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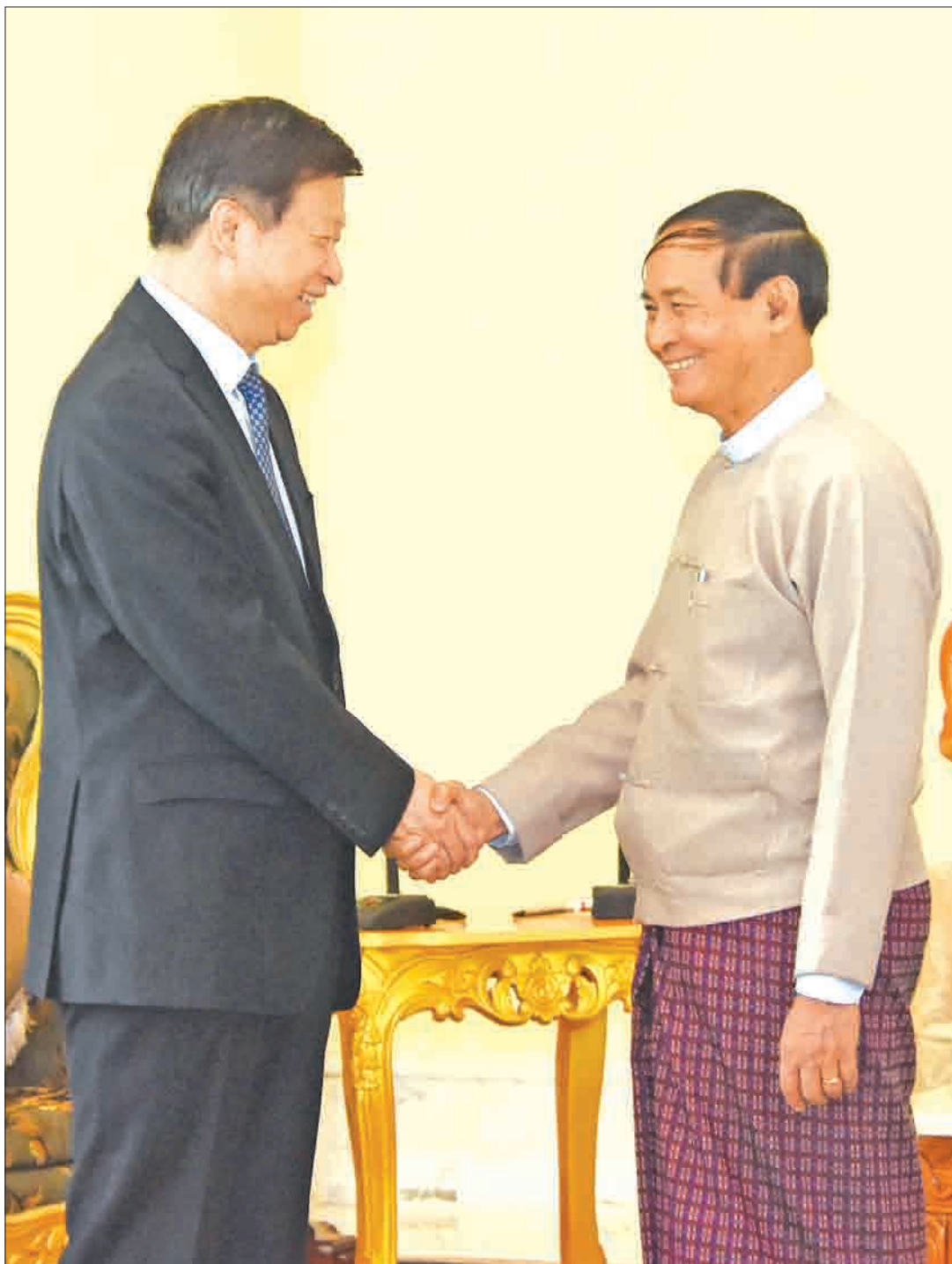
Thursday, 26 April 2018

President U Win Myint receives Chinese envoy

PRESIDENT U Win Myint received Mr. Song Tao, Minister of the International Department of Communist Party of the People's Republic of China, at the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

During the meeting, they discussed matters related to national reconciliation, internal peace, bilateral friendship and cooperation, bilateral visits of the leaders, building of the Silk Road economic belt, economic cooperation between the two countries, peace, stability and the development of border areas and Rakhine State.

Also present at the meeting were Union Minister for State Counsellor's Office U Kyaw Tint Swe, Union Minister for Electricity and Energy U Win Khaing, Union Minister for International Cooperation U Kyaw Tin, Deputy Minister for the President's Office U Min Thu and other officials. The Minister of the International Department of the Communist Party of the People's Republic of China was accompanied by Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar Hong Liang.— Myanmar News Agency ■



President U Win Myint, right, welcomes 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**

Garbage fire under control, bio-foam to be used to control smoke

ABOUT 80 per cent of the garbage fire in the western outskirts of Yangon has been put under control, and authorities decided yesterday to use bio-foam, a fire suppression agent, to control the smoke from the fire, officials said.

The fires started at a garbage dump in Hlinethaya on the afternoon of 21 April and burned for five days, causing health hazards in nearby areas due to the smoke and carbon monoxide emitted by the fire.

"Today, we put the fire under control and it cannot spread to other areas, and about 80 per cent of the fire is under control after we put out the fire on a two-acre area of the garbage dump. But, to control the smoke, we decided to use bio-foam," said Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein, following the meeting at the Yangon Region Government yesterday.

The regional government has made arrangements for obtaining 1,800 gallons of bio-foam from Thailand within 36 hours.

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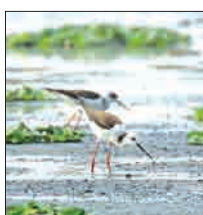


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OPINION

Provide safe and convenient travel, services, and food to visitors to boost tourism

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A fire broke out at Htein Bin rubbish dump in Hlinethaya Township on 21 April and has been burning for five days straight. Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein said that 80 per cent of the fire has been extinguished and they are able to contain the spread of the flames. The biggest challenge is reducing air pollution caused by the fire but the Chief Minister said authorities have built a pipe network to create artificial rain and are also readying firefighting foam to smother the flames.

Artificial rain, foam to be used to douse Htein Bin garbage fire

By Yi Yi Myint and Ohn Mar Thant

U Phyo Min Thein, Yangon Region Chief Minister

Q: How has the regional government addressed the Htein Bin fire?

A: As you know, the main cause of the fire was the build-up of methane from the rubbish dump. We do not possess the technology to dispose of garbage systematically, so methane under the massive rubbish dump has been building up over the years. We tried to put out the fire on the first day but the fire had expanded to over 100 acres and resist-

has had health risks to the neighboring area, and in fact we've had thirteen inpatients but we have also prepared responses to the situation.

We are changing tactics in handling the situation. In addition to the firefighters we will use a system of six pipes to simulate rain and pour it over the entire area. I'm personally overseeing the situation. We will use drones to survey the area and see where we need to give more attention. We have also ordered biofoam from Thailand as an alternative to spraying water.

The military is also providing valuable assistance whether it's personnel, equipment and supplies, or helping in relocating elderly people who live too close to the rubbish dump. We can and have controlled the fire, but there's the smoke rising from the burning rubbish deep under the dump that is polluting the air. I want the people to know that there is no risk of the fire spreading into other areas, but there will still be gas emissions. We have also increased security in Hlinethaya since it's an industrial zone and we don't want additional unnecessary problems. I believe



ed all attempts at extinguishing. The combined forces of the fire services department, reserved firefighters, and the police force have been hard at work to put out the fire. Our biggest challenge right now is containing the gas emissions from the burning rubbish. The pollution caused by this

U Maung Maung Soe, Mayor of Yangon

Q: How are you handling the Htein Bin rubbish dump fire?

A: We're handling the fire extinguishing and health services for this. We've managed to reduce the fire by 80 per cent and we've managed to order biofoam from Thailand. We need 5,000 gallons of biofoam, but we will only receive 1,800 gallons, so we have to make the most of it. The YCDC and health-related departments are handling the health services for local residents.

Q: How long will it take to

put out the fire with biofoam?

A: Biofoam will coat the rubbish and prevent contact with oxygen. Right now we have 40 gallons of biofoam and we mixed it with one per cent water to douse the fire. The recommended ratio is 10 per cent water but we need to conserve as much of the foam so we mixed it one per cent water first. Even then it's still effective, so I think 1,800 gallons will be enough.

The situation is also dangerous for the firefighters. They



Military personnel douse water on garbage pile to control the fire yesterday. **PHOTO: ZAW GYI**

we have things under control. We are working hard to completely stop the gas from spreading out.

Q: There have been reports of deaths from this incident. What is your response to that?

A: So far thirteen people have been hospitalised. Yesterday (24 April), a 61-year-old lady had difficulty breathing, so we treated her with an oxygen mask. She went back home, but today (25 April) we received news that she had passed away. The hospital has not contacted us regarding the reasons for her death and we do not know if she has other health-related issues. But this is what I'm worried about. If people with health problems cannot receive clean air, then it's an additional problem for them. We are closely monitoring the situation and working for better solutions.

Q: When do you think the fire will be completely put out?

