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State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi greets Mr. Song Tao, Minister of the International Department of the Communist Party of the People's Republic of China, in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

State Counsellor receives Minister of International Department of PRC Communist Party

STATE Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi received Mr. Song Tao, Minister of the International Department of the Communist Party of the People's Republic of China, at her residence in Nay Pyi Taw

yesterday afternoon.

Present with the State Counsellor at the meeting were Union Minister for State Counsellor's Office U Kyaw Tint Swe, Union Minister for Electricity and Energy U Win Khaing, Un-

ion Minister for International Cooperation U Kyaw Tin and other officials. The Minister of the International Department of the Communist Party of the People's Republic of China was accompanied by Chinese Am-

bassador to Myanmar Mr. Hong Liang.

After the meeting, the State Counsellor hosted a dinner for the visiting Minister at her residence.—Myanmar News Agency ■

President U Win Myint to visit Singapore

AT the invitation of His Excellency Mr. Lee Hsien Loong, Prime Minister of the Republic of Singapore, U Win Myint, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, will leave for Singapore in the near future to attend the 32nd ASEAN Summit.—Ministry of International Cooperation ■

Residents urged to take precautions against smoke from garbage fire

THE Ministry of Health and Sports has pointed out the health hazards caused by smokes and carbon monoxide after several people suffered from coughing and choking after inhaling noxious smoke produced by a fire at a dumpsite in Hlainethaya Township. **SEE PAGE-12**



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Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat meets with Ambassador of the Czech Republic Mr. Jaroslav Dolecek in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat receives Czech Ambassador

PYITHU Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat received Ambassador of the Czech Republic to Myanmar Mr Jaroslav Dolecek at the Pyithu Hluttaw guest

room, Pyithu Hluttaw Building, Nay Pyi Taw, yesterday morning.

During the meeting, they discussed and exchanged

views on matters related to bilateral friendship and cooperation, investment and bilateral economic development. —Myanmar News Agency ■

Local, foreign media personnel visit reception, transit centre

By Myo Myint

LOCAL and foreign media personnel who wished to check the ground situation in Rakhine State for stability, peace, security and development, as well as observe the reception of displaced persons in the Maung-taw region, visited Nga Khu Ya reception centre and Hla Phoe Khaung transit centre yesterday and interviewed a family of five who had returned from Bangladesh.

On arriving at the Maung-taw District General Administration Department from Sit-tway in the morning, the media personnel were briefed by Deputy District Administrator U Ye Htoo on the arrangements made for the media personnel to collect news about the terrorist acts that occurred in 2016 and 2017 and the current UEHRD work processes. The media personnel also raised questions about several matters.

Next, they arrived at Nga

Khu Ya reception centre, where officials explained the process of issuing the national verification card (NVC) to returnees and replied to questions raised by the media personnel.

Later, they went to Hla Pho Khaung transit centre to ensure its construction was completed.

They then returned to the Maung-taw District General Administration Department, where they interviewed a family of five who had returned from the other country separately. ■



Deputy District Administrator U Ye Htoo interviewed by journalists in Maung-taw. **PHOTO: HAN LIN NAING**

Cash donation for UEHRD

U TIN TUN OO, Vice-Chairman, Trusty E-Commerce (Trusty Family Company Limited), donated Ks100 million to the Union Enterprise for Humanitarian Assistance, Resettlement and Development in Rakhine (UEHRD) to carry out its development works.

The donation was made at the office of the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement yesterday morning and was accepted by UEHRD Deputy Chairman Union Minister Dr. Win Myat Aye, who in return presented a document of honour to U Tin Tun Oo.—Myanmar News Agency ■



UEHRD Deputy Chairman Union Minister Dr. Win Myat Aye accepts cash donation from U Tin Tun Oo, Trusty Family Company Limited Vice Chairman yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Anti-Corruption Commission Chairman U Aung Kyi receives Simon PEH Yun LU

MYANMAR Anti-Corruption Commission Chairman U Aung Kyi received Simon PEH Yun LU, Commissioner of Independence Commission Against Corruption (ICAC), and his delegation from Hong Kong at the Anti-Corruption Commission Office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the meeting, U Aung Kyi discussed matters related to the commission's future actions, including the 2018 Action Plan and the law and policy development. Daw Myat Myat Soe, member of the commission, also presented the commission's

background information and performances through a Power Point presentation.

The member of the ICAC then discussed about assisting the commission with anti-corruption courses, education programmes and cooperation between the two organisations in anti-corruption works.

Present at the meeting were secretary of the commission U San Win, and members of the commission U Zaw Win, U Han Nyunt, Daw Myat Myat Soe, U Aung Lwin and U Myo Myint.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Myanmar, Viet Nam artistes to give joint performance

ARTISTES from Myanmar and Viet Nam will hold a joint performance titled "Honouring brands in cultural activities and international integration" at the National Theatre of Yangon on 28 April from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m.

The performance will be

held under the Cultural Cooperation Programme (2017-2020) signed between the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and Socialist Republic of Viet Nam.

Admission is free.—Myanmar News Agency ■



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

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

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



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

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

Union Minister U Kyaw Tint Swe receives Mr. Song Tao

At the invitation of Union Minister for State Counsellor's Office U Kyaw Tint Swe, a delegation led by Mr. Song Tao, Minister of the International Department of the Communist Party of the People's Republic of China, arrived in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

The Chinese Minister met U Kyaw Tint Swe at the Ministry of the State Counsellor's Office in Nay Pyi Taw.

Also present at the meeting were Director-General of International Organizations

and Economic Department U Kyaw Moe Tun, Director-General of the Protocol Department U Thant Sin, Director-General of Political Department U Soe Han and Director-General of State Counsellor's Office U Win Kyaw Aung, as well as Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Hong Liang, Director-General of Bureau One International Department of Communist Party of China Mr. Yuan Zhibing and other officials.—Myanmar News Agency ■



Union Minister U Kyaw Tint Swe shakes hands with Mr. Song Tao, Minister of the International Department of the Communist Party of the People's Republic of China in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

Signing of financing agreement, refinancing agreement for second phase KfW grant fund



Director-General Daw Si Si Pyone and German KfW Development Bank Director Eva Schneider exchange documents at the signing ceremony in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

A SIGNING ceremony for the financing agreement and refinancing agreement for the second-phase German KfW Development Bank grant fund of 10.85 million euros was held at the Ministry of Planning and Finance, Nay Pyi Taw, yesterday morning.

According to the terms of the financing loan, the participating bank will be given a loan at an interest rate of 3.5 per cent per annum, with 12 years grace period and three years repayment period. The bank will be permitted to charge five per cent management and bank charges while providing loans to small and medium enterprises (SMEs) at 8.5 per cent interest per annum.

Co-operative Bank Ltd (CB

Bank) and Myanmar Apex Bank will provide loans to the SMEs. The refinancing agreement was signed by Ministry of Planning and Finance Deputy Minister U Maung Maung Win on behalf of the Myanmar government, Managing Director Daw Naw Eh Hpaw on behalf of CB Bank and board of directors member Director Daw Thida Myo Aung on behalf of the Myanmar Apex Bank.

The financing agreement was signed by Treasury Department Director-General Daw Si Si Pyone on behalf of the Ministry of Planning and Finance, and German KfW Development Bank Director Eva Schneider on behalf of the German government. A separate agreement

was signed by Treasury Department Director-General Daw Si Si Pyone on behalf of the Ministry of Planning and Finance, German KfW Development Bank Director Eva Schneider on behalf of the German government, Managing Director Daw Naw Eh Hpaw on behalf of CB Bank and board of directors member Director Daw Thida Myo Aung on behalf of Myanmar Apex Bank.

The German government had provided 4.45 million euros as the first-phase grant fund for SME development in Myanmar, and this is the second phase grant fund.

This fund will enable low interest loans for SMEs that will support their development. — Myanmar News Agency ■

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you submit a text longer than 500 words
please be aware that your letter will be
edited.

