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7th coordination meeting of Private Sector Development Committee held

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Ministry of Health and Sports providing health sector cooperation works for garbage fire

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THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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Saturday, 28 April 2018

President U Win Myint attends 32nd ASEAN Summit Plenary Session

Meets with heads of state, governments of ASEAN countries

PRESIDENT U Win Myint, in Singapore to attend the 32nd ASEAN Summit, visited Gardens by the Bay yesterday morning.

The President and his delegation arrived at Gardens by the Bay at 10am and were given a tour of the park by Chief Executive Officer Mr. Felix Loh. After the tour, the President signed the Gardens by the Bay visitors' book and presented Mr. Felix Loh with a commemorative gift.

Later in the afternoon, the President met separately with heads of state and leaders of ASEAN governments.

During the meeting with Singapore Prime Minister Mr. Lee Hsien Loong at the Istana Presidential Palace, the two sides discussed increasing bilateral relations and cooperation, trade and investment, Singapore's continued assistance to the human resource development sector and the vocational training sector in Myanmar, as well as its humanitarian assistance in Rakhine State.

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President U Win Myint is welcomed by Singapore Prime Minister Mr. Lee Hsien Loong in Singapore. PHOTO: MNA

Encouraging results from talks between government and KNPP

The Union Government's Peace Commission and the Karen National Progressive Party ended two-day peace talks in Loikaw, Kayah State, yesterday, reaching agreement on a majority of the nine-points the two sides discussed.

The peace making of the government and the ethnic armed group also found ways for proceeding towards signing the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement, according to the meeting.

Following the meeting, the two sides released a joint statement in which the KNPP expressed its commitment to sign the NCA as soon as possible.

In the statement, the two sides also mentioned three points to be implemented in the short-term period before signing the NCA.

At the peace talks, the Peace Commission was represented by U Kyaw Tint Swe, Vice Chairman of the National Reconciliation and Peace Centre and Union Minister for the Office of the State Counsellor, Dr. Tin Myo Win, Chairman of the Peace Commission, Deputy Chairman and members of the PC, Lt-Gen Than Tun Oo and representatives of the Tatmadaw, Chief Minister of Kayah State U L Phaung Sho and cabinet members of the Kayah State Government,

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Encouraging results from talks between government and KNPP

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while the KNPP was led by U Bi Htoo, Member of the Central Executive Committee of KNPP, and members of the peace dialogue committee of KNPP.

Observers and invited guests were also present at the meeting.

U Shwe Myo Thant, General Secretary of the KNPP, said his side was satisfied with the talks, saying that both sides discussed issues openly and frankly.

U Hla Maung Shwe, a member of the advisory body of the Peace Commission, read the joint statement, the outcome of the two-day meeting.

U Bi Htoo, Member of the CEC of the KNPP, expressed thanks to the participants of the

meeting for the success of the negotiation, pledging that KNPP would strive to join hands with other ethnic armed groups for establishment of a federal union.

"The KNPP has been desirous of genuine peace, and we are still walking on the road to peace", he said.

Dr. Tin Myo Win, Chairman of the Peace Commission, expressed delight for impressive outcomes of the peace negotiation and expressed thanks to participants of both sides for regaining trust and understanding between the two sides.

"The outcome of the peace talks is considered a constructive result for the ongoing peace and development of Kayah State," he added.



Union Minister U Kyaw Tint Swe shakes hands with representatives from the Karenni National Progressive Party at the Peace Talks in Loikaw, Kayah State. **PHOTO: MNA**

The leaders of the both sides are delighted at the result of the meeting, he said.

Dr. Tin Myo Win also expressed his hope that the leaders of KNPP would create a situa-

tion to sign NCA in the coming session of the Union Peace Conference-21st Century Panglong, which is slated to be held in the last week of May.

He believed that if the lead-

ers of both sides could sign the NCA at the Union Peace Conference, the signing would become a historic milestone, said Dr. Tin Myo Win.—Myanmar News Agency ■



The Myanmar delegation led by Union Minister U Thaung Tun (Right) attends the IX International Meeting of High-Ranking Officials Responsible for Security Matters, in Sochi, Russia. **PHOTO: MNA**

Union Minister U Thaung Tun attends IX International Meeting of High-Ranking Officials Responsible for Security Matters

UNION Minister for the Office of the Union Government U Thaung Tun led a Myanmar delegation comprising Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Maj-Gen Aung Soe and other officials to attend the IX International Meeting of High-Ranking Officials Responsible for Security Matters in Sochi, Russia, from 24 to 26 April.

At the meeting, the high-ranking officials discussed matters related to global instability, the responses to the changing

strategies of international terrorist organisations, challenges to information security and the eradication of the drug trade that is threatening global peace and stability.

The Myanmar Deputy Minister for Home Affairs and the Russian Federation Deputy Head of the Federal Security Service signed a memorandum of understanding to cooperate over anti-terrorist operations. — Myanmar News Agency ■

Joint Statement released by Peace Commission and Karenni National Progressive Party

Loikaw, Kayah State, 27 April, 2018

1. The Peace Commission and the peace dialogue committee of the Karenni National Progressive Party-KNPP held peace talks at the Kayah State Hall in Loikaw, Kayah State, on 26 and 27 April, and both sides discussed frankly and opening at the meeting.
2. The Karenni National Progressive Party-KNPP has committed to sign the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement-NCA, and has agreed to follow the following points in the short term before signing the NCA.
 - (a) **Issues concerning holding negotiations at state level for Local Monitoring Team & JMC issue, movement of troops of both sides and communications**
To hold regular negotiations between Kayah State Government and the KNPP as agreed by both sides
 - (b) **To reassign liaison officers at the state level and Union level**
To carry it out through the agreed communication channels agreed by both sides at state level and Union level
 - (c) Progress was achieved in the military sector, and both sides are to proceed with the work as agreed.
3. As the above points were agreed at the Peace Talks, the Karenni National Progressive Party-KNPP hereby announced that it had agreed at the talks to keep on its efforts for signing the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement-NCA

Peace Commission

Karenni National Progressive Party

(Unofficial Translation)

Union Attorney General receives Denmark Ambassador

U Tun Tun Oo, Attorney General of the Union, received Mr. Peter Lysholt Hansen, Ambassador of Denmark to Myanmar, in the meeting room of the Union Attorney General's Office at 2.30 p.m. yesterday afternoon.

At the meeting, the Union

Attorney General stated his appreciation towards the Denmark Embassy's participation in the coordination works on the rule of law, and explained that law officers under the union attorney general were following up on the coordination works

conducted for the rule of law on behalf of the government. They also discussed the work processes conducted through cooperation between the union attorney general's office and Denmark. — Myanmar News Agency ■

“ We will abolish the red tape that burdens the people and eradicate corruption and bribery that plagues all levels of society as we work to strengthen the moral fiber of our people. We will draw out from our past experiences as a civilian government overcoming various obstacles and hardships, as we work to the best of our ability for the immediate present and head towards the future of a democratic nation that respects human rights and is free from all stains of corruption.

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

“ May we all be able to build the peaceful, modern, prosperous and genuine Democratic Federal Republic which is the dream of the fathers of our independence and which is what our people desire.

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

President attends 32nd ASEAN Summit Plenary Session

Meets separately with Heads of States, Governments of ASEAN countries

FROM PAGE-1

At the meeting with Prime Minister of Laos Mr. Thongloun Sisoulith in Singapore's Shangri La Hotel, they discussed the continuing and increasing friendly bilateral relations and cooperation. President U Win Myint was invited to visit Laos.

While meeting President Joko Widodo of Indonesia at the Shangri La Hotel in Singapore, they discussed increasing bilateral relations and cooperation, humanitarian assistance for Rakhine State and Myanmar's attendance at the ASEAN leaders' gathering held in Bali, Indonesia, as well as the World Bank and International Monetary Fund's annual meeting.

In the evening, the Presi-

dent attended the official dinner hosted by the Prime Minister of Singapore.

Later, the President attended the 32nd ASEAN Summit Plenary Session held at the Istana Presidential Palace and participated in the discussion titled "Building a Resilient and Innovative ASEAN."

