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Fire fighters battle with fire at the garbage dump in Hlinethaya, Yangon on 2 May 2018. PHOTO: ZAW GYI

Mission accomplished

Garbage fire, smoke brought completely under control

By Zaw Gyi

TWELVE days after a garbage fire broke out in Hlinethaya Township, firefighters, Tatmadaw men and volunteers managed to bring it completely under

control yesterday evening.

"Today, we achieved our target of extinguishing the fire at the garbage dump and controlling the smoke in Zone-D, which was the last area of our mission," said U Myat Thu, Deputy Director-General of

the Fire Services Department.

The fire started at the garbage dump in Hlinethaya on the afternoon of 21 April and went on for several days, causing health hazards in nearby areas due to the smoke and carbon monoxide being emitted.

To control the smoke, authorities and experts came up with a new strategy on 29 April, dividing the garbage into four zones and fighting the fire in Zone A on the first day with the use of water and bio foam.

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Fisheries Dept seeks public opinion on fish farming zone

BY May Thet Hnin

THE Yangon Region Fisheries Department, led by the regional government, has invited public opinion on the setting up of a fish and prawn farming zone on 10,000 acres in Kungyangon and Kawhmu townships in the Yangon region, said U Tun Win Myint, director of the department.

To implement the plan, local people residing in the project area are being asked to share their opinions, with the majority agreeing to the move. Of the 1,290 farmers in Kungyangon Township, less than half refused to voice their opinions. More than 600 locals have expressed their approval.

"We are negotiating with the local residents to determine if they want to contribute by taking a share or want compensation. We expect to start operations in the open season if representatives from the Land Records Department, Fisheries Department and Agriculture Department are involved in executing this plan. The public opinion of the local people will be submitted to the regional government. We aim to implement this plan by forming a working committee," said U Tun Win Myint. The Fisheries Department conducted a survey by distributing the project proposal to the local people. The Myanmar Fisheries Federation (MFF) will implement the project once it receives the approval of the union government.

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Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat receives outgoing Britain Ambassador

PYITHU Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat held talks with British Ambassador H.E Mr. Andrew Patrick, who has completed his ambassadorial duties in Myanmar, at the guest hall of the Pyithu Hluttaw at 11 a.m. in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the meeting, they cordially discussed promotion of relations and cooperation between the two countries, along with the legislation processes. —Myanmar News Agency ■



Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat receives outgoing Britain Ambassador Mr. Andrew Patrick in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

Donation ceremony in Ayeyawady Region honours Nargis victims

SHWEMUHTAW Pagoda and Myaungmya Monastery in Patheingyi City, Ayeyawady Region, held a donation ceremony to dedicate memorial for the victims of cyclone Nargis yesterday. The cyclone entered the Ayeyawady Delta on the same day yesterday, 10 years ago. Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr. Win Myat Aye and Ayeyawady Region Chief Minister U Hla Moe Aung attended the ceremony and offered donations.

The union minister and his entourage then attended a ceremony in Withaka (Daw Hla Yin) religious building to commemorate the 10th year of Cyclone Nargis. The union minister offered “soon” meals to the monks.

A commemoration event was also held at Patheingyi City Hall, which was attended by Union Minister Dr. Win Myat Aye, the Ayeyawady Region chief minister, the speaker of the Ayeyawady Region Hluttaw and regional MPs, Deputy Minister U Soe Aung, regional ministers, Chairman of the Myanmar Red Cross Society (MRCS), MRCS members, representatives from the UN, international and humanitarian organisations, and other invited guests.

The union minister delivered

the opening speech noting that the impact of the cyclone will be remembered throughout history. He said the losses suffered on that day were felt deeply across the country. The commemoration event will reflect and review Myanmar’s preparedness to respond to natural disasters and the steps to be taken moving forward, he added.

Cyclone Nargis is estimated to have cost Myanmar some Ks11.7 trillion in damages, and an estimated 140,000 casualties and deaths in 37 Yangon and Ayeyawady regions. Humanitarian and restoration efforts have been carried out by humanitarian organisations, in cooperation with the union government.

After the onslaught of Nargis, the Natural Disaster Management Law and Rule were enacted and 12 working committees were formed, including the National Natural Disaster Management Committee (NNDMC), said the union minister. He also added that some Ks20 billion was allotted to the union natural disaster management fund annually. A natural disaster management school was opened in Hinthada in the Ayeyawady Region, a central emergency response department was opened

in Nay Pyi Taw, and a youth-empowered school was opened for orphaned youths in Labutta Township in the years following Nargis, he stated.

The union minister said that other humanitarian aid included the construction of 70 cyclone shelters in the Ayeyawady region, and this year, an additional 57 multipurpose cyclone shelters would be constructed. The NNDMC is leading other organisations to raise awareness and provide emergency response training to the public to help them prepare to face natural disasters.

Next, Regional Chief Minister U Hla Moe Aung explained the government’s response and actions after Nargis and their collaboration with the NNDMC. This was followed by a minute of silence observed by all in attendance for the victims of Nargis.

The union minister then conferred honorary prizes to youth volunteers providing free education at the youth-empowered school in Labutta. Other activities included discussions on reports of natural disasters in the Ayeyawady Region, members of the public sharing their experiences during the cyclone, and some role-plays and exhibitions. —Myanmar News Agency ■



Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye delivers the speech at the donation ceremony to dedicate memorial for the victims of cyclone Nargis in Patheingyi, Ayeyawady Region yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Thura U Shwe Mann receives outgoing Britain Ambassador

CHAIRMAN of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw's Legal Affairs and Special Cases Assessment Commission Thura U Shwe Mann held talks with British Ambassador H.E Mr. Andrew Patrick, who has completed his ambassadorial

al duties in Myanmar, at the Hluttaw Building No. 1 at 9.30 a.m. yesterday.

During the meeting, they cordially discussed promotion of relations and cooperation between the two countries. —Myanmar News Agency ■



Thura U Shwe Mann meets with Mr. Andrew Patrick, Ambassador of Britain, at the Hluttaw building yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

6th Deputy Ministerial level meeting on Myanmar-Viet Nam security dialogue mechanism

THE Sixth Deputy Ministerial Level Meeting on Security Dialogue Mechanism between the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and Socialist Republic of Viet Nam was held in Royal ACE Hotel, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar, at 09:30 hour on 2nd May 2018. The meeting was led by Maj. Gen. Aung Soe, Deputy Minister for Home Affairs, Myanmar and Senior Lieutenant General Bui Van Nam, Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Public Security, Viet Nam. Also attendees were 15 high officials from Ministry of Home Affairs of Myanmar and 10 high officials from Viet Nam including Ambassador of Viet Nam to Myanmar, totally 25 officials from Myanmar and Viet Nam.

The meetings are been hosting alternatively according to the agreement for the implementation of Deputy Ministerial Level on Security Dialogue Mechanism signed in November, 2013 and this sixth meeting is hosted by Myanmar for her turn. The issues of reviewing on the results of cooperation since the 5th Dialogue, cooperation on Security and Law Enforcement between two countries, cooperation in combating narcotic drugs and cooperation in information sharing were openly discussed in the Sixth Deputy Ministerial Level Meeting on Security Dialogue Mechanism and the meeting was concluded in 1045 hour.—Myanmar News Agency ■



Deputy Ministerial level meeting on Security Dialogue Mechanism between Myanmar and Viet Nam held in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**



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

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



I would like the people to assist and support the peace efforts of our Union Government. I would especially want the youth to look to the future and join in this effort. I have observed that youth have been participating in these efforts.

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

Opening ceremony of 4th Regional Workshop on School Libraries in Southeast Asia held in Nay Pyi Taw

THE opening ceremony of the 4th Regional Workshop on School Libraries in Southeast Asia was held yesterday morning at the National Library in Nay Pyi Taw.