Residents collect drinking water from a lake in Dala Township located outside Yangon city. PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE

Region gov't plans to distribute water to Dala after monsoon

By May Thet Hnin

The Yangon City Development Committee (YCDC) will start distributing water in Dala Township after this year's rainy season, according to Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein. The project has reached

the water purification stage.

The YCDC will carry out the distribution of water with the use of water browsers, as it has to implement the project in a short period. We will lay water pipes in the rainy season and then distribute the water.

The YCDC is implementing

the water supply project in cooperation with a private company. The water supply project will use water from Toe River.

The company will carry out water purification, while the YCDC will distribute it.

The YCDC will collect a certain amount as the tap wa-

ter bill, he added. People in Dala Township have to rely on lakes, as the underground water quality is poor. The region faces water shortage every summer.

The region government planned to implement this project as social organisations have to donate water every year. ■

Entrepreneurs welcome relaxing of closed fishing season restriction

By May Thet Hnin

Entrepreneurs have welcomed the Fisheries Department's decision to allow 20 per cent of the fishing vessels to operate during the closed fishing season. Initially, the department had imposed a blanket ban on fishing with offshore fishing vessels during the spawning season.

"The ministry has decided to allow 20 per cent of the fishing vessels to operate. I am thankful to the Hluttaw MPs for taking the decision by observing the current economic situation. It is better than banning fishing completely," said U Maung Maung Soe, chairman of the Myanmar Marine Fisheries

Association.

This year, the closed season is from 16 May to 15 August. Last year, the department allowed 30 per cent of the fishing vessels to operate. However, this year, the department had banned fishing completely. The fishery enterprises then requested the government to allow a few fishing vessels like last year. They also submitted a list on how the ban would affect the fisheries sector.

"We submitted the disadvantages to the fisheries sector, on how the ban can affect the fishermen's livelihoods. The factories that are connected with the fisheries sector will have to shut down. The price of the fish

is also likely to increase. It can also trigger illegal fishing," said U Maung Maung Soe.

Some 70 per cent of the labourers will get back their jobs if the department allows 20 per cent of the fishing vessels to operate. During this period, the price of fisheries produce is likely to rise by 20 per cent, he added.

By allowing 20 per cent of the fishing vessels during the closed fishing season, the government will help overcome the scarcity of fish and avert a price rise. A blanket ban should be imposed only when the fishery sector is developed in Myanmar, said Daw Toe Nandar Tin, vice chairperson of Myanmar Fish-

eries Federation.

Although the department has allowed 20 per cent of the fishing vessels during the closed fishing season, the department has still banned some kinds of fishing equipment.

In 2013, the fishing period was closed for 45 days, with 75 per cent of the fishing vessels allowed to operate. The closed season was extended to 60 days, with 65 per cent of the fishing vessels authorised to operate for 90 days in 2014, while 50 per cent of the fishing vessels were authorised in 2015. The authorised fishing vessels were reduced to 40 per cent in 2016 and 30 per cent in 2017 during 90 days of the closed season. ■

Dry fish businessmen piling up stock for closed fishing season

DRY fish businessmen are stockpiling raw materials, as the fishing season draws to a close.

From 2013, the Fisheries Department, under the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation, has been closing the fishing area and fixing the breeding season. This year, the season will close from 16 May to 15 August. Earlier, fishing was totally restricted during the prescribed closed season. However, the fishery department relaxed this rule, allowing 20 per cent of the fishing vessels to operate during the season in response to a request made by Myanmar



Dried fish baked in the sun. PHOTO: SUPPLIED

offshore fishermen.

“The businessmen will try to go fishing, as 20 per cent of the fishing vessels are allowed

to fish. However, they will not be able to make profits after deducting the labour costs. There will be shortage of supply in the

market, and the price of raw materials will increase. Therefore, dry fish businessmen will stock them, no matter what,” said U Tun Sein, secretary of Myanmar Fish Paste, Dried Fish and Fish Sauce Producers Association.

Some 60 per cent of the merchants are piling up the raw materials, leading to the high price of fish in the market.

The rent of cold storages has also risen by Ks300 per viss, said U Tun Sein.

Dry fish merchants mainly depend on local consumption. Both freshwater and saltwater fish are being stocked.

“The price will be on the higher side with the supply shortage in the market, besides the high rent of cold warehouses,” he stated.

In 2013, fishing was closed for 45 days, with 75 per cent of vessels allowed to fish. The closed season extended to 60 days, with 65 per cent of the vessels authorised to fish in 2014, while in 2015, the period lasted 90 days, with 50 per cent of the vessels authorised to fish. Authorised fishing vessels were reduced to 40 per cent in 2016 and 30 per cent in 2017 during the 90 days of the closed period. — May Thet Hnin ■

Thailand tops in bilateral trade with Myanmar

AMONG its ASEAN trade partners, Myanmar’s trade value was the highest with Thailand at US\$4.53 billion, as of a month prior to the end of the 2017-2018 fiscal year (FY), according to statistics released by the commerce ministry online.

Between 1 April and the end of February last FY, Singapore stood second with trade value worth some \$3.47 billion. Malaysia was listed third with a trade value of \$1 billion, while

Indonesia ranked fourth with an estimated trade value of \$926 million. Myanmar’s trade with Viet Nam reached some \$658 million.

The value of bilateral trade with the Philippines was \$45 million. Bilateral trade between Cambodia and Myanmar fetched some \$4.9 million, while the trade value with Laos was some \$1.5 million.

Brunei’s trade value with Myanmar is less than \$1 million.

The country mainly exported agricultural products, fishery products and minerals, while food and beverages, electronic tools, motor vehicles and consumer goods were imported into Myanmar.

Apart from its main trade partner China, Myanmar’s external trade is mostly carried out with regional partners. Trade with countries of the European Union still cannot compare with regional trade. — Ko Htet ■

Canada to buy Ywangan coffee this year

CANADA will buy Ywangan coffee produced in southern Shan State this year, according to a report in Myawady Daily yesterday.

Canadian coffee shops and enterprises will reportedly buy the Ywangan coffee beans at international prices.

The prevailing price of Myanmar’s coffee beans is US\$4,000 per tonne in the export market.

Representatives from three foreign countries, including Canada, have met Ywangan coffee producers. According to the agreement with Canada, Ywangan coffee will be shipped by mid-2018. “We will continue to explore more foreign markets,” said Ma Hsu Hsu Aung, manager of Amara Co. Ltd. from Ywangan Town.

Four coffee companies from Canada will buy Ywangan coffee. China and the United States are loyal customers of Ywangan coffee beans.

With Myanmar’s coffee quality improving, there are more than 6,600 acres of coffee plantations in Ywangan Township. Some 50 per cent of the coffee production is meant for the export market.

The Ywangan coffee beans, globally recognised as specialty coffee, are in high demand. Myanmar’s Arabica is exported to some 10 countries, including Thailand, Malaysia, China, the United States and Taiwan.

Myanmar’s coffee is mostly produced in Ywangan area, Pyin Oo Lwin Town, and Nawng-hkio and Mogok townships. — GNLM ■

Straw mushroom price falls due to oversupply

THE price of straw mushrooms has dropped by more than 50 per cent owing to a glut in the market, according to a report in Myawady Daily yesterday.

Three years ago, Enokitake, a thin and white mushroom used in Asian cuisine, entered the domestic market, and its consumption has increased every year since. This type of mushroom is grown in the cold season, but it

is difficult to grow it locally, said agriculturists.

Straw mushrooms fetched Ks7,000 per viss in the pre-Thingyan period, and the prevailing price is around Ks3,000 per viss.

Local consumers have changed their taste and consumption of Enokitake, resulting in the price decline, said a grower.

After the paddy harvest season, many growers plant straw

mushrooms, which reap high yield, leading to the decline in price. Locally produced edible mushrooms are healthy and safe, but they cannot compete with exported mushrooms in quality and price, owing to the high transport and input costs. The Agriculture Department is providing training to mushroom growers to help them produce high-quality mushrooms. — GNLM ■

Foreign demand may push up price of low quality rice

WITH increasing demand from both the sea route and Muse border in the post-Thingyan period, low quality rice is expected to cost a bit more in the local market, U Than Oo, secretary of Bayinnaung rice depot, told Myawady Daily.