The dinner and the plenary session were attended by Heads of State and Heads of Government, as well as representatives from the ASEAN member countries such as Brunei, Cambodia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Indonesia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam, and the ASEAN Secretary General. —Myanmar News Agency



President U Win Myint attends the 32nd ASEAN Summit Plenary Session in Singapore. **PHOTO: MNA**



President U Win Myint and his delegation visit the Gardens by the Bay in Singapore yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**



President U Win Myint holds talks with Indonesia President Joko Widodo in Singapore. **PHOTO: MNA**



President U Win Myint meets with Prime Minister of Laos Thongloun Sisoulith in Singapore's Shangri La Hotel yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

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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.Vice President U Myint Swe addresses the 7th coordination meeting of the Private Sector Development Committee yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

7th coordination meeting of Private Sector Development Committee

The 7th coordination meeting of the Private Sector Development Committee was held yesterday morning in the meeting room of the Ministry of Commerce in Nay Pyi Taw. Vice President U Myint Swe, who is also Chairman of the committee, addressed the meeting.

Present at the meeting were committee Vice Chairman Union Minister Dr. Than Myint, committee members who are Union Ministers U Thant Sin Maung, U Win Khaing, U Khin Maung Cho and U Han Zaw, Union Attorney General U Tun Tun Oo, Central Bank of Myanmar Governor U Kyaw Kyaw Maung, Deputy Minister U Win Maw Tun, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI), Private Sector Development Committee members, chairmen, vice chairmen and secretaries of the five work committees, members of Group on increasing Ease of Doing Business Ranking and officials.

In his speech to the meeting the Vice President said it has been about one and a half year since the committee was formed in 24 October 2016 and some works were being done for private sector development. Since the committee was formed, five duties were assigned to it and five work committees were formed to implement these duties. By doing so it would significantly develop the private sector and the importance of the work committees could be seen. Up to the sixth

coordination meeting 42 out of 45 decisions were implemented and three were still being implemented. Of the three remaining decisions, a Credit Bureau, that collects information on loans will be implemented soon. The other two decisions of increasing Ease of Doing Business Ranking and Single Registration System of businesses in a single Ministry instead of registering in many Ministries were still being implemented. These two are type of works that need time to be implemented.

In order to support the private sector development work, meetings with businesses were held where sector wise groups were formed and sector wise difficulties were being resolved. As of April sixteen such meetings were held where 245 suggestions and submissions were made. All the suggestions and submissions were being replied to the relevant businesses. In some cases, several steps need to be taken to resolve and respond to the relevant businesses and the five work committees were conducting private-public dialogues between related Ministries and businesses continuously.

In the 2018 World Bank report on Doing Business, Myanmar was ranked at 171. The aim was to reach a ranking better than 100 in three years. To accomplish this, a 14 members group led by the Ministry of Commerce Deputy Minister on improving the Ease of Doing Business ranking was formed on 8 January 2018. Ten support-

ing groups based on 10 indicators on Ease of Doing Business were formed. The supporting groups need to setup systematic work plans and conduct their works accordingly.

As in other ASEAN countries, registration of businesses should be conducted in a single place under a One Stop Service and relevant Ministries need to cooperate in this. Doing this will support the increasing Ease of Doing Business Ranking.

Heads of the ten supporting groups under the Improving Ease of Doing Business Ranking group led by Ministry of Commerce Deputy Minister U Aung Htoo need to put in concerted efforts during the time when survey questionnaires for 2019 World Bank Ease of Doing Business report were being conducted.

Committee members, Union Ministers, officials from the five work committees and officials from the ten supporting groups of Improving Ease of Doing Business Ranking group were urged to work together for private sector development said the Vice President.

Next Committee Vice Chairman Union Minister Dr. Than Myint explained about status of works conducted for private sector development and status of supports provided to trade and investment works to increasing Ease of Doing Business Ranking.

Afterwards, committee Secretary Ministry of Commerce Permanent Secretary U Toe Aung Myint explained

about the decisions made at the last meeting and status of completed works.

Following this, officials from the five work committees explained about their respective works.

Committee member Central Bank of Myanmar Governor U Kyaw Kyaw Maung then explained about works conducted to establish a Credit Bureau and committee member Union Minister U Win Khaing explained about work conducted for providing electrical power which was one of the ten Ease of Doing Business categories.

Committee member UMFCCI President and officials also discussed on sector wise private sector development matters and officials from supporting groups under the Improving Ease of Doing Business ranking group discussed and explained about present status of Ease of Doing Business, aims and Ease of Doing Business indicator wise works conducted. Private Sector Development Committee Joint Secretary Myanmar Trade Promotion Organization Director General U Aung Soe explained about matters relating to improving the Ease of Doing Business Ranking.

Private Sector Development Committee Chairman Vice President U Myint Swe delivered a closing speech to conclude the meeting after giving necessary instructions to coordinate the work of the various committees based on the explanations and discussions. —Myanmar News Agency

Bamboo scarcity hits basket business in Kanyutkwin

THE scarcity of bamboos has hit basket businessmen in Hsin Seik Gyi village, Kanyutkwin Township, Bago Region, according to bamboo basket makers.

To make bamboo baskets, a species called Tin bamboo is needed, which can be found on the Bago Yoma mountain. These days, bamboos have become scarce, as local people are cutting down bamboo trees to create farmlands.

“Until November, nearly the entire village was engaged in the bamboo basket business. Earlier, bamboos were easily available. Now, we are fac-

ing difficulties in making the baskets because bamboos are scarce. The baskets can only be made with Tin bamboo.

If the bamboo becomes dry, it becomes difficult to make the basket.

The bamboo basket business is our source of livelihood,” said Daw Hmae Lay, a bamboo basket maker. “Bamboo baskets are mostly used in the rice noodle business and by farmers from the Bago Region. A basket is usually sold for Ks300 or Ks400,” said U Kyaw Myint, another basket maker.—GNLM ■



Bamboo products are displayed. PHOTO: MYANMAR DIGITAL NEWS

External trade exceeds \$1.5bn in current FY

THE value of Myanmar’s external trade with international countries reached US\$1.501 billion in the 2018 transitional fiscal year (FY), recording an increase of \$298 million compared with the same period last year, according to a report by the commerce ministry this Friday.

From 1 to 20 April this year, the country exported locally-produced products worth more than \$588 million to overseas traders, including some \$199 million worth of goods from cross-border points and nearly \$390 million worth of goods through non-border trade.

During the period, the import of foreign commodities reached \$913 million in value, including \$120 million through the border gates and \$792 million through non-border trade.

The export value through the sea route declined slightly this month. The export value of goods sent via sea decreased by \$5.269 million, as against the same period last year.

Despite an increase in the value of foreign trade this FY, a \$324 million trade deficit was reported, registering an increase of \$213 million, compared with the same period last FY.

Myanmar primarily imports capital goods, intermediate goods and consumer goods, whereas it exports six groups of commodities, such as agricultural products, animal and fisheries products, forest products and manufacturing goods.—Shwe Khine ■

Sterculia versicolor wall cultivation increases in Myanmar

THE Ministry of Commerce is conducting field studies to boost the production of Sterculia versicolor wall in the country because of its market potential, according to a report in Myawady Daily yesterday.

The Ministry of Livestock, Agriculture and Irrigation is educating and disseminating good agricultural practices among Sterculia versicolor wall growers. Moreover, the consumer affairs department, operating under the Ministry of Com-

merce, is also helping growers export Sterculia versicolor wall.

According to field studies, the cultivation of Sterculia versicolor wall has increased, and the growers are reaping a good income.

“Our ministry provides assistance to growers as the market demand is high.

We provide inputs and technology. The sown land area has greatly increased, and some regions have started growing Sterculia versicolor wall,” said

U Khin Maung Lwin, Assistant Secretary of the Ministry of Commerce.

Sterculia versicolor wall enjoys high demand in the domestic market and is mainly exported to China. The sown land area has increased in the Sagaing and Magway regions. Myanmar started growing Sterculia versicolor wall two years ago, and growers have been getting good prices because of the high demand from China.—GNLM ■

Demand for betel leaves goes up as prices drop

THE demand for betel leaves has been rising in the domestic market, as their price has declined in the post-Thingyan period, according to a report in Myawady Daily on Friday.

Wholesalers in Mahlaing Town, Meiktila District, Mandalay Region, said the market had become active due to the decline in price. The price of betel leaves dropped by half compared with the period before the Thingyan New Year Water Festival. A viss (3.6 lbs) of betel leaves was priced between Ks20,000 and Ks24,000, then.