A: I'm calling a meeting with all department heads tonight (25 April) at 8pm. We already have plans to simulate rain and use biofoam. We also have a plan to blanket the area with fire-resistant cloths and pour water on it to contain the fire and gas emissions. We're aiming to completely put out the fire by tomorrow.

Q: What safety measures are taken for the firefighters at the rubbish dump?

A: Since the rubbish dump spans a large area, we only allow personnel to advance if we are sure the route is 100 per cent safe for them. There have been reports of breathing difficulties from firefighting personnel, but no reports of deaths yet.

Q: Do you have any preventive measures to ensure something similar doesn't happen in the future?

A: A rubbish dump this size

has had small-scale incidents of methane combustion, but a combination of the hot weather and heat accumulated under the rubbish ignited the methane gases that resulted in this large-scale fire. We have installed pipelines into the rubbish dump to allow the trapped methane gases to escape outside. Our biofoam supply is not large enough to cover the entire area, so we are ordering more biofoam supplies from Thailand and we will prepare supplies to combat future incidents.

Q: How will you handle the existing rubbish dumps to prevent similar incidents?

A: The final sites for dumping rubbish collected over the city are Dawei Chaung and Htein Bin. We have installed pipes into them to let the trapped gases leak out. We have to work harder to make sure something similar doesn't happen again.



other night.

A: It's cooler at night, so the gases don't rise up and instead get blown all over the place. But it's not at a stage that causes suffocation. We are trying to contain the gases, but for now the townships will just get the smell of something burning.

Q: Are there preventive measures in place for these kinds of incidents?

A: Myanmar has had similar incidents before. We do not have the sufficient equipment to deal with it yet. We are investing in converting rubbish into alternative energy sources and also installing a methane extraction

system in the rubbish dumps. It's costly, but if we are able to do it, we will do it.

Q: Are there any private organisations or individuals helping out with this?

A: At first the YCDC and the fire department addressed the issue. Then the military arrived followed by the Irrigation Department. The military has provided massive help with a large force of personnel and equipment. We will first flush water into the dump to make the rubbish all wet, then we will coat it with biofoam. All respective ministries and departments have provided help so far. ■

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

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

“ Collective strength is vital to build peace and stability which we need. We need to have mutual understanding and mutual respect as the basic foundation to bring to an end the armed conflicts which have existed for many years among the ethnic nationalities. We can make this foundation strong with our collective strength.

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

Garbage fire under control, bio foam to be used to control smoke

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Five clinics has been set up nearby villagers to provide healthcare to the people and about 60 ambulances are also being used to send patients to the hospital when necessary.

So far, about 13 patients

have been sent to the hospital for emergency treatment.

The Ministry of Health and Sports 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 where necessary.

About 800 firefighters and volunteers from the fire brigade, Yangon City Development Committee and Yangon Region Command continue to fight the fire amidst the poisonous smoke.—
Htin Paw Win (Kamayut) ■



Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein attends the meeting to control the garbage fire in the western outskirts of Yangon at the Yangon Region Government yesterday. **PHOTO: HTEIN LIN**

Union Minister for Border Affairs receives Ambassador of Switzerland to Myanmar

UNION Minister for Border Affairs Lt-Gen Ye Aung received Switzerland's Ambassador to Myanmar Paul R Seger at the meeting hall of the ministry in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

During the meeting, they discussed matters related to human resource development of the ethnic races from the border areas, the cooperation made by Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) for the development of the education, healthcare and agriculture sectors in Mon and Kayin States, as well as providing humanitarian aid and the repatriation process



Union Minister for Border Affairs Lt-Gen Ye Aung meets with Switzerland's Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Paul R Seger. **PHOTO: MNA**

in Rakhine State, the five-year strategy and development scheme for 2019-2023, and co-operation between the Minis-

try of Border Affairs and SDC for the education, healthcare, agriculture and peace process. —Myanmar News Agency ■



Photo of President available

Photo of President U Win Myint (wearing gaungbaung — head gear, black jacket and the golden sash insignia of the President) which is approved for display at government offices and organizations is available at the following shops in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon and Mandalay.

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| B. Information and Public Relations Department, Production Division | 067-3412371,
01-8371340,
09-5057014 |
| C. Sarpay Beikman Book Shop (Nay Pyi Taw) Ta (55), Thabyaygon Market, Nay Pyi Taw | 067-3414681,
09-790403288 |
| D. Sarpay Beikman Book Shop (Yangon) No. 529/531, Merchant Street, Botahtaung Township, Yangon | 01-8249031,
01-8381448,
09-43169634 |
| E. Sarpay Beikman Book Shop (Mandalay) 86th Street between 21 and 22 streets, Mandalay | 02-30186,
09-402688188 |

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Ministry of Information

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Due to limitation of space we are only able to publish "Letter to the Editor" that do not exceed 500 words. Should you submit a text longer than 500 words please be aware that your letter will be edited.

White-headed stilt to become new migratory bird species

SIX white-headed stilts (*Himantopus Leucocephalus*), which will become a new migratory bird species in Myanmar, were spotted in the last two years.

U Thet Zaw Naing, a bird expert from Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) Myanmar programme, said: "It is a new migratory bird species which was never seen in Myanmar before. Last year, this bird species was found in Inle Lake and then in Taungthaman Lake.

This year, it was found in Taungthaman Lake and Moe-yungvi Lake. We will designate it as a new migratory bird species if we spot it again next winter."

This species of bird was seen in Inle Lake in the winter of 2017 for the first time.

Bird observers found this bird four times in two years in those natural lakes. WCS,



White-headed stilts (*Himantopus Leucocephalus*), new migratory bird species in Myanmar. **PHOTO: WCS**

the international organisation which saves wildlife and wild places worldwide, has been working in Myanmar since 1993. Since then, the WCS has been conducting biological surveys, monitoring populations of

key wildlife species, assisting in the establishment of protected areas and providing staff with training on landscape management.

The WCS also protects Myanmar's endangered endemic

star tortoises in three protected areas, including Lawkananda Wildlife Sanctuary in Bagan, Shwesettaw Wildlife Sanctuary in Minbu Township and Min-sontaung Wildlife Sanctuary in Natogyi Township. —Nyi Tu ■

One-stop retail, wholesale market to be constructed in Mingaladon Garden City

THE Yangon one-stop retail and wholesale market will be constructed in Mingaladon Garden City. The project will be developed jointly by Zay Kabar Company and Chinese developer Zhejiang Luding Investment Co. Ltd.

The Yangon Mingaladon Grand Bazaar will allow consumers to buy all their needs from one area conveniently. It will also help reduce traffic congestion and address the lack of car parking space in the downtown area.

The construction of the project is expected to begin after the Myanmar Investment Committee (MIC) approves a grant for the project. Both companies have invested some US\$700 million to develop the project. The project will include residential units, markets, offices, schools, hospitals and other buildings. People can also buy construction equipment at retail or wholesale rates, textiles, electricity equipment and other personal items.

The one-stop market will

be built on a 125-acre plot in Mingaladon Garden City near Yangon International Airport and Yangon-Mandalay highway. Applications for the necessary approvals have already been submitted to the Yangon City Development Committee and the MIC.

The market will be constructed within six months.

On completion, the market will create nearly 3,000 job opportunities for the local people, according to Zay Kabar Company.—Thi Thi Min ■

Loan interest rate reduced for home buyers

THE interest rate on loans provided to those buying apartments in government housing projects has been reduced, according to a report in Myawady Daily yesterday.

"We have reduced the interest rate from 12 per cent to 10.5 per cent for buyers. It depends on the funds available with the bank. However, only new buyers can avail of the reduced interest rate. Those who have already signed a loan agreement with the bank at a 12 per cent interest rate will not be eligible to avail of the new rate," said Daw Myint Myint Moe, executive director of the Construction, Housing and Infrastructural Development (CHID) Bank.

"The new interest rate is only applicable to low-cost apartments funded by the government, and it will not be applied to other housing projects, said U Win Zaw, executive director of the CHID Bank.

The new interest rate will help buyers save some Ks150,000 per year for an apartment worth Ks10 million. The bank changed its name from Construction and Housing Development Bank in December 2017 to Construction, Housing and Infrastructural Development Bank to aid in the infrastructural development of the country.—GNLM ■

20 tube wells shut down in Yangon due to low water quality

THE Yangon City Development Committee (YCDC) has shut some 20 tube wells in the Yangon Region due to low-quality water, according to a report in Myawady Daily yesterday.

The underground water quality has not met the set standards, because the wells ran dry and salt water entered a few of them. Therefore, the use of underground water has to be reduced.

Recently, the authorities

banned digging of tube wells because the majority of Yangonites use underground water. The authorities are planning to distribute water to address the shortage after shutting down the 20 tube wells. Also, authorities have already dug a pond to store water.

"The 20 tube wells were being used in the Yangon Region. However, the quality of water declined after salt water entered the tube wells. There-

fore, we have shut down the tube wells. We are making arrangements to distribute clean water," said Daw Aye Pa Pa Nyo, assistant head of Engineering Department (Water and Sanitation) under the YCDC. The tube wells that were shut down recently are in Lamadaw, Latha and Ahlone townships. Currently, Ahlone Township is distributing water from only 21 of the 25 tube wells.—GNLM ■

Fishery businessmen eye value-added products to increase income

By May Thet Hnin

ALTHOUGH Myanmar has increased its volume of fishery exports in the past two years, the income has not increased significantly.

