from singer Bjork, back into the competition.

Von Trier was barred from Cannes in 2011 for saying he was a Nazi, and the Icelandic star — who won best actress at Cannes in 2000 for her performance in his musical “Dancer in the Dark” — claimed in October that he had harassed her on set.

However, Cannes director Thierry Fremaux strongly hinted Tuesday that Von Trier was on the point of being brought back into the fold.

He said that with the notoriously demanding director finishing his serial killer flick, “The House That Jack Built”, the festival’s president Pierre Lescure was working hard to “lift

the status of persona non grata”.

Tensions between Bjork and Von Trier were clear when their film premiered at Cannes and in October she said that on set she “became aware... that it is a universal thing that a director can touch and harass his actresses at will and the institution of film allows it”.

Von Trier denied the claims and his producer Peter Aalbaek Jensen told the Danish daily Jyllands Posten that it was he and Von Trier who “were the victims”.

Highly political

“As far as I remember we were the victims. That woman was stronger than both Lars Von Trier and me and our company put together,” he said.

The remaining male members of the Cannes jury include Taiwanese actor Chang Chen, Canadian director Denis Villeneuve and French writer Robert Guediguian.

The organizers said on Tuesday that Russian auteur Andrei Zvyagintsev, the maker of such classics as “The Return” and “Leviathan”, would also be one of the nine.

Stewart, 28, has long been a darling of the world’s top film festival, appearing in the main competition in “On the Road” by Walter Salles in 2012 and Olivier Assayas’ “Clouds of Sils Maria” and Woody Allen’s “Cafe Society”



Lea Seydoux . PHOTO: AFP

in 2014.

She also premiered her first short film as a director, “Come Swim”, last year at the festival.

French actress Seydoux, who starred in the James Bond film “Spectre”, was a joint winner of the Palme d’Or in 2013 for the controversial lesbian love story “Blue is the Warmest Colour”.

The inclusion of Von Trier’s new film, which stars Uma Thurman, Riley Keough and Matt Dillon, would help to give a little more star power to a highly-political Cannes line-up.

Two of the directors competing for the Palme d’Or, Iranian master Jafar Panahi and Russian

director Kirill Serebrennikov, are banned from leaving their countries and look certain not to attend.

Fremaux has pleaded with the Kremlin for Serebrennikov, who is under house arrest for controversial charges of money laundering, to be allowed to travel to Cannes to premiere his film.

The French authorities have made a similar request for Panahi, maker of “Taxi Tehran”, who has faced arrest, imprisonment and a bar on making films in his homeland.

This year’s festival runs from 8 to 19 May at the French Riviera resort.—AFP ■

Saudi Arabia to host cinema test screening with ‘Black Panther’

RIYADH — Blockbuster action flick “Black Panther” will play at a cinema test screening in Saudi Arabia on Wednesday, the first in a series of trial runs before movie theatres open to the wider public next month.

The conservative kingdom lifted a 35-year ban on cinemas last year as part of a far-reaching liberalisation drive, with US giant AMC Entertainment granted the first licence to operate movie theatres.

Anticipation had been building after the authorities announced earlier this month that Saudi Arabia’s first cinema in over three decades would open on Wednesday in Riyadh.

But officials this week said it would be a test screening at the new cinema in the King Abdullah Financial District and movie theatres are expected to open to

the public in May.

“It will be the first in a series of test screenings, attended by industry specialists, that will be held... to support final preparations for the opening of the cinema to the wider public,” said the information ministry’s



Saudi women enjoy a rare trip to the movies on October 20, 2017 at a cultural centre in Riyadh. PHOTO: AFP

Centre for International Communication.

AMC Entertainment, whose chief executive Adam Aron will attend Wednesday’s screening, signed a non-binding agreement in December with Saudi Arabia’s Public Investment Fund to build

and operate cinemas across the kingdom.

Saudi state media has said the company expects to open 40 cinemas across 15 Saudi cities over the next five years.