A retailer from Mahlaing Town said, “Now, a viss of betel leaves is being sold for

Ks9,000. The price is declining by Ks500-Ks1,000 daily since before mid-April.”

“The price of betel leaves is different in the morning and evening. Normally, the market sees a slight decline in prices in the evening. Therefore, we bought some viss for daily use, preventing a possible loss in profits. Previously, we used to buy a basket of betel leaves that contained 15 viss,” the retailer added.

Despite the decrease in the price of betel leaves, areca nut prices are increasing in the market. Currently, the selling price of fresh areca nut is Ks5,200 per viss.—GNLM ■

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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By Ma Honey

BAGO Region Government has carried out to achieve all-round development in all socio-economic sectors of the people. In order to make sustainable development, plans are under way to support and encourage the small and medium scale enterprises, the development of health and education sectors, and conservation of natural environment.

Opening Wholesales Centre in Bago

A wholesale centre for crops has opened in Bago Region where a variety of pulses and crops are sold for the convenience of the local people.

Formerly the rice which was grown in Bago Region used to trade foreign markets through the Yangon Region. After opening the wholesale centre, the coal businessmen received more orders from foreign countries.

Bago is in need of many wholesale centres for rice and agricultural commodities, as they can serve as the marketplace for farmers and traders.

Through wholesale centres, market information will be known more widely and will reduce the risk of speculation and volatility. The Myanmar Rice Federation is also supporting the establishment of rice wholesale centres in order to improve the standards and specification, as well as the adoption of proper contractual engagement between sellers and buyers. According to the data, there are over 650,000 acres of rice cultivation in Bago Region and local farmers grow Export-25 mark rice in the summer and in the rainy season.

Regional development

During the period of two year, the Bago 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

In order to make sustainable development, plans are under way to support and encourage the small and medium scale enterprises, the development of health and education sectors, and conservation of natural environment.



Chief Minister U Win Thein donates provision to a monk at a ceremony to donate provision to 1,800 monks in Bago. **PHOTO: MNA**

Performance of Bago Region Government in 2nd Year in Office

Concrete. According to the data, there were 27 miles and 3 furlongs of concrete roads, 103 miles and 2 furlong of tarred roads, and 268 miles and 4 S of rural roads, 595 concrete bridges, 41 wooden bridges, 54 arch bridges and 505 rooms for housing project in the Bago Region.

As for the Bago Region Government, concerted efforts have been made to carry out the works for both local and foreign investors to be able to start their operation at the industrial zones of Bago and Pyay Districts with a view to increasing more job opportunities.

The Bago 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 cooperation with World Bank, UNDP and UKAID.

Power Supply

In the power supply section, the Bago Region has implemented 236 tasks with the aim of meeting electricity demand and upgrading the cables and installation of new cables under the electrification plan for the whole region.



The opening of an ethnic literature and traditions exchange festival in Bago Township. **PHOTO: MNA**

Health Sector

Plans are underway to extend one more traditional hospitals in Yedashe Township, Bago Region. Currently, there is a 50-bedded traditional medicine hospitals in Bago.

Many people who rely on traditional medicine for their primary healthcare need have significantly increased. This

is the main reason for extension of traditional medicine hospitals and health departments.

Traditional medical practitioners have urged the people to receive treatment at the traditional medicine hospitals and clinics and take medicines after checking the registration and expiry dates of traditional medicines.



Regional level national political talk held in Toungoo Township. **PHOTO: MNA**



Chief Minister U Win Thein inspect second batch of agricultural machinery to be distributed to twenty-eight townships in Bago Region **PHOTO: MNA**

During the period of two year, the Bago 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.



Chief Minister U Win Thein and officials inspects Myitkyoe 33 KVA sub-power supply station. **PHOTO: MNA**

Assisting development in Rakhine

The Bago Region government has coordinate in all sectors with human, financial, moral and technical resources for Rakhine State, regional development works and for reconstruction of damages and losses caused by terrorist attacks.

Efforts had been made to construct 64 village houses in the southern Rakhine State and to take the responsibility to build these houses.

With the aim of providing assistance to ethnic nationals who were facing difficulties in all sectors starting with human, financial, moral and technical resources in region. The construction of houses and schools needs to be completed before the rain comes.

Once the livelihood matters are re-established, these necessary assistances will be provided for agriculture, livestock breeding and fishery sector development as required by the Rakhine State.

Citizen's Budget

The Bago Region Government revenues have increased more than 150 per cent since 2013 while the grant transfer from the Union Government to the region has grown more than 290 per cent in the same period, according to the Citizen's Budget released by the Bago Regional Government.

Fishery and property taxes make up for 83 per cent of the regional tax revenue in this fiscal year. Citizen's Budgets

communicate budget information to the general public with the aim of increasing budget transparency and encouraging civic engagement with the budget process.

The Citizen's Budget is a step forward to increase transparency as well as accountability, and to encourage civic participation in public financial management. Government budgets, particularly at the sub-national level, are central to social and economic development, and in order to be effective, it requires strong public financial management. The budget will help create a cycle in which the government provides services based on the needs and inputs of the constituents. Therefore the resulting alignment between public resources and public needs can be contributed to the greater growth and development of the Bago Region.

Revenues

The Bago Regional Government has K158,057 million to spend for the fiscal year 2017-18, K158,057 million (81 per cent) of which comes from fiscal transfer allocated by the union government.

The budget reveals that the region's taxes come primarily from seven sources collected by four departments. Excise tax, land tax, embankment tax and tax on mineral extraction are collected by the General Administration Department (GAD) and make up about 52 per cent of the tax collection.

Excise tax, in particular, is responsi-



Opening ceremony of Jotun Factory in Bago City. **PHOTO: MNA**

ble for 44 per cent of the regional taxes. Other taxes include fishery tax and forestry product tax.

Small and Medium Enterprises (SMES)

It is of great importance to educate the local people [SMEs] in financial management to know where the wastage is. And in financing sector, they need to know a business plan as well as a sustainable plan. Some SMEs are operating without any business plan and target. Only if they

have such plans and targets will their enterprises develop. Efforts should be made to promote business structure, accounting, taxation, market management, human resource management and capital management.

As SMEs are major contributors to Myanmar's economy and job creation in Bago, it is of great paramount importance to meet challenges, create business opportunities, upgrade technology and settle financing issues. ■

(Translated by Win Ko Ko Aung)

Female empowerment, youth education will boost national development

ACCORDING to the 2014 Myanmar Population and Housing Census, there are 50 million people in Myanmar, with a ratio of 93 males per 100 females. With females outnumbering males, we should be more heedful of women's roles in society.

About 50.5 per cent of women are actively working in jobs, while 26 per cent take care of the domestic duties in a family. These numbers point out that if more job opportunities for women are created, then, there would be huge possibilities for the country. Men actively pursuing careers make up 85.2 per cent of the male population, a fact commonly accepted by all, while the 11 per cent of men who stay at home and perform domestic duties are often overlooked or are invisible to most people.

Statistically, women give birth to 2.5 babies, but in reality married women in Myanmar may have up to five children. This means that most married couples in of Myanmar have a large workload supporting a family. This will be clearer if we look at it through dependency ratios. The dependency ratio of dependents (children under 14 and elderly above 65) on supporters (working people between the ages of 15 and 64) in Myanmar is a high 52.4 per cent, with children making up 43.7 per cent of that number. The dependency ratio differs on the state and regional level, with Chin State having a dependency ratio of 80.9 per cent and Rakhine State having a dependency ratio of 60.8 per cent.

Young people aged 10 to 24 make up 30 per cent of the entire Myanmar population. They are the future workforce of the country. On the other hand, children between the ages of 5 and 14 make up the biggest demographic, and if they are provided with a proper education system and job opportunities, then a golden future for the country will be on the horizon.

biggest demographic, and if they are provided with a proper education system and job opportunities, then a golden future for the country will be on the horizon. In short, empowering the female population and creating more opportunities for the next generation is the basic requirement for the nation's development.

Invitation to young writers for Sunday section

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

Sarpay Beikman public library in retrospect

By Maung Hlaing

WHEN I was in my childhood, I noticed that most of my neighbours did not know how to read to gain knowledge. They were completely illiterate. Thanks to my far-seeing parents, I was sent to the monastery where I could pursue education. In those days, we had no newspapers; no radios; and no reading rooms or libraries. As the books published in those days hardly reached our rural areas, we could have access to only religious books kept at the monastery.