To remedy this situation, fishery businessmen have planned to introduce value-added products.

Myanmar exports only fish and prawn raw materials. The export quality and value is remarkably on the downward trend compared to the neighbouring countries, said businessmen.

"We must keep introducing value-added products and produce marketable export items to boost exports," said U Win Kyaing, secretary of the Myanmar Fisheries Federation (MFF).

In the 2011-2012 fiscal year (FY), fishery exports were registered at 386,981.324 metric tonnes with an estimated value of \$653.85 million. A metric tonne of fishery products was worth \$1,700 on an average. Some 376,845 metric tonnes of fishery, valued at \$652.84 million, were shipped to foreign countries in the 2012-2013 FY, at an estimated value of \$1,732 per tonne.

Nevertheless, in the 2016-2017 FY, some 438,7000 metric



A fisherman works in Ye Township, Taninthayi Region. Fishery businessmen plan to introduce value-added products to increase income. **PHOTO: HTUT HUT (YE)**

tonnes of fishery exports fetched only \$605.82 million, at an estimated value of \$1,380 per tonne.

During the 2017-2018 FY, some 568,227 tonnes of fishery exports, worth \$717.7 million and valued at \$1,215 per tonne, were exported, according to MFF statistics. Despite the increasing volume every year, the export value does not go up owing to the possible shipment of raw materials only. Fishery income is likely

to reach up to \$2,000 million in two years, only if there is value-addition, U Win Kyaing pointed out.

Value-added exports will help enhance the country's revenue and more job opportunities will emerge, he maintained.

To make value-added products, capital, intensive technology and machines are required. Enterprises from the whole supply chain, including farming, hatchery, feed stuff processing, and

cold storages and processing enterprises have to upgrade their working process altogether. However, it is difficult to change the entire supply chain, businessmen noted. In addition to advanced technology, demand plays a crucial role. Businessmen are worried about the fish market. "It is certain that livestock breeding is the basis of value-added exports. To improve their market share, exporters must be in touch with

producers," said an official from Myanmar Fish Farmers Association.

Moreover, the government should provide subsidies or loans, link with foreign loans or banks and fix land use permit. Of the more than 480,000 acres of fish and prawn lakes across the country, more than 370,000 acres of lakes are illegitimate as they are using farm land for fish farming. ■

Border trade with Bangladesh exceeds \$1 million in 13 days

The Myanmar-Bangladesh border trade during the first 13 days of the 2018 transitional financial year reached US\$1.099 million, recording an increase of \$737,000 against the same period last April, the Ministry of Commerce reported.

The value of bilateral trade with Bangladesh included \$1.093 million through exports and \$6,000 through imports.

Border trade between the two countries is conducted through the Sittway and Maungtau cross-border trade camps. According to the ministry's statistical report, the import value at the two borders increased by \$362,000, whereas the export value decreased by \$1,000.

During the period, exports through the Sittway border point were valued at \$539,000, while the Maungtau border

gate saw the sale of \$554,000 worth of marketable products to the neighbouring country.

Imports from Sittway border showed a slight decrease of \$1,000, while the import figures for the Maungtau border are not available for the first two weeks of this month.

At the Myanmar-Bangladesh border gates, ginger, peanuts, mung beans, dried plums, garlic, rice, saltwater prawns and fish, bamboos, blankets, candy, plum jam and footwear are the main export items.

Myanmar's international trade through sea routes accounted for 80 per cent of its total trade, while the remaining trade was conducted via border gates.

The country conducts border trade with neighbouring countries via its 16 land border gates. —Swe Nyein ■

Myawady gate sees imports worth Ks1.15bn using ITC

IMPORTS through the Myawady gate using individual trading cards (ITCs) exceeded Ks1.15 billion between 1 and 13 April of the six-month transition period for the 2018-2019 FY, according to statistics released by the Commerce Ministry.

The value of trade conducted by individual card holders in the first 13 days of April was some Ks169 million at Tamu, Ks3.9 million at Muse, Ks11 million at Kanpiketee, Ks79 million

at Kawthoung and Ks202 million at Mawtaung. Individual trading amounted to Ks1.62 billion, with exports worth Ks292 million and imports valued at Ks1.32 billion. The trade department issued three cards during this period. The trade values with ITC were more than Ks737 million from 21 November 2012 to 31 March 2013, more than Ks6.6 billion in the 2013-2014 FY, more than Ks9.3 billion in the 2014-2015 FY, more than Ks6.4 billion in the

2015-2016 FY, more than Ks18.9 billion in the 2016-2017 FY and Ks45.9 billion in the 2017-2018 FY. The trade department has issued 1,435 cards so far. The trade department issued the trade cards to boost border trade. A businessman can trade Ks3 million worth of goods per day using the ITC. The trade department also granted trade values of up to Ks15 million per day, which is equal to a five-day trade value.—Ko Htet ■

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Tatmadaw Steadfastly Taking Part in National Development Plans

Performances of the Tatmadaw in the second year of government in office

BORN of the independence struggles, Myanma Tatmadaw (Armed Forces) has been sacrificing its life and limb in discharging national defence duties. In like fashion, it is, in every role it has been assigned, actively participating in national development plans. In doing so, it pays special attention to emergence of strong, efficient and patriotic armed forces which can defend the nation and its citizens effectively.

Union Minister for Defence Lt-Gen Sein Win attended 11th ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting (ADMM), and 4th ADMM Plus and related meetings from 22nd to 25th October 2017 in Clark, Republic of the Philippines. He shared views with other defence ministers on defence and security to contribute to international and regional developments, security and peace.

Similarly, the defence minister attended ADMM Retreat held from 5th to 7th February 2018 in Singapore and discussed cooperation among ASEAN countries against spreading of terrorism which posed danger to international and regional security and stability.

In this age of launching multi-sectoral warfare, people militia strategy is to be developed and practiced hand in hand with the Tatmadaw and the people.

In line with Section 341, Chapter VII of the Constitution which states, "The Defence Services shall render assistance when calamities that affects the Union and its citizens in the Union." the Tatmadaw is taking preventive measures against disaster; disaster mitigation measures, rescue and rapid response and participating in rehabilitation and resettlement tasks. Moreover, the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services has ordered his men to reach disaster-hit areas at once to render assistance without waiting any orders, and he exhorted them to take tough trainings like other armies to be able to response in a short time against every danger including natural disaster befall on the country and its citizens.

The Tatmadaw provided rescue and rehabilitation assistance in time to vic-



Union Minister for Defence Lt. General Sein Win and ASEAN Ministers for Defence pose for documentary photo at the 11th ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting (ADMM) in the Philippines. **PHOTO: MNA**



Members of the Tatmadaw unloading aid and supplies for those affected by Cyclone Mora off a military plane at Sittway Airport in Rakhine State. **PHOTO: MNA**

tims of fire, storm, flood and earthquake in the second year in office of the government. Families of Tatmadaw men have also provided the victims with cash, foods and consumer goods. Such works include the Tatmadaw taking security measures in seven regions and states in time of fire breaking out, moving 185 households to save haven, taking part in rescue tasks and providing rescue and aid items worth 7.8 million kyat. From 2016 to this day,

the Tatmadaw has taken security measures in nine regions and states where fire broke out, and during the catastrophe, the Tatmadaw moved 765 household to safer places and provided rescue and aid items worth over 21 million kyat to victims.

Storms hit seven regions and states and damaged religious edifices and houses. Tatmadaw members cleared 6 Cetis, 36 monasteries, 714 houses, 36 schools and 3 hospitals. In the rehabilitation works

Tatmadaw aircrafts airlifted 19.50 tons of goods and rescue items worth 35 million kyat. From 2016 to this day, Tatmadaw cleansed 950 pagodas, 94 monasteries, 5401 houses, 100 schools, and 8 hospitals in addition to providing assistance worth over 152 million kyat.

In 14 regions and states, torrential rains caused flooding and the Tatmadaw took part in moving 4074 households to save havens and providing assistance

worth 18 million kyat. From 2016 to this day, Tatmadaw moved 11851 households of flood victims to safer places, and Tatmadaw aircrafts airlifted 127 tons of goods, and rescue items worth 137 million kyat.

To rebuild pagodas and religious edifices hit by earthquake in Bagan in 2016 August, Tatmadaw organized second donation ceremony in April 2017 in which over 94 million kyat were donated. Altogether donation of 892 million kyat was made till today.

Myanmar Navy rescued 42 storm victims using 6 Navy vessels. As a humanitarian work, two vessels of Myanmar Navy shifted 165.646 tons of goods to Rakhine State for victims hit by Cyclonic storms. For the rescue and assistance providing work, Tatmadaw spent 309 million kyat to provide assistance to victims in the second year in office of the government.

As the Tatmadaw is building itself to become strong, efficient and patriotic Tatmadaw, it is recruiting skilled youths, paying special attention to prevention against children from recruitment. In doing so, the Tatmadaw is participating in joint activities on prevention against under aged children from recruiting under the agreement between the government and United Nations Country Task Force on Monitoring and Reporting (UNCTFMR).