At the ceremony, Union Minister for Education Dr. Myo Thein Gyi, Pyithu Hluttaw representative Daw Su Su Lwin, International Association of School Librarianship Prof. Dr. Diljit Singh, the patron and executive members of the Myanmar Library Association and librarians from local and foreign countries were attended.

Union Minister for Education Dr. Myo Thein Gyi said, efforts have been made to hold this kind of workshop and find a solution how to overcome the difficulties and challenges faced

by the school librarians. It was known that this workshop is the first time of holding in Myanmar. As for the Ministry of Education, implementation is being made to create more opportunities for learning and to uplift the learning abilities of the students. The ministry has been implementing the National Education Strategic Plan 2016-20, with the aim of establishing an accessible, equitable and effective national education system. The Ministry of Education has laid down twelve priority tasks which can be able to implement nine sectors. As you also know that education plays a vital role to maintain peace and prosperity in the world we are living. The standard of education is corre-



Union Minister Dr Myo Thein Gyi addresses at the opening ceremony of the 4th regional workshop on school libraries in Southeast Asia, in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

lated with the development of the libraries. We can foster our better future for our new generations by adopting more effective results.

During the ceremony, Patron of Myanmar Library Association U Tin Maung Lwin and International Association of School Librarianship Prof. Dr. Diljit Singh gave the opening speech. Following the performance of

traditional dances and music by the students from B.E.M.S (3) and B.E.H.S (6), the ceremony was concluded.

After the opening ceremony, Union Minister for Education Dr. Myo Thein Gyi and all the attendees took commemorative group photos together.

Next the reading papers session of the 4th Regional Workshop on School Libraries in Southeast

Asia was conducted. And many librarians from Southeast Asian Countries read the papers and discussed into three parts; connect and collaborate, reenergizing school libraries and planning library period activities.

Afterwards, a member of Myanmar Librarian Sayamagyi Daw Tin Phone Nwe made a closing remark and concluded the ceremony.—MNA ■



Displaced persons at Taungpaw camp in Myebon Township, Rakhine State. **PHOTO:**

Taungpaw Camp closes as displaced persons move to new homes

THE Taungpaw Camp in Myebon Township, Rakhine State, was closed down and displaced people moved to new houses.

Some 50 houses have been completed, and it is the first step towards shutting down the Taungpaw Camp, according to local authorities.

More than 3,060 people from 642 families were sheltered at the camp.

Some families in Taungpaw Camp have moved to the new homes.

The Committee for Implementation of Recommendations on Rakhine State is giving priority to closing the camps for displaced persons in Rakhine State.

Dr. Aung Thu Rein, Director of the Committee for Implementation Recommendations on Rakhine State, visited the camp yesterday and assisted the people in shifting to their new dwellings. The remaining houses are under construction by the Ministry of Border Affairs.—Myo Myint ■

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Elephants Lake to become one of the biggest camps in Southeast Asia

By Khin Zar Li

The inauguration of Elephants Lake camp, which will become one of the biggest elephant camps in Southeast Asia, was held west of milepost No. 83 on the Yangon-Mandalay Highway on 1 May.

The ceremony was attended by Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation Union Minister U Ohn Win; Bago Region Government Chief Minister U Win Thein and the Hluttaw representatives; officials from the related departments; Helmut Dungen, CEO of Four Paws International; Dr. Phone Win, CEO of Mingalar Myanmar; and other officials.

This decade, the number of wild elephants has declined significantly. Of the 5,000 elephants owned by the Myanmar Timber Enterprise and private enterprises, some were left idle after the Myanmar Timber Enterprise suspended logging. Therefore, the Elephants Lake camp was opened to protect elephants from poaching and illegal trade to neighbouring countries.

The Elephants Lake camp will conserve elephants naturally without tethering their legs to chains and protect old, injured, pregnant, disabled, injured and newborn baby elephants.

"Recently, we introduced the elephant conservation programme. It will take time.

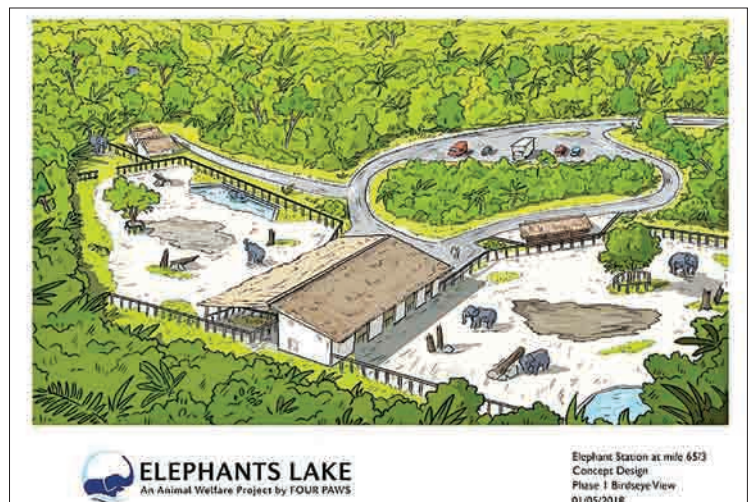
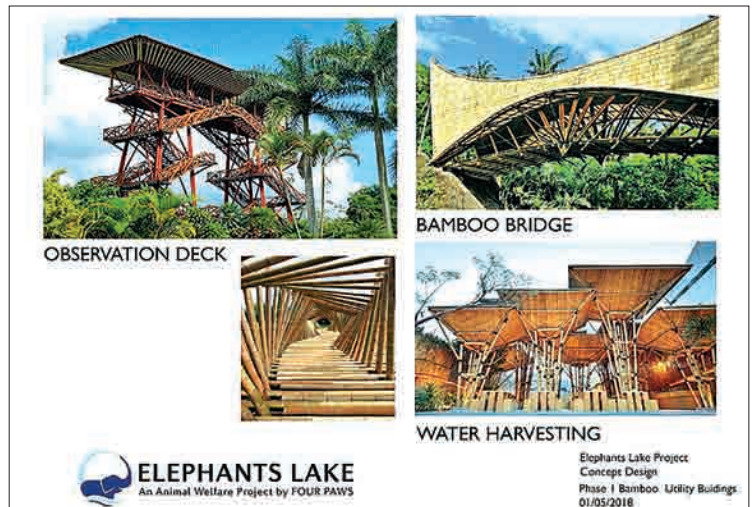
If our conservation system is successful, the elephants can stay freely," said Dr. Phone Win, CEO of Mingalar Myanmar.

Moreover, we are planning to implement mobile elephant clinics to provide treatment to injured elephants and other animals. Also, an elephant medical treatment centre will be constructed in the Elephants Lake camp. Further, plans are on to conduct wild elephant and animal conservation, rescue and research, capacity building for the locals and mahouts, upgrade their living standards and increase their income.

To implement the Elephants Lake camp, the Myanma Timber Enterprise will provide elephants, while the Forestry Department will grant permission to use the land. Mingalar Myanmar will provide social development assistance to the local people and mahouts.

The authorities are planning to conserve some 300 elephants within 10 years. The Elephants Lake camp is being constructed on more than 17,000 hectares in Ye Nwe forest reserve.

Initially, a security department will be constructed. Then, the elephant medical treatment centre will be constructed. On completion of the Elephants Lake camp, the authorities will implement an eco-tourism project to attract local and foreign visitors. ■



Union Minister U Ohn Win and officials digging in Ye Nwe forest prepare to start building the Elephants Lake camp to protect elephants from poaching and illegal trade. **PHOTO: MNA**

Price of Sein Ta Lone mangoes from Monywa rising

THE price of Sein Ta Lone mangoes from Monywa Township has increased to between Ks1.3 million and Ks1.5 million per tonne this year, according to a report in City News Daily.