Compared to our childhood days, children and youths of today are so lucky that they can have easy access to all kinds of reading materials ranging from ordinary books to e-books on various subjects. Only when I pursued my middle and high school education, I could use the school Library and Information Reading Centre opened by the Ministry of Information at that time. Since then, the great value of libraries has come over to me.

Times elapsed. When I joined the Sarpay Beikman (of Printing and Publishing Corporation) under the Ministry of Information, the Sarpay Beikman Public Library and the Editorial Reference Library became a treasure-house for me.

Objectively, I cannot tell the exact numbers of public libraries all over the country. (The reading rooms, or libraries the Information and Public Relations

Department has already established in rural areas may be called 'public libraries'.)

According to the World Book Encyclopedia (Vol.12, p.216), public libraries range in size from huge city, borough, or county libraries with dozens of branches to small-town libraries that occupy only one room. No matter what their size or where they are located, all public libraries have the same goal—to be of maximum service to their community.

In this way, public libraries aim to serve all members of a community—children, young adults, and people from all walks of life. People use public libraries for schoolwork, for their jobs, and for leisure activities. Whatever it may be, such libraries, therefore, stock a variety of books and other materials and provide services for members of the community.

If we talk about the history of libraries of Myanmar, we cannot skip over the role played by the Sarpay Beikman Public Library. It was a first and foremost public library opened in the post-independence period. No sooner had the Sarpay Beikman (Institute) emerged than the Public Library was opened. Actually, the emergence of Sarpay Beikman (Institute) was intertwined with the independence struggles of Myanmar.

It was 7 June in 1947. Bogoyoke Aung San, the architect of Myanmar's independence, addressed the conference on rehabilitation of Myanmar held

in the building of Sorrento Villa, which is still on Pyay Road. In his historic speech, Bogoyoke Aung San urged the people to translate and publish the books urgently needed for the people and to establish a translation department.

After consultaion made among the then Prime Minister U Nu, U Thant (Ex-UN Secretary-General), Professor U Myo Min and U Khin Maung Latt, the Burma Translation Society (BTS) was emerged on 26 August in 1947. In 1948, the BTS was transferred to the historical building of Sorrento Villa. The BTS was renamed as "Sarpay Beikman", or "Palace of Literature" with the motto "Light, where darkness was" (အမှောင်ခွင်၌ အလင်းဆောင်ရာ). The motto was created by Myanmar scholar and writer Sayagyi Min Thu Wun.

However, the Sarpay Beikman was known until early 1959 as the Burma Translation Society. The name was changed because the institute's programmes far-outgrew the original intention of its founders to simply "translate" world knowledge. (Now, the publishing programme is far more than "translation".) The motto and logo are still used by the Sarpay Beikman Public Library.

According to the records, the Managing Council of Sarpay Beikman established the Sarpay Beikman Public Library on 13 March, 1956 in the Sarpay Beikman Building (at 529-531, Merchant Street in Kyauktada Township, Yangon.) In those

days, it was one of the few free public libraries in Myanmar.

The primary purpose of this library is to make books published by Sarpay Beikman, as well as other educational Myanmar and English books freely available to the public with a view to promoting mass education. It was known that the library, officially opened to the public by period of two years, registered 6,200 borrowers. The Librarian, who acted as secretary of Library Advisory Committee, was in charge of Library Administration under the direction and review of the Director and Chief Executive Manager.

From Tuesday to Saturday, it is open from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and on Sundays, from 9:00 a.m. to noon. It was also learnt that the Library attracted from 200 to 450 readers daily. Then, it had nearly 13,000 books, both English and Myanmar. It acquired books and peiordicals through purchase and gift.

An integral part of the Library was a Children's Branch, situated on the ground floor of the building. Children's Library programmes were presented every Saturday and included film shows, essay competitions, debates, magic painting, painting competitions, indoor games, story-telling and other activities which many children came to enjoy. At that time, there were 3,000 volumes of children's books on all subjects, especially picture books, story books and comics.

However, the Children's Library completely ceased in 1979. (The reason to cease still remains a puzzle to the reading public. In 2001, the then Minister for Information Maj-Gen Kyi Aung gave guidance to me to reopen the Children's Library when I became the Chief Edior of Sarpay Beikman.)

In the late 1950s, another important aid to the Editorial Department was the Editorial Reference Library which provides both reference and general material for the various divisions. In those days, there were approximately 7,500 books in English, 4,000 books in Myanmar, 4,000 issues of magazines and journals, and twenty-one general and specialized sets of encyclopaedias in English. The Library subscribed to 58 magazines published in English and 20 in Myanmar.



Sarpay Beikman Building in downtown Yangon.

Books for the library were procured from local as well as foreign publishers. In addition, many valuable books have been donated by the USIS Library, the British Council and various foreign embassies. The Editorial Reference Library could be called "Specialized Library" under the management of the Sarpay Beikman Public Library. Unfortunately, it was brought to an end (in early year of 2000) for some reason that no one could disclose. But fortunately, later all of the reading materials of the Editorial Reference Library were taken over by the Sarpay Beikman Public Library.

Today, the Sarpay Beikman Public Library is made up of four sections—Main Reading Room, Reference Room (Library), e-Library and Children's Library. Since 1956 to date, it has kept a collection of over 60,000 Myanmar books (including rare ones), over 25,000 English books, over 15,000 magazines, 35,000 journals, 850 monthly files of newspapers, 110 C.Ds and 20,000 e-books. It has already organized nearly 2000 members—both special and ordinary members.

I do not mean that it is a

well-stocked and modernized library like the National Library. However, I am proud of having such a free library at all disposal of reading public in the heart of the commercial city of Yangon. Books on various subjects—ranging from encyclopaedias to the latest issue of Guinness World Records 2018— are inviting the people from all walks of life including students, teachers, businessmen, service personnel, scholars and so on.

Please come over to us to satisfy your desire for knowledge or to obtain materials for some kind of leisure-time activity. Our librarians and staff are ready to help anyone who wants assistance in finding information.

Visit www.sarpaybeikman-pol.gov.mm

Welcome to Sarpay Beikman Public Library! ■

Ref: - မြန်မာ့စွယ်စုံကျမ်းနှင့်ချမ်း ၂၀၁၂
- A booklet on Sarpay Beikman Institute, 1958. (Hailing the 17th. Congress of Southeast Asian Librarians that will be held on 2-5 May 2018.)

World Day for Safety and Health at Work

Youth safety and health at work: Early education equals early protection

Ms. Tomoko Nishimoto, the Assistant Director-General of the International Labour Organisation and Regional Director for Asia and the Pacific.

IN the Asia-Pacific region, more people than anywhere else start working from a young age. As youth, they often work in hazardous and exploitative jobs to earn income for their families. Some of this work also constitutes child labour. This year, for World Day for Safety and Health at Work on 28 April, the International Labour Organisation (ILO) is focusing on improving the working conditions of young workers as well as bringing an end to child labour.

Young workers in the Asia-Pacific

In the Asia-Pacific, there are about 300 million workers between the ages of 15 and 24. These workers comprise 20 per cent of the region's workforce. Often it is poverty that pushes young people to start working from an early age. They enter the workforce with virtually no knowledge about occupational hazards and risks, nor any awareness about their occupational safety and health (OSH) rights.

Some young people start working from an even earlier age. There are about 62 million children between the ages of 5 and 17 who are engaged in child labour. Of these, 28 million are in hazardous work. For these children, exploitative labour is a serious threat to their health and their physical and mental development.

Many young workers in the Asia-Pacific are in the informal economy and are engaged in agricultural, industrial and artisanal work. These workplaces tend to be out of the reach of OSH laws and are otherwise difficult to inspect. In addition, workers frequently lack an understanding of the importance of OSH.

Poor working conditions and a lack of OSH training often translates to higher rates of injury amongst workers who would otherwise have had a long working career ahead of them. They are also at risk of contracting occupational diseases with harmful long-term effects. For example, exposure to hazardous agents such as asbestos, pesticides and other chemicals can ultimately lead to serious diseases and potentially death.

Concerted tripartite efforts

Providing young workers with decent and safe employment opportunities is indispensable for future social and economic development. Governments, employers and workers need to build, implement and continuously strengthen a culture of prevention. Indeed, many governments are currently engaging in regular tripartite dialogues to set standards and develop national OSH policies.

