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State Counsellor returns from Viet Nam

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi meets General Secretary of the Communist Party



ON a busy last day of her official visit to Viet Nam, State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi met with a plethora of political leaders, friendship organizations, businessmen, members of the Myanmar Embassy and the Myanmar Military Attache.

The State Counsellor was also able to visit the house of Viet Nam national leader Ho Chi Minh yesterday before boarding a plane back to Myanmar.

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi received Mr. Chu Cong Phung, the chairman of the Viet Nam-Myanmar Friendship Association, at the Hanoi Grand Plaza Hotel at 9:30 a.m. Matters relating to bilateral trade, culture, and deepening the relations between the two countries were discussed.

Next, the State Counsellor met with Viettel Group President Major General Nguyen Manh Hung and then received Vietnamese businesspersons led by Bank for Investment Development of Viet Nam (BIDV) chief executive officer Mr. Phan Duc Tu. Viet Nam businesspersons discussed the investment status in Myanmar, increasing Myanmar-Viet Nam trade, and the difficulties they were facing.

Afterwards, State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi visited the house of Viet Nam's national leader Ho Chi Minh,

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi meets with Mr. Nguyen Phu Trong, General Secretary of the Communist Party of Viet Nam. PHOTO: MNA

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Implementation committee on recommendations on Rakhine State holds coordination meeting

THE coordination meeting 4/2018 of the Implementation Committee on Recommendations on Rakhine State was held at the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

Present at the meeting were Committee Chairman Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr. Win Myat Aye, Joint Chairman Rakhine State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu, Secretary Deputy Minister for Border Affairs Maj-Gen Than Htut, Joint Secretary Deputy Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement U Soe Aung, committee members and departmental officials. In his opening speech at the meeting, the committee chairman said its first report was published and news and conduct of the respective ministries would be compiled for the period from January to the end of April 2018. "The report will be a good one if facts and figures are provided systematically. Work committees to receive and resettle displaced persons have been formed and arrangements are being made to conduct the works effectively. It is important for us to show readiness to receive the returnees. Transit and reception centres are ready. The resettling of returnees at homes, removal of fears, building physical and mental trust and confidence should be conducted according to the law and explained clearly," he said.

The union minister also spoke about the worries of the displaced persons regarding the freedom of movement, period of stay in transit centre, resettling in their former places and the right to apply for citizenship during his trip to Bangladesh.

The displaced persons were told of the true aims and work conducted by the government. "Only if there is an understand-



The work coordination meeting 4/2018 of the Implementation Committee on Recommendations on Rakhine State being held in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO:MNA**

ing, will they return and our works will be accomplished," said the union minister. These works are connected to the suggestions made by Kofi Annan. To raise awareness of the national verification process, the eight benefits of holding an NVC prepared in the Myanmar-English languages need to be published in media. By holding an NVC, the application for citizenship can be made within five months, according to the law, and on acquiring the national status, basic rights, including health, education and freedom of movement, can be obtained, he noted.

"When the displaced persons return, they will be able to resume their life. The most important thing is the wrong knowledge of NVC. Only few realise that they will get their rights once they acquire the NVC. They must be informed about this. Of the 88 recommendations made on Rakhine State, 57 are being conducted effectively, while all are urged to suggest and discuss about following up on the

remaining 31 recommendations. Preparations are being made to close down the internally displaced person (IDP) camps in Rakhine State that came into existence in 2012. These need to be closed down quickly and completed accordingly. Difficulties must be overcome through cooperation, and closing of these camps will be done according to the set priorities. Progress has been made in closing down the Myebon IDP camp. Discussions with camp representatives are progressing to close down the Kyauktaw Nidin camp, Sittway That Ke Pyin camp and the Khaung Dukka camp. The work on closing down the remaining camps will continue," the union minister said.

Next, U Nyi Pu, joint chairman, called for effective and timely implementation of the suggestions. The preparations for future works must be based on experience. The implementation of the suggestions, accepting of returnees and resettlement works must be done

together, and at the moment, progress has been made by the committee to close down the IDP camps. Regional stability must be achieved. Plans for accepting the returnees and achieving regional stability should be prepared together.

Some Muslims fled to other country, but many Muslims stayed back. More than 300 ethnic nationals from other country are being settled in seven places. Their livelihoods and citizenship also need to be addressed.

At the moment, accommodation has been provided and agriculture, livestock breeding and small enterprises will be developed next. Such works should not be conducted only for the Maungtaung region, but for the entire Rakhine State. Travel, agriculture, livestock breeding and fishery works can be done in Rakhine State.

The ministry is constructing the Mrauk U airport, while the state will build more infrastructure. Media plays an important role in the work of resettling dis-

placed persons, and it should show the true situation, the chief minister said.

Later, Maj-Gen Than Htut, committee secretary, discussed the prioritisation of selection of ethnic national youths from the Rakhine State to attend the youth colleges for national races, under the ministry, and assigning the graduates to the ministries, according to the proposed numbers.

The deputy minister further explained that the ethnic national villages that were constructed had been transferred to the Rakhine State government, and the ethnic nationals were being settled there. As part of the work to close down the Myebon IDP camp, the construction of 50 houses have been completed, the deputy minister said.

Following this, U Soe Aung, committee joint secretary, explained that under the Memorandum of Understanding for Rakhine State's development, signed between the Myanmar and Indian governments, US\$5 million per year for five years, totalling \$25 million, would be provided and proposals for education, health, agriculture, natural environment and culture, raising the capacity of women and the childcare sectors need to be made by the respective ministries, and only then can works be implemented quickly. Discussions and negotiations were held with the both communities in Rakhine State to close down the IDP camps during the trip with the deputy minister for State Counsellor's office, said the deputy minister.

Officials from the ministries then discussed about the works conducted ministry wise in Rakhine State, the future works and requirements. Committee chairman and those in attendance also joined in the discussion. —Myanmar News Agency ■

Automatic weather observation system installed in six states, regions

THE Ministry of Transport and Communications has completed the installation of automatic weather observation systems (AWOS) and water-level sensors in six states and regions affected by floods, according to a report in

City News Daily yesterday.

The ministry has been installing 80 sets of AWOS and 10 sets of water-level sensors under the disaster management plan of the World Bank.

"We have already installed

20 sets of weather observation equipment to modernise the natural disaster forecasting and warning system in Myanmar, funded by South Korea," said an official from the ministry.

Myanmar should be alert to

storms in April and May, which are the pre-monsoon months, said U Tun Lwin, a veteran meteorologist. Nimbus clouds are likely at noon and evening in Kachin, Shan, Chin, northern Rakhine and Southern Mon states and

the Sagaing, northern Mandalay and Tanintharyi regions, the likelihood being 35 to 45 per cent.

Nimbus clouds can lead to lightning, thunder, heavy rainfall, strong winds and hailstones, he added.—GNLM ■



Today at this time, we are witnessing the transformation of an era and a system in accordance with democratic principles. This is just the beginning of the democratic transition. To make this transition process smooth and successful, it is very important for our peoples, government employees and civil servants to change their dogmatic mindset and habits. Those government institutions which are lagging behind in the transformation process will need to be put under tight management controls. The country's weak judiciary system would need to be strengthened. More efforts need to be exerted to stamp out corruption. More efforts need to be exerted to prevent human rights violations. More efforts need to be exerted to crack down illegal drug trade. We need to manage public funds properly so that there is no wastage. Measures need to be taken to return confiscated farmland to farmers and to give compensation to farmers for losses they have suffered in accordance with the law. We also need to improve the socio-economic life of farmers, improve the lives of workers and ensure that students gain access to higher education.

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



We face various kinds of internal and external challenges while we endeavor for political, economic and social development of our country. As we are aware of the importance of our international responsibility, we have adopted a path consistent with the needs and situation of our country respecting at the same time the views and opinions of the international community.

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

State Counsellor returns from Viet Nam

FROM PAGE-1

where information and education department head Ms. Cu Thi Minh gave a guided tour.

Following this, the State Counsellor went to the Myanmar Embassy and met with staff, families of the embassy, the Military Attaché and Myanmar state scholar students.

After this, State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi went to the office of the General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Viet Nam and met with General Secretary H.E. Mr. Nguyen Phu Trong. At the meeting, matters relating to increasing Myanmar-Viet Nam bilateral relations and contacts between the governments, parliaments, parties and the peoples, especially exchange of youth representative groups and cooperation with international organizations in ASEAN and the region were discussed.

From there, the State Coun-



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi is welcomed back by Union Minister U Kyaw Tint Swe (right) at the Nay Pyi Taw International Airport yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

sellor went to the office of the Chair of the National Assembly of Viet Nam and met with Chairwoman of the National Assem-

bly of Viet Nam H.E. Madame Nguyen Thi Kim Ngan.

During the meeting, views and thoughts were exchanged

and discussed on increasing bilateral friendship and cooperation, cooperation between the parliaments of Myanmar and

Viet Nam, exchanging study tours of parliament members and the people, legislative works of the parliament and experiences of the economic development of Viet Nam.

After the meeting, the State Counsellor and party were seen off at Hanoi Noi Bai International Airport by Vietnamese Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr. Dang Dinh Quy, Vietnamese Ambassador to Myanmar Mrs. Luan Thuy Duong, Myanmar Ambassador to Viet Nam U Kyaw Soe Win and wife, Military Attache Col. Aung Kyaw Oo and other officials.