Under Letter No. 112/2/8/Government Office dated 11-5-2016, Committee for Prevention Against Children from Recruitment was formed with 12 members. With the cooperation of UNCTFMR, the government has taken the following measures in the second year in office:

- (a) Holding meetings 49 times
- (b) Monitoring Visits to 85 regiments/units
- (c) 67 were released and handed over to parents/guardians on 23-6-2017 (altogether 877 were released)
- (d) Course on prevention against children from recruitment were conducted once in two months. Altogether 29580 officers and other ranks have taken the courses. Military actions have been taken against 18 officers and 29 other ranks who have recruited child soldiers.
- (e) Bone X-ray method has been applied to divide child from grownups in recruiting and 4315 recruits have received the examination.

Myanmar Tatmadaw is rigidly following rules described in Action Plan in cooperation with UNCTFMR.

The Tatmadaw allowed a request made by CTFMR on using National Campaign Materials for the next time. The materials were aired from TV and radios of the State and published in papers, starting from 9-5-2017. Tatmadaw is cooperating fully with CTFMR for removing it from the list of countries using child soldiers.

The Tatmadaw is performing its three main duties namely national defence, training and serving the interest of people. As regard serving interest of people, its medical units are sent to remote areas to provide health care starting from 2012. In 2017, 535470 local people received treatments and of them, 3363 were admitted to military

hospitals. Another 17210 were received treatments for various diseases.

Specialists, medical officers and nursing officers made field trips to remote and far-flung areas including Cocogyun and Hainggyikyun. During the trips, 16312 patients received treatments.

In addition to the above-mentioned achievements, military doctors provided health care to 11431 IDPs in Rakhine State from 24 April 2017 to 10 March 2018. From 1 April 2017 to 17 December, hospital boat Shwepazun sailed to Ayeyawady Region, and gave treatment to 18676 people.

People living in twenty two townships in Chin State and Naga areas are no exception in receiving treatments provided military medical experts. Myanmar and India co-chaired ADMM Plus Experts' Working Group on Military Medicine. Myanmar hosted 1st ASEAN Military Medicine Conference from 18 to 22 February 2018 at Melia Hotel.

In building Standard Army, endowed with military, administrative and organizational capabilities of each and individual soldiers plays an important role. To realize the goal, trainings are conducted at training depots, schools, institute and universities of the Tatmadaw. Moreover, Mobile Training Team from India Army is lecturing UN Peacekeeping subject to officers and other ranks of the Tatmadaw.

During the second year in office of the government, two batches at officers' training courses for graduate women have been opened and two courses for lady doctors and dentists were conducted. For human resource development, Tatmadaw men are sent to Japan, China and Russia to do on Master and Doctorate degrees. One of the significant performances of the Tatmadaw is sending its officers to UN Peacekeeping Force in South Sudan and Liberia.

In this age of launching multi-sectoral warfare, people militia strategy is to be developed and practiced hand in hand with the Tatmadaw and the people. Security no longer means just military affairs as it related to political, economic and social affairs. Global situations prove the fact that people's participation is essential. In this regard, trainings at University Training Corps (UTC) are conducted to build reserved force.

In 2017-2018 academic year, 1895 UTC members were trained by No.1 UTC from 13-2-2018 to 29-8-2018; 1028 by No. 2 UTC; 394 by UTC 3; 608 by UTC 4 and 345 by UTC 6 totaling 4270. To be able to appoint faculty members of the respective universities as gazetted officers, Advisory Committee chose suitable persons and appointed as officers and considered their promotion. From 2013 to 2017, altogether 22 faculties of UTC membership were appointed. UTCs will surely produce good citizens endowed with defence concepts who are eager to defend their motherland.

The Tatmadaw, upholding Our Three Main National Causes, is performing its national defence duties and participating in national development plans with might and main.

(Translated by Wallace)



Military members of Western Command repair work of the road after torrential rains cause severe flooding and landslides on the Yangon-Sittway road. **PHOTO: MNA**



Rakhine mobile health care members carrying residents to receive medical treatment with military Helicopter in Rakhine State. **PHOTO: MNA**



Special Task Force training course for women. **PHOTO: MNA**



Students participate in a field-training exercise during a military exercise in UTC in academic year 2016-2017. **PHOTO: MNA**

Provide safe and convenient travel, services, and food to visitors to boost tourism

MYANMAR is a country with an increasing number of tourists. This is not surprising, because Myanmar has many interesting and exotic places. In addition to many holy and majestic pagodas, the country is also abundant in natural beauty and wildlife. Northern Myanmar has snow-capped peaks and mountain ranges where the exotic culture of ethnic nationals can be observed. It is one of the regions in South-East Asia where some of the best historical heritage exists. The amazing site of the Bagan region is an example of this.

The Myeik archipelago is another example. The archipelago, consisting of more than 800 pristine, unspoiled islands, is attracting the attention of nature buffs and marine-based tourism.

Taninthayi Region also offers natural beauty and stunning scenery to visitors.

In 2016, 2.9 million tourists visited Myanmar. In 2017, there were more than 3 million tourists entering Myanmar. About 3.5 million are estimated to visit this year.

Worldwide, the tourism sector contributes 10 per cent of GDP value and provides 7 per cent of export value. Tourism is seen as one of the top 10 businesses in the world. Looking at the likelihood of development in tourism, job opportunities will increase in tourism and related businesses.

Tourism-related Ministries are urged to cooperate, coordinate and work closely with a view towards development of tourism.

For the tourism industry to develop, there is a need to set up proper plans and implement them, as well as to have the necessary funds.

In order for tourism to be successful in the future, foreign investment, effective management, safe, modern and well-maintained hotels are needed to be developed.

The income obtained from the tourism business is beneficial, not only for the country's development, but to all those related to it. The tourism business is sensitive, so for there to be a regular income from it, superior conditions and surroundings are required.

All those involved are also urged to invite more foreign investment to tourism-related infrastructures and priority investment in the development of hotels.

According to the statement of UNWTO, the number of international travellers will reach 1.8 billion by the year 2030. The outcome of this increase is expected to increase entry of tourists into Myanmar.

While there is a need to promote Myanmar to the world as a place of interesting places to attract tourists, there is also a need to provide convenient and good services and safe food to visitors when they visit Myanmar.

By Khin Maung Myint

YEAR after year, the climatic conditions of our planet earth is getting worse. The temperatures are rising at alarming rates causing desertification, melting the glaciers profusely and the sea levels are continuously rising. Thus the low-lying coastal areas are being inundated, causing the land masses to shrink. Inhabitable spaces for humans are decreasing, the farmers are losing arable lands. So, also the farm animals are losing their grazing grounds, forests are being depleted and the wildlife habitats are disappearing. The fish populations in the streams, rivers, ponds, lakes, seas and oceans are dwindling and foods are getting scarce and people are starving. These are the ravages of the climate change. If they cannot be put under control, our world is surely headed for doom.

The greenhouse gases emitted from cars, trains, ships, planes and factories—the technologies that powered the growth of economy—came at an enormous cost to the planet's health. Today, if we humans don't change our behaviors, the average global temperature will rise as much as 4 degrees Celsius and the global sea levels will rise by up to 6 feet by the end of the century. These circumstances will radically change the weather patterns around the globe, leaving coastal communities and equatorial regions forever changed—and potentially uninhabitable.

Even now, we are already seeing the effects of dramatically changed weather patterns. The wildfire seasons are extending, the storm surges are worsening, droughts are more severe, desertification are happening at alarming rates in many parts of the world and flooding getting more devastating. It's true that any individual weather anomaly is unlikely to be solely the result of industrial emissions, and maybe your particular part of the world has been spared so far, but these are really happening. If these are left unchecked and if the people don't change their behaviours

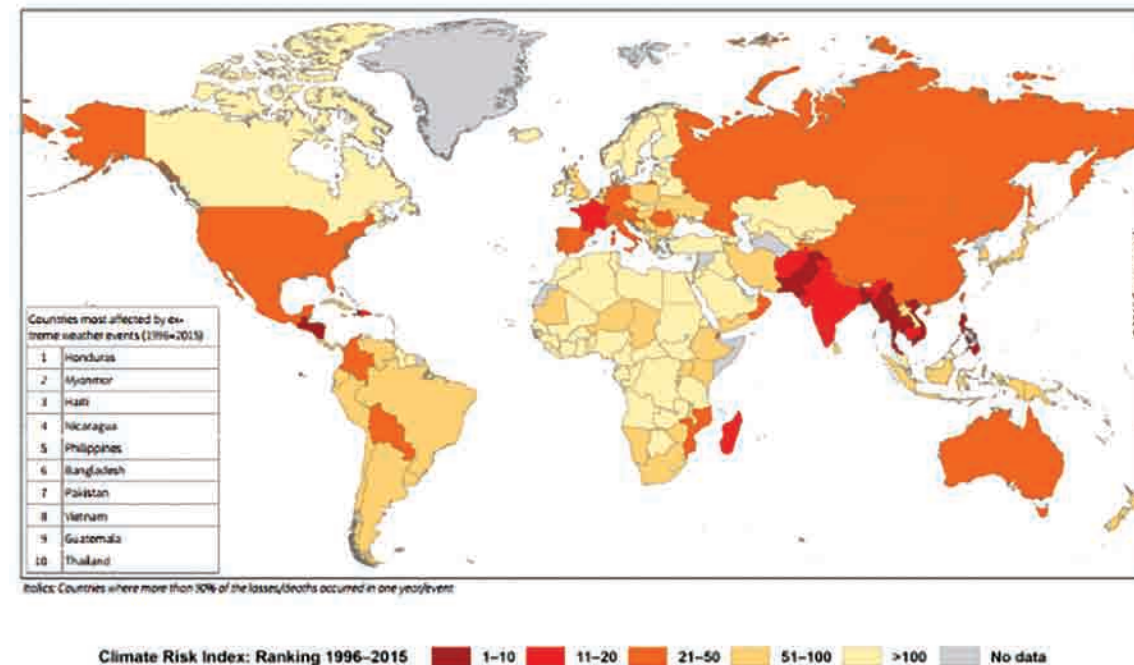
our world is surely headed for destruction.