A bag of low quality rice bag brings in between Ks25,000 and Ks26,500 in Bayinnaung market. The price may in-

crease by Ks2,000 to Ks3,000 per bag.

Trade flow from Muse to China has been smooth so far. Additionally, rice will be shipped to foreign countries via sea by the end of this month. As a result, the demand is higher.

The high price of rice is not related to the civil service salary adjustment announced recently. In addition to setting the basic

price of paddy, the cultivation of marketable paddy leads to an increase in demand.

The price will go up in the coming monsoon season, said U Than Oo.

Some 3.5 million tonnes of rice were exported in the 2017-2018 fiscal year via sea, as well as through the border gates, according to the Myanmar Rice Federation. — GNLM ■



A farmer harvests rice in central Myanmar. PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE

Two-year-performance of Yangon Region Government



Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein and Shwedagon Pagoda Board of Trustees cut ribbons to open two lifts at the East Gate of Shwedagon Pagoda in Yangon. **PHOTO: MDN**



Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein holds talks with Mr. Edmund Ho Hau Wah, Vice-Chairman of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference. **PHOTO: MNA**

By Han Ni Win

YANGON Region Government has carried out the works for both local and foreign investors to be able to start their operation at the industrial zones in Yangon with a view to increase the job opportunities. In order to achieve all-round development in all socio-economic sectors in accordance with economic policy set by the State, the Yangon Region Government is undertaking the works to support and encourage the small and medium scale enterprises, the development of health and education sectors, and conservation of natural environment.

Yangon's Urban Planning

The Yangon Region Government is now striving to put the budget spending system up to the international norms and to bring about the collective effort of government and community for the development of health and education sectors in Yangon.

As for the Yangon Region Government, efforts are being made to promote the socio-economic status of the people in the city.

Compared to Yangon City, some townships which are outside of Yangon have lagged behind in living standard.

Arrangements have been made to set up the Yangon City development plan focusing on the following four issues: Urban flooding, Drought, Pollution and Water scarcity.

The development of this plan will make Yangon City more resilient for natural disasters, climate change and potential sea level rising.

Moreover the regional parliament had already approved Ks 32 billion for the construction of bridges in Yangon.

The Yangon Region Government is trying to revise Yangon's urban planning and make into a more livable city by conserving heritage building and green spaces.

Industrial Sector

As Yangon's industrial sector has expanded the land available for the agricultural sector has become less and less and added there is also less labour available for agriculture. Thus there is a need for a master plan that can help ensure the best yields with the labour and land available.

With the aim of educating the people who are leading Small and Medium Enterprises (SME) in terms of business and to put at their disposal the required resources to successfully develop and grow their companies. Along with education, access to financial resources and credit is the priority for economic development.

The Yangon Region Government has made an effort to support SMEs and facilitate their relationships with investors for them to take advantage of more business opportunities.

Plans are under way to provide local businessmen with financial resources and to facilitate their access to credit, which is probably the main handicap today that is slowing the growth of SMEs.

This is the first priority for the immediate future and it is important to grant access to credit as well as to create a new division in the administration to work with companies and assist them whenever they require guidance. The second point is education; it is important to lead these companies in terms of business development and show them how to put in practice a viable business plan. For this reason, we have decided to create an education plan for the SMEs sector.



Thilawa storage tanks and jetty opened on 25 March 2018 in Yangon. **PHOTO: MNA**

Addressing squatter issues

The Yangon Region Government is making an efforts to address the resettlement issue for the squatters and is compiling a list of squatters that will aid them in choosing an area of land for the resettlement programme.

The number of squatters trespassing in development committee lands was initially thought to be around 300,000 people however a survey revealed there are over 400,000 squatters.

Electricity

Yangon will get an around-the-clock supply of electricity in the Yangon Region with the help of over 430 megawatts which will be produced by three power plants next year. It is estimated that Yangon is consuming some 1,190 megawatts of electric power a year, which is about half of the total consumption of the whole country. Its electricity demand has increased yearly by 15 per cent.

The commercial city of Yangon has 29 industrial zones and more than 6,200 small-and-medium-sized enterprises, all of which hike up electricity demands compared to other regions and states.

Investment Sector in Yangon

Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein said that 100 per cent Yangon Region Government-owned New Yangon Development Company Limited was under way to implement the 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. The Yangon Region Government had invited local and international businesses to participate in the projects in Yangon. The Yangon City needs to be in the form of a green economy which can be prevented from becoming a dumping ground for businesses that damages the environment.

Thus investments are coming in and interested investors from ASEAN region countries, South Korea, Japan and China are currently discussing and negotiating with the regional government for investing in road construction works, power, housing construction and factories. Moreover western entities such as the United States and the EU are interested in technology service industry.

That is why, qualified local and in-

ternational businesses that can provide quality work will be given priority, while incentives will be provided for businesses that create more job opportunities.

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 according to the data.

Thilawa Special Economic Zone (SEZ)

The Thilawa Special Economic Zone (SEZ) being located on the outskirts of Yangon is the first Special Economic Zone (SEZ) built in Myanmar. It is also a monumental project strongly supported by the governments of Myanmar and Japan. As for the government, arrangements are being made to carry out 2400 hectares in the Thilawa SEZ and the opening ceremony of this project has been held on September 23, 2015.

As a successful project, investments were made at the amount of US\$ 1.2 billion in the Zone A (Phase A), and 96 per cent of plots of land had been leased, and the remaining 4 per cent is under negotiation. Many giant companies come here and we have granted 90 kinds of business to 16 countries. Many factories and workshops including 40 kinds of business are being operated currently. Among them, some four factories export goods at the moment.

(Translated by Win Ko Ko Aung)

Many factories and workshops including 40 kinds of business are being operated currently. Among them, some four factories export goods at the moment.



Two water buses are seen in the Yangon River at the ceremony before they are commissioned into service. **PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR**



YBS buses seen in downtown Yangon. **PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR**



A cargo vessel moors at the banks of the Hlaing River in Yangon. **PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR**



A cargo vessel in the Yangon River on its way to the Yangon Port. **PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE**



CB Bank opens new SME centre in South Dagon Township in Yangon Region. **PHOTO: MNA**

Safe food will improve health, alleviate poverty of farmers

THE Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation has been encouraging the research and dissemination of agricultural methods to farmers while assisting in private sector development in the agricultural sector.

The Ministry has been raising organic farming with the aim of helping farmers to be able to export value-added local agricultural products to foreign markets.

Agriculture is one of the best opportunities in Myanmar for investors looking to make an immediate impact. This presents opportunities for foreign financial firms to provide funding for agricultural land or to cultivate land themselves.

The land in Myanmar is very fertile, and Myanmar people have generations of experience in agricultural enterprises. If farmers have access to capital, better seeds, and better technology, the agricultural sector in Myanmar has the potential to see rapid growth.

To boost the agricultural sector with safe crops, the country has to tackle the challenges of erratic weather, capacity and technical know-how to produce value-added products and dependence on the demand of foreign markets.

foreign markets.

IFC, a member of the World Bank Group, supported the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation (MoALI) to launch Myanmar's Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) Protocol and Guidelines in December last year.

The objective of the guidelines is to boost the productivity and profitability of farmers through sustainable farming.

The GAP Protocol and Guidelines for 15 crops including tomatoes, peanuts, rice, and chili, among others, will guide cultivators on how to produce safe and quality products for the local and international markets.

All over the country, national crops such as rice, pulses and beans, oil crops, industrial crops and fruits are produced for local consumption and export.

Farmers, on their part, need to follow the instructions of agricultural experts to produce safe, quality food and fruits to penetrate more markets.

By Maung Tha
(Archaeology)

MYANMAR went through the Stone Age, the Bronze Age, the Iron Age and the Pyu Age with scholars and researchers surveying historic records which have shed light on ancient Myanmar historical legends and tales.

Primitive men were generally believed to have lived in urban areas near the river basins where a clean water was kept in an abundant supply. The remains of implements and tools in ancient cities were on these basins, letting researchers and scholars assess their culture and traditions.