The State Counsellor and party arrived at Nay Pyi Taw International Airport later in the evening and were greeted by Union Minister for the State Counsellor's Office U Kyaw Tint Swe, Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman Dr. Myo Aung and wife, Viet Nam Deputy Chief of Mission Mr. Le Gia Thinh and other officials.— Myanmar News Agency ■

Deputy Minister for Information receives BBC correspondent

DEPUTY MINISTER for Information U Aung Hla Tun received Nick Beake, the Myanmar correspondent for BBC News, at the Ministry of Information yesterday afternoon.

During the meeting, they discussed matters related to building trust between the Ministry of Information and BBC News, long-term cooperation matters, broadcasting of

BBC English language lessons through state-owned radio and television programmes, conducting of skill training for staff, works implemented by the government in Rakhine State, long-term works in the region, the status of sending media groups to the region, and reporting from Myanmar without bias and with journalism ethics.—Myanmar News Agency



Deputy Minister for Information U Aung Hla Tun (Centre Left) holds talks with Nick Beake, (Centre Right) the Myanmar correspondent for BBC News, at the Ministry of Information in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

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Illegal electric fishing threatens Myanmar's fisheries sector

May Thet Hnin

THE use of illegal electric fishing equipment is threatening Myanmar's fisheries sector, said Daw Toe Nanda Tin, vice chairman of Myanmar Fisheries Federation (MFF).

"The fisheries sector is under threat by a group of people who are using electricity to catch fish. We must find ways to protect the fisheries sector, in cooperation with the government and the public," she added.

The number of illegal fishing cases with the use of electricity and bombs has increased significantly in the Yangon, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi regions. Illegal

electrocution and bombing can destroy fish reproduction, as well as coral reefs and the surrounding marine life, noted Daw Toe Nanda Tin.

"The availability of some fish, such as eel, in the market has declined significantly this year. Fishermen are blaming electric fishing for the decline, noting that it was affecting fish reproduction. Therefore, this illegal fishing system is a matter of concern," she added.

"Most of the illegal fishing equipment is imported from China and Thailand. So, I want to urge the government to take effective legal action," said the MFF vice chairman.

"The Yangon Region

Fishery Department conducted awareness campaigns and organised activities for local fishermen urging them to reduce electric fishing, in cooperation with the ward administrators and the Hluttaw MPs in November 2017. Our department also provided fishing nets to the fishermen.

A few fishermen have surrendered some 104 electric fishing equipment between November and March," said U Tun Win Myint, director of Yangon Region Fishery Department.

"Our region government conducted these activities with the regional government's budget for the develop-

ment of the fisheries sector. It is not easy. Therefore, we have provided fishing nets to the local fishermen. We are also planning to organise activities to collect unauthorised fishing equipment," said the director of the Yangon Region Fishery Department.

In the 2017-2018 fiscal year, some 568,227.327 metric tonnes of fishery products, worth US\$717.7 million, were exported to foreign trade partners, the highest volume in 20 years, according to an official release by the Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation Ministry.

There are some 480,000 acres of fish and prawn breeding farms across the county.

Construction of speciality hospital extension to restart this year

THE construction of the extension of the Otorhinolaryngology Head and Neck Surgery Specialist Hospital will restart this year, according to a report in Myawady Daily yesterday.

"The speciality hospital is located in Tamway township. Its construction was suspended last year following a workplace accident. The construction of the five-storey hospital start-

ed in 2015, but in 2016, the building collapsed killing one labourer. The authorities then suspended the construction of the five-storey hospital," said Prof. Dr. Maung Maung from the Otorhinolaryngology Head and Neck Surgery Speciality Hospital.

The five-storey hospital will include a 215x70-square feet out-patient department,

an emergency patient department, MRI and X-ray rooms, a check-up room, teaching rooms, private patient rooms, operation rooms and a conference room.

"We expect the hospital will be able to treat more patients, including referral patients, when the building is completed. Recently, the hospital provided medical treatment to patients

from across the country. Therefore, the hospital needs more rooms and other facilities. We also need the support of the government," said Prof. Dr. Maung Maung.

Some 300 to 400 patients with eye-, ear-, nose- and throat-related problems can visit the out-patient department of the hospital each day.—GNLM

Old clock tower at Thaphanseik Dam collapsed

THE old clock tower at the Thaphanseik dam in Kyunhla Township, Sagaing Region, collapsed after powerful winds blew through the region, according to a source from the Information and Public Relations Department in Kyunhla Township.

The dam was built in 1996 and more than 70 villages in Kyunhla Township were relocated due to the dam construction project. The clock tower was in the water for more than 20 years.

Local people guessed that the clock tower might collapse due to the force of rain, strong winds and other natural elements that swept through the area last week.



Old clock tower at the Thaphanseik dam in Kyunhla Township collapsed after being hit by the gale-force wind. **PHOTO: MDN**

Locals said that the clock tower and some pagodas can be seen when water level is lower

in the dam, which is one of the biggest dams in Southeast Asia. The dam can store 2,880,000

acre-feet of water and it generates 30MW of power.—Myanmar Digital News

Yangon Region Government to explain investment opportunities during Investment Forum 2018

BY May Thet Hnin

THE 2018 YANGON Investment Forum will be held at the Novotel Hotel in Yangon on 9 May, at which officials from Yangon Region Government and related departments will explain about investment opportunities in Yangon, according to Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein.

The forum is organised by Yangon Region Investment Committee with the cooperation and support of Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA), German Cooperation Implemented through Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH (GIZ) and Myanmar Investors Development Association, it is learnt.

Preparations were made for about 500 foreign businesses to attend the forum. Scheduled to be discussed are: Myanmar Investment Law and rules; laws, rules and procedures related to investment; opportunities and facts on investment in Yangon Region; projects to be implemented; clear, concise and effective work processes provided for investing in Yangon Region; status of businesses in Yangon Region; and private investments. Investment in Thilawa Special Economic Zone will be explained and there will be opportunities to raise questions directly to officials from the regional government and relevant departments.



Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein speaks to the media at a press conference after the Yangon Region Investment Commission's meeting at UMFCOI in Yangon yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

In the forum's morning session, the New Investment Application Procedure will be discussed. In the afternoon, Investment Opportunities in Yangon Region will be discussed. Four pavilions will display news and information on work procedures and processes including Investment Application Guide Book, Doing Business in Yangon and Taxation Guide Book for attending investors and businesspersons, it is learnt.

U Phyo Min Thein said that 100 per cent Yangon Region Gov-

ernment-owned New Yangon Development Company Limited was established and is implementing new Yangon projects. As a first stage it is conducting infrastructure and industry work as a priority. Yangon Region Government had invited local and international businesses to participate in these projects and will explain and invite investors during this forum.

He added that the forum was held to invite foreign investors with the aim of establishing Yangon as a clean, successful

business city where there is rule of law.

"Investments are coming in, and the forum is held to increase the momentum of investments. It is to introduce those who didn't know of the opportunities," said U Phyo Min Thein.

In addition to developing the economy, the cultural heritage of the city needs to be maintained, the minister said.

"The city needs to be in the form of a green economy. It needs to be prevented from becoming a dumping ground for

businesses that damages the environment", he said.

Interested investors from ASEAN region countries, Korea, Japan and China are currently discussing and negotiating with the regional government for investing in road construction works, power, housing construction and factories. Western entities such as the United States and the EU are interested in technology service works, said U Phyo Min Thein.

He also said that qualified local and international businesses that can provide quality work will be given priority, while incentives will be provided for businesses that create more job opportunities.

According to DICA, 60 per cent of investments are in Yangon Region and 30 per cent are in Mandalay Region. Investment in other states and regions are few.

In Yangon Region from 1994-1995 to the end of January 2018, Myanmar Investment Commission has permitted the investment of 582 Myanmar-owned and 846 foreign-owned businesses. As of February 2018, Myanmar-owned businesses invested more than Ks708 billion, while foreign investment totalled US\$2.84 billion, said Yangon Region Investment Committee secretary and DICA director U Myo Khaing Oo.

Similar forums are planned to be held annually, said U Phyo Min Thein. ■

Bamboo agricultural zone to be implemented to produce more oxygen

The Myanmar Bamboo Agricultural Association (Mandalay) is planning to implement a bamboo agricultural zone, according to a report in Myawady Daily.

"Growing bamboo is beneficial for environmental conservation and the livelihood of the local people. A bamboo grove releases some 35 per cent more oxygen into the air than a similar-sized copse of trees. Therefore, our association urged the local people to grow more bamboos instead of other trees," said Dr. Win Myint,

deputy chairman of Myanmar Bamboo Agricultural Association (Mandalay).

In addition to this, bamboos have the ability to grow quickly without fertilisers, pesticides or much water, and they can clean the city atmosphere of carbon dioxide released by motor vehicles, generators and factories.

"Through the bamboo chemical treatment technology, bamboo can be used for between 50 and 100 years. Most of the local people are using bamboos to build houses and furniture.

People are also manufacturing the bamboo parquet floor by mixing bamboo through high technology. By using bamboo, we can prevent deforestation," he said.

The environmental benefits of bamboos arise largely due to their ability to grow quickly. They can be replanted within seven years. Therefore, the association is planning to implement a bamboo agricultural zone. Currently, they are seeking land to implement the bamboo zone.—GNLM■

Good quality watermelon, muskmelon prices up

THE price of good quality watermelons and muskmelons have recovered in the post-Thingyan period, according to a report in Myawady Daily yesterday.

Watermelons fetched 2 to 3.2 yuan in the pre-Thingyan period, while the prices have gone up to 2.5 to 3.6 yuan now.