It is crucial that these national policies are in line with international labour standards. In particular, there should be full compliance with the ILO Promotional Framework for Occupational Safety and Health Convention, 2006 (No. 187). Encouragingly, there have been increased ratifications of the Convention in the region.

Educating for a safer future of work

While efforts to improve the current state of workplaces are critical, there must also be efforts to educate future generations in OSH. By one estimate, 65 per cent of children in primary school today will work in jobs that currently do not exist. In order to ensure that these jobs do not jeopardise the health and safety of future generations, it is crucial that children are educated from a young age.

Educating young people in the importance of OSH is necessary for a safe future of work. We must do all we can to ensure that young people are aware of, and protected by, OSH principles so that they too are given the chance to work in a safe and healthy workplace. ■

Barcap river water pumping project irrigates water to farmland in summer. **PHOTO: MNA**Makkatha Bridge on the Kyainseikkyi-Chaungson (Phayathonsu) Road. **PHOTO: MNA**

Kayin State Government's Efforts for Prevailing Peace and Prosperity

By Shin Min

BESIDES putting peace process high on its agenda, Kayin State government is paying serious attention on such development undertakings as power supply, agriculture and smooth transport in the state.

It signed ceasefire agreement with ethnic armed groups – DKBA, KNU, KNU/KNLA – at the state-level and also with the signing of the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement by these groups, it is marching towards the goal of peace together with these brethren.

“Peace is the top priority for Kayin State government. Therefore, talking about the performance of the state government will be focused on the peace process. The office of Joint Monitoring Committee on Ceasefire in Kayin State was opened in Hpa-an, the capital of the state. The committee is organized with 16 members. Meetings focusing on economic

Ensuring smooth transportation in the state is one of the priorities set by the state government.

and social affairs and security are held monthly. Office of this committee is also opened in Hpa-pun and meetings are also in the same manner.” said Chief Minister of Kayin State Daw Nan Khin Htwe Myint.

To build unity among all tribes residing in Kayin State and to display their traditional culture, Ethnic Traditional Literature and Cultural Festival was or-

ganized in February 2018 on a grand scale.

Ensuring smooth transportation in the state is one of the priorities set by the state government.

In 2016-2017 Fiscal Year, Eidu-Zarthabyin road, and concrete road in downtown areas on Mudon-Myawady road; 500 feet long Anankwin bridge and ; 330 feet long Zamichaung bridge on Thanbyuzayet-Hpayathonzu road; 300 feet long Hlaingkwe creed bridge on Mudon-Myawady road were opened.

“The second priority is transportation. This year saw the opening of 41 mile long concrete road from Kyainseikkyi to Chaungzon (Hpayathonzu). The road contributes much towards welfare of locals. Fourteen bridges were also opened. Many roads, too, were opened throughout the state.” said the chief minister.

A local named U Saw Han Yi seconded her saying, “The efforts of the state government met success to some extent. All the visitors to Kayin State surely witness

these achievements. Smooth transportation results in tourism industry booming. These are real achievements.”

Kayin State is home to 15 million populations including Kayin, Mon, Bamar, Pa-O and Shan. It is formed with four districts, seven townships, 11 towns, 376 village tracts and 2097 villages.

In the efforts of the state government to enjoy fruits of development, electricity supply is no exception.

“Another priority set by the state government is power supply. Previously, only 4 out of 7 townships enjoyed electricity. Now, people living in Kyainseikkyi and Kawkareik townships are enjoying electricity round the clock. Only Hpa-pun Township left to be supplied electricity but measures are being taken to supply power to the township. Moreover, over 900 villages are enjoying electricity. We'll try our best for the people enabling them to enjoy electricity the whole state.” the chief minister said.

A tubewell is drilled at Htilon Village in Hlinebwe Township. **PHOTO: MNA**Agricultural experts conducts rubber farming training to create job opportunities. **PHOTO: MNA**

As regards supplying electricity in Kayin State, State Minister of Electricity and Industry U Soe Hlaing said, "In 2017-2018 FY, all out efforts are being made to supply electricity to the villages which left to enjoy electricity. Moreover, we are planning to build a power plant in the state. This is to build coal-fired power plant applying USC technology of Japan. It met success to a certain extent. Solar power is used for areas where electricity supply is not reaching. Small-scale hydropower plants were built to supply power.

"Transmission line overhaul were launched in Hpa-an, and roads were lit with lights. For beautifying Kawkaik Township, street lamp posts were erected."

"It is our target to supply electricity to all villages in the state in the next five years. If electricity cannot reach, solar power or hydropower is another option for that area," he said.

During the second year in its office, the state over 1640 million kyat was spent on erecting traffic lights in Hpa-an

amount of cash for them was 100 million kyat and in 2017-2018 FY it stood at 200 million kyat.

Preventive measures against river bank erosion were taken at Thaungyin River, Gawli Creek, Thanlwin River and Gyaing River spending over 800 million kyat. There are hotels and guesthouses in the state. "As Kayin State possesses many tourist attractions, the number of tourists has increased year after year. To fulfill its needs, 30 hotels had permission to be constructed. Another five are seeking approval from the union government. The strand road four-year project is being implemented. With the loans from JICA, water supply for the whole Hpa-an is being carried out," said State Planning, Finance and Development Minister U Than Naing.

Legal Affairs Assessment Commission member U Sa Tun Aung said, "Arrangements have been made to increase the strength of teachers, and build new schools. Electricity supply and smooth transportation developed significantly al-

For swift commodity flow in border trade, Myanmar-Thai Friendship bridge No.2 is under construction in Myawady Township.

and multisectoral development works in Myawady in 2016-2017 FY.

In 2017-2018 FY, upgrading works and erecting traffic lights and lamp post have been carried out in Hpa-an.

Regarding water supply, the state government, under its supervision, sank 43 artesian wells in Hpa-an and Hlaingbwe Townships. "Artesian wells have been sunk for potable water and the sample water was sent to Yangon for laboratory proof if it is proper to drink or not. This is to ensure the water is free from infectious disease and the people to be free from the trouble of buying water," said State Agriculture, Livestock Breeding and Irrigation Minister U Saw Myint Oo.

Agriculture sector is another field on which the state government is paying attention. According to sources from State Government, over 800 acre of land was exposed this year and total amount of land exposed within two years was 1400 acres.

Within two years 1077 acres of fallow land, 428 acres of virgin land and 2933 acres of wild land were changed into cultivable land. "In agriculture sector, some face water scarcity, some floods and thus we are tackling these problems. As regard water for agriculture purpose, we completed 20 works benefiting 3880 acres. As flood water prevention, we conducted 21 preventive works which benefit 7315 acres of land.

"In the livestock breeding sector, the figure rose by 6 percent. There are peace groups in the state and they are provided with cash for agriculture and livestock breeding works. In 2016-2017 FY, the

though it have not reached to rural areas. Health care system has also developed."

For swift commodity flow in border trade, Myanmar-Thai Friendship bridge No.2 is under construction in Myawady Township. It is nearing to completion and will be commissioned into service in May this year.

The chief minister said, "Arrangements are being made to practice Merge System at Myawady Trade Zone for swift commodity flow. Courses on that matter are being conducted for merchants and staff." In health care sector, six rural health care centers and 20 rural health care branches have been opened.

During the two years, 153 schools have been upgraded or opened. Teachers are also appointed. For the government employee who are discharging their duties in Kayin State, 188 apartments have been built in Hpa-an, Kawkaik, Myawady, Hpa-pun, Thandaunggyi, Hpayathonzu and Leiktho spending the fund of Urban and Housing Development Department.

For human resource development, Kayin State Information and Public Relations Department, Daw Khin Kyi Foundation and the State Government jointly opened Community Center and conducted English language courses and computer courses.

With the concept that only peace can bring prosperity, Kayin State government is trying its utmost for prevailing peace. It is cooperating with ethnic groups for regional development.

(Translated by Wallace)



Bayintnyi Cave in Hpa-an has attracted local and foreign visitors. **PHOTO: MNA**



Chief Minister Daw Nan Khin Htwe Myint and officials visit Hpa-an Industrial Zone. **PHOTO: MNA**



Volunteers attend training for disaster preparedness. **PHOTO: MNA**



Zwekabin Agricultural Diploma graduation ceremony in Hpa-an. **PHOTO: MNA**



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing visits a coffee plant in Pyin Oo Lwin. **PHOTO: MNA**

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing meets businesspersons in Pyin Oo Lwin

Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing met lecturers, military personnel and families of the Tatmadaw Electrical and Engineering School in Pyin Oo Lwin yesterday.