Stone Age in Myanmar

The present-day Myanmar people have evolved from human-like primates who lived in Myanmar 40 million years ago. Primates started to use implements and tools at a period of relatively high culture, thereby letting researchers distinguish at which Age (Bronze or Iron) primates used these tools. Geologist Professor Dr. Nyi Nyi divided the Stone Age into the Palaeolithic Age, Mesolithic Age and Neolithic Age; there was no existence of Mesolithic Age in Myanmar; he continued to write about our ancient history. According to basic history of Myanmar, there were evidences of Palaeolithic Age and Neolithic Age, with discoveries of very few evidences of the Mesolithic Age. But the period between the two Ages could be generally assumed to be the Mesolithic Age.

Between one million years and ten thousand years, heavy rain poured out all over grassy plains in Myanmar; creating a layer of lateritic pebbles by means of erosion. Five terraced deposits along the Ayeyarwady Valley created the present-day Sale Town and Chauk Town within the duration of million of years. Weapons and chopping tools of Paleolithic Age were found among one to four terraced deposits and the Neolithic Age was discovered terrace of the river bank. A lot of Paleolithic Age weapons were found in Upper Myanmar and so Paleolithic Age was dubbed as the Anyathian Culture by researchers.

The culture of Myanmar Stone Age flourished between five to six and ten thousand years ago. In Myanmar, the culture of late Stone Age or that of New Stone Age flourished in some areas in Salingyi Town, some areas in Kani town, some areas in Chaung-U, some from Monwya and some areas from including Oakaie from Butalin Township.

Oakaie region of Myanmar Bronze Age & Iron Age



A Bronze Age skeleton uncovered by archaeologists in Sagaing Division. PHOTO: DAW THU THU WIN/MANDALAY DEPARTMENT OF ARCHAEOLOGY

Myanmar Bronze Age evidences in Nyaungkan Village Myanmar primate anthropoids went through the Paleolithic Age, Mesolithic Age and Neolithic Age and are believed by researchers to have reached to the Bronze Age since circa. 3500 years when they started to use weapons and tools on bronze metals. Myanmar Archaeology Department started recent excavations in 1904 and no evidences of the Bronze Age were found up until 1998. T. O. Morris who wrote an essay on Myanmar Stone Age said that he found bronze axes and arrows in Myanmar and wrote about them in vol.28 issue of Journal of Burma Research Society in 1938. He wrote about the bronze weapons found on the ground not from excavations, so the period of the Myanmar Bronze Age and the culture in that period cannot be described firmly.

In the course of world history, primate anthropoids went the Stone Age, the Bronze Age and the Iron Age, but some foreign researchers believed that there was no existence of the Bronze Age in Myanmar.

Between 1998 and 1999 the researchers and scholars excavated an ancient graveyard, near Nyaungkan village, Butalin Town, finding a buried corpse surfacing and establishing a concept of the Bronze Age in Myanmar: Three more excavations revealed a lot of anthropoid fossils including ca-davers, bronze tools and weapons, partially depicting a Myanmar

finding human bones, earthen pots and bronze weapons. A committee for studying evidences on ancient cultures' was formed with scholars and members from Ministry of Defence Strategic Studies, Yangon University, Archaeology Department, Anthropology Department and Ministry of Culture. The Committee carried out extensive excavations systematically from January, 1998 towards the end of March, 1999.

Three excavations of land were demarcated into plots, revealing evidences about the Myanmar Bronze Age. Then the landowner U Chit Hlaing donated the land plot to the State, with demarcation of Cultural Zone for Nyaungkan Bronze Age by the Ministry of Culture.

These excavations revealed a lot of evidences about the Myanmar Bronze Age in Nyaungkan Village—two earthen smoking pipes, four bronze axes, five perforated beads, 23 slender-shaped beads, five bronze bayonets, six bronze arrows, five broken urns with designs and many others; these Bronze Age exhibits were donated on 22 March, 1998 to the Ministry of Culture to be displayed at the National Museum. The news of handing over the bronze artifacts to the Ministry appeared on the Myanmar Alinn and the Mirror dailies on 23 March, 1998.

The Bronze Age and Iron Age in the Oakaie village The culture of the Bronze Age is culturally by that of the iron Age. Pieces of the Bronze Age artifacts were found

on the farmland of U Phyu who lived in the north side of Oakaie village, about two miles away from Nyaungkan village. The pieces were believed to be fragments of bronze weapons and tools covered with fungoid growths which were found among the stream banks collapsed by erosion. Therefore the Oakaie village was assumed as the place where the culture of the Bronze Age once flourished as in the Nyaungkan village.

The Oakaie village is a place where culture flourished from the Stone Age to the Iron Age and it is situated in the Nyaungkan village tract, Butalin township, Sagaing Region A Survey team led by Professor U San Nyein of Archaeology, Yangon University excavated two plots of land near Oakaie Village in 1998, finding many implements and tools.

Similarly, French scholars from National Centre for Scientific

Research in cooperation with Myanmar Department of National Museums carried out extensive excavations of the Bronze Age and Iron Age in Oakaie village from 2014 to 2015. Excavations covered three plots of land with five meters in circumference; excavating a plot of land with a length of one meter and a width of five meters revealed fossil bones of humans and animals, bronze axes, bone bracelets, anklets and beads, earthen plates and mussels were also found in the excavations.

Among the Oakaie excava-

tions in 2014, five human fossil bones were found almost intact among the 23 human bones. The 22 remains were buried towards north and the rest towards the south.

In other Bronze Age and iron Age, the remains of the babies were put in big pots before burial; the lids of these pots were in touch with an opposite position. But remains in big pots were not found in Oakaie region; utensils such as earthen pots, plates and bowls were buried along with seven human fossil bones like other Bronze Age and Iron Age. On fossil bones were found ornaments such as stone and bone beads wearing up to their necks and waists. A bracelet was found near human bones; it was assumed by the Archaeology Department that she did not wear it when she was alive, but buried it along with her remains.

Whenever excavations on a place where the Bronze Age and iron Age flourished were carried out, mussels were usually found.

In 2015 Oakaie excavations, a plot of land No.1 revealed 26 human bones, earthen pot lids made of animal bones, ornaments such as stone bracelets, beads and utilities such as earthen pots and bowls and traditional use of mussels. The Plot No. 2 unveiled 9 fossil human bones, stone bracelets ornamental stone weapons and pots and broken earthen pots with designs and customary use of mussels. Many human bones were found wrapped with a piece of cloth and bamboo map.

Statements released by the Archaeology Department described how human beings were buried individually, en masse, wrapping up with cloth and bamboo, burials in coffins and the baby remains in big pots.

By means of excavations near the Nyaungkan and Oakaie villages, more evidences with prehistoric culture in these regions were registered.

In addition, cultural evidences of Oakaie region Neolithic Age and the Bronze Age could be compared to those of the other Bronze Age and the Iron Age. Therefore excavations on the Bronze Age and the Iron Age should continue so that prehistoric times in Myanmar could be vividly described.

Translated by Arakan Sein
Ref: Proceedings of the Workshop on Bronze Age culture in Myanmar (Universities Historical Research Centre) Research trip on Myanmar Bronze Age (U San Win, Archaeology) Stone Age Culture in Chindwin Valley (Shinchin)

Online skin trade fuels Myanmar elephant slaughter

AN emerging online market for elephant skin in China is threatening the survival of the creatures in neighbouring Myanmar as poaching intensifies to meet demand, conservationists warned Tuesday.

Myanmar has watched with alarm as the number of slain elephants found in the country's forests rises each year, with many blaming the trade in the mammal's hide.

The biggest market for the products is in China, where the tough skin is ground up and used to treat stomach or human skin ailments, or sold as jewellery in the form of blood-red beads and pendants.

The items are increasingly advertised and sold on the internet, according to the UK-based charity Elephant Family, which outlined the findings in a new study called "Skinned: The growing appetite for Asian Elephants".

Unlike poaching for ivory, the skin trade does not discriminate between genders and ages in elephants, making them far more vulnerable.