The prices of watermelons and muskmelons have increased now, said U Myint Oo, a merchant.

"Watermelon and muskmelon prices depend not only on the supply and demand but also on

the quality of fruits. Growers, therefore, need to ensure the stability of quality. They must harvest the fruits only if they are mature enough," said U Naing Win, chair of Myanmar Watermelon Growers and Muskmelon Growers and Exporters Association.

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

The performance of the Amyotha Hluttaw over two years

By Shin Min Hmwe

THE first regular session of the Second Amyotha Hluttaw commenced on 3 February 2016 and the seventh regular session of the second Amyotha Hluttaw was held on 15 February 2018. This is a capsulisation of the efficiency and responsiveness of the Hluttaw during that time

Amyotha Hluttaw

There are 224 representatives in the Amyotha Hluttaw, of which 168 representatives were elected in the last elections. The Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services appointed 56 Members of Parliament from the military. Constituencies for Amyotha Hluttaw are based on Myanmar's 14 States and Regions, which will each elect 12 representatives.

The 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 turned two years old while forming the new government.

As the representatives of the people, Amyotha Hluttaw representatives raised questions, submitted proposals and made laws during the two-year period turning people's desire into reality.

During the two-year-period of the Amyotha Hluttaw, seven meetings were held. The first regular meeting was from February 3 to June 10, 2016, totalling 42 days. The second regular meeting was from 25 July to 7 October 2016, totalling 45 days. The third regular meeting was from 16 November to 21 December 2016, totalling 18 days. The fourth regular meeting was from 30 January to 17 March 2017, totalling 19 days. The fifth regular meeting was from 18 May to 31 August 2017, totalling 53 days. The sixth regular meeting was

from 17 October to 23 November 2017, totalling 16 days. The seventh regular meeting was from 15 January to 29 March 2018, totalling 33 days.

1,519 Questions

In the interest of the people, 783 questions marked with asterisks and 736 without asterisks were raised, and 1,519 proposals were submitted.

During the two-year-period of the Hluttaw, there were eight proposals approved and nine proposals were put on record out of 15 proposals made by 14 Hluttaw members.

As the committees are mini-parliaments, they practice the check-and-balance system, scrutinising the works done by the government.

These questions and proposals were aimed at fulfilling the needs of people which are to be carried out by the Union government.

Capacities-building programme

As the committees are mini-parliaments, they practice the check-and-balance system, scrutinising the works done by the government. In this regard, they are carrying out the tasks for fulfilling the needs of people, amending or repealing the laws and proposing laws that will serve the people.

Moreover, to promote the skills of the representatives, scholars and organisations were

invited to the meetings held in Hluttaw.

With the aim of serving the interests of the people, the Amyotha Hluttaw formed four Standing Committees and 13 Hluttaw Affairs Committees.

Bill Committee

In accord with Amyotha Hluttaw Law, Section 24, Paragraph (a), and Bylaw Section (44), Paragraph (a), the Bill Committee was formed on 5 February 2016.

The Bill Committee during the two-year period completed 23 laws out of 47, including 11 bills which had been sent to the Pyithu Hluttaw, six bills which were under discussion in the Amyotha Hluttaw, two bills which were repealed, and three bills sent from the Pyithu Hluttaw.

At the Amyotha Hluttaw, 29 bills were discussed, including three bills which are still in the making, four bills which were sent back to the Pyithu Hluttaw, and 22 bills which were approved.

During the two-year-period, the Bill Committee meetings were held 154 times, and some 57 bills had been prescribed, including 45 laws from the Amyotha Hluttaw and the Pyithu Hluttaw, and 12 laws from the Pyithu Hluttaw.

Public Accounts Committee

The Public Accounts Committee was formed on 5 February 2016, committee meetings were held 28 times, coordination meetings were held 61 times, attending ceremonies 110 times, meeting with international organization 11 times, and dialogue meetings once during the two-year period.

Hluttaw Rights Committee

Because the Hluttaw Rights Committee's speciality is securing the Hluttaw Representatives who will attend the Hluttaw meetings, it is necessary to monitor the ethics and regulations of the Hluttaw members. The committee has to organise many meetings regarding rules of law, protection of laws for the people,



MPs leave the Amyotha Hluttaw after a parliamentary meeting. **Photo MNA**



Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than meeting with migrant workers who returned from Thailand to Myawady last year. **Photo MNA**

making laws, amending laws and repealing laws.

The committee submitted its findings, analyses and advice for the cases to the speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw and transferred the case letters to the Hluttaw.

As for the Hluttaw Rights Committee, coordination meetings were held 17 times, meeting with international organisations three times and submission reports to Hluttaw twice.

Government Guarantees, Pledges and Undertakings Vetting Committee

The Government Guarantees, Pledges and Undertakings Vetting Committee was formed on 8 February 2016.

The committee watched whether the pledges made at the Hluttaw sessions were accomplished or not.

During the two-year period,

there were 702 pledges to be carried out, and the committee invited the respective ministries to ensure that the pledges are fulfilled and to request them to make reports on work progress. Moreover, they made field trips regularly to check the progress of the work, practicing the check-and-balance system between the government and the Hluttaw.

International Relations, Inter-Parliamentary Friendship and Cooperation Committee

The committee was formed with the aim of promoting international relations with other countries. During the two-year-period, meetings with international organisations and ambassadors were held 36 times, committee meetings 29 times, and report submission three times.

Local and International Non-governmental Organizations Committee

Local and International Non-governmental Organizations Committee was formed with the aim of alleviating the difficulties faced by NGOs and INGOs and promoting the relationship among the Hluttaw and NGOs. During the two-year-period, meetings were held 23 times, including meetings with INGOs five times, ministerial meetings seven times, and report submissions three times.

Health, Sports and Culture Committee

The Hluttaw Health, Sports and Culture Committee is aimed at raising the standards of sports and culture in the country. During the two-year-period, the committee held committee meeting 37 times, managerial meetings six times, NGO meetings seven times, meeting with local organizations 104 times, attending conferences 104 times, attending international conferences 11 times and report submission three times.

The Ethnic Affairs Committee

During the two-year-period of Hluttaw, Ethnic Affairs Committee held committee meeting 24 times, ministerial meetings nine times, meeting with local organisations twice, meeting with international organisations twice, Federal Workshop and Debate once, local excursions twice, and coordination meetings of teaching ethnic literature once and report submission twice.

Farmer Affairs Committee

During the two-year-period

of the Hluttaw, the Farmer Affairs Committee held committee meetings 42 times, meeting with international organisations four times, ministerial meetings five times, meeting with local organisations four times, dialogue meetings 12 times, report submission three times and fieldtrip inspection five times.

Women and Children's Rights Committee

During the two-year-period of the Hluttaw, the Women and Children's Rights Committee was held committee meetings 25 times, meeting with international organizations 19 times, ministerial meetings 11 times, meeting with local organizations 15 times, dialogue meetings 4 times, local excursions once, meeting with foreign guests once and report submission three times.

Education Promotion Committee

During the two-year-period of the Hluttaw, the Education Promotion Committee held committee meetings 44 times, meeting with local organizations four times, meeting with international organizations seven times, ministerial meetings five times, dialogue meetings twice, local excursions once and report submission three times.

Local and Overseas Employment Committee

During the two-year-period of the Hluttaw, Local and Overseas Employment Committee held committee meetings 56 times, meeting with local and international organisations 21 times, ministerial meetings nine times, meeting with local associations 18 times, dialogue meet-



Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than in Myawady delivering food and water to migrant workers who had returned from Thailand last year.

ings once, field trip excursions four times and report submission three times.

Citizens' Fundamental Rights Democracy and Human Rights Committee

During the two-year-period of Hluttaw, the Fundamental Rights of the Citizens, Democracy and Human Rights Committee was received 624 complaint letters and scrutinised 341 letters.

The committee held committee meetings 65 times, ministerial meetings once, dialogue meetings four times, report submissions three times, field trip inspection 10 times, meeting with local experts four times, foreign meetings six times and report submission three times.

Mineral, Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation Committee

During the two-year-pe-

riod of the Hluttaw, the Mineral, Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation Committee held committee meetings 44 times, meeting with international organisations twice, meeting with local organisations 28 times, ministerial meetings once, meeting with local businessmen three times, fieldtrip excursions 10 times, foreign excursions once and report submission THREE times.

Public Complaints Committee

Since its assumption of duties, the Public Complaints Committee received 624 complaints. The authentic complaints were handled together with respective departments and organisations.

Prompt action has been taken by the committee to settle people's grievances and to fulfil their desires in accord with the law.

During the two-year-period of the Hluttaw, the Public Complaint Committee held committee meetings 65 times, ministerial meetings once, dialogue meetings four times, report submission three times, field trip inspection 10 times, meeting with local experts four times and meeting with foreign experts six times.

Agriculture, Livestock and Fishery Development Committee

During the two-year-period of the Hluttaw, the Agriculture, Livestock breeding and Fishery Development Committee held committee meetings 24 times, meetings with international organisations four times, meeting with local organisations three times, ministerial meetings four times, dialogue meeting seven times, report submission three times and field trip inspection twice. ■



Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than and dignitaries at the opening ceremony to unveil the bronze statues of fallen national heroes in Myawady last year.

Since its assumption of duties, the Public Complaint Committee received 624 complaints. The authentic complaints were handled together with respective departments and organisations.



Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than visits a mobile clinic in Myawady that provides health care to migrant workers returning from Thailand.

Heat can be fatal

WE are in the middle of the hottest period of the year. Heat waves are common in Myanmar during the months of March, April and May, in the daytime as well as at night.

Authorities have alerted the people these days to be aware of the health hazards posed by the heat that causes the body to lose water through sweating, along with changes in blood viscosity and salt levels.

Multiple studies have found that heat waves are happening more frequently, while cold spells have declined in urban areas in the last 40 years.

Extreme heat can cause heat-related illnesses, such as heat stroke and exhaustion, which can result in increased mortality rates. It can also exacerbate existing health conditions. Heat stress occurs when the body absorbs more heat than is tolerable.

In southern Asia, mortality is likely to rise with the thermometer. Researchers have established a direct link between global warming and heat-related deaths from killer heat waves.

Extreme heat can cause heat-related illnesses, such as heat stroke and exhaustion, which can result in increased mortality rates.

A tiny rise of 0.5°C in mean summer temperatures in India or another comparable tropical developing nation could result in a 146 per cent rise in mass deaths from the heat. Average temperature increases by the end of the century for the Asian sub-continent, the Middle East and Africa are likely to be at least 2.2°C and could be as high as 5.5°C. Although the heat wave prediction for India is based on a statistical model, the model itself is based on half a century of carefully-measured temperature, heat wave and heat-related mortality data.

The message is that even moderate increases in mean temperature will have negative effects on human health. And for the poorest – and in India more than 300 million people live on an income of less than US\$1.25 a day – the effects could be fatal. The impact of global climate change is not a spectra on the horizon. It's real, and it's being felt now all over the planet.

"It's particularly alarming that the adverse effects are pummeling the world's most vulnerable populations."

It is estimated that between 15,000 and 19,000 people died during France's heat wave of 2003, while the United States' Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) said some 600 Americans died every year from exposure to extreme heat between 1999 and 2010.

New populations in the world will become heat-stressed while those already exposed to dangerous levels of heat will be subject to harmful conditions more often, scientists say. With global warming, evil effects of disasters including increasing temperature are threatening the safety of our planet year by year. Now, we are suffering the consequences of climate change, and the disasters it brings cannot be avoided. What we can do is educate ourselves on the effects of extreme heat, be aware of health hazards and take steps to keep our body temperature down by drinking water, seeking shade and avoiding strenuous physical exertion. ■

Deepening Viet Nam-Myanmar Comprehensive Cooperative Partnership

Dr. Luan Thuy Duong, Ambassador of Viet Nam to Myanmar

AT the invitation of H.E. Mr. Nguyen Xuan Phuc, Prime Minister of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, State Counsellor, Union Minister of Foreign Affairs and Minister of the Presidential Office of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar paid an official visit to Viet Nam from 19-20 April 2018.

Viet Nam and Myanmar have similarities in culture, religion, history of struggle for national independence, significant geopolitical position in Southeast Asia region as well as the endeavours toward national and regional unity and unification. Those similarities have laid a solid foundation for the longtime and deep-rooted friendship between the two countries, which were founded by President Ho Chi Minh and General Aung San - Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's esteemed father.

The visit of former Myanmar President U Htin Kyaw to Viet Nam in October 2016 helped boost the comprehensive cooperation between Viet Nam and Myanmar. Vietnam General Secretary Nguyen Phu Trong's visit to Myanmar in August 2017 marked another significant milestone as leaders of the two countries agreed to upgrade the bilateral relations to the framework of Comprehensive Cooperation Partnership.

This visit by Daw Aung San Suu Kyi is to boost the traditional friendship between the two countries as well as to affirm the comprehensive cooperation in all aspects, creating a stronger foundation for the Comprehensive Cooperative Partnership.

During the visit, Prime Minister Nguyen Xuan Phuc and State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi held bilateral talks and leaders of the two countries signed many important cooperation documents.

During the talks, the two leaders reviewed the development of bilateral relations and cooperation during the past years, especially since the upgrading of bilateral relations into the Comprehensive Cooperative Partnership.

To further realize the Comprehensive Cooperative Partnership, the two leaders discussed measures to promote cooperation not only in the fields of politics, trade and investment, defense and security, but also in agriculture, forestry, fisheries, connectivity, energy, telecommunications, tourism, education and people exchange.

The two leaders also exchanged views on bilateral cooperation on regional issues and multilateral forums so that both countries could ensure the interests of the two peoples while contributing to peace, stability and development in the region as well as all over the world.

In particular, being members of ASEAN Community, the two countries agreed on the participation of two responsible members of the Association, actively contributing to the solidarity and cohesion of the ASEAN Community, as well as the central role of ASEAN in the whole area.

Over the years, the exchange of visits at all levels and channels has strengthened the friendship and consolidated the mutual trust between the two countries. The two sides have enhanced the effectiveness of cooperation in all areas, bringing about practical benefits for the two peoples.

The bilateral economic cooperation has seen strong development during the past years. The volume of two-way trade in 2017 reached nearly \$830 million, up 51% over 2016, exceeding the \$500 million target set by the two countries. Viet Nam has become the 9th largest trading partner of Myanmar.

Regarding to investment, Viet Nam is currently the seventh largest foreign investor in Myanmar with 17 projects and \$ 2.1 billion registered capital, accounting for 2.8% of total foreign investment in Myanmar. The most prominent project is the joint venture between Viettel Group and Myanmar partners in the telecommunications sector with the total investment of \$ 1.384 billion, of which Viettel holds a 49% stake.

As of December 2017, Viet Nam has 196 commercial presence in Myanmar under the forms



of representative offices, branches, joint ventures and companies with 100% Vietnamese capital ...

The partnership demonstrates that the two economies can complement and benefit each other, especially as the government of Myanmar is carrying out the economic reforms in the areas of agri-business, fisheries, investment, seafood processing, tourism and services.

The two countries continue to promote and maintain bilateral cooperation mechanisms such as the Joint Commission for Bilateral Cooperation, Joint Sub-Committee on Trade; signing the MOUs between the two countries, reviewing the cooperation during the past years, discussing the remaining issues and proposing measures to promote cooperation in the coming time.

At the meetings of Joint Commission for Bilateral Cooperation, the two sides discussed specific measures to promote cooperation in agriculture, forestry, fisheries, transport, energy, information, health, culture, education, sports, tourism and science and technology.

Political Consultation have also generated some common views between Viet Nam and Myanmar on international and regional issues. The two countries regularly exchange information on issues of mutual concerns and al-

ways stand as trustworthy partners and friends, supporting each other in regional and international forums, such as UN, ASEAN, Cambodia-Laos-Myanmar-Vietnam Cooperation (CLMV), Ayeyawady-Chao Phraya-Mekong Economic Cooperation Strategy (ACMECS), Greater Mekong Sub-region (GMS).

Recent developments in bilateral defense-security cooperation have also been highly appreciated, both bilaterally and multilaterally. In 2017, defense cooperation between the two countries has reached significant achievements, notably the working visit by Viet Nam Defense Minister Ngo Xuan Lich on October 2017 and the visit to Viet Nam by the Myanmar Commander in Chief, Senior General Min Aung Hlaing on March 2017, as well as the inauguration of the Mytel Telecom Joint Stock Company in Myanmar. In 2017, defense cooperation was significantly strengthened and focused on four areas: military medical cooperation, defense industry, military telecommunications and training of officers.

Among the highlights of cultural cooperation in 2017 was the signing of the Cultural Cooperation program in 2017-2020 on the occasion of the State visit by General Secretary Nguyen Phu Trong to Myanmar that helped create momentum for programs

of cultural cooperation between the two countries.

Viet Nam and Myanmar have also signed MOUs on education cooperation. Both sides expressed their willingness to create favorable conditions for students to study in each country and wish to increase exchanges and cooperation among training and research institutions in the fields of education and vocational training.

In the coming time, in order to effectively implement and deepen the Comprehensive Cooperation Partnership between the two countries, the close cooperation between the two governing parties, two governments, two Parliamentaries, the ministries, industries and sectors of the two sides will stand as a major pillar, pushing the two countries to sign the Plan of Action for the period 2018-2023.

The leaders of the two sides will designate relevant agencies to strengthen the effectiveness of existing mechanisms, promote the feasibility of establishing new cooperation mechanisms as well as sign more MOUs so as to facilitate and boost cooperation on all fields.

Both sides will step up negotiations for signing the agreement on prevention and prevention of crimes; the agreement on extradition and transfer of convicted persons and the protection of confidential information between the

two countries.

Both sides will need more preferential policies in trade and investment, creating the most favorable environment for foreign investors, including Myanmar and Vietnamese investors.

Both sides will expand defense and security cooperation, including the exchange of military missions at all levels and the opening of a defense policy dialogue at the vice-ministerial level, the deputy chief of staff and the working group mechanism of General Director of External Relations Department; enhancing defense industry cooperation, defense enterprises, cooperation in military medical training, medical assistance, search and rescue; sports exchange; exchanges of information, consultation and mutual support on multilateral forums ...

The two sides will reaffirm their commitment not to allow any individual or organization to use the territory of a country to act against the other. In addition, the security relationship will be more closely linked. In the coming time, the two countries will boost cooperation in exchanging young officers, teaching Vietnamese and Myanmar languages; enhancing border management and controlling the illegal immigration and preventing drug trafficking. In addition, the cooperation

between Viet Nam and Myanmar in other fields such as energy-petroleum, tourism, transport telecommunications, agriculture, finance and banking will continue to be promoted.