Last year, the Sein Ta Lone mangoes from Monywa Township penetrated the foreign fruit market. The demand for the Sein Ta Lone mangoes from Monywa has gone up in the foreign market.

The Sein Ta Lone mangoes from Myanmar are free of chemical fertilisers or pesticides. The Sein Ta Lone mango from Myanmar, also known as the diamond solitaire mango, is one of the many mango varieties available in Myanmar. The Sein Ta Lone mangoes are also the most popular variety in the

foreign markets.

The Sein Ta Lone mangoes, which are cultivated in the Monywa region, are a one-year species. Local mango cultivators from Monywa Township grow the Sein Ta Lone mangoes systematically.

Mango cultivators usually export to foreign countries through mango traders. The traders usually export two mango sizes, namely AAA and AA sizes.

Mangoes that fail to meet the export quality are sent back to the local market for local consumption.

Domestic food production entrepreneurs are increasingly growing the Sein Ta Lone mangoes on their farm land.—GNLM ■



The price of Sein Ta Lone mangoes from Monywa Township has increased. PHOTO: NYI ZAW MOE

China-Myanmar exports via Kanpaiktee border up by half this FY

THE value of border trade between Myanmar and China through the Kanpaiktee gate topped US\$25.548 million in the current interim fiscal year, including \$23.93 million in exports and \$1.628 million in imports, the commerce ministry reported.

Compared with last April, the export value through this border increased by \$12.936 million. This time last year, the export value was \$10.994 million.

China is Myanmar's largest trade partner. The cross-border trade camps with China include Muse, Lweje, Kanpikete, Chinshwehaw and Kengtung. Myanmar contin-

ues to export agricultural products, industrial finished goods, fisheries, forestry and mineral products to neighbouring countries.

The country mainly imports consumer products, intermediate goods, construction equipment, electronic devices, automobiles and capital goods mainly from China, Japan, India, Indonesia, Germany, France and Hong Kong.

Some 80 per cent of Myanmar's total external trade is carried out through maritime routes. According to the ministry's official figures, the trade value through all borders reached \$319.978 million during the period.—GNLM ■

Black sesame cultivation to increase in Magway Region

LOCAL sesame farmers from the Magway Region are planning to boost the production of black sesame because of the high demand from Japan, according to sesame farmers from Pwintbyu Township.

"The sesame which is cultivated in the Magway Region is bought by a Japanese company. The quality of the sesame is good, and it is free of chemical fertilisers or pesticides. The company has requested a meeting with the local farmers. They said they liked our black sesame, and would like to buy our crops. Currently, they are buying the remaining black sesame. In 2016, the Japanese company had refused to purchase our sesame

because of the inferior quality," said U Khin Soe, a sesame farmer from Pwintbyu Township.

If local farmers cultivate the crops according to the norm and quality, the sesame market will become stronger.

"The Magway Region supplies more than 5,000 tonnes of sesame annually. We have not decided whether to supply sesame this year. More than 10,000 acres of sesame fields exist in Magway," said U Moe Hswe, a sesame farmer from Pwintbyu Township.

Although the Japanese company bought the black sesame from the Magway Region in 2016, the company had almost suspended its purchasing oper-

ations because it found a huge amount of chemical fertilisers and pesticides. Therefore, local farmers exported the black sesame to China. The price of black sesame has also declined to Ks30,000 per basket. Some 73 per cent of agricultural land in the Magway Region is used for agriculture. Currently, the cultivation of black sesame will be extended to the Magway, Sagaing and Mandalay regions. Some 51.3 million acres of edible oil cultivation is carried out in Myanmar. Some 70 per cent of the sesame is exported to China, while around 0.1 million or 0.2 million tonnes of sesame are exported to 12 other countries.—Zar Lin Thu (AMIA) ■

Yangon Region Fisheries Department invites public opinion on fish, prawn farming zone

FROM PAGE-1

"The government will grant its approval only after considering the public mood, and so, the Fisheries Department asked for the opinions. On receiving the approval of the union government, the MFF will set up the fish and prawn farming zone project," said U Win Kyaing, secretary of MFF.

The project will create numerous job opportunities for the local people and also aid GDP growth. Additionally, the farming zones are likely to exceed self-sufficiency and earn foreign currency.

The fish farming zone will include hatcheries, feed processing factories and cold storage factories. The MFF has undertaken

a feasibility tour in the Yangon, Ayeyawady, Bago, Mandalay and Taninthayi regions, and Mon, Kayin and Rakhine states and Nay Pyi Taw.

Of the 480,000 acres of fish and prawn farming areas in the country, only 108,000 acres are authorised for fish farming, while the remaining farms are illegitimate breeding businesses. ■

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File photo shows a hot-air balloon lifts off in Taunggyi Tazaungdaing festival. **PHOTO: THIHA TUN**

Performance of Shan State Government in Second Year in Office

By Shin Min

THE Shan State Government has made concerted efforts to achieve all-round development in all socio-economic sectors. In order to spur sustainable development, plans are under way to support and encourage small and medium-sized enterprises, development of health and education sectors, and conservation of the natural environment.

With a total population of over 5.8 million according to the 2014 population census, the Shan State is a home to various national races namely Shan, Danu, Intha, Palaung, Padaung, Pa-O, Kokang, Wa, Kachin, Bamar, Ahkhar, Lahu, Lisu and others and the area is 61,000 square miles. The Shan State is constituted with one self-administered division, four self-administered zones, 13 districts and 55 townships.

The authorities concerned of the Shan State Government have been able

to serve the interest of regional residents with sweeping reforms in various spheres during two-year period of the new administration in office.

With a view to ensuring the improvement of socio-economic status of local residents, peace and stability in the region and rule of law and multi-sector development, the Shan State Government had made dramatic efforts for agricultural development, construction of bridges in both urban and rural areas, ensuring power supply and development of education, health and tourism sectors.

Peace Process

The Joint Monitoring Committee on ceasefire in Shan State (JMC-S) was formed with the aim of finding ways and means of overcoming difficulties and challenges encountered in implementing the task of the JMC-S. The JMC-S is comprised of 14 representatives appointed from five representatives from Tatmadaw,

five representatives from ethnic armed groups and four representatives from local civilians respectively. In accordance with the committee's mandate, representatives have to monitor and observe the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA) terms and Military Code of Conduct as well as manage any flare-up of hostilities.

Formerly there were the Restoration Council of Shan State/Shan State Army (RCSS/SSA) and Pa-O National Liberation Organization (PNLO) that signed the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement-NCA in Shan State. Later Lahu Democratic Union (LDU) also joined in the NCA in February 13, 2018. Thus totaling three-ethnic armed groups that have already signed the nationwide ceasefire agreement (NCA) in the Shan State. The Tatmadaw in cooperation with Myanmar Police Force-MPF are engaged in ensuring security and rule of law in the state under the supervision of the Shan State Government.

21st Century Panglong

Moreover, State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi has opened a second round of talks and the first Union Peace Conference—21st Century Panglong was successfully held after the signing of the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement-NCA. Under the agreement reached in the first Union Peace Conference, the National Level Political Dialogues for respective Ethnic groups are being held across the nation, and the National Level Political Dialogue for Pa-O Ethnic groups was successfully held in Hopong, Shan State from 16 to 20 February, 2017. Those present at the political dialogues focused on matters related to democratic federalism, ethnic rights, social, economic, land and environment issues, and their discussions contributed much to the emergence of a democratic federal Union.

Investment Sector

The Shan State Government Chief



Displaced persons were provided with relief items at a religious building in Kyaukme Township, Northern Shan State. **PHOTO: MDN**



Youngsters showing keen interest in the Literature Festival in Taunggyi. **PHOTO: MNA**



Union Minister for Hotels and Tourism U Ohn Maung (Centre) chat with Pa-O ethnic man as he visits a Pa-O ethnic village to assist in community-based tourism in Pa-O region. **PHOTO: MOHT**

The Shan State Government has made concerted efforts to achieve all-round development in all socio-economic sectors. In order to spur sustainable development, plans are under way to support and encourage small and medium-sized enterprises, development of health and education sectors, and conservation of the natural environment.