So, how are all these disastrous climate conditions being created? To understand it we need to go all the way back to the beginning, which was the Industrial Revolution—from that point onwards, the climate scientists started to notice a global shift in temperature and atmospheric carbon dioxide (CO₂) levels. In the late 1700s, as coal-fired factories started producing steel and textiles, the United States and other developed nations began pumping out its destructive by-products. As coal is a carbon-rich fuel and when it combust with oxygen, it produces heat along with another byproduct: the CO₂. Other carbon-based fuels, like natural gas, do the same in different proportions.

When those emissions entered the atmosphere, they acted like an insulating blanket, preventing the sun's heat from escaping into space. Over the course of history, atmospheric CO₂ levels have varied significantly. We know for certain that extra greenhouse gas is caused by humans. The majority of the extra CO₂ comes from fossil fuels utilized by humans to power their motor vehicles, trains, ships, planes and factories, etc. Also the humans and animals contribute to the increase of CO₂ by their respirations. CO₂ presence in the atmosphere is the major player in creating the greenhouse effects, which acts as the insulating blanket giving way to the global warming and lead to the climate change that is ravaging the world today. The most obvious solution to climate change woes is a dramatic shift away from fossil fuels and toward renewable energies: solar, wind, hydro, geothermal, and even nuclear (considered to be relatively safe). Growing more trees would also contribute to the eradication of CO₂ from the atmosphere.

The goal is to keep average global temperature increase to below 2 degrees Celsius above pre-Industrial levels, and as close to 1.5 degrees as possible. It required each country to submit a commitment to reduce emissions and collectively bear the economic burden of a shift from fossil fuels—while acknowledging that developing nations would lose some growth if they had to give up cheap energy.

The Earth's average temperature has increased 1.1 degrees Celsius since the late 19th century. As oceans absorb heat and polar ice sheets melt, hurricane seasons become more severe as warm water from the oceans kicks warm, moist air into the atmosphere. Sea levels rise—about 8 inches in the past century. Critically, the rate of these changes is



mate change deniers, well-funded oil lobbyists, reticent politicians and a disinterested public, all reinforced that challenge. However, in 2015, the world's leaders appeared to have accepted the scientists' consensus, which is quite encouraging for the future of our planet, humankind and all living things alike. On December 12, after two weeks of deliberations at the 21st United Nations Conference on Climate Change in Le Bourget, France, 195 countries agreed on the language in what's known as the Paris Agreement, which officially came into force on November 4, 2016.

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increasing.

Sea-level rise is a major consequence of climate change that will continue long after emissions of greenhouse gases have stopped. The 2015 Paris Agreement aims at reducing climate-related risks by reducing greenhouse gas emissions to net zero and limiting global-mean temperature increase. According to some estimates, median sea-level rise could be between 0.7 and 1.2 m, if net-zero greenhouse gas emissions are sustained until 2300. Temperature stabilization below 2°C is insufficient to hold median sea-level rise until 2300 below 1.5 m.

Climate change is already starting to exacerbate famines, as temperature and precipitation patterns shift. Many experts worry that food production systems may struggle to adapt in coming decades. Even if problems caused by climate change turn out to be modest, global populations are expected to increase to 10 billion people by 2050, and the demand for food will likely go up by 50 percent or more as people in the developing world increase their income and consume foods that require more resources to produce.

Also the inhabitable and arable lands and animal breeding pastures are shrinking, due mainly to inundating of the low-lying areas along the coastal areas as the sea levels are gradually ris-

ing and severe droughts causing desertification. These dire conditions would eventually give way to mass migrations, which would become uncontrollable if the climate change becomes worse.

The worst case scenarios will be the social unrests and armed conflicts around the world, signs of which are starting to emerge even today. The hardest hit would be in most of the countries in Africa and South Asia, where there are shortages of food and liveable places due to droughts, desertification, flooding and uncontrollable increases in populations. Thus people from those parts are starving and thus will resort to migrate en-masse to more liveable and greener pastures and when those happen anything can take place.

According to a think tank research paper published by the Germanwatch organization, countries most affected in the period 1996-2015, Honduras, Myanmar and Haiti have been identified as the most affected countries in this 20-year period. They are followed by Nicaragua, the Philippines, and Bangladesh.

Myanmar was listed at second place, a fact, which I think was because they based their analysis on the data from the destructions caused by the cyclone Nargis. If that should be the case, our risks in the future couldn't be as high as in other countries, where droughts and

desertification, the consequences of the climate change had caused food shortages and starvations already and mass migrations are underway even now.

However, if we can make systematic preparations for the future to cope with any emergency situations, the devastations and the losses of lives and properties can be further minimized. Thus the departments concerned should make arrangements for the followings:-

1. Educate the people in devastation-prone areas how to evacuate and survive,
 2. Carry out drills and exercises periodically for organized evacuations,
 3. Installing early warning systems for cyclones and tsunamis,
 4. Building enough shelters in case of cyclones or floods.
 5. Organizing and training of rapid response teams for rescue and relief operations.
- Furthermore, we should fulfil our commitments made to the Paris Agreement, and reduce the CO₂ emissions by substituting the fossilized fuels with green or renewable energy sources, such as: solar, wind and hydro. We should also grow more trees to absorb the CO₂ we produce and while our depleted forests are undergoing reforestation, loggings should also be restricted.

The good news is, the global community is pretty united on the risks of climate change. The science is getting good enough to link specific extreme events—abnormal hurricanes, extreme flooding events, extreme cases of droughts—directly to human-caused climate change, and that's making it easier to build a case for dramatic action to stem the damage. But what should those actions be and will they be really effective? That's for the scientists to come up with and let's wait and hope for the best.

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1. The wired Guide to Climate Change by Katie M. Palmer and Matt Simon.
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Sustain high-level commitment to beat malaria across the WHO South-East Asia Region

By Dr Poonam Khetrapal Singh, WHO Regional Director for South-East Asia

The WHO South-East Asia Region has made world-beating progress in the quest to eliminate malaria. Since 2010 the Region's malaria incidence has been slashed by half. Associated mortality has declined by 60%. Two countries in the Region – Maldives and Sri Lanka – have already beaten indigenous transmission of the disease and been certified malaria-free. By all accounts, high-level commitment, coupled with the right tools and strategies, is the key to making malaria's Region-wide elimination possible.

Importantly, each of the Region's Member countries understands this. As expressed in the Ministerial Declaration on Accelerating and Sustaining Malaria Elimination in the South-East Asia Region signed in November, a unique opportunity exists to eliminate malaria across the Region. Bhutan, Nepal and Timor-Leste, for example, are identified as having the potential to follow Maldives and Sri Lanka and interrupt malaria transmission by 2020.

But in areas and communities where malaria remains a problem, concentrated efforts are needed to reach the Region's 2030 elimination target. To that end, sustained, high-level commitment is crucial, and should be focused on implementing a series of evidence-based interventions.

First among them is expanding national malaria programmes' reach to disadvantaged or neglected communities, including tribal, migrant or mobile populations. That means providing them access to long-lasting insecticidal nets (and ensuring they know how and why to use them) or carrying out indoor residual spraying where appropriate. It also means providing pregnant women and children under-5 within these groups special attention, including increased access to antenatal services.

Strengthening surveillance and harnessing the full power of available tools and treatments is likewise crucial. While surveillance should be strengthened Region-wide (including via cross-border initiatives), where feasible it should be transformed so as to facilitate elimination, particularly in countries striving to eliminate the disease by 2020, as well as those in the Greater Mekong Subregion that aim to eliminate the *Plasmodium falciparum* parasite by 2025 in response to the serious situation with regard to multi-drug resistance. This should be part of a larger push to effectively utilize available tools and treatments. A more practical approach to case management of *Plasmodium vivax* malaria, for example, is needed with respect to the safe and effective use of primaquine, particularly given the South-East Asia Region has the majority of the world's *vivax* malaria cases.

Ensuring national malaria programmes are provided sustainable funding is paramount. Unless domestic financing is increased Region-wide, the prospect of malaria's deadly resurgence is a distinct (and alarming) possibility. As more of the Region's Member countries transition away from dependence on international funding, high-level leaders must recognize the benefits beating malaria will bring, not only to their citizens' health and wellbeing, but to sustainable development as a whole.

That is an important point. On World Malaria Day we must appreciate that being Ready to Beat Malaria is about more than existing burdens, past progress or present gains – it is about the mindset we adopt and the commitment we demonstrate to achieving our 2030 elimination target. WHO South-East Asia is Ready to Beat Malaria, and will continue to support Member countries achieve that goal. With sustained, high-level commitment, each one of them can do so.