"This means that no elephant is safe," said the group's acting conservation director Belinda Stewart-Cox. "Myanmar is losing too many elephants too fast."

Elephant Family monitored multiple internet forums and interacted with traders -- without making purchases -- to learn more about the supply chain.

Out of eleven online sellers who said they knew the product origin, nine cited Myanmar and two Laos.

One China-based trader who claims to have "invented" elephant skin beads said she gets the material from a Myanmar border town, calling the sourcing "long-term and nonstop," the report said.

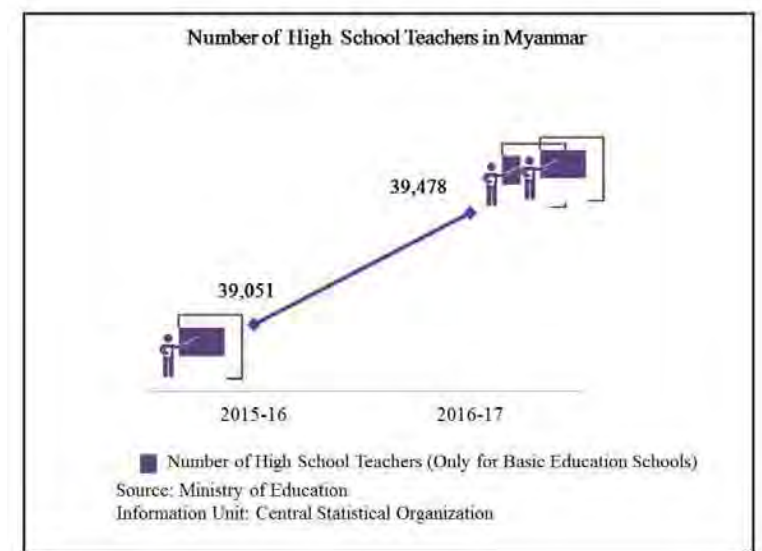
Some 2,000 wild elephants are thought to be left in Myanmar, the second largest population in the region after Thailand.

But a combination of weak oversight and lawless border regions outside central government control has made Myanmar a key hub in the global wildlife trafficking trade.

Last year 59 elephant carcasses were found in the wild, a jump from four in 2010, according to government statistics cited by the report.

While the NGO said it was hard to prove with certainty whether the rise in skin product sales was directly linked to the rise in poaching, the parallel surge leaves few other explanations.

The researchers also documented the sale of elephant skin powder through China-based traditional medicine and pharmaceutical platforms, though it remains unclear whether African or Asian elephants were used in the goods.—Agence France-Presse





State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and youths in Kayah State discuss several issues including peace and development at the Peace Talk in Loikaw, Kayah State. **PHOTO: MNA**

Performance of Kayah State Government in Second Year in Office

By Shin Min

TWO years have passed since Kayah State government has been serving for the interest of brethren living in the state focusing on regional development. The state is home to nine tribes of Kayah stock – Kayah, Kayan, Kayaw, Gaekho, Gaebur, Yinbaw, Yintale, Manu Manaw and Kayan Lahta – and also living together with them are Shan, Inntha and Bamar.

During the second year in office, the government paid attention on development of tourism industry.

“It is known to local people that the number of tourists visiting to the state is more than the previous year’s total number. There is a great potential for increasing the number. As it is said attention is paid on tourism, here arises a question: What is the initiation the state government made? The first step is opening border trade camp and introducing border trade. The second step is signing of MoU on sister-city between Mae Hong Son District and Loikaw, Kayah State.” said Kayah State Chief Minister U L Phaung Sho.

“We want the people know how job opportunities are created and how to earn livelihoods by promoting tourism industry through cooperation.” he said.

As accessibility is a must in promoting tourism industry, the state government has been taken necessary measures to ensure good transportation upgrading road networks in the state.

State Transportation and Electricity Minister U Khin Maung Phyu said,

“All the roads constructed by the Road Department under the Ministry of Construction are tarred roads. Roads in towns are now in the process of covering Asphalt Concrete. All the bridges in the states are concrete ones. Regarding electricity, the state enjoys 35% out of the whole country which covers 70 % in the state.”

“This is aimed at emerging a good foundation for generations to come. We are now trying our best for them and they have to shoulder the duty by themselves in the future.” he said.

To attract tourists at home and abroad, a water route from Hekhon to Inle via Moebye was made in addition to sightseeing on board motorboats along Bilu creek and opening of Naungya Lake night bazaar.

These are the performances made during the second year in office of the state government.

State Hluttaw Chairman U Hla Htwe made comments on these undertakings saying, “Thanks to these efforts, dwellers of Kayah state have a chance to take a rest and other visitors can enjoy the beauties of our state.”

One of the locals expressed his feelings saying, “I’m very glad to witness developments in our state. I’ve noticed that there are many more visitors from abroad as well as from home. I’m also pleased to know our state government is taking measures to create job opportunities and resort centers for us.”

According to state government, Loilimlay and Nanthpekhone villages were upgraded into a town levels during the second year of its in office.



Kayah State Chief Minister U L Phaung Sho opens the new building of Kayah General Hospital in Loikaw, Kayah State. **PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR**



The new building of Kayah General Hospital in Loikaw. **PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR**

The chief minister said that he believed all the villagers in the two villages would be happy for upgrading their villages into towns; that it was not enough to satisfy with the result; that the state government would fulfill all the needs including supplying water and electricity and building roads; that people, for their part, are to maintain these facilities for their sustainability; and that it was pleased to create Balu creek water route for tourism promotion but this was not the end, inns and bungalows are to be built.

The chief minister admitted that there were pros and cons in implementing road projects, supplying water and electricity and promoting tourism industry and thus he and his government members are trying to promote the strong points by reducing the weak points.

courses on weaving, making jams, soap, shampoo, and sewing machine, basic mechanical courses, welding course are conducted to reach right down to villages.

Animal reproduction is relayed for villagers. Before sending the animals, methods how to apply is provided. Regarding farm products, high yield strains are distributed to farmers. Three billion kyat is earmarked for implementing water supply project on Nantabet and Pun creeks. As the task depends mainly on budget received, it cannot be carried out with might and main. But, within five years, the project can be completed to supply water to remote villages facing water scarcity, said the chief minister.

To conserve traditional heritages of Kayah people, Literature and Culture Office is set up in Loikaw. This programme

As accessibility is a must in promoting tourism industry, the state government has been taken necessary measures to ensure good transportation upgrading road networks in the state.

Greening the environs is one of the undertakings carried out by Kayah State government.

“To recover the deforestation during the past decade, reforestation measures are being taken putting teak on 50 acres land, and firewood plantations on 35 acres in Loikaw, Dimawhso, Prusho, Bawlake, Hpasauung and Maese Townships. There only left two townships-Shardaw and Ywathit. For this achievement, we heard that headquarters in Nay Pyi Taw has a plan to award prizes.” the chief minister said. “One of the weak points is receiving a small budget. The plantations have been destroyed by cows and buffaloes of nearby villages. But according to rules, if 65 out of 100 is survived it is a success.” said State Minister for Natural Resources and Environmental Conversation U Teerei.

Conducting vocational training courses for villagers is one of the performances carried out by the state government. Regardless of graduated person or not,

will expose the rights of ethnic people, and promote their literature and culture.

“Now it is witnessed that many encouragements are being made to promote the birthrights of ethnic people.

Kayah Hluttaw approved Kayah State Museum and Library Law, Certificate Law and Awarding Law. It also approved curriculum drawn by National Literature and Culture Committee. “it is very much important to serve the interest of farmers. In that regard grab land are returned to owners.” said the chief minister. Hluttaw representative Dr. Khin Sithu said, “I want people to put their trust on us as well as on the Tatmadaw. Not paying lip service, but walking one’s talking would surely win their trust. This will be achieved through the efforts of the people, the Tatmadaw and the government. Kayah State government is trying its best to fulfill the needs of people by carrying out regional development undertakings.