Minister Dr. Lin Htut said, "The Shan State Region has received totaling US\$ 756 million from some 14 foreign investments up to 31 March, 2018, and some Ks. 724 billion from 64 local investments.

Education Sector

The Shan State government has been able to open 15,844 basis education schools. Efforts had been made to increase the literacy rate, literacy activities were carried out in fifteen townships in the region. Altogether 2,685 teachers taught to 26,972 illiterates and plan is underway to raise reading habit and to conduct vocational training courses. During the two years in office, the Shan State Government had constructed 604 new schools; utilizing Ks. 24651 million. With the donation of Nippon Foundation, some 20 schools had been built; utilizing Ks. 103 million.

Healthcare Sector

The Shan State Government built many healthcare facilities including 200-bed hospitals to render free healthcare services to the local ethnic people. The Shan State government placed emphasis on facilitating healthcare standard of the people, opening reception centers across the Shan State. With the aim of promoting healthcare sector, the state government had appointed Nan Mway Khan as Miss Golden Land Myanmar in 2018.

Agriculture Sector

In order for the development of agricultural sector in Shan State, the Agriculture Department produced quality species and seeds of various crops such as paddy, maize, sunflowers, legume, etc. In the time of the new government, the amount of agricultural subsidies has been increased to K 150,000 per acre from K 100,000, and a ten-member loan disburse-

ment group has been transformed into a three-member one to ensure the smooth and swift disbursement. As regards loans disbursement, the Myanmar Agriculture Development Bank disbursed Ks. 49000 million to 45,884 farmers from different villages and townships in the state.

In accordance with the 2012 Farmland Law, Rule, altogether 383842 holding blocks of 298160 farmers were granted land certificates (Form-7) to engage in agriculture for generations, and land certificates (Form-105) have been granted in the time of the new government in accordance with the Farmland Law and Bylaws for land ownership. Meanwhile, collection of land utilization premium according to types of land being practiced in the past under the Notification on Royalty Fees was annulled in the time of the new government.

Tourism Industry

In an attempt to promote tourism industry in Shan State, the Shan State Government made necessary preparations to operate direct flights from Heho to other countries. With the aim of improving human resources in hotel and tourism sector, vocational training courses were conducted and totaling 76 hotels had been opened. International tourist arrivals through the borders are increasing each year and foreign travellers have visited the region to enjoy its natural scenery, including highlands, mountains, rivers and forests. The Shan State Government is focusing on implementing culture-based tourism, as well as eco-tourism in order to promote the tourism sector. According to the data, it was learnt that over 1 million travellers, including local people and foreigners, had visited in the Shan State.

(Translated by Win Ko Ko Aung)



Dr Pe Myint formally opens the Ethnic Literature and Culture Development festival.
PHOTO: MNA



Vice President U Henry Van Thio visits the home for the disabled and developmentally challenged children in Taunggyi. **PHOTO: MNA**



Vice President U Henry Van Thio, second from right, inspects a water supply system in Tachilek, Shan State. **PHOTO: MNA**



Shan State ministers and people participate in the 71st Anniversary Union Day celebration in Panglong. **PHOTO: MNA**



Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye meets the staff of the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement at the Lashio District Office in northern Shan State. **PHOTO: MNA**

Maintain product quality to achieve export targets

ORGANIC coffee is coffee produced without the aid of artificial chemical substances, such as certain additives, pesticides and herbicides. Coffee is the world's second-most traded commodity after oil.

It is produced in some 40 countries across the world, with the major producers being Peru, Ethiopia and Mexico. Organic coffee is chiefly consumed in Europe, the United States and Japan.

Coffee-growing in Myanmar has a long history, and it is believed that Myanmar has been growing coffee since the British introduced Arabica plants to the Shan State. Coffee is now an important industry.

Today, coffee plants such as Arabica and Robusta are grown on a manageable scale in many regions, including Shan and Mon states in the country. Much of the country's coffee output consists of lower-grade Robusta beans for instant coffee and export.

The Myanmar coffee market is seeing progress, and it had a 50-50 chance of drawing international interest in the beginning, according to a local coffee exporter, who has been receiving good reviews from new foreign customers.

In the global market, organic coffee is emerging as one of the fastest growing segments. Among them, sustainable coffee is emerging as the most important segment, as it is beneficial to the environment, consumer's health and also for the welfare of small coffee growers and workers.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation is working to plant 5,000 acres of coffee between 2018 and 2030, and to produce some 15,000 tonnes of coffee beans by 2030. Furthermore, during the coffee forum held in Nay Pyi Taw on 17 August 2017 to boost the coffee sector in Myanmar and generate more foreign income, the Ministry compiled the expert suggestions into 16 pieces of advice and drafted a strategic plan.

Coffee beans are mainly planted in Pyin Oo Lwin in the Mandalay region and Ywar Ngan Township in the Shan

State. Their coffee beans are included in the good agricultural practice list of safe-to-consume coffee beans.

The Myanmar coffee market is seeing progress, and it had a 50-50 chance of drawing international interest in the beginning, according to a local coffee exporter, who has been receiving good reviews from new foreign customers.

Organic coffee is in high demand in developed countries and attracts a premium price in the market. This will improve the economic condition of the coffee growers. Another benefit of organic coffee cultivation is the preservation of the ecosystem.

Hence, maintaining product quality is essential to achieve our export targets. Our country's coffee industry has a good chance of attracting investors, especially from Singapore, Japan and the United States.

Protecting shady old trees in commemoration of the ravages of Cyclone Nargis in a decade

By Khin Saing

EXTREMELY severe cyclonic Storm Nargis hit Myanmar exactly a decade ago today. The towns and villages in the southern Ayeyawady Delta and the commercial city of Yangon suffered severe and widespread damage by the Cyclone Nargis, rendering the punishing effects on the majority of the people as well as leading to deforestation in the regions. I would like to urge authorities concerned to take prompt actions on deforestation caused by the Nargis, by creating and then conserving the forested areas.

Basic reasons for deforestation

Perennial trees have planted on either side of roads for extension of roads across the country. Due to humble request from villagers some trees are protected from felling; shady old trees disappear gradually from many areas because of road extensions. Trees that grow naturally on either side of roads as well as trees cultivated near the roads with a purpose of shady spots and a shield against the wind are felled because of extension of roads across the country. Trees are usually cut down in Yangon and other big cities: when roads are repaired by means of extension; overhead power cables and many telephone lines are connected between lampposts, clearing of tall trees; and the trees

standing tall shading the business areas are also felled. The rows of trees that grow naturally in the middle or on the sides of streets or roads are sometimes crushed by passing cars; few trees are substituted in the places.

In a heavily forested country like Myanmar, businessmen happen to engage in lucrative purposes for the timber extraction; the fallen trees are cleared and substituted by oil-palm trees and rubber plantations. Illegal timber extractions lead to environmental issues of deforestation and desertification.

Toddy-palm trees in Upper Myanmar

Palm trees become fewer and fewer in number when villagers earn to make fermented drink from toddy sap and jaggery. More and more toddy trees are felled and substituted in place of expensive hardwood for building houses, huts and fences. It is said that a toddy tree with a lifespan of twenty years starts to produce toddy sap. Climbers keep working on rows of perennial palm trees for business purposes. Young villagers have shown little interest in jaggery business as the price has decreased gradually since 2015; perennial palm trees are felled and sold for higher prices and used in place of hardwood. A non-governed organization group has been in place now to protect and conserve tall palm trees which have been cut down for sales since 2015.