The two sides will promote closer financial links and will strengthen the legal system on banking, insurance, capital markets and other sub-sectors of the financial sector, including financial services.

Both sides recognize the potentials of the agro-forestry-fishery cooperation and will soon conclude agreements on agriculture, forestry, fisheries and livestock and broaden cooperation to seek for the measures to improve the quality and added value of agricultural products such as maize, rice, beans and green beans. Two sides have committed to speed up the process of signing MOU on agricultural cooperatives and rural development at the earliest.

The two sides will also promote cooperation in multi-mode transport including road, sea and air routes between the two countries and in the subregion, in order to successfully realize the goals set by the GMS 6 held in Ha Noi in March 2018.

The two leaders will discuss and seek ways to further enhance cooperation in tourism, legislation, education and people's exchanges, including the exchange between young leaders and young generation as a whole; encouraging effective exchange of students at all levels.

The importance is also attached to the role of the Viet Nam-Myanmar Friendship Association and the Myanmar-Viet Nam Friendship Association in promoting the exchange of people between the two countries.

Thanks to the favorable development momentum and experiences of more than 40 years of cooperation and common efforts of both sides, the friendly and multi-faceted cooperation between Viet Nam and Myanmar will continue to gain greater achievements, matching with the practical interests of the two peoples, for the sake of peace, stability, cooperation and prosperity in the region and over the world.

At the mean time, the NLD, the Myanmar Government and the State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi have been working hard to heal the division that has existed in Burma over the past 50 years, in order to promote democracy in the newly opened and integrated country.

The 21st Century Panglong Peace Conference has been marking important changes in the building of peace in Myanmar. Viet Nam believes in Myanmar people and government in the process of national reconciliation and compromise. Viet Nam is also willing to share its experiences as well as expressed the desire to learn from Burmese experiences related to ethnic issues.

In addition to the peace process, Myanmar is promoting the process of building a united, democratic and prosperous Union; building a free and prosperous society in this country of 55 million people. Myanmar's reform process is bringing about the daily changes and development for the country. Viet Nam and Myanmar have many things in common, including the history of reforming and opening policy as well as the integration into the world community for the past 40 years. Viet Nam will share with Myanmar its experience in reform process and support the government and people of Myanmar to fulfill their noble goals.

Myanmar people are peace lovers with strong sense of national pride and determination. They will soon grow fastly and reach higher position in the international arena.

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi plays a very important role in both peace and democracy processes in Myanmar. She is the most popular and beloved in Myanmar. Daw Aung San Suu Kyi has sacrificed her personal happiness for the political career and has become a symbol of the resilience and the devotion to her fatherland. She is likened to "the lighthouse of hope" for the people of Myanmar.

The Government and people of Viet Nam are delighted to welcome her in a visit that will contribute to the deepening of the relationship between Viet Nam and Myanmar. ■

Border Affairs Ministry's Mission: Border Areas Development and Human Resource Development for Ethnic Youth

By Naing Lin Kyi
PHOTO: HLA MIN TUN (BORDER AFFAIRS)

AFTER gaining independence, Myanmar experienced armed conflicts due to racist cult and differences in ideology. This left border areas under development.

Although the successive governments strived for equal development of the plain and border areas, limitations posed by terrain, weather, transportation and instable security hindered efforts of the respective ministries in carrying out their tasks for development. As a result the development works could not cover all the border areas and there are many needs to be fulfilled in these areas.

But with the change in the political landscape and cooperation of ethnic groups, Ministry of Border Affairs could accelerate its efforts for infrastructure development in border areas which lagged far behind in development and human resource development of ethnic youth residing in these areas, starting from 1992. These historical undertakings were put on record in the government's efforts during the first year of its office. The continuous effort exerted by the ministry is now delivered to the pub-

lic for their information as well as for feedbacks.

Policy and Objectives of the Ministry of Border Affairs

With the aim of transforming the nation into federal union, bringing peace to the nation and building national reconciliation and peace and contributing to uplifting the socioeconomic life of brethren, the ministry has laid down and realized the policies namely (a) stability of border areas (b) development of border areas (c) development of socioeconomic life of people living in border areas and (d) development of human resources of ethnic people residing in border areas.

Two Main Missions

Under the command of the ministry there exist two departments – the Border Areas and National Races Development Department and Education and Training Department. The two tasks they are carrying out are building infrastructures for border area development and increasing human resource development of ethnic youth residing in border areas. The ministry is carrying out development undertakings not only in the border areas but also in the following areas:

State/Region/Self-administered Zone/Division	Township
Kachin	Myitkyina, Chipwe, Waingmaw, Tanai, Ingyanyan, Moemauk, Mansi, Hsawlaw, Bhamo, Putao, Sumprabum, Naungmon, Machanbaw, Hpakant, Khaunglanphu, Mogaung, Mohnyin, Shwegu
Kayah	Loikaw, Bawlake, Dimawhso, Prusho, Shadaw, Hpahsaung, Maese
Kayin	Hpa-an, Kawkareik, Hpa-pun, Myawady, Kya-in-Seikkayi, Hlaingbwe, Thandaunggyi
Chin	Haka, Flam, Mindat, Hatntlang, Matupi, Paletwa, Tidim, Tunzan, Kanpetlet
Mon	Mawlamyine, Thaton, Bilin, Thanbyu-zayet, Kyaikmaraw, Ye, Kyaikto
Rakhine	Maungdaw, Buthidaung, Kyauktaw, Yathedaung, MraukU, Kyaukphyu, Myebon, Thandwe, An, Taunggup, Sittwa, Pauktaw, Minbya, Ponnagyun, Yanbye, Manaung, Gwa

Border area development tasks are being carried out in the areas of seven states and two regions adjacent to the borderline and other regions as necessary.



Union Minister for Border Affairs Lt-Gen Ye Aung.

Shan	Taunggyi, Tangyan, Lashio, Namhkam, Kunlong, Langkho, Loilem, Monghsat, Kyaukme, Mongla, Maukmae, Hpekhon, Mongton, Mongpan, Mongkai, Kunhing, Mongphyat, Muse, Namtu, Mongyei, Mongpyin, Monghkat, Hsenwi, Kutkai, Kengtung, Mongyan, Mongyaung, Tachilek, Nyaungshwe, Kalaw, Nawngkhio, Laikha, Kyethi, Yaksawk, Moenei
Pa-O SAZ	Hopong, Hsiseng, Pinlaung
Palaung SAZ	Mangton, Namhsan
Danu SAZ	Ywangan, Pindaya
Kokang SAZ	Laukkai, Kongyan
Wa SAD	Hopang, Metman, Pangsang, Nahpan, Panwai, Mongmaw.
Sagaing	Khamti, Tamu, Pinlebu, Bamauk, Katha, Homalin, Monywa, Wuntho, Kanbalu, Mawlk'aik, Kawlin, Mingin, Kalewa, Kalay, Paungpyin
Naga SAZ	Leshi, Lahe, Nanyun,
Taninthayi	Kawthoung, Yebyu, Bokpyin, Taninthayi, Kyunsu, Myeik, Palaw, Thayetchaung, Dawei, Launglon
Yangon	Cocogyun, Thongwa, Hlegu
Bago	Shwegyin, Kyaukkyi, Paungde, Natalin, Minhla, Pyu
Ayeyawady	Maubin, Ngapdaw, Hainggyikyun, Pathein, Kyonpyaw
Mandalay	Mogok, Kyaukpadaung, Wundwin
Magway	Pauk, Yezagyo, Salin, Aunglan
Nay Pyi Taw	Zabuthiri, Pobbathiri, Zeyathiri, Pyinmana

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Officials hand over 39 sets of solar panels to villagers in Hona Village in Phanmin Village-tract in Tachilek Township.

Border Affairs Ministry's Mission: Border Areas Development and Human Resource Development for Ethnic Youth

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Border area development tasks are being carried out in the areas of seven states and two regions adjacent to the borderline and other regions as necessary. These undertakings benefit 19.5 million people residing in these areas covering 37.87 per cent of the population.

During the two-year period the following tasks have been carried out in border areas:

Sr	Work	Accomplishment
a	Earth Road	1191/5 (Mile)
b	Gravel Road	500/5 (Mile)
c	Tarred Road	117/5 (Mile)
d	Concrete Road	35/3 (Mile)
e	Road Maintenance	393/2 (Mile)
f	Bridge (concrete, Bailey, suspension)	2570
g	Box Culvert	369
h	Helipad	13
i	School	20
j	Well, pond, dam	247
k	Hydropower	4
l	Power line installation	31/2 (Mile)
m	Solar Power	6943 (Set)
n	Housing (IDPs)	458 (House)
o	District/Township Office	46

A Dream Come True: Magwayza-Khaunglanphu Road

Poor transportation is normal for the people living in Kaunglanphu area in Kachin State for years. Its weather is severe and the area is difficult for access. Locals living there have to walk on 65/4 mile-long Magwayza-Khaunglanphu road to reach other regions. Yearly, they also face food scarcity and high commodity prices.

Starting from 2016-2017 Fiscal Year, the ministry has been engaged in constructing the road by dividing it into three parts. Encountering bad weathers and rough terrain, the ministry is building the road to be a graveled one with the supervision of the government and the Tatmadaw and cooperation of local people.

In doing so, the first part of the road, Magwayza-Ngalondan section with 25/4 miles, was built in 2016-2017 FY; the second part, Ngalondan-Yidan section with 18/4 miles, in 2017-2018 FY; and the third part, Yidan-Khaunglanphu section with 21/4 miles, in 2018-2019 FY.