After the meeting, the Senior General and his delegation inspected the motor vehicle parts displayed in the auto repair training room.

The Senior General also visited the Anisakan (Aneesakan) Taung Salin monastery, where

he paid homage to vice-presiding Sayadaw Bhaddanta Nayminda and viewed the Maha Datu Stupa.

In the evening, the Senior General met businesspersons at Shwe Pu Zun coffee plantation, where he noted that products that can penetrate international markets are needed for the economic development of a nation. Coffee plantations and the manufacturing sector play an important role and therefore, the meeting is being held to get the necessary information on standard coffee

products that can be exported, he added.

He also invited businesspersons to discuss and make suggestions. The businesspersons, along with the Myanmar Coffee Association chair, explained their coffee manufacturing and production processes and the problems faced by them, as well as their needs. The party also visited and inspected the Myanmar Economic Cooperation and Pyin Oo Lwin Nan Myaing Pure Coffee factory. —MNA ■



Union Minister U Kyaw Tin attends the ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting at Shangri-La Hotel in Singapore. **PHOTO: MNA**

Union Minister U Kyaw Tin attends ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting

A Myanmar delegation led by Union Minister of the Ministry of International Cooperation U Kyaw Tin attended the ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting (AMM) held at Shangri-La Hotel in Singapore.

In the afternoon, the un-

ion minister and his delegation also attended the 17th ASEAN Political-Security Community (APSC) Council meeting and the 21st ASEAN Coordinating Council (ACC) meeting at Shangri-La Hotel.—Myanmar News Agency ■

KBZ Brighter Future Myanmar Foundation donates for bio foam

The KBZ Brighter Future Myanmar Foundation and its partner companies have donated Ks340 million to buy 5,000 gallons of Class A bio foam to stifle the fire raging through the 300-acre Htein Bin rubbish dump in Hlinethaya Township. The donation was presented to Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein on 26 April.

The rubbish dump extends up to 300 acres and the piles of rubbish accumulated over the years have caught fire. Simply dousing the rubbish with water has not proved effective so far, and so, immediate action must be taken to avoid serious air pollution in Yangon.

During the acceptance

ceremony, the chief minister said he had informed the residents of Hlinethaya Township of the donation to convey to them that people were willing to help. Representing the donors at the ceremony were KBZ Brighter Future Myanmar Foundation Chairperson Daw Nan Lai Kham and Vice-Chairperson Daw Nan Kham Nong.

Besides the KBZ Brighter Future Myanmar Foundation, the donor companies included KBZ Bank Ltd., IKBZ Insurance, Jasmine Palace Hotel, Annawa Aung Construction, Myanmar Seilone Construction, Strong Source Group of Co. Ltd., and Famous Group. —Thura Lwin (Eco) ■



Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein speaking at the ceremony to donate Ks340 million by BFM for bio foam. **Photo: Thura Lwin**

News and Periodicals Enterprise holds 20th anniversary

A ceremony to commemorate the 20th anniversary of News and Periodicals Enterprise (NPE) was held at the Nay Pyi Taw Press House's Bo Waziya hall yesterday morning.

Deputy Minister for Information U Aung Hla Tun delivered a speech at the event and presented awards and documents of honour to outstanding news feature writers.

Next, Union Election Commission member U Myint Naing (Maung Saga) and Myanmar Anti-Corruption Commission member U Han Nyunt (Han Nyunt Law) presented awards and documents of honour to outstanding news article writers, while Road Transportation Administration



Deputy Minister U Aung Hla Tun delivers the address at the 20th Anniversary celebration of the NPE. **PHOTO: MNA**

Department Director-General U Zaw Min Oo presented awards and documents of honour to outstanding news photographers. News and Periodicals Enterprise (NPE) Managing Director U Kyaw Soe presented the best employee award. The NPE Managing Director also handed out presents and documents of honour to advertisers who advertised the most in Myanmar Alinn and Kyemon newspapers. General Manager U Thet Swe then presented commemorative gifts to 985 personnel serving in NPE.

Following this, Myanmar Anti-Corruption Commission

member U Han Nyunt, Myanmar Press Council Vice Chairman (1) veteran journalist Sayagyi U Ohn Kyaing (Hanthawady U Ohn Kyaing), feature writer Dr. Maung Phyay and science writer Ko Ko Aung delivered speeches of "mudita" (appreciation and joy).

After the ceremony, the deputy minister took commemorative group photos with the ceremony attendees. The ceremony was attended by officials and employees from departments and enterprises under the ministry, chief editors and editors of newspapers, litterateurs, award winners and invited guests.—MNA ■

Ministry of Health and Sports providing health sector cooperation works for garbage fire

THE Ministry of Health and Sports is continuing to provide cooperation works in the health sector for the public, in response to the fire at Htein Bin garbage dump, Hlinethaya Township, Yangon Region.

Some 26 inpatients, including 19 from 24 to 26 April and seven on 27 April, as well as 21 outpatients, including 19 from 24 to 26 April and two on 27 April, were treated for smoke inhalation and other related ailments at Hlinethaya People's Hospital since the dump fire started. The carboxyhaemoglobin level in the blood of the inpatients admitted to the hospital on 27 April was found to be normal. Of the patients undergoing treatment at the hospital, six were discharged from the hospital from 24 to 26 April, while the condition of the remaining 19 patients is improving.

The Ministry of Health and



Fire fighters douse bio foam over the garbage dump to control poisonous smoke in Hlinethaya. Photo: Zaw Gyi

Sports conducted a coordination meeting with the related departments and organisations at Hlinethaya People's Hospital on 27 April.

The Hlinethaya People's Hospital superintendent and

officials, Yangon Region Public Health Department officials, central field group members, officials from Yangon City Development Committee's health department, Myanmar Red Cross Society, Myanmar civil relief group and

welfare groups attended the meeting. The difficulties faced in providing healthcare services, requirements and future works were discussed at the meeting and a decision was made to meet every morning to assign works.

The Yangon region Public Health Department is reporting daily to the region government about the results of the air quality measurements and the status of patients undergoing treatment for smoke inhalation and related ailments. It is also continuing to provide health consultation, support and treatment services to the firefighting personnel.

The Ministry of Health and Sports is also coordinating with the World Health Organisation (WHO) resident representative office and the regional office to obtain technical support and assistance.

The Ministry of Health and Sports is closely monitoring the occurrence of smoke inhalation and related ailments and is coordinating and working with the (Yangon) region government, related departments and other organisations.—Myanmar News Agency ■

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V SHIBA VOY. NO. (1084 E)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V SHIBA VOY. NO. (1084 E) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 28-4-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT

MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY

AGENT FOR: M/S LAND & SEA LOGISTICS

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V SIMA PERFECT VOY. NO. (038N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V SIMA PERFECT VOY. NO. (038N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 29-4-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of HPT where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT

MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY

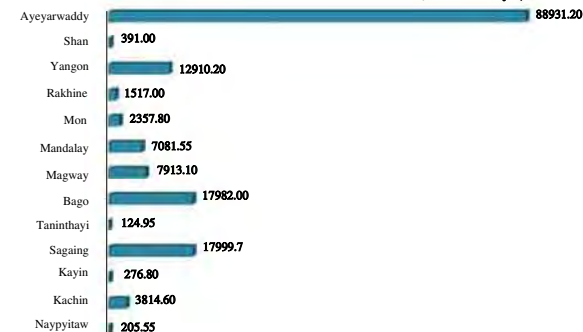
AGENT FOR: M/S NEW GOLDEN SEA

SHIPPING LINE

Phone No: 2301185

Disbursement of 2017 Winter Crop Production Loan

(Millions of Kyat)



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

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V XETHA BHUM VOY. NO. (1101W)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V XETHA BHUM VOY. NO. (1101W) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 29-4-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MIP where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT

MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY

AGENT FOR: M/S REGIONAL CONTAINER

LINES

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V PATANA THIDA BHUM VOY. NO. (122W/E)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V PATANA THIDA BHUM VOY. NO. (122W/E) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 28-4-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T/ A.I.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.

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT

MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY

AGENT FOR: M/S REGIONAL CONTAINER

LINES

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V KUO HSIUNG VOY. NO. (1084 S/N)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V KUO HSIUNG VOY. NO. (1084 S/N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 28-4-2018 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.