No substitute for tall palm trees

When biennial trees or trees with a short lifespan are felled, normalization of re-cultivations is seen visibly. But when old and perennial shady trees are cut down, it will be very difficult



File Photo: Overturned trees litter a street in Yangon on 4 May, 2008 after tropical cyclone Nargis tore through swathes of the country, battering buildings, sinking boats and causing unknown casualties. **PHOTO: AFP**

to seek a return to normality. Therefore, the authorities concerned are urgently urged to take great care not to cut down old trees easily when streets, roads or highways are fixed. When a new 5-mile road was concreted over along the Strand Road, old and shady trees on the way had disappeared. Four years have passed with few shady trees in sight up until now, with pedestrians walking on the pavement in the sun between the old and new cement roads.

Due to climate change the heat is getting higher and higher across the country. According to a report, some big towns in our country had a temperature of 42 degree centigrade on 18 April. Although efforts have been made for greening

Dry Zones of our country for almost 20 years, they are of little avail as shady trees and perennial palm trees are felled for firewood as well as for business purposes, with these trees disappearing in a short time. Even if cultivated by substitution, it will take a long time to see them grow in lush greenery.

Tidelands

Tidelands from Delta Region will almost disappear as the trees including the roots are cut down to use as firewood; the land is prepared for farmland to cultivate some crops, letting the tidelands disappear gradually. When there are no heavily forested areas in Delta Region, forces



File Photo: A girl helped by a child salvage wood from a destroyed house to be used for the construction of a new one in Denongh near Pyapon on May 20, 2008.

PHOTO: AFP

of water and wind from the sea might create a storm like the Nargis on 2 May, 2008, killing thousands of people and destroying many buildings and businesses. Some groups engaged in social welfare and services are trying to cultivate nipa palms in tidelands of the Delta, by putting a lot of money in a new venture.

In need of protection

In the past, big and tall trees such as banyan and rain trees were found in most villages or towns; but now they are cut down for various reasons and rarely seen beside the roads or near villages. Actions are being taken in Upper Myanmar to prevent the felling of palm trees. At the same time, it is an encouraging sign that different sizes of toddy palm trees are grown in rows on either side of the roads near Dedaye Township, Ayeyarwady Region. As a scenic beauty, people become more and more worried about disappearance of these tall and graceful trees because of extension of roads. If villagers are face with a difficult decision on felling of these trees, they should do something not to disappear them from the land. Authorities should fix roads without felling these graceful trees. Tree lovers would like to advise authorities concerned not to fell the trees easily without giving a reason as the heat is getting higher and higher at this time of the year across the country. These trees will give shady spots for passers-by and create more opportunities to protect the environment. ■

Translated by Arakan Sein

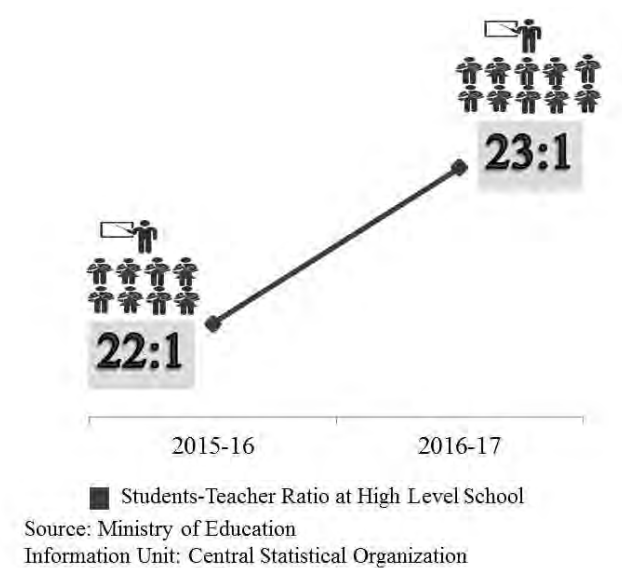
U Myo Tint Presents Credentials to President of Brazil

U MYO TINT, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the Federative Republic of Brazil, presented his Credentials to His Excellency Mr. Michel Temer, President of the Federative Republic of Brazil on 25 April 2018 in Brasilia.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Appointment of Israeli Ambassador agreed

The Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has agreed to the proposed appointment of Mr. Ronen Gilor as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the State of Israel to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar. Mr. Ronen Gilor obtained a Bachelor LLB Degree in Law from Tel-Aviv University in 1988 and a Master degree in Conflict Resolution and Negotiation from Bar-Ilan University in 2017. After joining the Israeli Foreign Service in 1994, he served as Deputy Director of the Department of Civil and Diplomatic Law from 1998 to 2002 and as Director of the International Economic Law and European Law Department from 2007 to 2010. He has been working as Director of the Department for International Organisations since September 2015. He also served as Deputy Head of Mission in the Embassies of Israel in Caracas, Ottawa and Brussels respectively.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Students-Teacher Ratio at High Level School in Myanmar



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



File photo shows workers seen at the Thilawa Special Economic Zone, in Yangon. PHOTO: MNA

Thilawa SEZ attracts \$20 million in April

SOME US\$20 million worth of foreign direct investments were pumped into Thilawa Special Economic Zone (SEZ) in April this year, according to the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA).

Thilawa SEZ intends to at-

tract FDIs worth \$200 million in the six-month interim period before the next 2018-2019 fiscal year, said an official from DICA.

Japan, Singapore, Thailand, South Korea, the United Kingdom and the Netherlands invested heavily in the zone.

Manufacturing absorbed more FDIs, accounting for 73 per cent of the total FDIs in the zone. Investments were also made in the trading, logistics, service, real estate and hotel sectors. Japan is a major investor in the Thilawa SEZ,

followed by Thailand.

Of the 2,400 hectares in Thilawa SEZ, some 400 hectares are in Zone A, whose construction has been completed. Construction has started on the 101 hectares for Zone B.

—Ko Htet ■

Corn export registers 10-year record high last FY

MYANMAR sold a record volume of corn in the 2017-2018 fiscal year in the last 10 years, with some 1.3 million tonnes being exported to other countries.

Corn is sold to China through the Muse border gate and is also exported to Viet Nam, Malaysia, Thailand and Hong Kong.

It is also used as feed, both in both Myanmar and China. CP corn fetches some Ks600-Ks650 per viss (1.6 kg). The price increases by Ks200.

This year, CP corn is highly in demand and is fetching a high price in Muse. Fresh corns were harvested in February.

However, the improper use of pesticide, fertilisers and chemicals, and unsystematic storage harm the quality of corn. Corn produced in northern Shan State and Kayah State is less popular than that of the Ayeyawady and Magway regions.

Locally produced corn cannot compete with that produced in Malaysia, China and Thailand in the export market.

There are 3.5 million acres of corn farms across the country, with the monsoon corn primarily harvested in northern, southern and eastern Shan State, Kayah, Kayin, Mon and Kachin states, and the winter corn grown in the Myanaung, Ayeyawady Region, Pyinmana and Lewe towns in Nay Pyi Taw.—Ko Khant ■

Yangon Mingalardon grand bazaar to create over 30,000 jobs

ZAYKABAR Company will construct the Yangon Mingalardon grand bazaar in Mingalardon garden city this year, with a total investment of US\$700 million, in cooperation with Chinese developer Zhejiang Luding Investment Company. Upon completion, it can create more than 30,000 jobs opportunities for the

local people, according to a report in Myawady Daily.

"Firstly, local engineers, carpenters and masons will get new jobs when the project starts. Upon completion, the project will create more than 30,000 jobs opportunities for the local people," said Dr. Khin Shwe, chairman of Zaykabar Company.

Dr. Khin Shwe, chairman of Zaykabar Company, held a discussion in China in April over the implementation of the Yangon Mingalardon grand bazaar with Chen Sonngan, chairman of Dengxiong Investment Company.