A view of the bridge across the Chindwin River in Khamti. **PHOTO: MNA**

Performance of Sagaing Region Government in 2nd Year in Office

By Shin Min



Vice President U Myint Swe inspects a bridge under construction over the Chindwin River in Khamti, Sagaing Region. **PHOTO: MNA**

SAGAING Region Government has carried out to achieve all-round development in all socio-economic sectors of the people. In accordance with 3 policies laid down by the Sagaing Region Government, efforts are being made to improve agricultural modernization, transportation and electricity supply, and tourism development in the region.

In order to implement the policy of boosting agriculture, the Sagaing Region Government had created 1600 acres of farmlands for the farmers in the region.

Sagaing Region Chief Minister Dr. Myint Naing said, "In order to improve the agriculture and livestock sectors in the region, the Sagaing Region Government has created over one thousand acres of farmlands and given to farmers who don't have any lands for their employment opportunities.

During the period-of-two year, the Sagaing Region government has made an effort to improve the transportation systems in the region. 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. Also all the bridges in the states are concrete ones. According to the data, there were 1210 miles of rural roads, 966 rural bridges, 336 miles of roads and 267 bridges including the Chindwin Bridge (Kalay) and the Chindwin Bridge (Homalin) and the Chindwin Bridge (Khamti) in the Sagaing Region.

Electricity

The regional government is planning to develop three hydropower projects in Homalin, Lahe and Nanyon townships in Sagaing Region. These hydropower

projects have provided opportunities for employment, education, business and the social sectors.

Regarding electricity, the Sagaing Region Government has provided some 4990 villages to get access to electricity in the region.

Previously, most of the villages within Sagaing Region relied on diesel-powered generators, solar power, mini hydroelectric power and biomass/ husk power for electricity.

The Sagaing regional government had arranged to supply electricity to the villages where there is no electric power supply. Over 4,000 villages have received the electricity in different ways in the region. According to the data, 89.03 per cent in the region had received the electricity from the government power supply.

Tourism Sector

Sagaing is a very promising land with its natural beauty, natural resources and rich soil fertility. There are four rivers-such as the Ayeyawady and the Chindwin flowing in this region and people can grow the plantations on the delta fertile land. With colorful ethnic groups and rare animals found in this region, the Sagaing Region has become a good region for eco-tourism, too.

There are extinct animals like tigers only found in Sagaing Region. Tigers are very rare nowadays and the region is very famous for its strong natural beauty and natural resources.

In the Sagaing Region, there are so many undiscovered treasures to make the sightseeing for eco-tourism. There are valuable extinct animals such as golden deer, Himalayan bears and tigers which are not much found in Asia.

Also, there are ancient pagodas such

as Bowl Mountain Pagoda which has amazing sites for eco-tourism.

There are so many ancient buildings which had been built in the colonial era. They are very famous as well as so much interesting places to be discovered and promoted for the tourism.

Besides the tourism attractions, there are also other business opportunities in the region such as making bamboo plantation projects.

With the bamboo the local people can make good traditional and modern furniture. And paper can be made with bamboo and we can also get by-products after processing.

Sagaing Region is rich in natural resources. Thus many mining products such as gold, copper and coal are found in this area.

Naga Ethnic Race

In the Sagaing Region, there are 100 tribes in the Naga ethnic group. Very rare ethnic tribes and their dialects are different. They are found in a beautiful place between Pinlebu Township and Bamauk Township. The ethnic groups in this region are colorful and very interesting.

In order to develop the region, cooperation is needed to take part in the endeavours for regional peace, stability and progress.

As the Naga Self-administered Zone is endowed with natural resources, it is of great importance to tap effectively for regional development. There are many committees to preserve the Naga culture and literature. All-inclusive efforts are required for regional development. Peace and stability is the key for regional development. Only peace and stability can ensure national development of the Region. It is witnessed that development in Naga region is proof of its peace and stability.

In order to develop the region, cooperation is needed to take part in the endeavours for regional peace, stability and progress. The Sagaing Region Government is making the utmost efforts to narrow the gap between the regions and state.

Implementation Process

To implement the policies of the government such as national reconciliation, internal peace, raising the social living standards of the ethnic national brothers and sisters in regions is important and plays a major role. For the union to develop in a balanced way, peace needs to prevail throughout the whole country.

Regional Development

The Naga capital of Lahe and Khamti Towns are now linked by the Sinthe-Lahe Road, which is accessible in all weather conditions, while the Lahe-Nanyun Road has been upgraded, and the efforts of the respective departments must be recognized.

As for the Sagaing Region Government, concerted efforts are being made to carry out development tasks for socio-economic life of Naga people. Therefore Naga people need to strive for regional development with added-momentum joining hand with the government.

Returning the land to the rightful owners

The Sagaing Region Government had returned 48000 acres of confiscated land to the farmers in the region. These measures were due to thanks to the Sagaing Region Government and committees concerned for their efforts to return the land to the rightful owners.

A modern gems market

With the cooperation of the Sagaing Region Government and the Sagaing Gems and Jewellery Entrepreneurs Association, plans are under way to build a modern gems market in order to attract foreign buyers, allowing local companies to develop and bringing in tax for the country. With the cooperation of the Region Government and the local people, it is heartening to witness to see the progress of the socio-economic status of the Sagaing Region.



Vice President U Henry Van Thio delivers the address at the ceremony to return seized land to farmers in Taze Township, Sagaing Region on 13 July 2017. **PHOTO: MNA**



Senior Deputy Representative Mr. Moon Sang Won and dignitaries pose for a documentary photo at hand-over ceremony in Sagaing. Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) handed over the reins of a project yesterday for improving the library at Co-operative University in Sagaing. **PHOTO: MNA**



Volunteers deliver food to flood victims at Sasana Waiponla Monastery in Hmanpin Village, Homalin Township. **PHOTO: SUPPLIED**



Naga ethnic people are dancing at the traditional new year festival in Lahe Township, Sagaing Region. **PHOTO: MNA**

Coordination meeting to boost trading, investment held in Nay Pyi Taw



Deputy Minister U Aung Htoo delivers the speech at the meeting to enhance trading and investment at the Ministry of Commerce in Nay Pyi Taw on 24 April. **PHOTO: MNA**

A coordination meeting to boost trading and investment was held at the meeting hall of the Ministry of Commerce on 24 April in Nay Pyi Taw.

At the meeting, Deputy Minister for Commerce U Aung Htoo said, "The coordination meeting is being held with the aim of holding a private dialogue to discuss some issues which are under negotiation and to deal with some proposals made by the chairman of the Private Sector Development Committee. There are some 19 points which are

still under discussion by the nine associations."

He added that he was going to resolve some 12 cases proposed by the Myanmar Rice Federation, Myanmar Sugar and Sugar Related Products Merchants and Manufacturers' Association and Myanmar Automobile Manufacturer and Distributor Association to get a good result.

The Ministry of Commerce is making efforts to boost the trading and investment sector. The process is gaining momen-

turn. As a result, the volumes of investment have been increasing in Myanmar. Moreover, SMEs play a crucial role in the development of the state, and cooperation is being made to adopt a single registration system according to the standard of ASEAN. The members of the association raised some questions regarding the difficulties faced in the process of trading and investment, and the Deputy Minister for Commerce U Aung Htoo answered the questions.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Thai court issues arrest warrant for rights activist

AN arrest warrant was issued Tuesday for British labour rights activist Andy Hall, who defended Myanmar workers allegedly forced to work long hours in sub-standard conditions at a pineapple canning factory in Bangkok.

The court made the order with a view to ensuring Hall's attendance for a verdict of the Appeals Court on multiple appeals against his September 2016 criminal conviction, which stemmed from his auditing work into alleged labour abuse at the Thai pineapple canning factory Natural Fruit Co. Ltd., which was detailed in a report for Finnish

NGO Finnwatch.

Diplomats from the EU Mission to Thailand alongside UK, Finnish and Swedish embassy officials and officials from OHCHR and ICJ attended Tuesday's hearing alongside Hall's legal defence team, a source at the Court informed Finnwatch.

Andy Hall is currently no longer resident in Thailand and attests that he was not formally summonsed to attend the Court today through any official or lawful channels.

"I have faced intolerable amounts of judicial harassment which essentially undermined my ability to do human rights work

effectively inside Thailand. This is why I left the country in November 2016. I am disappointed and concerned this warrant has now being issued for my arrest and this unacceptable judicial harassment against me continues unabated", Hall said in a statement to Finnwatch. In 2012, Andy Hall interviewed Natural Fruit Co. Ltd. workers for the Finnwatch report Cheap Has a High Price, published in 2013. These interviewees' testimonies detailed allegations of labour abuse which, when published by Finnwatch, provided the reason for Natural Fruit's prosecution in this case.—AFP ■

Bomb suspects from 2016 Mayangon, Dagon bombings imprisoned

YANGON'S Western District Court sentenced Ko Shwe, alias Khin Maung Shwe, alias Yar Kut, 39, to 20 years of penal labour yesterday.

Ko Shwe was convicted for planting homemade explosives at the Ocean Supermarket in Mayangon Township on 17 June 2016 and in the compound of

Yangon Region Hluttaw on Pyay Road on 25 November 2016. Ko Shwe was pressed with charges by both Mayangon police station and Dagon police station, and therefore, will be serving a combined 20 years of penal labour.