International theatre chains have long eyed the kingdom as the Middle East’s last untapped mass market of more than 30 million people, the majority of whom are under 25.

AMC will still face stiff competition from other heavyweights including Dubai-based VOX Cinemas, the leading operator in the Middle East.

The move to reopen cinemas is part of a modernisation drive by Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, who is seeking to balance unpopular subsidy cuts in an era of low oil prices with more entertainment options — despite opposition from reli-

gious hardliners.

Long known for its ultra-conservative mores, the kingdom has embarked on a wide-ranging programme of social reforms that includes boosting sports and entertainment and allowing women to drive from June.

In February, Saudi Arabia’s General Entertainment Authority announced it will stage more than 5,000 festivals and concerts in 2018, double the number of last year, and pump \$64 billion in the sector in the coming decade.

The reform stems partly from an economic motive to boost domestic spending on entertainment as the kingdom reels from an oil slump since 2014. Saudis currently splurge billions of dollars annually to see films and visit amusement parks in neighbouring tourist hubs like Dubai.—AFP ■

China's 'Hawaii' to allow horse racing, sports lotteries

HAINAN—China is encouraging its southern island of Hainan to develop horse racing and introduce a raft of reforms as Beijing pushes the tropical tourism destination as a beacon of openness.

The province will be urged to explore opening new types of lotteries connected to sports and international competitions, according to the guiding opinion jointly issued by the Communist Party Central Committee and State Council which was published on Saturday by state news agency Xinhua.

It marks a change of tack for the Communist government which has long banned most forms of gambling in mainland China and comes against the backdrop of its massive campaign against corruption.

But those concerns appear to be taking a back seat as Beijing looks to ramp up consumption to fuel China's economy and rebalance away from the investment and exports that have led the way for four decades.

The plan aims to make Hainan,



Hainan has not proven an international draw so far, attracting fewer than a million foreign visitors in 2016. **PHOTO: AFP**

an, an island off China's southern coast, a "trial free trade zone" to try out the reforms Beijing has pledged to bring to the mainland for years with few tangible successes.

The outline comes days after President Xi Jinping pledged a "new phase of openness" for China at Hainan's annual Boao Forum for Asia, a Davos-like meeting of international leaders.

We will "build Hainan into an important open door for China onto the Pacific and Indian oceans", the plan says.

Sectors to open up to further foreign investment include

healthcare, education, sports, communications, internet, culture and finance. Beijing also wants to position Hainan as a "centre of international tourism consumption", a goal which has faced halting progress despite sandy beaches and massive spending on plush resorts.

The province has not proven an international draw so far, attracting fewer than a million foreign visitors in 2016 — compared with over seven million in Thailand's Phuket, according to data compiled by Bloomberg News. As part of making the island green and sustainable, the reform package will push the introduction of electric vehicles and "gradually prohibit sales of gasoline-powered vehicles", Xinhua said.

Development of a gaming and tourism industry in Hainan could also create a new rival for semi-autonomous Macau, the world's largest gaming market and the only part of China where casino gambling is legal, dwarfing Las Vegas.—AFP ■

N Korea provides state-of-the-art technology for future teachers

PYONGYANG —North Korea has recently started to introduce state-of-the-art technology for the training of future schoolteachers in a possible world first.

At the newly remodeled Pyongyang Teacher Training College, the mostly female students study how to educate kindergartners and primary school children with the aid of virtual reality and 3D display technologies.

A group of Kyodo News reporters was granted rare access to the college late last week.

In one classroom is installed a large widescreen monitor on which are displayed animated avatars representing primary school pupils. Speaking to the virtual children through a microphone, they respond in a timely manner.

When a college student asked one animated pupil on the screen how he is, the boy quickly answered, "I'm very fine," just like a teacher and a child communicating in a real classroom.

The training programme is apparently powered by artificial intelligence. But sometimes, other college students

play the role of primary school pupils in a different classroom so that they can observe teachers' personality and behavior through the eyes of children, the college said.