The project will be implemented to ensure smooth trad-

ing between buyers and sellers through the collection of scattered businesses and to partly solve traffic jam problems and the shortage of parking lots.

The Mingalardon garden bazaar will be constructed on a 125-acre plot in Mingalardon garden city, which is beside the elevated highway project that

connects the Yangon downtown area to the outskirts. The project will include apartments, markets, offices, school, hospital and other buildings. To construct the Mingalardon garden bazaar, the Human Settlement and Housing Development Department had lent the land under a 60-year land grant in 2007.—GNLM ■

Myanmar-Netherlands trade reaches \$186 million in 2017-18 FY

Bilateral trade between Myanmar and the Netherlands totalled US\$186 million in the 11 months of the 2017-2018 fiscal year (FY), according to the latest figures of the Ministry of Commerce.

Between last April and this

February, Myanmar's exports to the Netherlands exceeded \$154 million, while its imports were worth \$32.352 million. Myanmar mostly exports marketable crops, fruits and vegetables, as well as fishery products and garments, to the European

member states. Since 2011, trade between the two countries has been on the rise. The value of trade between the two countries was \$23 million in the 2011-2012 FY, \$9.33 million in the 2012-2013 FY, \$25.676 million in the 2013-2014 FY, \$41.973 million in the

2014-2015 FY, \$61.212 million in the 2015-2016 FY and \$141 million in the 2016-2017 FY.

The government is making sustained efforts to boost international trade by easing some restrictive rules, encouraging the private sector and promoting

the country's manufacturing industry. According to the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration, the Netherlands' investment in Myanmar at the end of the 2017-2018 FY reached \$533.923 million through six projects.—Swe Nyein ■

Visitors throng Shan Yoma elephant resort

TRAVELLERS are showing a keen interest to visit the Shan Yoma elephant resort, located near Nan Pan Tat Village, Kalaw Township.

The Shan Yoma elephant resort opened in April and saw few visitors initially. With more visitors hearing about the resort, many are now thronging the place.

Myanmar nationals must pay an entrance fee of Ks1,000 and Ks3,000 to ride the elephants. Foreign tourists are charged Ks20,000 each as entrance and riding elephant fees, said a staff of the resort.

The Shan Yoma elephant resort is situated some 70 miles

away from Meiktila town. The Shan Yoma elephant resort has built a small bamboo enclosure as a sitting area for family visitors. Visitors can ride elephants, click photographs on the stones and frolic in the water of the mountain torrent.

The Shan Yoma elephant resort was opened by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation and the Myanmar Timber Enterprise to promote elephant conservation.

The Shan Yoma elephant resort is operating with 10 elephants. Visitors can also ride and feed elephants at the resort.

—Chan Thar (Meiktila) ■



Visitors feed an elephant at the Shan Yoma elephant resort in Nan Pan Tat Village, Kalaw Township.

Bilateral trade with China exceeds \$10.7bn last FY

THE value of trade with China a month prior to the end of the 2017-2018 fiscal year (FY) reached some US\$10.76 billion, including \$5.17 billion in exports and \$5.59 billion in imports, according to figures released by the commerce ministry.

Myanmar's regional trade value with ASEAN countries was the highest, closely followed by its bilateral trade with China. Border trade performed better than trade via sea with China.

The bilateral trade value with China was some \$10.8 billion in the 2016-2017 FY, \$10.9 billion in the 2015-16 FY, \$9.7 billion in the 2014-2015 FY, \$7 billion in the

2013-2014 FY, \$4.95 billion in the 2012-2013 FY and \$5 billion in the 2011-2012 FY.

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

This FY, China invested some \$1.39 billion in 65 projects in Myanmar, according to statistics provided by the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration.—Ko Htet ■

Honey export earns \$4 million last FY

Some 2,672 metric tonnes of honey worth US\$4 million was shipped to foreign markets from 1 April to 31 March in the 2017-2018 fiscal year (FY), according to the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation Department.

Local beekeeping enterprises produced some 4,370 metric tonnes last FY.

Myanmar's honey was exported to China, the United States, Canada, Taiwan, South Korea, Japan, Viet Nam and Thailand. It is also trying to pene-

trate the EU market. Myanmar's honey fetches a good price in the international market.

China buys Myanmar's honey for use in traditional medicines and food, owing to its high medicinal value. Beekeeping enterprises are mostly found in the Mandalay, Sagaing and Magway regions and Shan State. There are some 80,000 hives in the Mandalay Region and some 150,000 hives across the country, according to the Apiculture Enterprise.—Htet Myat ■

CHDB to collect fine from apartment buyers for failure to pay monthly instalment

THE Construction and Housing Development Bank (CHDB) will collect Ks5,000 as a fine and 0.1 per cent of the fixed instalment payment from apartment buyers who fail to pay the monthly instalment, according to a report in Myawady Daily.

The CHDB requires the monthly instalment to be made not later than the fifth of each month. Earlier, the bank collected Ks5,000 as fine and 0.4 per cent of the fixed instalment

payment. This time, the bank collected only Ks5,000 as fine and 0.1 per cent of the fixed instalment payment.

Moreover, CHDB has reduced the loan interest rate provided to buyers to purchase apartments in government housing projects. The bank has also reduced the interest rate from 12 per cent to 10.5 per cent for buyers.

Recently, the government has planned to sell some 862 low-cost and affordable apart-

ments in Hlinethaya, North Okkalapa, Dagon (South), Dagon Seikkan and Shwepyitha townships.

Company staff who have been permitted to buy low-cost and affordable apartments have to pay 25 per cent down payment, while government employers have to pay 15 per cent down payment of the value of the apartments. The remaining amount will be paid through a 15-year instalment system.—GNLM ■

Myanmar Sky Alliances ceremony held

Myanmar National Airlines and Mann Yadanarpon Airlines held the Myanmar Sky Alliances ceremony in Yangon on 30 April 2018 at 5 p.m.

The ceremony was attended by U Thant Sin Maung, Union Minister for Transport and Communications, the deputy minister and officials from the related department, as well as officials from the local and foreign airlines, the managing director and other invited guests.

Union Minister U Thant Sin Maung gave the honourable speech. U Than Tun, CEO of Myanmar National Airlines, explained the joint implemen-

tation of the airplanes. U Ohn Myint, CEO of Mann Yadanarpon Airlines, explained the brief history of the Mann Yadanarpon Airlines.

Myanmar National Airlines and Mann Yadanarpon Airlines signed an agreement on the implementation of Myanmar Sky Alliances.

At the ceremony, Myanmar Sky Alliances announced its schedules to the public. The scheduled flight will start on 10 May 2018, including Yangon, Mandalay, Nyaung U, Heho, Myitkyina, Sittway Dawei, Lashio, Tachilek, Monywa, Homalin, Kani and Kalay trips.

Myanmar Sky Alliances was implemented with the aim of boosting the Myanmar tourism industry.

Myanmar National Airlines was born in 1948 as the state-owned Union of Burma Airways and launched its upgraded domestic services under the name MNA in 2014. It flies to 28 domestic points and flies to international destinations such as Singapore, Hong Kong, Bangkok, Chiang Mai, Phuket and Gaya. Mann Yadanarpon airlines was established as a private airline on 23 July 2013 and started flying on 27 February 2014 as a Mandalay-based airline. ■

Press conference held on Yangon Investment Forum 2018

By Ye Kaung Nyunt

WITH the aim of creating more business opportunities and attracting more investors, the Yangon Investment Committee is coordinating with the Yangon Investment Forum 2018, which will be held on 9 May. The committee held a press conference on the upcoming forum at CB Bank on Sayar San Road yesterday.

The forum will be held at Novotel Hotel in Yangon and will discuss the new Myanmar Investment Law and Rules, topics on tax, and investment activities in the Yangon Region.