From 2016 to 2018, altogether 12 concrete bridges and 119 box culvert were built. The most difficult road section to be built is from Ngalondan to Yidan. This section is passing through Shanngaw range with the height of 8000 feet. But the skills of mine expert soldiers and heavy machinery drivers from Tatmadaw Engineering Units, overcome all these barriers. Tools and equipments have to be provided to them by helicopters and planes. Moreover, experts are consulting in Yidan to span the Maykha river of which current is too strong.

The third part of the section to be

built in 2018-2019 FY include building of bridges, laying gravel, constructing earth road from Yidan to Khaunglanphu, and constructing 86 box culvert. In completion in September 2019, one-way motor road will be in service. In the FY 2019-2020 also, the tasks of building bridges and laying of gravels will be carried out.

Substituting poppy crops with non-narcotic alternatives

As regards poppy substitution, the government formed Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control and its vice-chairman is Union Minister for Border Affairs. Under the committee is the Alternative Development Management Committee chaired by deputy minister of the ministry.

Three-year pilot project of the team is implemented in Pawin Lwemaw, Hmwebyin and Pinkhin village tracts in Naung-taya area in Pinlaung Township starting from 2017-2018 FY and ending in 2019-2020 FY.

Tasks for Supplying Potable Water and Water for Agricultural Purpose

The national level Water Resource Committee chaired by Vice President U Henry Van Thio is taking a lead in laying down policy, giving instruction and making decision regarding water supply, and the ministry is realizing the policies into action as supplying potable water and water for agricultural purpose is one of its main tasks.

In 2017-2018 FY, the ministry in cooperation with Terra People Association, dammed a spring in Hseseng in Pa-O SAZ and supplied to six wards and adjacent villages. The project is benefitting 15745



Students of the University for Development of National Races study computer science.

people and 390 acres of farms. Other water supplying project in Kayah State benefit 17 villages in the same FY. According to the resolution made at the meeting of the committee, Rain Water Harvesting system was applied to supply water for the benefit of 1250 households in Chin State.

In addition to the above-mentioned tasks, during the two-year period, the ministry met a success in supplying water to people living in Thaton, Kalay, Tamu, Myawady and Inle.

Development undertakings are being carried out as usual in Rakhine State.

Assistance Provided to Rakhine State

Development undertakings are being carried out as usual in Rakhine State. In addition to these tasks, 150 low cost housing, 4 concrete roads of 14 miles and 7 furlongs at the border fence, 11 miles 4 furlongs long gravel road for repatriation of those who fled to the other country were built. Other tasks include allotting plots for eliminating of DP camps of Islam followers in Rakhine State, housing project, road building and digging ponds.

Cooperation with International Community

The ministry is carrying out all the tasks needed for border area development spending budget allotted by the State. To be able to make these tasks effective, it is cooperating with international organization by signing Memorandum of Understanding.

The ministry is cooperating with India, JICA, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, Viet Nam, British Council to build infrastructures and implement

project for poppy alternative crops in Shan, Mon, Kayin and Chin states and Naga SAZ. As regards cooperation with UN agencies, the ministry is engaged in food supply for people in Kachin, Kayin, Kayah, Chin, Mon, Rakhine, Shan states and Sagaing, Tanithayi, Bago, Magway and Mandalay regions in cooperation with UNDP and UNHCR.

The ministry is also cooperating with eight Non-Governmental Organizations such as Nippon Foundation, BAJ, TPA, GRET, Malteser International, Welthungerhilfe, SWISSAID and the Lutheran World Federation. This cooperation focus on development of Kachin, Kayin, Chin, Rakhine and Shan states.

Human Resource Development

Job opportunities are very rare for ethnic youths due to various limitations including natural barriers, language barrier, culture, and other conditions. Among the efforts of the ministry for the development of brethren, human resource development is no exception. Higher education, basic education and vocational training are of most importance for HRD. Under the ministry, there is one University for Development of National Races, two degree colleges for ethnic youth, one central training school, 44 border youth development trainings, 9 mechanical schools and 440 women's vocational training schools.

The ministry, in cooperation with Ministry of Hotels and Tourism, Luxembourg Agency for Development Cooperation and MHPA and Myanmar Hoteliers Association, conducted hospitality training course and produced 150 National Standard Skill Authority certificate holders.

Courses are opened at mechanical schools for youth who have no wish to pursue their education. These courses include carpentry, bricklayer, iron work, basic mechanic and others. These coursed produced 1971 workers who can later hunt jobs. Other schools and university under the ministry also produced skilled workforce and trainers during the two year period. ■

(Translated by Wallace)

Second coordination meeting of displaced persons accepting and resettlement committee

UNION Minister Dr. Win Myat Aye attended and addressed a second coordination meeting of Displaced Persons Accepting and Resettlement Committee, held at the meeting hall of the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement yesterday.

The union minister said the committee was formed to manage and conduct systematically, according to the procedures and law, the work of accepting and resettling displaced persons.

As per the bilateral agreement on the return of displaced persons from Rakhine State, signed by the governments of Myanmar and Bangladesh, Myanmar has been ready to accept the returnees since 23 January, but no official repatriations were conducted. A press conference was held to explain the reasons for the delay after a trip was made to Bangladesh to investigate the matter.



Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye addresses the second coordination meeting at the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

While conducting the work to receive returnees, specified forms need to be filled systematically. The eight benefits of holding a national verification card (NVC), prepared in the

Myanmar-English languages by the National Registration Department, will be published in media. Additionally, two work committees were formed. The returnees have to enter the

country through the reception centres, according to the bilateral agreement, and will have to stay temporarily at the reception centres and produce the NVC. During the rainy season, work

on hard surfacing of the roads and installation of culverts will be conducted. Further, arrangements for fuel for the Tatmadaw vehicles, formation of management and other administrative groups at the transit and reception centres, matters of farm land and provision for food allowance will be made, besides providing systematic water supply and latrines for houses in the resettlement areas.

While implementing the works, plans will be drawn up and submitted for usage of funds. Discussions were conducted with the Rakhine State government to arrange for the construction of roads and dikes, said the union minister.

Next, Deputy Minister U Soe Aung, committee members and other officials discussed in detail the sectors for which they were responsible.—Myanmar News Agency ■

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V GENIUS STAR IX VOY. NO. (-)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V GENIUS STAR IX VOY. NO. (-) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 22-4-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MITT-2 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 RK SHIPPING &
TRADING PTE LTD.**

Phone No: 2301928

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V PACITA VOY. NO. (022 W/E)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V PACITA VOY. NO. (022 W/E) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 22-4-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MITT/AIPT where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V MCC MERGUI VOY. NO. ()

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V MCC MERGUI VOY. NO. () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 22-4-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T./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 MCC TRANSPORT
(S'PORE) PTE LTD**

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V MATHU BHUM VOY. NO. (1053W/E)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V MATHU BHUM VOY. NO. (1053W/E) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 22-4-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P/MITT where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S OCEAN NETWORK
EXPRESS LINE**

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V SINAR BANDA VOY. NO. (086N)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V SINAR BANDA VOY. NO. (086N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 21-4-2018 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 SAMUDERA SHIPPING
LINE**

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V MONTOK VOY. NO. (01)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V MONTOK VOY. NO. (01) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 21-4-2018 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 MERIDINA SHIPPING
AGENCIES PTE LTD.**

Phone No: 2301928

FDA DG facing corruption charge

The Director-General of the Food and Drug Administration under the Ministry of Health and Sports is facing a lawsuit for allegedly abusing his authority, according the Anti-Corruption Commission.

The statement released by the commission said that Dr. Than Htut, Director-General of the FDA, has allegedly taken more than Ks150 million from a company which won a tender from his department for construction projects in townships last year. He allegedly used the money to upgrade his house, construct a fence, build a one storey-house and garage, build a swimming pool and construct a water fountain on land he owned in 2017.

The commission launched the investigation into the case after it received complaints that some construction projects under the Ministry of Health and Sports did not meet the required quality and some heads of the departments under the Ministry of Health and Sports were misusing the public budget for their own interest, said the statement.

Dr. Than Htut has been charged under Section 56 of the 2013 Anti-Corruption Law at the Zabuthiyi Township Police Station. — Myanmar News Agency

Road accidents decline during 2018 water festival

DESPITE the best security efforts, numerous cases of accidents and crimes were reported during the water festival.

During the 2018 Myanmar Thingyan festival, the National Road Safety Council (NRSC) conducted preventive and educative works on road safety in all regions and states, in cooperation with the Road Transport Administration Department, Traffic Police Force, coordination department for working licence for vehicles and transport authority, Myanmar Police Force (traffic police force and highway police force) and other teams.

The combined teams distributed pamphlets and conducted some 114 educative works on following rules related to seat belt and overspeeding. They also conducted alcohol tests on drivers.

With the combined teams conducting educative activities, fewer road accidents were reported during the 2018 water festival, compared to the 2017 water festival.

In 2017, 357 car accidents were recorded, including 759 deaths and 139 injuries, while 317 car accidents, including 642 deaths and 106 injuries, occurred in 2018.

During the 2017 water festival, road accidents in the Sagaing, Bago, Yangon and Ayeyawady regions decreased, while road accidents in other states and regions also decreased, except in Magway and Mandalay regions, where they increased.