By creating a situation more closely simulating reality, college students can learn how to interact with children more effectively, it said.

The college students also utilize projection mapping, in which images are mapped onto 3D objects, and augmented reality, a technology that overlays digital images onto the real world. They can experience the natural environment and get a close look at the lives of wild animals and birds using 3D virtual reality goggles, as well as feel how things change their forms by scooping sand projected on the screen with their hands.

A sphere with projection mapping technology instantly becomes Venus, Earth, Mars and Jupiter, and other planets. College students can visually recognize what the differences between stars are.

These cannot be learned from textbooks.

The college said it has developed a curriculum that can



A student at North Korea's Pyongyang Teacher Training College speaks to virtual students during a training program powered by artificial intelligence on 13 April, 2018. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**

enable teachers in the making to acquire teaching skills both physically and theoretically, while putting emphasis on North Korea's traditional ways to raise children.

"Have you ever seen such a place in other countries?" said Pak Gum Hui, the 44-year-old president of the college. "Our programme is globally advanced."

In North Korea, there is a tradition that teachers, family and society cooperate to foster children. At the college, therefore, students are required to learn how to educate mothers and to communicate closely

with family to shape children's characters.

Tapping into advanced technologies, "We are also trying to promote the combination of school education and family education," Pak said.

The Pyongyang Teacher Training College, founded in 1968, has around 1,600 students. This year marks the 50th anniversary of its foundation.

The number of applicants has increased every year, the college said, adding that the acceptance rate has been about 20 percent in recent years. Nearly 70 per cent of kindergarten and primary school teachers are

female in North Korea.

In February 2017, North Korean leader Kim Jong Un gave instructions to turn the college into a model put on a scientific, information technology and modern basis at a high level and generalize it across the country, according to state-run media.

The project for upgrading the college, which has a total floor space of over 24,000 square meters, was concluded in October last year.

In January, the leader visited the college and expressed satisfaction at the state of its "ultra-modern education facilities," the Korean Central News Agency reported.

Students in North Korea have to complete 12 years of compulsory education prior to college — one year in kindergarten, five years in primary school, three years in lower secondary school and another three years in higher secondary school.

Would-be teachers were seen taking classes with earnest facial expressions. During a break, they were walking with smiles on the campus, saying "hi" to passersby.—Kyodo News ■

Pochettino defends team selection as Man Utd cup tie looms

LONDON, United Kingdom — Mauricio Pochettino defended his team selection after Tottenham dropped points against Brighton, denying this week-end's FA Cup semi-final against Manchester United influenced his decision.

The Spurs boss made six changes to his starting line-up and then saw his team drop two points in their quest to secure Champions League qualification.

Despite the 1-1 draw, the north London club remain in a strong position to finish in the top four, eight points clear of fifth-placed Chelsea.

Tottenham now turn their attention to Saturday's meeting with Jose Mourinho's United at Wembley as they attempt to end a 10-year wait for silverware.

Pochettino was adamant the important cup clash had no bearing on his team selection on Tuesday.

"I was thinking today and trying to win," said Pochettino. "Some players needed to rest, some players needed to stay on the bench and I think we have a strong squad."

"Everyone is ready to play and it was a moment to give some fresh legs to the team but we were thinking about trying to

win." England midfielder Dele Alli and centre-back Davinson Sanchez were omitted from Pochettino's squad while Kieran Trippier, Mousa Dembele, Eric Dier and Erik Lamela dropped to the bench.

Top scorer Harry Kane swept Spurs ahead early in the second half with his 26th league goal of the season but Pascal Gross equalised from the penalty spot.