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT

MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY

AGENT FOR: M/S NEW GOLDEN SEA

SHIPPING LINE

Phone No: 2301185

marketing@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

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6th Ethnic Media Conference kicks off in Hpa-an

THE 6th Ethnic Media Conference began in Hpa-an yesterday with the motto “Promote Media Literacy for Ethnic Media Sustainability”.

The conference was formally opened by Union Minister for Information Dr. Pe Myint, Union Minister for Ethnic Affairs Nai Thet Lwin, Chief Minister of Kayin State Daw Nan Khin Htwe Myint and Phato Saw Thamein Tun of Karen National Union.

Speaking at the opening ceremony, Union Minister Dr. Pe Myint stressed the important role of ethnic media in development of the country, which is home to many ethnic races and tribes.

He clarified the undertakings of the Ministry of Information for development of the literacy and knowledge of ethnic people, urging the ethnic media to think about how to cooperate with the ministry after his explanation.

The Union Minister said the ministry gives permission for media inclusion and publishing permits in the printing sector after registration. He said that there are already numerous magazines and journals printed in ethnic languages and they are working on also printing books and newspapers in ethnic languages.

The Union Minister said state-run newspapers include extra pages with ethnic languages

in them. For example, in Kayin State the newspapers also include Mon, Poe Kayin, Sakaw Kayin, and Pa-aing language; newspapers in Kachin include Jingphaw language; newspapers in Rakhine include Myanmar and Rakhine languages as well.

The Union Minister said the expansion of five additional TV channels will help propagate ethnic inclusion in the broadcasting sector. He added that MRTV has channels broadcasted in eleven ethnic languages and the national radio broadcasts include seventeen ethnic languages as well.

The Union Minister said that ethnic media willing to expand can do so after discussions and coordination and he has seen that many ethnic regions are willing to set up and broadcast their own community radio. He said that respective laws are being reviewed and amended to allow local community radio all over the country to legally broadcast.

The Union Minister said that when the Media Amendment Bill is approved, they will draft new bylaws for community radios to emerge. He said that collaboration with the Myanmar Press Council will ensure ethnic people's media and other media agencies in Myanmar will have smoother news gathering soon. He added that this will also



Union Ministers Dr. Pe Myint and Nai Thet Lwin pose for a documentary photo together with dignitaries at the 6th ethnic media conference in Hpa-An, Kayin State. **PHOTO: MNA**



Union Minister for Information Dr. Pe Myint. **PHOTO: MNA**



Union Minister for Ethnic Affairs Nai Thet Lwin. **PHOTO: MNA**



The 6th ethnic media conference taking place in Kayin State. **PHOTO: MNA**



Kayin State Chief Minister Daw Nan Khin Htwe. **PHOTO: MNA**



Nai Kasaw Mon from Burma News International (BNI). **PHOTO: MNA**



Traditional dancers performing on stage at the ethnic media conference. **PHOTO: MNA**

help media agencies to contact and work closely with the three branches of government.

In the 2018 edition of Freedom of the Press Index published by Reporters Without Borders (RSF), Myanmar is ranked No. 137, which the Union Minister said is a decrease from previous years and may be the result of some tensions with the international community. However, neighbouring countries such as India, China, Thailand, Laos, and Bangladesh all rank lower than Myanmar on the index. Myanmar also ranks third on the ASEAN countries' index on Press freedom behind

Indonesia and the Philippines. The Union Minister encouraged asking questions when interacting with other organisations to find ways to improve, as Myanmar is on its democratic transition and not a fully democratic country yet.

The Union Minister said that freedom is dependent on the extent of the democratic presence. He said that Myanmar is still on the path to a democratic federal union, and when democracy becomes more prevalent, then press freedom will become more evident.

The Union Minister said media agencies will have to build

relations with the three branches of government to gather and disseminate news, therefore coordination is important for this endeavour.

Union Minister for Ethnic Affairs Nai Thet Lwin said ethnic media should raise awareness on the harmful effects of drug addiction that is prevalent in ethnic regions. He said the ministry should find ways for the sustainable development of ethnic media.

Kayin State Chief Minister Daw Nan Khin Htwe said there will be coordinated discussions to ensure sustainable development of ethnic media in Kayin State.

Pado Saw Thamein Htun from the Karen National Union (KNU) and Nan Phaw Gay, Chairperson of Ethnic Media Commemoration Committee, delivered opening speeches followed by Naw Ae Paw Wa introducing some aspects of Kayin State.

This was followed by the Union Ministers and the State Chief Minister posing for documentary photos with attendees.

The first Ethnic Media Conference was held in Mawlamyine, Mon State, the second in Taunggyi, Shan State, the third in Haka, Chin State, the fourth in MraukU, Rakhine State, and the fifth in Loikaw, Kayah State. The current conference is a collaboration by Burma News International (BNI) and Kayin Information Center and will continue for three days until 29 April in Hpa-An, Kayin State. The conference will have paper reading sessions, group discussions, panel discussions, round table discussions, and dissemination of the results of the conference. —Myanmar News Agency

North and South Korea hold historic summit

GOYANG (SOUTH KOREA)

— The leaders of the two Koreas held a landmark summit Friday after a highly symbolic handshake over the Military Demarcation Line that divides their countries, with the North's Kim Jong Un declaring they were at the "threshold of a new history".

Kim said he was "filled with emotion" after stepping over the concrete blocks, making him the first North Korean leader to set foot in the South since the Korean War ended in an armistice 65 years ago.

At Kim's impromptu invitation the two men briefly crossed hand-in-hand into the North before walking to the Peace House building on the southern side of the truce village of Panmunjom for the summit -- only the third of its kind since hostilities ceased in 1953.

"I came here determined to send a starting signal at the threshold of a new history," said Kim, whose nuclear-armed regime is accused of widespread human rights abuses.

With the North's atomic arsenal high on the agenda, South Korean President Moon Jae-in responded that he hoped they would reach "a bold agreement so that we may give a big gift to the whole Korean people and the people who want peace".

Kim was flanked by his sister and close adviser Kim Yo Jong and the North's head of inter-Korean relations, while Moon was accompanied by his spy chief and chief of staff.

It is the highest-level encounter yet in a whirlwind of nuclear diplomacy, and intended to pave the way for a much-anticipated encounter between Kim and US President Donald Trump. The North's official



North Korea's leader Kim Jong Un and South Korea's President Moon Jae-in (R) stand with children as they meet at the Military Demarcation Line that divides their countries at Panmunjom. **PHOTO: AFP**

KCNA news agency said that Kim will "open-heartedly discuss... all the issues arising in improving inter-Korean relations and achieving peace, prosperity and reunification of the Korean peninsula".

But it did not mention denuclearisation, and as images of the leaders' handshake were beamed around the world, the North's state television showed only a test card.

Last year Pyongyang carried out its sixth nuclear blast, by far its most powerful to date, and launched missiles capable of reaching the US mainland.

Its actions sent tensions soaring as Kim and Trump traded personal insults and threats of war.

Moon seized on the South's Winter Olympics as an opportunity to broker dialogue between them, and has said his meeting with Kim will serve to set up the

summit between Pyongyang and Washington.

The White House said it hoped the summit would "achieve progress toward a future of peace and prosperity for the entire Korean Peninsula".

Trump has demanded the North give up its weapons, and Washington is pressing for it to do so in a complete, verifiable and irreversible way.

Seoul played down expectations before the summit, saying the North's technological advances in its nuclear and missile programmes made the summit "all the more difficult".

After the morning session, Moon's spokesman Yoon Youngchan said the two leaders had had a "sincere and frank dialogue over the denuclearisation of, and the establishment of permanent peace on the Korean peninsula".

Peace and denuclearisation

Pyongyang is demanding as yet unspecified security guarantees to discuss its arsenal.

In the past, North Korean support for denuclearisation of the "Korean peninsula" has been code for the removal of US troops from the South and the end of its nuclear umbrella over its security ally -- prospects unthinkable in Washington.

Moon said he hoped they would have further meetings on both sides of the peninsula, and Kim offered to visit Seoul "any time" he was invited.

But Robert Kelly of Pusan National University warned that Pyongyang "hasn't really changed, and it hasn't offered a meaningful concession yet", adding there were still "huge" strategic and political divisions between the North on one hand, and the South and the US on the other.