The NRSC has urged the public to follow the road safety rules and cooperate with the respective departmental teams to prevent and reduce road accidents. — Myanmar News Agency ■

4.5 magnitude earthquake recorded

A slight earthquake of magnitude 4.5 on the Richter Scale, with its epicentre in Myanmar (some 10 miles southeast of Htamanthi), latitude 25.27°N, longitude 95.44°E, and a depth of 146 kilometres, some 94 miles from the northwest of Katha seismological observatory in the Sagaing region, was recorded at 2:48 pm M.S.T. on 20 April, 2018, according to the Department of Meteorology and Hydrology.—GNLM ■

CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE

M.V ORIENT PLUTO VOY. NO. (-)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V ORIENT PLUTO VOY. NO. (-) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 22-4-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of TMT-1 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 RK SHIPPING & TRADING PTE LTD.

Phone No: 2301928

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Myanmar Investment Commission
Notification 7/2018
6 Waxing of Kasone, 1380 ME
(20 April 2018)

In the exercise of the power and authority granted under Section 100, Subsection (b) of the Myanmar Investment Law, the Myanmar Investment Commission, Republic of the Union of Myanmar, hereby prescribes this Notification to carry out investment activities in education services.

Chapter 1

Definitions

- The following terms contained in this Notification shall have the meanings given hereunder:
 - Private education services** include education services providing the teaching of curriculum prescribed by the Ministry of Education and other relevant Ministries, and education services providing the teaching of international curriculum.
 - Private school** means all schools other than those specifically operated by the State.
 - Private basic education school** means a school that provides prescribed basic education that is mandatory for citizens, and that also provides teaching and training to enable students to qualify for technical or vocational education, or higher education.
 - Private technical, vocational and training school** means a school that systematically produces experts in practical skills, technical and mechanical technicians and experts, and vocational education scholars, technicians, and experts.
 - Private Higher Education School** means a school that provides teaching and training to those who have successfully completed the highest level of basic education or its equivalent.
 - Private subject-based school** means a school that provides courses for school admission, on-the-job training, or languages, or a private enterprise operated by one or more persons that provides teaching of subjects taught in a university, college, institute, or school established by the State or teaching of subjects prescribed for an examination.
 - Private School designated by the Ministry** means a school designated as such by the Union Government, Ministry of Education or a relevant Ministry.

Chapter 2

Types of Education Services

- The Commission may permit the investor to carry out investments in the following types of education services in the form of private schools teaching a curriculum prescribed by the Ministry of Education and relevant Ministries or an international curriculum.
 - Private basic education school;
 - Private technical, vocational and training school;
 - Private higher education school;
 - Private subject based school;
 - Private school designated by the Ministry.

Chapter 3

Form of Investment

- In establishing private schools that are covered in the list of types of education services, it may be established based on the promoter’s capital as follows:
 - Private school established by full capital investment of a Myanmar citizen, a Myanmar organization or Myanmar organizations;
 - Private school established by joint capital investment between a Myanmar citizen, a Myanmar organization, Myanmar organizations or a relevant government organization, and a foreigner, a foreign organization, foreign organizations or a foreign government organization;
 - Private school established by full capital investment of foreigners, a foreign organization, foreign organizations or a foreign government organization;
- These schools shall comply with the Myanmar Investment Law and Rules, Notifications issued by the Myanmar Investment Commission and National Education Law (2014),
- This Notification shall remain effective until such time when the law relating to private schools, technical and vocational education and training, and higher education is enacted, and upon such law being enacted, the investor shall comply with it.

(Kyaw Win)
Chairman

Sincerest Apology

1. In the story titled “97 prisoners from Sittway Prison are given presidential pardon” sent by the Sittway Bureau and released by the Central News Bureau (CNB) on 17 April 2018, Myanmar National TV (MNTV) broadcast the story containing an error, namely, the sentence that read: “Those who were released from Sittway Prison include seven Tatmadaw men who were involved in the Inn-Din Village issue, Myatasaung Sayadaw and political prisoner Khaing Ni Min”.
2. Once we learnt that the news report was wrong, MNTV made an apology on the MNTV channel and on MNTV’s Facebook page, in accordance with journalistic ethics.
3. We, MNTV, extend our sincerest apologies to the Union Government, the Tatmadaw and the people for broadcasting the incorrect information.

Myanmar National TV
Shwe Than Lwin Media Co., Ltd

A musical resurgence has Hollywood changing its tune

NEW YORK—Hollywood is falling back in love with the movie musical, seduced by the success of Oscar winner “La La Land” and buoyed by a wave of live-action Disney adaptations.

In a Tinseltown landscape largely dominated by superheroes, 2017 still saw “La La Land,” “The Greatest Showman” and “Beauty and the Beast” pull in more than \$2.1 billion at the global box office. Disney is the backbone of the revival, with a “Mary Poppins” sequel expected later this year — with Emily Blunt taking over the iconic role of the magical nanny — and new live-action versions of “Aladdin,” “Dumbo” and “The Lion King” due in 2019. But Universal’s “Mamma Mia! Here We Go Again” and a “West Side Story” remake from Steven Spielberg are also in the cards, along with an updated version of “A Star Is Born” starring Lady Gaga.

“There’s a whole generation of people who grew up watching animated musicals, and it kind of



Hugh Jackman starred in last year’s “The Greatest Showman” — part of a movie musical revival. **PHOTO: AFP**

cultivated an audience for that,” says Andy Kirshner, a composer, performer and professor at the University of Michigan.

“There’s more of a tolerance for fantasy today.”

Before this renaissance of sorts, the movie musical had not completely vanished from Hollywood — “Chicago” snagged a Best Picture Oscar in 2003, and films like “Grease” and “Mamma Mia!” opened to

popular acclaim.

But those hits were exceptions: the genre more or less fell out of favor on the silver screen after 1965’s “The Sound of Music.”

In more recent decades, music and dance have taken precedence to singing, which was absent from classics including “Saturday Night Fever,” “Footloose” and “Flashdance.”—AFP

Prince Harry’s exes: The ones that got away

LONDON— Before he fell for American actress Meghan Markle, Britain’s Prince Harry, 33, had several other girlfriends.

Here are some of the women who reportedly had a chance of becoming a princess.

Harry met Davy, the Zimbabwean-born daughter of a millionaire safari operator, in 2004 when he travelled to South Africa after school. She studied in Cape Town, before continuing her post-graduate studies in law in the English city of Leeds.

Blonde and gregarious, she seemed to enjoy partying as much as the young prince. The British tabloids loved them for it, following their every move — and his various indiscretions — in way she later admitted was “tough”.

They dated on and off for seven years and she attended some major royal events, notably the 2011 wedding of Harry’s older brother Prince William, prompting speculation they



British model Florence Brudenell-Bruce is a former girlfriend of Formula One champion Jenson Button. **PHOTO: AFP**

would marry.

Later that year they broke up for good, although they remain friends and she has reportedly been invited to Harry’s wedding to Markle on 19 May.

Davy worked for a top law firm before launching her own luxury jewellery firm.—AFP

Bowie's New York subway station turns into museum to him

NEW YORK — David Bowie has taken over a subway station in his adopted home of New York, with images of the rock legend plastered throughout and commemorative fare cards issued in his honor.

Concert photos figure on the walls and his giant black-and-white likeness appears at the track entrance of the Broadway-Lafayette station, a short walk from where the London-born rocker lived his final years.

The art installation is sponsored by streaming company Spotify and will be in place until 13 May as a tie-in to the exhibition "David Bowie is" at the Brooklyn Museum.

The exhibition, which opened at the Victoria and Albert Museum in London, has traveled across a dozen cities with New York scheduled to be its final stop.

Bowie's death in 2016 from an undisclosed battle with cancer stunned the music world. He lived more than 20 years in New York which he first visited to seek out his hero Andy Warhol and later to soak up American soul music and star on Broadway. The subway station put up a guide dubbed "Bowie's Neighborhood Map" that shows sites associated with the singer including Washington Square, the park in the heart of bohemian Greenwich Village where he enjoyed strolling.

The map, however, does

not mark his Soho apartment which became a hub of mourning after his death and which the rocker bequeathed to his widow, the supermodel Iman.

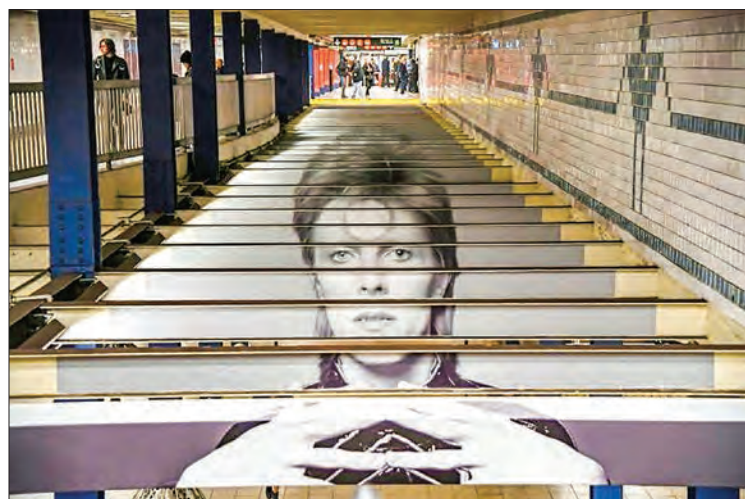
To mark the occasion, New York's Metropolitan Transportation Authority is selling 250,000 subway cards with the image of the rocker to be sold only at Broadway-Lafayette and the nearby Bleecker Street station.