Ko Shwe had three accomplices in the Hluttaw bombing,

namely, Soe Win, alias Mohamed Ali, 40; Soe Min Zaw, alias Thar Nge, 42; and Yasin, alias Kyaw Thu, 33. Soe Win was also convicted and sentenced to 10 years of penal labour, while Soe Min Zaw and Yasin were freed from charges according to Penal Code 258 (1).—Myanmar News Agency ■

Republic of the Union of Myanmar Office of the President

Order 20/2018

11th Waxing of Kason, 1380 ME
25 April, 2018

Appointment of members for Myanmar National Human Rights Commission

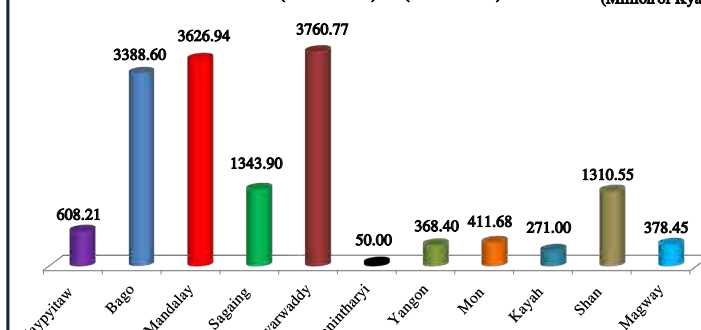
In accordance with the provisions stated in the Article 19 of the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission Law, the following persons have been appointed as members of the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission as shown below.

- (1) U Sein Than
Director-General (Rtd.)
Union Supreme Court
- (2) U Nyunt Tin
Ambassador (Rtd.)
- (3) Dr Daw Tin May Tun
Professor (Rtd.)
Distance University (Yangon)

Sd/ Win Myint
President
Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Disbursement of Agriculture and Rural Development JICA, Two Step Loan By Region and State From (23-7-2017) to (31-3-2018)

(Million of Kyat)



Disbursement of agriculture and rural development JICA, Two Step Loan by region and state total is 15518.50 million of kyat.

Source : Myanmar Agriculture Development Bank
Information Unit : Central Statistical Organization

Apology

Due to a production error, the same article headlined "Online skin trade fuels Myanmar elephant slaughter" appeared on both Page 9 and Page 13 in yesterday's edition of the Global New Light of Myanmar. The Global New Light of Myanmar regrets the error.—GNLM ■

Two injured in train-motorbike collision in Mogaung

TWO people on a motorcycle, including a woman and a seven-year-old boy, were injured in a crash with a train on Wednesday morning, according to a police report. The accident happened at around 6.25 a.m. on 25 April between Namati railway station and Mayan railway station in Mogaung Township in Kachin State. The motorcycle, driven by Ma Ywal Hsam, 30, with Maung Myo Hsam Aung, 7, riding pillion, collided with an RBE up-train, driven by U Kyaw Swe Win, between mile post nos. 693/1 and

693/24. She was attempting to cross the railroad. Both the woman and the boy received bodily injuries. Following the incident, the motorcyclist sustained serious injuries on her left head and right thigh, while the child sustained minor wounds to his head and thigh. They are now receiving medical treatment at Myitkyina General Hospital. The Namati Township police have filed charges against the motorcyclist under the Railway Act for reckless driving.—Win Naing (Kachinmye) ■

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing receives Minister of International Department of PRC Communist Party

Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing received Mr. Song Tao, Minister of International Department of the Communist Party of the People's Republic of China, at Zayarthiri Beikman in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon. During the meeting, they discussed matters related to bilateral relations between the two countries, the efforts made by the Tatmadaw for the peace process in Myanmar and the condition of bilateral goodwill relationship between the two countries. —MNA■



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing holds talks with Minister of International Department of Communist Party of China Mr. Song Tao in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

Occupational safety and health forum held in Nay Pyi Taw

WITH the cooperation of the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population and International Labour Organisation (ILO), an occupational safety and health forum was held at Thingaha Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the forum, Union Minister for Labour, Immigration and Population U Thein Swe delivered the opening speech. "For a safe and healthy working environment, a new law is being drawn up to submit to the Hluttaw. Moreover, the implementation process will be carried out after the law had been approved by the Hluttaw, so that we can learn lessons from the experiences of the ASEAN nations," he said. "We have invited some experts from ASEAN countries to share



Union Minister U Thein Swe gives the opening speech at the occupational safety and health forum in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA

their experiences, and it can help ensure a safe working environment," he added. Coordination Officer from ILO Rory Mungoven delivered the opening speech, followed by a speech by Factory and General Labour Laws Inspection Department Director-General U Nyunt Win.

The programme oficer from ILO Safe Youth

at Work Project Valentine discussed the "Safe Day". Next, Singaporean Senior Consultant from Ministry of Manpower Dr. Lee Hock Siang explained safety in the work environment. Director-General of the Philippines Bureau of Working Conditions Nicanor Bon explained the safety processes in the working environment in the Philippines. Director Saiful Azhar

Bin Mohd Said from the Ministry of Works, Malaysia, also explained his experiences in the safety and health sectors in Malaysia. Next, officials from Singapore, Philippine and Malaysia participated in discussions. The forum was held with the aim of ensuring a safe working environment and promoting the health sector in Myanmar.— Myanmar News Agency ■

Chairman of Pyithu Hluttaw's International Relations Committee receives OHCHR chief

UZAW THEIN, chairman of Pyithu Hluttaw's International Relations Committee, received Chief of the Asia Pacific Section

at Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) Jyoti Sanghera at the hall of the Pyithu

Hluttaw building (I-5) in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon. During the meeting, they discussed matters

related to cooperation in human rights issues and the Hluttaw affairs. —Myanmar News Agency ■

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■ Medical Sciences	
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■ Ayurved	
■ Homoeopathy	
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Last Date
31st July, 2018

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Steps 04/18

TRADEMARK CAUTIONARY NOTICE

PT. Kalbe Genexine Biologics, a company incorporated under the laws of Indonesia, of Plaza Property LT.3, Komplek Pertokoan Pulomas Blok VIII No.1, Jl. Perintis Kemerdekaan, Kel. Pulo Gadung, Kec. Pulo Gadung, Jakarta Timur 13260, Indonesia, is the owner and sole proprietor of the following trademark:-

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Any fraudulent imitation or counterfeit or unauthorized use of the said trademark will be dealt with according to the law.

For PT. Kalbe Genexine Biologics,
Daw Khin Khin Zaw, Advocate
LawPlus Myanmar Ltd.
Dated: 26th April 2018.

MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY HOLIDAY NOTICE

As the wharves, warehouses and Chellan Offices of Yangon Port will be closed on the 29th APRIL 2018 (Fullmoon Day Of KASON) and 1st May 2018 (World Workers Day), Loading, UnLoading and delivery for Goods will be received on Payment as Holiday Fees.

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V KOTA HADIAH VOY. NO. (KHAD 0095N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V KOTA HADIAH VOY. NO. (KHAD 0095N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 26-4-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of 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.

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Dr. Zaw Myint Maung, Vice President (2) of the National League for Democracy, and CEC members host dinner in honour of the Chinese delegation led by Mr. Song Tao. **PHOTO: MNA**



Dr. Zaw Myint Maung (Right) welcomes Mr. Song Tao. **PHOTO: MNA**

PRC Communist Party minister departs from Yangon

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 Yangon yesterday by air from

Nay Pyi Taw and were welcomed at Yangon International Airport by Yangon Region Government Social Affairs Minister U Naing Ngan Lin and staff of the Chinese Embassy.

Mr. Song Tao and delegation members went to meet Vice President (2) of the NLD Dr. Zaw Myint Maung and other Central Executive Committee (CEC) members at the National League

for Democracy Headquarters (NLD Headquarter) in Bahan Township, Yangon.

NLD Vice President Dr. Zaw Myint Maung hosted a dinner in honour of the delegation led by

Mr. Song Tao at the Sedona Hotel in Yangon.

The delegation departed from Yangon by air yesterday evening.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Journalists meet displaced persons at border in Maungtaw

A group of independent journalists representing local and foreign media visited the border fence in Maungtaw yesterday and interviewed displaced persons currently staying near the border.

The journalists arrived in Taungpyo Letwe yesterday morning and observed the situation of displaced persons, asking why they did not want to return home and for their views on the National Verification Card.

Following the visit, the delegation visited the bilateral friendship bridge between Myanmar and Bangladesh.

The journalists arrived back in Yangon yesterday evening.—Myo Myint ■



Journalists interview displaced persons at border in Maungtaw, Rakhine State. **PHOTO: HAN LIN NAING**

Workshop on prosecuting financial crimes and money laundering



Mr. Scot Marciel delivers the address at opening of the workshop on prosecuting financial crimes and money laundering. **PHOTO: MNA**

Under the Transnational Crime Programme of the Union Attorney-General's Office and the Department of Justice of the United States, a workshop on prosecuting financial crimes and money laundering began in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

It was opened with addresses by Union Attorney-General U Tun Tun Oo and US Ambassador to Myanmar

Mr. Scot Marciel.

Law experts from the Department of Justice of the United States and experts from the Union Attorney-General's Office and Myanmar Police Force will discuss and give lectures on investigations and prosecution of financial crimes and money laundering.

The workshop will end today.—MNA ■

Chainchaung Bridge project in Bago nearly complete

A BRIDGE project in Kyaukdaga Township, Bago region, is nearing completion, with a majority of the development work finished, according to a spokesperson for the project.