(Translated By Wallace)



Traditional dance troupe of Kayan people performs to welcome visitors on 29 December, 2017, in Loikaw. **PHOTO: MNA**



Dr. Aung Kyaw Htwe, Kayah State Minister for Social Affairs and City Development Committee, accepts the project document from JICA official. **PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR**



Kayah State Chief Minister inspects Htiparu Cave in Pruso Township as the Kayah State is promoting tourism in the state. **PHOTO: MNA**



Officials seen at the Lawpita Hydroelectric Power Plant control station in Kayah State. **PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR**



Lawpita Hydroelectric Power Plant located in Kayah State. It is operated by Electric Power Generation Enterprise. **PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR**

Union Minister Thura U Aung Ko meets ministry's staff in Yangon



Union Minister Thura U Aung Ko meets with the staff from Department for the Promotion and Propagation of Sasana and International Theravada Buddhist Missionary University. **PHOTO: MNA**

UNION Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture Thura U Aung Ko yesterday afternoon urged the departmental staff of the Religious Affairs and Culture Ministry to follow the New Year messages of the heads of state in his meeting with the staff.

The Union Minister met with staff from the Fine Arts Department, Archaeology and National Museum Department, Historical Research and National Library Department, and National Culture and Fine Arts University (Yangon) at the National Theatre of Yangon in Dagon Township.

During the meeting, the union minister urged the staff to follow the New Year messages from the heads of state in which he pointed out matters relating to Myanmar's current situation and relationship with other countries. He also urged

all ethnic people of Myanmar to live in unity, protect the nation, eliminate the drug problem as a national duty, live honestly in accord with rules and disciplines without corruption, to be loyal to the nation and to use the state budget systematically without waste. Present at the meeting were Directors-General, rectors, pro-rectors, deputy directors-general, professors and departmental heads, officers and officials from Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture.

Earlier in the day, the Union Minister met with the staff from Department of Religious Affairs, Department for the Promotion and Propagation of Sasana and International Theravada Buddhist Missionary University at the Wizaya Mingalar Dhamma Hall in Kaba Aye Hill in Mayangone Township. —Myanmar News Agency ■

Fourth coord meeting, second donation programme for Bogyoke Aung San documentary movie held

THE fourth coordination meeting to produce the Bogyoke Aung San documentary movie and the second donation programme for the production and screening of the movie were held at Yangon National Theatre on Myoma Kyaung Road yesterday afternoon.

Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture Thura U Aung Ko delivered a speech on the occasion.

The union minister said the documentary about national leader Bogyoke Aung San would depict the history of Myanmar, as well as the history of the Tatmadaw. The opportunity to produce this documentary is an honour akin to performing the national duty, he stated.

The union minister spoke about the importance of ensuring the film was historically accurate, Myanmar historians being in attendance and completing the script in June. Later, it will be submitted to the fifth coordination meeting.

The production of the documentary will be completed in 2019, and it will be screened in 2020. For the successful com-



Union Minister Thura U Aung Ko accepts cash donation from donors and presents the documents of honour to donors. **PHOTO: YE HTUT**

pletion of this important work, the various departments will coordinate in the best possible manner, said the union minister.

At the meeting, Work Committee Secretary Permanent Secretary U Tun Ohn, Joint Secretary 2 U Lu Min and Director Min Htin Ko Ko Gyi discussed the status of the concluded works, the arrangements made to produce the movie and the status of the script writing.

Each sub-committee and the attendees then joined in a general discussion, following which the union minister gave

a concluding speech.

Next, the second donation programme for the production and screening of the Aung San movie was held, where the Aung San movie organising group screened the trailer of the movie, followed by the union minister delivering an opening speech. The donors then donated some Ks74 million in cash, which was accepted by Union Minister Thura U Aung Ko, U Lu Min and Director Min Htin Ko Ko Gyi. The donors were presented with documents of honour.—Yi Yi Myint ■

Residents urged to take precautions against smoke from garbage fire

FROM PAGE-1

The fire started on 21 April, and the foul-smelling smoke from the burning garbage has affected several townships in western Yangon.

The ministry's announcement has alerted the people to take precautions against the

poisonous carbon monoxide, urging them to seek help from local authorities to escape from dense smoke when necessary.

The statement also mentioned the health problems caused by the smoke and fumes, which should be treated at a hospital immediately.

So far, about 15 people have been sent to hospital and more than 60 received health care from mobile health care vehicles, according to the Myanma Alinn daily in its 24 April issue, quoting U Zaw Oo, Ward 20 Administrator of Hlinethaya Township.—GNLM ■

Union Agriculture Minister meets farmers in Hpa-an

THE Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation is fulfilling the regional development, agriculture and livestock breeding requirements of farmers across the country.

Union Minister Dr. Aung Thu met farmers from Hpa-an Township in Kayin State on 20 April to explain and discuss the need for farmers to cooperate and work together, the assistance the ministry would provide to help farmers form a cooperative according to the law, the ways in which farmers could own and use farm machinery, and the expansion of the work on

distributing modern agricultural techniques and methods.

In the evening, the union minister and his delegation arrived in Hpa-an Township to inspect the Tayote Hla river water pumping project.

The project official explained that with the distribution of water from Tayote Hla, Bar Cup, Zathapyin and Than Hlay river water pumping projects, some 1,106 acres of summer crops were benefiting from the project during the 2017-2018 fiscal year.

Further, some 43 tube wells were dug from October 2016 until

March 2018 to support the regional water requirement. The union minister asked the officials and the local populace to maintain the project works that are benefiting the region.

On the morning of 21 April, Union Minister Dr. Aung Thu, Kayin State Minister for Planning, Finance and Development Affairs U Than Naing and State Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation U Saw Myint Oo went to the Hpa-an Town water distribution Ba Me Taung project and Kayin State handloom and vocational training school, where officials and

the union minister and the state ministers coordinated over and discussed the various requirements. The Kayin State Handloom and Vocational Training School is conducting short-term courses, such as value adding for basic crops, bamboo handicrafts, handloom, basic welding, motorcycle repair and other maintenance courses. In the 2017-2018 fiscal year, some 269 trainees were being trained. They then arrived at Agriculture Science Institute(Hpa-an) and observed the training courses conducted there.

In his discussion after the

observation, the union minister said that Agriculture Science was producing many mid-level agriculture experts.

Agriculture Science must not only train, but also spread information on agricultural techniques and observe continuously the latest international agricultural methods and research, said the union minister.

The union minister then met farmers attending the information session conducted by the Agriculture Department in Hpa-an Township, Wa Su village, and coordinated and helped fulfil the farmers' requirements.

Terrorism an enemy of basic human rights: Swaraj at SCO Foreign Ministers' meet



External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj. PHOTO: PTI

BEIJING — External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj on Tuesday said that terrorism is an enemy of the basic human rights and the fight against it should also identify States that encourage, support and finance the menace and provide sanctuary to terror groups.

Swaraj, during her address at the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Council of Foreign

Ministers here, raised the issue of global terrorism and protectionism.

There are a number of challenges that are being faced by the world today, foremost being the threat of global terrorism and the imminent need to build a strong security architecture to combat it, the minister said.

“Terrorism is an enemy of the basic human rights: of life, peace and prosperity,” Swaraj said.

“Protectionism in all its forms should be rejected and efforts should be made to discipline measures that constitute barriers to trade.

“India is committed to working with the SCO to strengthen our economic and investment ties. We believe that economic globalization should be more open, inclusive, equitable and balanced for mutual benefits,” Swaraj added.—PTI ■

Online skin trade fuels Myanmar elephant slaughter: conservation group

BANGKOK— An emerging online market for elephant skin in China is threatening the survival of the creatures in neighbouring Myanmar as poaching intensifies to meet demand, conservationists warned on Tuesday.

Myanmar has watched with alarm as the number of slain elephants found in the country's forests rises each year, with many blaming the trade in the mammal's hide.

The biggest market for the products is in China, where the tough skin is ground up and used to treat stomach or human skin ailments, or sold as jewellery in the form of blood-red beads and pendants.

The items are increasingly advertised and sold on the internet, according to the UK-based charity Elephant Family, which outlined the findings in a new study called “Skinned: The growing appetite for Asian Elephants”.