Brighton are now eight points clear of the relegation zone with just four games to go but manager Chris Hughton said the side were not yet safe. —AFP ■



Tottenham striker Harry Kane applauds the fans following the Premier League match against Brighton on 17 April, 2018. **PHOTO: AFP**

Matthysse vows fight 'to the death' against Pacquiao

MANILA (Philippines) — World champion Lucas Matthysse on Wednesday vowed a fight "to the death" in his July title defence against Manny Pacquiao, calling the Philippine boxing star "past his prime". But the 35-year-old Argentine — who took the vacant World Boxing Association welterweight title in January — said it was still a "dream-come-true" and "an honour" to face Pacquiao, winner of eight unprecedented world titles in different weight classes.

"Obviously he is still a very great fighter but since the knockout of Marquez, I think he is not the same fighter anymore," Matthysse said at a joint news conference in Manila, referring to the Filipino's sensational 2012 knockout loss to Juan Manuel

Marquez.

Pacquiao, 39, will fight Matthysse for the WBA welterweight belt on 15 July in Malaysia's capital Kuala Lumpur.

The Filipino has 59 wins with 38 knockouts in his career, and is currently a senator in the Philippine parliament. Many in the country believe he will one day run for president, but Pacquiao has insisted that he is happier in the ring than in politics.

But Matthysse — who has 39 wins with 36 knockouts in 43 matches — said he was not fazed by the status of his opponent.

"Sure, Manny has won so many titles... I (have) only won one title. I am not going to give it up. I will die for it if I have to," he said. "I will defend this title to the death." Pacquiao has not fought

since he lost his World Boxing Organization welterweight crown in a shock points defeat to Australia's Jeff Horn last year, and has not knocked out an opponent in nearly nine years.

He insisted, however, that he was far from finished.

"That is what I am trying to prove this coming 15 July that Manny Pacquiao is not done yet in boxing," he said. "I keep on fighting because boxing is my passion and I love raising the flag of the Philippines." After the Matthysse fight, Pacquiao has said he wants to take on Vasyl Lomachenko, the Ukrainian superfeatherweight WBO champion currently considered by many to be the world's top "pound-for-pound" fighter, an unofficial honour Pacquiao once held. —AFP ■



Manny Pacquiao (centre L) will fight Lucas Matthysse (centre R) for the WBA welterweight title in July. **PHOTO: AFP**

Defending champion Myanmar in Group A in Brunei tourney

THE Myanmar U-21 national football team, the defending champions of the Hassanal Bolkiah Trophy for ASEAN Youth Football Championship, is in Group A along with host Brunei, Thailand and Timor Leste, it was announced yesterday.

Myanmar will take on Thailand in their opening game on 24 April, then play Timor Leste on 27 April and Brunei on 30 April.

The participating teams were divided into two groups, with the host nation able to choose in which group to be placed. A total of seven teams — Myanmar, Brunei, Thailand,

Timor Leste, Laos, Singapore and Cambodia — will be fighting for the tourney's trophy.

Only three teams — Laos, Singapore and Cambodia — are in Group B. The winning team will earn 20,000 Brunei dollars (US\$15,200), 10,000 Brunei dollars (US\$7,600) for the runners-up and 5,000 Brunei dollars (US\$3,800) for the joint third-place teams, according to Brunei football officials.

The sixth edition of the Hassanal Bolkiah tournament will start on 23 April with the match between Brunei and Timor Leste. —Kyaw Zin Lin ■

MNL U-21 football resumes this week

MYANMAR National League U-21 football matches, which have been on hold due to Myanmar's Thingyan and the Myanmar New Year Festival, will resume this week starting on Friday, according to the MNL.

According to a statement on the MNL's Facebook page, Hantharwady United will play against Yangon United on 20 April, Zwekapin United will play GFA FC on 21 April, and

league-leading Institute of Sport and Physical Education (ISPE) will play against second-place Yadanabon FC on the same day.

Ayeyawady United FC will play against Rakhine United on 22 April, while fourth place Shan United will play against Myanmar Football Federation (MFF) Youth FC on the same day.

Nearly all the matches will be broadcast Live on the MNL Facebook page, according to an MNL official. —Kyaw Zin Lin ■