U Myint Thaug, Yangon Region Minister

for Planning and Finance and a member of the Yangon Region Investment Committee, said in his opening speech that the forum would cover important topics such as the new investment law enacted in 2017 that would affect both foreign and domestic investors, the steps and opportunities available for investment, and information regarding the tax system. He said relevant documents and facts would be presented as well.

According to the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA), Yangon Region has seen the most influx of investments compared with the whole country. From the



The Yangon Investment Forum 2018 holds Press conference in Yangon. PHOTO: HLA

1994-1995 financial year to the 2017-2018 financial year, some 585 domestic investments with a capital of Ks6,990.2134 billion were made in the Yangon

Region, while 845 foreign investments with a capital of US \$20.276 billion were made between the 1988-1989 and 2017-2018 financial years.

Yangon Region Minister for Kayin Ethnic Affairs Naw Pan Thitzar Myo said since Yangon is the commercial hub of the country, the investment forum will push for resurgence in Myanmar's economy. "The Myanmar Investment Committee (MIC) will talk about its experience during the first year of term of the incumbent government, while the Yangon Region Investment Committee (YRIC) that was formed during the second year of the incumbent government's term will join the forum for the first time," he said.

The Yangon Region has 30 industrial zones and the Thilawa Special

Economic Zone, with the industrial zone in Hline-thayar being the largest industrial zone in Myanmar.

Chairman of the Myanmar Investors Development Association (MIDA) U Khin Maung Aye said some 665 people would attend the forum, with 300 foreigners making up almost half the guests. "Our country needs more job opportunities, which will drive the market demand, and thus elevate the country's economy," he said. "If you have a job, you have income. If you have income you will buy things, and that will raise the market demand. Our country cannot develop as it is, and so, MIDA is providing support in crucial areas."

After the conclusion of the press conference the regional ministers, MIDA officials, MIC offi-

cials and other relevant officials answered questions posed by reporters.

When asked about the agenda details of the forum, MIC Secretary U Myo Khaing Oo replied that the morning session will review the investment laws and bylaws and the protection, opportunities and rights granted by these laws to international investors. He said the participants will be allowed to ask as many questions as they like until they are satisfied and fully understand the legal framework surrounding the investment sector.

The afternoon session will have the Yangon region chief minister discuss the investment strategies concerning the Yangon Region. U Myo Khaing said the session would present investment opportunities after the attendees were given a solid understanding of the legal framework in the morning session.

The evening session will wrap up the forum with a networking dinner, where international investors, as well as entrepreneurs and local businesspersons, can connect with each other.

U Myo Khaing Oo said the regional government was preparing to address the main issue of land area and the basic infrastructure that is necessary for investors in the Yangon region.

THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR
MINISTRY OF ELECTRICITY AND ENERGY
MYANMA OIL AND GAS ENTERPRISE
(INVITATION FOR OPEN TENDER)
(9 / 2018)

1. Open tenders are invited for supply of the following respective items in Myanmar Kyats.

Sr.No	Tender No	Description	Remark
(1)	DMP/L-028(18-19)	3" ERW Steel Line Pipe API 5L Grade A (PSL 1) (10,000) MTR	Ks
(2)	DMP/L-029(18-19)	CAT G-3516 C Generating Set Gas Engine (81) Items	Ks
(3)	DMP/L-030(18-19)	Industrial Raw Materials (2) Groups	Ks

2. The Open Tender forms including Description of Materials / Qty with details specifications and Tender Terms & Conditions can be available free download at the Ministry of Electricity and Energy Website Portal (www.moe.gov.mm) as from 2 May 2018. Tender forms will not be sold.

3. The interested Bidders should submit the **Technical Specifications with Original Bid Bond and Commercial Quotation in each separate sealed envelopes** on which to be addressed to the Managing Director, Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise and should reach in Tender Box of the Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise not later than **16:30 pm on 31 May 2018**.

4. Tender Closing Date & Time- 31-5-2018, 16:30 pm

Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise
Ph . +95 67 - 411206
+95 67 411212

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V ANAN BHUM VOY. NO (216 N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V ANAN BHUM VOY. NO (216 N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 3-5-2018 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 NEW GOLDEN SEA LINES
Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V MCC SHANGHAI VOY. NO (1815-1816)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V MCC SHANGHAI VOY. NO (1815-1816) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 3-5-2018 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 MCC TRANSPORT
(S'PORE) PTE LTD
Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V KOTA HASIL VOY. NO. (KHS 0080 N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V KOTA HASIL VOY. NO. (KHS 0080 N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 3-5-2018 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 ADVANCE CONTAINER
LINES
Phone No: 2301185

Garbage fire, smoke brought completely under control

FROM PAGE-1

“In the beginning, when the fire just broke out, it was difficult for us to figure out when we would bring the fire under control because the dump is massive. Later, we decided to divide the garbage dump into four zones and follow the new strategy,” he added.

Some 40 patients were admitted to Hline-thaya Township Hospital following the inhalation of smoke from the fire, and of them, only four, who have chronic diseases, are still undergoing treatment at the hospital, according to a hospital official.

A combined force of firefighters, Tatmadaw men, staff of the Yangon City Development Committee and some 900 volunteers worked to bring the fire under control with the use of bio foam and water.

More than one million gallons of water were used daily to control the garbage fire, which emitted poisonous smoke.

The Yangon City Development Committee measured the air pollution level in the areas close to the garbage fire yesterday and refuted the fact that poisonous smoke was being emitted from the garbage fire. ■



Union Minister Dr. Pe Myint holds talks with representatives from Burma News International. **PHOTO: MNA**

Union Minister for Information receives representatives from BNI

UNION Minister for Information Dr. Pe Myint received representatives from Burma News International (BNI) at the guest hall of the

Ministry of Information yesterday afternoon.

During the meeting, they discussed the current difficulties faced by ethnic mediapersons,

aid to be given by the Ministry of Information for the development of the ethnic media and cooperation processes.

Deputy Minister for Information U Aung Hla Tun and other officials also attended the meeting.—Myanmar News Agency ■

ADVERTORIAL

Congratulatory Message from the President of Korea Food Research Institute

Opening the Myanmar Postharvest Research Institute



Dr. Dong-June PARK
President
Korea Food Research Institute

Dear farmers, members of farmers' group and association and all the staffs in the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation (MOALI); In today, the 3rd May, we have the opening ceremony of the Myanmar Postharvest Research Institute (PHRI) with participation of Excellency Union Minister of MOALI, Dr. Aung Thu, Ambassador of Korea Embassy in Myanmar, Chief Representative of Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) Myanmar Office and the distinguished guests at Yezin, Naypyitaw. Today's ceremony is the achievement of the agreement on the project for Establishment of PHRI signed between KOICA and Department of Agriculture, MOALI on 17 Feb. 2014. As the President of Korea Food Research Institute (KFRI), I would like to express my sincere greetings to all of you, and to congratulate your grand opening of PHRI.

It is my great honor and pleasure to complete this project successfully by Dr. Dongman Kim and his group in KFRI with KOICA and MOALI for establishment of this institute. The PHRI is the second contribution of KFRI from the serial activities for enhancement of postharvest technology in Myanmar, and tightly connected to the Postharvest Technology Training Center (PHTTC) opened in Mandalay at the end of Dec. 2014, which was also carried by KFRI under support of KOICA and MOALI.

As you know, agriculture is an important sector and also takes great sharing part in Myanmar GDP. Moreover, large part of the population is engaged in agriculture sector. It means that agriculture has a great role to develop the Myanmar economy.

During last few years, all of you have made a great effort to increase agricultural productivity spontaneously. Although the sector is not yet reached to satisfactory state, it has been grown remarkably in production and marketing activities.