A line stretched about 30 meters (100 feet) on Thursday as fans sought to buy the souvenir subway cards from an automatic dispenser.

Susan Bowen bought several of the subway cards for her family. She saw Bowie perform once in nearby New Jersey and said she considered him to be a New Yorker. "It seems to be where he felt at home," she said.

Bowie, who was already famous when he moved to New York permanently in the 1990s, turned out to be a surprisingly frequent commuter on the subway.

The writer William Boyd, writing in *The Guardian* after Bowie's death, said that the rocker told him that he would carry a Greek newspaper which he pretended to read when other passengers started to recognize him. —AFP ■



A New York subway station has been turned into a homage to rock legend David Bowie, who died in 2016. PHOTO: AFP

Fourth commemoration events for Veteran journalist Hantharwady U Win Tin



THE fourth commemoration events for veteran journalist Hantharwady U Win Tin will be held at the Thahtay Pagoda's square in Taung Laylone Monastery in Taung-tha-man inn lake, Amarapura Township, Mandalay on 21 April from 9 am to 11 am.

At the ceremony, veteran journalists, writers and poets will speak memorable words and there will be a display of many books written by Hantharwady U Win Tin. Photos of his

childhood life and other pictures will also be exhibited. In addition a pamphlet which contains famous quotations, opinions and observations from veteran journalists from Mandalay will be disseminated.

Veteran journalist and politician Hantharwady U Win Tin was born on 12 March 1930 in Gyobingauk town. His parents are U Pu and Daw Mar. He passed away at Yangon General Hospital on 21 April, 2014.—Myanmar Digital News ■

Reporters defiantly pursue work of murdered Maltese blogger

THE investigative work of slain Maltese journalist Daphne Caruana Galizia has been pursued by dozens of colleagues worldwide who this week published a flurry of revelations and delved into the mystery surrounding her murder.

"You can kill the messenger, but not the message," said French journalist Laurent Richard, who launched the "Forbidden Stories" project three years ago to continue the work of journalists silenced by murder or imprisonment. The "Daphne Project" is the first fruit of his initiative.

For six months, 45 journalists from 18 media outlets around the world have worked together, secretly pouring through a mass of documents left behind by Caruana Galizia, who was murdered last year by a bomb planted in her car.

Hated and admired in equal

measures on the Mediterranean island, the 53-year-old spent much of her life shedding light on the dark-side of Maltese politics, exposing corruption and backdoor dealings of the country's political and financial elite. In the years leading up to her death she had gone after the ruling Labour party, virulently attacking Prime Minister Joseph Muscat and more recently also the leader of the opposition. Her online blog garnered a readership of over 300,000, according to a documentary on French TV channel France 2 about the island of 430,000 inhabitants. Her attacks, often cutting and personal, earned her many enemies.

The murder plot

The investigative work of the Daphne Project, based on thousands of documents and multiple

testimonies, sheds light on the extensive police and forensics investigation, which led to the arrest of three men accused of perpetrating the gruesome murder.

Brothers George and Alfred Degiorgio, and Vincent Muscat, who were reportedly known to police in relation to other crimes, have pleaded not guilty to the killing and remained tight-lipped in custody. But the project's research paints a picture of a meticulously planned operation to assassinate the provocative blogger and suggests that the mastermind who ordered her death is still at large. Their findings allege that the accused monitored the blogger's home and attached a trigger SIM to the deadly car bomb which was then detonated via text message. The phone which sent the message was ditched in the ocean and



The investigative work of slain Maltese journalist Daphne Caruana Galizia has been pursued by dozens of colleagues worldwide who have published a flurry of revelations and delved into the mystery surrounding her murder. PHOTO: AFP

later recovered by police. The murderous plan culminated in a ferocious explosion on the afternoon of 16 October as Caruana Galizia drove away from her home. In an interview given to the Daphne Project, Caruana Gal-

izia's son Matthew recalls how after hearing the explosion he rushed from his home, running barefoot towards the crime scene he found his mother's burnt out vehicle and parts of her body strewn across the road.—AFP ■

Yangon U-21 team edges Hantharwady U-21

THE U-21 Yangon United team narrowly defeated Hantharwady United U-21 by a score of 2-1 yesterday at Salin Stadium in Yangon in one of the games of the MPT Myanmar National League 2018. Yangon United lined up with Thura Kyaw as goalkeeper along with Wai Yan, Hlwan Moe Oo, Kaung Htet Soe, Nyein Chan Soe, Kyaw Swar Win, Aung Myo Oo, Aung Bala, Naing Min Thu, Saw Aung Myo Tun and Tay Zaw Lin.

The Hantharwady United U-21 team lined up with Pyae Phyo Aung in goal, along with Han win Aung, Sai Nan Aung, Lwin Myo Aung, Kyaw Htet Paing Oo, Okkar Soe, Thet Aung, Wai Yan Myo, Nyein Chan Thu, Aung Si Thu and Tint Naing Tun Lin. Yangon United's youth players were forced to play defensively almost immediately after the kick-off as Hantharwady attacked with steady play.

But it was Yangon that gained the opening goal at 17 minutes scored by Saw Aung Myo Tun from the left side of the net, a shot that the Hantharwady keeper was unable to save.



Youth players from Yangon and Hantharwady vie for the ball in yesterday's match at Salin Stadium.

PHOTO: MNL

Hantharwady's youth players tried to equalise the score, but chances were few due to the massive defence line of Yangon.

With patient play, the second goal for Yangon United was scored by Naing Min Thu with

the support of Kaung Htet Soe at the 35-minute mark.

Hantharwady was better in the second half. At 57 minutes, Kyaw Htet Paing Oo scored Hantharwady's first goal.

At the 62-minute mark, Yan-

gon's Naing Min Thu passed the ball to Kaung Htet Soe who then kicked the ball toward the net, but Hantharwady's keeper denied it. Neither team came close to scoring after that.—Kyaw Zin Lin ■

Myanmar U-21 selects players for Brunei tourney

EIGHTEEN standout footballers comprise the Myanmar U-21 national football team that will compete for the 2018 Hassanal Bolkiah Trophy Championship that will be hosted in Brunei starting on 23 April, according to the Myanmar Football Federation (MFF). The goalkeepers are Bhone Thitsar Min and Tun Nanda Oo.

The defenders are Than Htike Zin, Kyaw Thu Tun, Win Moe Kyaw, Thu Rein Soe, Ye Yint Aung, Thet Paing Htwe and Soe Moe Kyaw. The midfielders are Myat Kaung Khant, Soe Lwin Lwin, Myat Htun Thit, Lwin Moe Aung and Hein Htet Aung. The strikers are Pyae Sone Naing, Zin Min Htun, Aung Khaung Mhan and Win Naing Htun. The Myanmar U-21 team will be led by head coach U Kyi Lwin, team administrator U Thann Toe Aung, assistant coaches U Chi Naing and U Kyaw Lwin, and Goal Coach U Myo Kyaw Thu. The team departs for Brunei today, according to an MFF official. Myanmar will first play Thailand on 24 April.—Kyaw Zin Lin ■

No room for error as Barca face Sevilla in Copa del Rey final

MADRID — Barcelona and Sevilla will know the success of their respective seasons is on the line when they go head to head in the Copa del Rey final on Saturday.

The Cup would certainly have been third on Barca's list of priorities only a month ago, but the shattering Champions League defeat to Roma has altered perceptions of what might have otherwise have been a stellar campaign.

Unbeaten in La Liga and virtually certain to win the title, a domestic double may not be enough to remove the lingering disappointment from Rome, particularly if arch rivals Real Madrid clinch their third consecutive European crown.

"I live with a little anxiety," Barca midfielder Philippe Coutinho said Thursday. "But it is a very



Barcelona's Denis Suarez (C) shoots at the goal guarded by Celta Vigo's Sergio Alvarez at the Balaidos stadium in Vigo on 17 April 2018. PHOTO: AFP

important and very happy moment, playing a final only two or three months after arriving."

Another surprise loss this weekend would certainly settle the argument, even if it seems strange to declare a team un-

der pressure six days after they marked the longest unbeaten run in La Liga history.

In moulding his team around organisation, hard work and the irrepressible Lionel Messi, Barcelona coach Ernesto Valverde

has steered this team away from the club's more free-flowing, attacking traditions.

He has proven a master of extraction, drawing the very best from a squad that unexpectedly lost one of its star strikers in Neymar last summer, and owns far less talent than its predecessors.

Sevilla have fewer questions to answer in terms of entertainment. Since Vincenzo Montella took charge in December, they have beaten Atletico Madrid, twice, Manchester United and drawn with Bayern Munich and Barcelona.

They have also conceded five goals at home to Real Betis and lost to minnows Alaves, Eibar and Leganes. In their draw against Barca, they shipped two goals in the 87th and 89th minutes.

"We know how they play,

that they have quality and a fast counter-attack," Coutinho said. "The most important thing is to think about ourselves, how we have to play and what we should do to win." Sitting seventh in the table and 17 points adrift of the top four, a trophy — particularly with a win over Barca — would diminish a disappointing league position and enhance their run to the Champions League quarter-finals. Lose, and there will be little left to cling onto.

"We have a great opportunity to win a title for the club," Sevilla midfielder Pablo Sarabia said. "We have to think about the good things from this season.

"It is true we have not been consistent in the league but in the Champions League we have made history and in the cup we have the opportunity to lift a trophy."—AFP ■