Unlike poaching for ivory, the skin trade does not discriminate between genders and ages in elephants, making them far more vulnerable.

“This means that no elephant is safe,” said the group's acting conservation director Belinda Stewart-Cox. “Myanmar is losing too many elephants too fast.”

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with traders — without making purchases — to learn more about the supply chain.

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Consignees of cargo carried on M.V CAPE FLORES VOY. NO. (086 N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 25-4-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

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Corner of Mahabandoola Road and Thein Phyu Road,

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Dated 25th April 2018

kmma@kcyangon.com

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Email address: myanmar@tilleke.com

Dated: 25th April 2018.

Dutt biopic titled 'Sanju', Ranbir spitting image of controversial Bollywood star

MUMBAI — The first look and teaser of Sanjay Dutt's much-awaited biopic is finally out and the Rajkumar Hirani-directed movie, featuring Ranbir Kapoor in the lead role, is titled "Sanju". The first poster of the film was launched earlier Tuesday featuring Ranbir in the five iconic looks of Dutt from different phases of his life, starting from "Rocky" and going on to the time he was released from Yerwada Central Jail in 2016, after serving a five-year sentence in the 1993 Mumbai serial bomb blasts case.

The teaser begins with Ran-

bir breaking the fourth wall, as he introduces his story to the audience and takes them across different stages of his life both on and off-screen.

Even though, Dutt's life has been full of ups and downs, Hirani has tried to leave his 'feel good' signature on the biopic of one of Bollywood's most controversial and loved stars. The title of the film is reflective of the director's understanding of capturing even the most miniscule details of the actor's life as his mother Nargis Dutt used to fondly address him "Sanju", which became a popular

nickname for him besides 'Baba'. In the teaser, Ranbir manages to look the part and carry Dutt's characteristic gait. Hirani has maintained that the film will not glorify his frequent-collaborator's life. The video clip supports his claims as Ranbir talks about Dutt's drug addiction, run-ins with law including a faint mention of AK-56, which led to his arrest.

Also starring Dia Mirza, Sonam Kapoor, Anushka Sharma, Manisha Koirala, Paresh Rawal and Vicky Kaushal among others, the film releases on 29 June. —PTI ■



"Sanju" poster. PHOTO:PTI

Madonna loses bid to stop auction of intimate items

NEW YORK — Madonna lost on Monday a nearly year-long bid to stop an auction of intimate items, including a breakup letter from rap legend Tupac Shakur.

A judge ruled that the Material Girl had directed her legal action against the wrong target in going after Darlene Lutz, a New York art dealer who helped Madonna build a collection before falling out with her.

Lutz had been the main source for 22 items, including love letters, cassettes and a hairbrush, that were up for sale by auction house Gotta Have Rock and Roll until a judge issued an injunction in July.

New York Judge Gerald Lebovits, in a ruling based on narrow legal grounds rather than on Madonna's claims of violations of privacy, agreed with Lutz, who said that her disputes with Madonna were settled by a 2004 legal agreement between the former friends.

Lebovits, in a decision dated last week but made public Monday, also questioned why Madonna was pursuing Lutz and not the singer's assistants, who Madonna said had handed items to the art dealer.

"If plaintiff's allegations are accepted as true — that Lutz received the letters through inadvertent actions of the plaintiff's assistants," Lebovits wrote, then her case against Lutz is "time-barred and improper."

The auction house said it would press ahead in July with the sale of Madonna merchan-



A judge ruled that Madonna had directed her legal action against the wrong target in going after Darlene Lutz, a New York art dealer. PHOTO:AFP

dise including the offending letter from Tupac.

In a statement, Gotta Have Rock and Roll said it had been confident about the case and had done "substantial due diligence" before first announcing the auction.

Judd Grossman, a lawyer for Lutz, called the court decision "a total win."

"Ms Lutz is now free to do with her property as she pleases without any continued interference by Madonna," Grossman said. A lawyer for Madonna did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

Private letter from Tupac

The items up for auction — part of a collection of some 100 pieces — included the 1995 letter from Tupac, who would

be shot dead a year later. Madonna has only recently spoken publicly about their then-secret relationship.

In the letter breaking up with Madonna, Tupac said his image would suffer by dating a white woman and voiced pain at an interview in which the singer said, "I'm off to rehabilitate all the rappers and basketball players." Madonna, in winning a temporary block of the auction in July, told the court that her celebrity status "does not obviate my right to maintain my privacy, including with regard to highly personal items."

Lutz's lawyers accused Madonna of a "personal vendetta" and mocked her appeals for privacy, noting that the auction included a pair of underwear she had mailed to a lover.—AFP ■

Shania Twain apologizes for saying she 'would have voted for Trump'

LOS ANGELES — Singer Shania Twain has apologized for her comments in a recent interview, in which she said she would have voted for current US President Donald Trump if she had the option.

The 52-year-old singer, who is a Canadian citizen, took to Twitter to clear the air, saying she was caught off guard by the question and said she did "not hold any common moral beliefs with the current President".

"I would like to apologise to anybody I have offended in a recent interview with the Guardian relating to the American President. The question caught me off guard. As a Canadian, I regret answering this unexpected question without giving my response more context.

"I am passionately against discrimination of any kind and hope it's clear from the choices I have made, and the people I stand with, that I do not hold any common moral beliefs with the current President," Twain said in a series of tweets.

The "Up!" singer, who was criticised for favouring Trump, one of the most controversial political leaders

today, said her response does not reflect her "values".

"I was trying to explain, in response to a question about the election, that my limited understanding was that the President talked to a portion of America like an accessible person they could relate to, as he was NOT a politician.

"My answer was awkward, but certainly should not be taken as representative of my values nor does it mean I endorse him.

I make music to bring people together. My path will always be one of inclusivity, as my history shows," she said.

Twain had caused furore by saying had she been legible to vote in the US election, she would have supported Trump.

"I would have voted for him because, even though he was offensive, he seemed honest.

Do you want straight or polite? Not that you shouldn't be able to have both. If I were voting, I just don't want bullsh*t. I would have voted for a feeling that it was transparent. And politics has a reputation of not being that, right?" she had said in the interview.—PTI ■

Obama to deliver Mandela lecture in S Africa in July

JOHANNESBURG (South Africa) — Former US president Barack Obama will deliver the annual Nelson Mandela memorial lecture at a 4,000-capacity arena in Johannesburg in July, South African organisers announced on Monday.

Obama, who met with Mandela in 2005 and who made an emotional address at his funeral, will speak at the lecture marking 100 years since the anti-apartheid icon was born.

“President Barack Obama — we will be looking forward to hosting him as he will be addressing this esteemed Nelson Mandela annual lecture,” Sello Hatang, head of the Nelson Mandela Foundation, said.

Hatang said the foundation had been seeking someone with “an Africa heritage” to deliver an address that will “deal with issues of democracy” facing the world today.

The New York Times said that Obama would spend five days in Johannesburg holding meetings, workshops and training for 200 young people in his most significant international project as an ex-president.

In his funeral address, Obama said Mandela “makes me want to be a better man” and hailed him as “the last great liberator of the 20th century”. —AFP ■



Obama and former prime ministers David Cameron of Britain and Denmark's Helle Thorning Schmidt pose for a selfie at Mandela's memorial service. **PHOTO: AFP**

Britain's Prince William and Kate return home with newborn son

LONDON — Britain's Prince William accompanied his wife Kate as she left hospital on Monday evening after giving birth to a baby boy, the couple's third child who is fifth in line to the British throne.

The boy, weighing eight pounds and seven ounces (3.8 kilogrammes), was born at 11:01 am (1001 GMT) with William, the Duke of Cambridge, present for the birth, Kensington Palace announced.

“The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge and their son will travel home to Kensington Palace,” it said.

“Their Royal Highnesses would like to thank all staff at the hospital for the care and treatment they have received.

“They would also like to thank everyone for their warm wishes,” the palace added in a statement.

The couple stepped out of St Mary's Hospital in central London around 6:00 pm to cheers from a crowd of supporters and global media outlets gathered outside.