Approximately more than 90 per cent of the overall project has been finalised, and it is expected to be opened very soon, according to a project manager.

Organised by the Kyaukdaga Township Development Department, the project has been carried out in Ingon Village-tract by using more than Ks200 million, fully funded by the region government.

Upon completion of the

project, the reinforced concrete bridge will be 70 feet long, 20 feet wide and 22 feet high. Bridge engineers and workers are making concerted efforts to meet the target time frame.

A project engineer said the new transport facility will help users cut travel time and ensure the smooth flow of commodities. It will also provide education, health and transport benefits to the town's residents. As part of its plans to raise the socio-economic status of the rural community, the government is building more transport and communication infrastructure each fiscal year.—Khin Ko (Kyaukdaga) ■



Chairman of the Anti-Corruption Commission U Aung Kyi addresses at the workshop on Computer Forensics and Digital Evidence in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Workshop on Computer Forensics and Digital Evidence held

WITH the technical assistance of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime- UNODC, Workshop on Computer Forensics and Digital Evidence kicked off in Nay Pyi Taw

yesterday.

U Aung Kyi, Chairman of the Anti-Corruption Commission, delivered an opening address at the workshop, stressing the important role of

computer forensics and digital evidence in the country's fighting the corruption in the future.

The two-day workshop will end today.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Media conference held over Kyaikhto cable car project

By Khin Zar Li

SKY Asia Company held a media conference on 24 April to clarify the widespread rumours about the Kyaikhto cable car project at Cable Car Main Station in Kyaikhto town. News that the Kyaikhto cable car does not have a life insurance and safety equipment are being spread on social media.

A few reports on social media have mentioned that the Kyaikhto cable cars are unsafe for passengers and the company does not have life insurance. They further reported that a local company involved in the implementation of the cable car project is being sued for more than Ks7,000 million.

The company claimed it would address the matter according to the Myanmar construction procedure and law. Moreover, the company has already signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with IKBZ insurance company on 30 March 2018 for life insurance before the cable car started its operations.

Sky Asia Company was jointly established by entrepreneurs from South Korea and Myanmar. The company invested \$20 mil-



Cable cars are seen at the Kyaikhtiyo pagoda in Kyaikhto township, Mon State. **PHOTO: PHOE KHWAH**

lion (Ks27.3 billion) to build a cable car system. French based POMA Cable Car Company provided technical assistance to construct the cable car, said Cho Ki Hyung, managing director of Sky Asia Company.

The first cable car in Myanmar has made it easy for pilgrims to reach the Kyaikhto pagoda within seven minutes. The mountain bus fare is Ks2,000 per person for one route from Kinbpun base camp up to the pagoda platform. However, the cable care fare is Ks4,000 per person for one route and Ks6,000

per person for a round trip. More than 3,000 passengers ride the cable car per day. On the first day of the cable car operations on 15 December 2017, more than 350,000 pilgrims took the cable cars.

"I am riding the cable car for the first time. I heard it is dangerous to ride the cable car. However, going to the pagoda on the mountain in a car can be dangerous because the road is too narrow. Riding the cable car is more comfortable," said U Myin Shwe from Paypintaung village, Pantanaw township. ■

Myanmar launches new sites for ASEAN cities Getting to Zero Initiative on HIV

UNAIDS commended the Myanmar Ministry of Health and Sports for the launch of two new sites as part of its commitment to the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Cities Getting to Zero Project, a flagship initiative of the ASEAN to achieve zero new HIV infections, zero discrimination and zero AIDS-related deaths in Southeast Asia.

Dr. Tun Min, State Health Director of Kayin State expressed commitment in an ASEAN Getting to Zero Cities regional consultation meeting, that in addition to Mawlamyine City, Myanmar's Getting to Zero pilot site selected in 2012, Myawaddy and Hpa-an in Kayin State will also be part of the initiative. The new sites will build on the best practices in the HIV response of Mawlamyine, such as having a well-established coordination mechanism for partners, extensive focus on prevention efforts and formation of self-help health groups.

UNAIDS Myanmar Country Director Mr. Oussama Tawil said, "The expansion of Getting to Zero sites in Myanmar shows the Ministry of Health

and Sports' commitment to ending the AIDS epidemic as a public health threat. This initiative would encourage development of effective community-level interventions that can be replicated in different areas across the country."

Activities in the Getting to Zero sites would focus on strengthening local targeted responses through partnerships with local government and non-government organizations, developing evidence-based 'city specific' combination prevention programmes and targeted treatment and care programmes. All interventions implemented in the cities will align with the strategic directions of the Myanmar National Strategic Plan on HIV and AIDS, 2016-2020.

Mawlamyine, Myawaddy and Hpa-an are also part of the 'Greater Mekong Sub-Region Capacity Building for HIV/AIDS Prevention' project, which is financed by the Government of Japan. The funding support of the above project together with the global fund will support the sites in reaching their Getting to Zero goals.—GNLM ■



PHOTO: MFF

Myanmar selects footballers for AFF U16 Girls' Championship

TWENTYTHREE players were selected for the Myanmar U-16 Girls squad for the 2018 Asian Football Federation (AFF) U-16 Girls' Championship, which will take place in Indonesia starting on 1 May.

The goalkeepers are Poe Ou, Sein Lae Lae Oo and Khin Myat Noe.

Defenders are May Thet Mon Myint, Phoo Phoo Zin Zaw, Moe Satt Kha, Win Win Lae, Naw Lar Al War, Khaing Thazin Oo.

Midfielders are Pont Pont Pyae Maung, Zin Mar Htwe, Wai Phoo Eain, Phyu Phyu Win, May Thwe Ko, May Thu Khaing, Kay Kay, Nhin Nhin, Saung Hnin Phwe.

Strikers are Myat Noe Khin, Swe Mar Aung, Su Pyae Pyae Kyaw, July Char and Htet Htet Win.

The Myanmar Girls' team will be led by its head coach Daw San San Thein.

Myanmar is in Group (A) together with Viet Nam, the Philippines, Malaysia, Singapore.

According to the Championship's rules, every match will consist of two 40-minute periods, according to the AFF. In the semi-final and final matches, if the score is tied at the final whistle, there will be no extra time play, and a penalty shootout will commence to decide the winner.—Lynn Thit (tgi) ■

Myanmar is passionate about English football says Angus Kinnear

AS part of the AYA Bank Tour 2018, Leeds United will arrive in Myanmar on 7 April and test with the MNL All-Star team at Thuwunna Stadium in Yangon on 9 May and also test with the Myanmar National Football team in Mandalay Thiri Stadium in Mandalay on 11 May.

Managing Director of Leeds United Angus Kinnear said: "Myanmar is one of the fastest growing nations in South East Asia and is passionate about Eng-

lish football. They have ambitious goals for grassroots and elite football development that we are delighted to be able to support. This tour gives us an opportunity to meet new fans of football who will hopefully support our journey back to the Premier League in the coming years."

"From a football perspective we welcome the opportunity for our players who have not featured much in the past

six months due to injuries the chance to continue their rehabilitation. The squad are very excited for the chance to represent the Club in Asia."

General Secretary of the Myanmar Football Federation U Ko Ko Thein said: "We are very pleased to welcome an English club with the history and heritage of Leeds United. The football infrastructure in Myanmar continues to improve and develop, and this is an important mile-

stone on our journey"

"Myanmar is a football-mad country and this tour will help us to showcase our passion for the game at and abroad. I'd like to thank the sponsors of the tour AYA Bank, and of course Leeds United for coming to play here. We wish them very well for the future."

The matches will be broadcast globally via the LUTV App and locally in Myanmar.

In addition to the friendlies,

Leeds United will run football clinics in Myanmar at Myanmar Football Federation Academies in Yangon and Mandalay, in which players and coaches will run football and education sessions with children from local communities according to the Leeds United. The team will also make visits to the cultural sites; Shwedagon Pagoda in Yangon, and the Maha Myat Muni Pagoda in Mandalay. —Lynn Thit (tgi) ■

'Fantastic' Liverpool surpass Klopp's expectations

LONDON — Jurgen Klopp saluted Liverpool's "fantastic" 5-2 demolition of Roma on Tuesday as the Reds manager soaked up a Champions League semi-final first leg goal spree that was beyond his expectations.

Klopp's side are within touching distance of the final after crushing Roma at Anfield.

Mohamed Salah's brace was followed by goals from Sadio Mane and Roberto Firmino, who

also struck twice to leave Liverpool five up by the 68th minute.

Liverpool let their guard down in the closing stages and Roma netted twice to give themselves a slender chance of a second-leg escape act in Italy. But Klopp admitted he couldn't have hoped for a more dynamic display from his team. "It was the perfect performance for pretty much 80 minutes. We made defensively one mistake, then their penalty

is not a penalty but that is the situation and now it is 5-2," he said.

"Of course we would have been more happy with 5-0 or 5-1 but 5-2 is a fantastic result. We go there and try again.

"It is absolutely better than I thought before the game."

Following Klopp's game-plan, Liverpool exploited Roma's creaky defence as Salah and Mane ran them ragged with their pace and movement.—AFP



Jurgen Klopp (R) applauds the Liverpool fans along with James Milner after Tuesday's UEFA Champions League semi-final first leg win over Roma. PHOTO: AFP