Yonsei University professor

John Delury said the post-summit statement will give "a lot of chance to analyse every word, (read) between the lines, look for things that are there and not there".

Pyongyang announced last week a moratorium on nuclear tests and intercontinental ballistic missiles, adding it would dismantle its Punggye-ri nuclear test site.

But it also said it had completed the development of its weapons and had no need for further tests.

Tree planting

Seoul has also promoted the idea of opening talks towards a peace treaty to formally end the 1950-53 Korean War, when hostilities stopped with a ceasefire, leaving the neighbours technically in a state of conflict.

Reunions of families left divided by the war could also be discussed at the summit, and Moon told Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe he would raise the emotive subject of Japanese citizens kidnapped by the North.

After a morning session lasting an hour and 40 minutes, Kim crossed back to the North for lunch, a dozen security guards jogging alongside his limousine.

Before the afternoon session, Moon and Kim were to hold a symbolic tree planting ceremony on the demarcation line.

The soil will come from Mount Paektu, on the North's border with China, and Mount Halla, on the South's southern island of Jeju. After they sign an agreement, a joint statement will be issued, with a banquet attended by the leaders' wives to follow in the evening and a farewell before Kim returns to the North.—AFP ■

Some antidepressants may be linked to dementia



The study in more than 300,000 people in Britain found that those diagnosed with dementia were almost a third more likely to have been prescribed so-called anticholinergic medicines. **PHOTO: AFP**

PARIS— Long-term use of certain anti-depressants have been linked to dementia in a large British study, researchers said Thursday, though they could not definitively conclude that the drugs were the cause.

The study in more than 300,000 people in Britain found that those diagnosed with dementia were almost a third more likely to have been prescribed so-called anticholinergic medicines to treat depression and certain bladder conditions between four

and 20 years earlier.

"What we don't know for sure is whether the medication is the cause" of the dementia, said George Savva from the University of East Anglia's School of Health Science. He had co-authored the study in the BMJ medical journal.

"It could be that these medications are being prescribed for very early symptoms indicating the onset of dementia."

Anticholinergic drugs block certain nerve impulses to reduce spasms of the bladder muscles,

for example, and to ease depression symptoms or Parkinson's Disease. Anticholinergic anti-depressants include Amitriptyline, Dosulepin, and Paroxetine, said the researchers who had compared the medical records of 40,770 dementia patients over 65 to those of 283,933 people without dementia. "More than 50 million people worldwide are affected by dementia and this number is estimated to be 132 million by 2050," Savva said in a statement.—AFP ■

Profligate Arsenal punished by 10-man Atletico Madrid

LONDON — Outgoing Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger lamented a familiar defensive lapse as his side failed to cash in on a man advantage for over 80 minutes in a 1-1 draw with Atletico Madrid in the first leg of their Europa League semi-final on Thursday.

Antoine Griezmann's away goal eight minutes from time is a body blow to Wenger's hopes of bowing out after 22 years on a high in the final on May 16, and Arsenal's chances of playing Champions League football next season.

Sime Vrsaljko's early red card handed the Gunners the initiative, however, they were made to rue a host of missed chances before and after Alex-



Antoine Griezmann celebrates his late goal for Atletico. **PHOTO: AFP**

andre Lacazette headed them in front on the hour mark.

"I feel we produced the performance we wanted to produce, but the result is not in line with

the performance," said Wenger. "We can only look at ourselves for tonight's result because 1-0 is a perfect result at home.

It was up to us not to make

a mistake...it is a story we have seen before."

Atletico coach Diego Simeone was also sent to the stands shortly after Vrsaljko's dismissal, but the Spaniards resisted manfully and Simeone hailed their resistance.

"You don't have any idea how hard it is to defend and defend and defend," said Simeone. "You have to have huge balls to defend for more than 80 minutes like that.

"These players of Atletico Madrid are heroes to resist like that."

Arsenal now need to become the first away team to score in 12 matches at Atletico's Wanda Metropolitano stadium next week to progress, and Simeone

urged the home support to create an explosive atmosphere.

"Next week the stadium has to explode with positive energy," added the Argentine.

"We can play well or badly but you don't see this commitment everywhere...I have goosebumps thinking about next week already."

There was a highly-charged atmosphere for Wenger's penultimate home game in charge and the hosts were given plenty of encouragement early on, even when still up against Atletico's full complement.

Lacazette volleyed off the outside of the post and forced Jan Oblak into the first of a series of fine saves with a header from close range.—AFP ■



Unstoppable: Rafael Nadal eases past Guillermo Garcia-Lopez in Barcelona. **PHOTO: AFP**

Fab 40: Nadal eases into Barcelona quarter-finals

BARCELONA - Rafael Nadal extended his Open Era record to 40 for consecutive sets won on clay on Thursday when he eased past Spanish compatriot Guillermo Garcia Lopez 6-1, 6-3 and into the Barcelona quarter-finals.

World number one Nadal, chasing an 11th title at the tournament, a week after claiming the Monte Carlo Masters for an 11th time, will next face Slovakia's Martin Klizan.

Qualifier Klizan, ranked at 140, knocked out Novak Djokovic in the second round and reached the last eight on Thursday with a 6-1, 6-4 win over Spain's Feliciano Lopez. It was Nadal's 397th match win on clay in a career which includes 76 titles on all surfaces.

He set up the foundation for victory by winning nine straight games from 1-1 in the first set to 4-0 in the second set against

Garcia-Lopez, the 34-year-old world number 69. Second seed Grigor Dimitrov had a far tougher afternoon needing to save two match points to beat Tunisia's Malek Jaziri 7-5, 3-6, 7-6 (10/8) in a match which lasted 10 minutes short of three hours. Dimitrov will next play fifth seed Pablo Carreno Busta of Spain, who saved three match points to defeat French 11th seed Adrian Mannarino 6-2, 4-6, 7-6 (8/6) in two hours and seven minutes. Carreno Busta wrapped up victory on his fifth match point.

Third seeded Dominic Thiem of Austria, the runner-up to Nadal in Barcelona last year, reached the last eight with a 7-6 (7/5), 6-2 victory over Slovakian lucky loser Jozef Kovalik. Thiem will next face Stefanos Tsitsipas of Greece who saw off Spanish 10th seed Albert Ramos-Vinolas 6-4, 7-5.—AFP ■

'We'll use our best strengths' says Sagaing United coach

TENTH-PLACE Sagaing United will play fourth-place Yadanabon FC today at 3:30pm in a Week 11 match of the 2018 MPT Myanmar National League.

Sagaing United has a legitimate chance to defeat Yadanabon today because many of Yadanabon's footballers are participating in a tournament in Brunei.

"By learning the current condition of Yadanabon FC,

we'll use our best strengths to try for a victory. We also welcome our fans to cheer up our team. The fees for match is also free", said Sagaing United Head Coach U Zaw Lin Tun.

Yadanabon is also counting on fan support.

"We are now in Monywa to give support our team, Yadanabon FC. As we are Mandalay boys, Yadanabon FC is always in our heart. As it is a former champion of Myanmar National

League, we believe the ability of the team in this match for the victory", said Naing Lin Ko Ko from Mandalay.

Almost all the main players of Yadanabon FC are likely to be absent for today's match against Sagaing United as they are focusing on the Myanmar national football team participating in Brunei's tourney, which will make this a more evenly matched contest.—Lynn Thit (Tgi) ■

Yangon United steps up to semi-finals in AFC Cup

YANGON United has advanced to the semi-finals of the 2018 AFC Cup after completion of group matches.

Yangon United finished in Group G in the top position, having garnered 13 points with four wins, one draw and one loss out of six matches played.

There was a possibility for Myanmar to have two football teams advance, but Shan United finished in last position in Group F with one win and

five losses. Yangon United will face the Philippines Club Cere Negros in the semi-final match.

Ceres-Negros Football Club, commonly referred to as Ceres-Negros is a Filipino football club based in the city of Bacolod, Negros Occidental that plays in the Philippines Football League.

The club is a member of the Negros Occidental Football Association. It was previously known as the Ceres-

La Salle Football Club.

Ceres had their first major success in the United Football League in the 2014 season, when they won the United Football League Division 2 Championship, earning them promotion to the first division.

The Yangon United and Cere Negros match will be played for two rounds, with the first round on 9 May and the second round on 16 April.—Lynn Thit (Tgi) ■