Their two other children — Prince George, aged four, and two-year-old Princess Charlotte — had met the latest addition to the family earlier in the afternoon, before returning home to Kensington Palace ahead of their

parents.

Charlotte gave a wave to the assembled well-wishers and media as she entered the hospital after William had collected the siblings from school.

Queen Elizabeth II, William's father Prince Charles, and his brother Prince Harry were said to be delighted with the news. Prime Minister Theresa May led the messages of support saying: “My warmest congratulations to the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge on the birth of their baby boy. “I wish them great happiness for the future.”

Kate, 36, was admitted early Monday to St Mary's private Lindo Wing, where she had given birth to George and Charlotte. Royal fanatics, who had been camped outside the hospital wing for several days in anticipation, jumped for joy and popped open champagne.

“We're going to celebrate with fish and chips!” said John Loughrey, who was wearing a Union Jack hat and clutching a plastic doll with a crown. Maria Scott, 46, a housewife from Newcastle in northeast England, has been in place for 15 days.

“It's really important to show support because they need to know how much they are loved by the people,” she told AFP. —AFP ■

Australia boy, 12, runs away to Bali using family credit card

SYDNEY — Australian police were on Tuesday investigating how a 12-year-old boy managed to fly alone to the Indonesian island of Bali and spend four days at a resort using his parents' credit card.

The boy ran away from his Sydney home after a row with his mother, flying first to the Western Australian city of Perth on budget airline Jetstar and then on to Bali, according to commercial broadcaster Channel Nine.

“He just doesn't like the word ‘no’, and that's what I got, a kid in Indonesia,” his mother, Emma, told Channel Nine in a programme that aired late Monday.

“It's too easy, it's way too easy. There's a problem in our system,” she said, calling for tighter controls on air travel by young people.

The family had previously visited Bali on holiday and Emma said her son had already tried to book flights there on his own but had been knocked back by airlines because he did not have a letter from her.

“We screamed, we begged for help (from Australian authorities) for weeks on end,” Emma added. “When the first attempt to Indonesia took place, we were told his passport was going to be flagged.”

The boy, who “wanted to go on an adventure”, said he was told by airline staff this time that he did not need permission from his parents to board the flights.

He spent four days in Bali, where he said he checked into a hotel, hired a scooter and drank beer before a friend alerted his mother to a geotagged video of himself playing in a swimming

pool.

The holiday cost his parents Aus\$8,000 (US\$6,100), according to Channel Nine.

The Australian Federal Police said they were first notified that the boy might try to leave the country on 8 March, before being told he might be in Bali on 17 March.

The boy was found by Indonesian police the following day.

His parents then flew to Bali to take him home.

The federal police said an alert to prevent international travel had not been placed on the boy, and it did not have the power to cancel or request the cancellation of a passport if there were no suspicions of crimes committed.

“The AFP will work with partner agencies to review the circumstances of this matter and

current operating procedures, to ensure this type of incident does not occur again,” an AFP spokeswoman said in a statement.

Jetstar told Channel Nine the airline had since changed its procedures to prevent children over 12 from travelling without parental permission.

In general, Australian airlines do not allow children younger than five to travel alone.

Children between five and 11 must be booked on an unaccompanied minor ticket while those from 12-15 are required to have a permission slip from their parent or guardian.—AFP ■



The boy, who ran away from his Sydney home after a row with his mother, had previously visited Bali on holiday with his family. **PHOTO: AFP**

Saw Ba Oo to fight Arthur Saladiak for world title in WLC



Saw Ba Oo to fight Arthur Saladiak for world title in WLC. **PHOTO: WLC**

Myanmar's welterweight lefthand fighter Saw Ba Oo will fight Arthur Saladiak from Poland for the world championship title in the Knockout War Competition in Nay Pyi Taw on 2 June.

Saw Ba Oo is a Myanmar Lethwei fighter from Taung Ka Lay Club. He is a former Lethwei world champion and is competing in World Lethwei Championship and ONE Championship's lightweight division. Polish fighter Arthur Saladiak is a British K-1 (kick boxer) and Muaythai champion.

The winner will become WLC's welterweight (67-71kg) world lefthand champion. The

reigning middleweight (75kg) world champion of WLC is Myanmar lefthand fighter Too Too.

The fight between Saw Ba Oo and Arthur Saladiak will be the main event of the competition, in which Kyaw Zin Latt and Saw Darwait, both of whom won in different matches at the WLC's co-main event in February, will also fight for the light welterweight (60-63.5kg) title.

Some seven bouts are included in the competition in which Myanmar lefthand fighters, Saw Nga Man, Tha Byay Nyo, Meik Yaing and Saw Htoo Aung will take part. — KZT ■

Holder Siegemund aims to be slow and steady in Stuttgart

STUTTGART (Germany) — After winning the Stuttgart Grand Prix title a year ago, and reaching the final in 2016, Germany's Laura Siegemund is vowing to take it slowly as she returns following a knee ligament injury.

The 30-year-old, ranked 100th in the world, was out from late May — less than a month after lifting the Stuttgart title by beating Kristina Mladenovic in the final — until her return last month in a low-key Italian event where she reached the quarter-finals.

A wild-card entry here, Siegemund told the WTA she is not prepared to push too hard on her knee and plans a step-by-step approach.

"I'm looking forward to the tournament a lot, I love the

crowd and the place — I just want to show some good tennis," said Siegemund, who will face a tough first-round test against Czech Barbora Strykova on Tuesday at the Porsche Arena.

"I have nothing to lose, I'm coming back after such a long time."

The native of nearby Filderstadt added: "I want to enjoy myself. I was not thinking about a particular tournament to return for, but of course I wanted to be ready for Stuttgart."

"There are a lot of great players here and I certainly don't like to think about winning a tournament before I've even started it. I go step by step."

"Stuttgart is a highlight for me, but my goal is to stay healthy and come back completely from the injury." —AFP ■

Unstoppable Ronaldo the sole survivor of Real's 'BBC'

MADRID — Cristiano Ronaldo, Gareth Bale and Karim Benzema were once the untouchable trio, but only one of Real Madrid's feted "BBC" can be sure of their place against Bayern Munich on Wednesday.

Ronaldo has dragged Real into the Champions League semi-finals with, even by his standards, an astonishing goal glut that includes 22 in 12 games, and at least one in each of his last 11 matches in Europe.

"It's impossible to completely stifle Ronaldo, we can only stop him as a team," Bayern defender Jerome Boateng said on Monday.

"An attacker can not be more complete than him — left foot, right foot, head, he controls everything and in front of the goal, he's a machine".

But while Ronaldo has enjoyed a fresh spurt in his new role of predatorial centre-forward, his two partners have found their responsibilities reduced ahead of the first leg at the Allianz Arena.

Bale's decline began first. After returning from injury earlier this year, he was on the bench for both legs against Paris Saint-Germain and the first leg against Juventus. In the second leg, he did start, only to endure the humiliation of being taken off at half-time.

Benzema's fall has been more surprising given the striker had been Zinedine Zidane's preferred partner for Ronaldo, his work rate and supply highly valued despite the Frenchman's lack of

goals. But Benzema's link-up play has slackened, thrusting that dry patch — one goal in 10 games and only four in 24 — more clearly into view.

'A little blip'

"He does suffer a little bit, when he misses chances he suffers but the solution is easy," Zidane said. "He has to keep working. It is just a little blip he is in at the moment."

Bale

and Benzema's dip has coincided with Ronaldo's golden run, a parallel that may not be entirely coincidental.

Ronaldo in a Real team centred on playing to his strengths is nothing new, but as the Portuguese has grown narrower in his scope, perhaps his team-mates have had to sharpen their focus in providing service to him.

Zidane has often deployed 4-4-2 in the biggest games this season, with Lucas Vazquez and Marco Asensio preferred on the flanks for their defensive discipline and willingness to send crosses into the box.

—AFP ■



Real Madrid's Portuguese forward Cristiano Ronaldo controls the ball during the Spanish league football match Real Madrid CF against Athletic Club Bilbao at the Santiago Bernabeu stadium in Madrid on April 18, 2018. **PHOTO: AFP**