Agricultural productions mainly depend on selling of products to the consumer through the marketing activities. Consumers' concerns on the quality and safety of the products are increasing year by year for not only their nutrition but also their health. Thus, farmer should consider the ways to increase productivity as well as quality and safety of the products to satisfy the consumers in the market.

Therefore, the agricultural products have to be delivered to consumer without the loss in quality and safety through the application of appropriate and practical measures for handling, packaging and transportation after harvesting. Such the serial management skills after harvest are named as postharvest technology.

In Myanmar agro-sector, postharvest technology is very important to catch market demand and foreign market sharing. Therefore, we assume that adoption of appropriate and cost effective postharvest technology in Myanmar agro-sector is demand of current-days market competition.

For improvement of the technology, MOALI has been conducting the cooperative projects with KOICA under technological support of Korea Food Research Institute since 2011.

As the first achievement of the cooperation between KOICA and MOALI was establishment of PHTTC in Mandalay. The PHTTC has been operating the technology training for farmers, member of farmers' association and group, and MOALI staffs since February 2015. But that is not enough to support farmers' need completely because the technology level has to be enhanced and technology to be applied is quietly different by the crops.

To satisfy such the requirements, project for establishment of PHRI was founded, and now, we have the day to open the PHRI for Myanmar agro-sector and Myanmar farmers.

The PHRI will produce appropriate, practical and cost effective technologies to reduce quantity and quality loss of fruit and vegetable after harvest and during marketing. The outcome of the institute will be transferred to PHTTC to disseminate to farmers.

Through activities for development of the technology by PHRI, it is expected to reduce the postharvest loss of major horticultural crops by 30% after 5 year and, by 70% after 10 year, respectively compared with the level of present loss. It will be great contribution in enhancing the economic conditions of agro-sector in Myanmar.

Myanmar has vast farmland with the blessed climatic conditions suitable for cultivation of the various exotic fruits and vegetables. The demand of safe and good quality fruits and vegetables is growing steadily in domestic and in international markets. Therefore, the future of the horticultural sector in Myanmar is very bright.

To expand the market in domestic and abroad, a lot of efforts need in production of high-quality and safe crops rather than quantity in the field. In addition, applying of appropriate postharvest handling and technology in the field is required for fulfillment of consumers' desire.

KFRI hope to share our knowledge and experience more with PHRI and PHTTC through continuous cooperation for enhancement of the postharvest technology to support to reduce losses of quantity, quality and safety of the products.

I sincerely hope that the PHRI will make a great contribution for improvement of the technology for farmers' better income and their happier rural life conditions. Also, I would like to ask all of you for your deep interest, concern and active support for the institute.

Once again, I would like to send my warm greetings and sincere appreciation to all of you for the cooperation, and congratulate the opening the Myanmar Postharvest Research Institute.

Book launch for 2017 Annual Report of the Supreme Court of the Union

THE second Annual Report of the Supreme Court of the Union for the year 2017 was introduced in a book launch yesterday at the Myanmar International Convention Center II in Nay Pyi Taw.

Union Chief Justice U Htun Htun Oo delivered the opening speech expressing his joy in being able to present the 2017 Annual Report to the public. He said that annual reports on the judiciary sector are supportive when implementing master strategies for judicial reform. The Union Supreme Court has agreed to follow the International Framework for Court Excellence and has been publishing judicial reports since 2015. He said some of the objective of the reports is for public transparency of judicial accountability, quantity justice, quality justice and highlighting the changes and challenges in reinforcing the judiciary sector. He added that swift compensa-



Union Chief Justice U Htun Htun Oo addresses the second Annual Report of the Supreme Court of the Union in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

tions for victims and punctual justice administration to perpetrators is the duty of all legal agencies, lawyers, advocates, and legal advisory organizations in the judiciary sector.

The Union Chief Justice also said that the media plays an

important role in disseminating information of the news of court cases related to the judiciary sector for the public awareness and involvement. He thanked international contributors for their support in compiling the annual report and invited the

cooperation of all individuals who wished for justice.

The event then proceeded to an introduction of the annual report followed by an in-depth explanation.

Present at the event were the Chairperson of the Consti-

tutional Tribunal of Myanmar, the Union Attorney General, Union Supreme Court Judges, the Deputy Attorney General, the chairpersons, secretaries and members of commissions and committees of the Pyidaungsu, Pyithu, and Amyotha Hluttaws, representatives of embassies, UN organizations, and international contributing organizations, officials from governmental departments and other organizations connected to the judiciary sector, officials from the Anti-Corruption Commission and social organizations, and members of the media.

All attending participants received a copy of the 2017 Annual Report of the Supreme Court of the Union and a soft copy can be obtained from the website of the Union Supreme Court at <http://www.unionsupremecourt.gov.mm/>.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Myanmar Press Council to conduct second paper reading session

THE Myanmar Press Council is conducting the “Second paper reading session of Myanmar Press Council” on 5 May (Saturday) and 6 May (Sunday) at Central Press Building, Theinbyu Street, Yangon.

The Myanmar Press Coun-

cil held the “History of news media in Myanmar” paper reading session in March 2017 for the first time for the development of news media in Myanmar and to inform the public and the news media personnel about its history in Myanmar.

Some 12 papers will be read at the “Second paper reading session of Myanmar Press Council” and the confirmed list of papers to be read will be announced soon.

Stalls and booths will be set up at the Central Press Building

to display books, as well as the works of media organisations.

Admission is free. Visitors can join the discussion or raise questions, while the Myanmar Press Council will also invite independent media personnel to read papers.

The “Second paper reading session of Myanmar Press Council” is organised by the Myanmar Press Council, and the Ministry of Information is supporting it by providing the venue at the Central Press Building.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Luyechun excursion groups visit pagodas, attractions

LUYECHUN or outstanding students camping Ngwesaung, Bagan and Inlay visited pagodas and visitor's attractions yesterday.

Eleventh grade Luyechun school children at Ngwesaung Resort visited the Shwemuhtaw in Pathein and donated cash to the pagoda.

They also visited local small and medium enterprises producing traditional snack and umbrellas. They took recreation at the Royal Lake garden.

In the afternoon, they met with members of the Ayeyawady



A group of Luyechun has a documentary photo taken at Poma Taungkalat. **PHOTO: MNA**

Region cabinet at the No 1 Basic Education High School in Pathein. Following the meeting, they visited Daunglaung Garment Factory.

Likewise, 10th grade outstanding school children staying at the Inlay Khaungtaing recreation camp visited traditional silver smith shop, silk shops and producing textile traditionally from lotus at Inpawkhon Village.

Similarly, 8th grade Luyechuns, who are currently in Bagan, visited Poma Taungkalat near Bagan.

During the visit, they observed medicinal herbs and conservation of wildlife in Poma Taung Kalat Reserve Forest.

After the visiting the Poma Mountain Resort, the delegation returned Bagan.—Myo Zin Naing ■



A group of Luyechun paste gold foils on Buddha statues in Inlay.



A group of Luyechun observes making Pathein umbrella in Pathein.

Zuckerberg says Facebook to add dating service

SAN JOSE — Facebook chief Mark Zuckerberg announced on Tuesday that the world's largest social network will soon include a new dating service.

"This is going to be for building real, long-term relationships, not just hook-ups," Zuckerberg said as he unveiled the plans at Facebook's annual developers conference.

Zuckerberg said the new dating feature was built from the ground-up with privacy and safety in mind — as the social network reels from the revelation of a mass breach involving the personal data of tens of millions

of its users.

"People already use Facebook to meet new people, and we want to make that experience better," the California-based titan said in a statement.

"People will be able to create a dating profile that is separate from their Facebook profile — and potential matches will be recommended based on dating preferences, things in common, and mutual friends."

After setting up a distinct and private dating profile, user will be able to check out groups or events where they live along with profiles of other Facebook members who

are taking part. In presenting the new feature, Zuckerberg noted that one-in-three marriages in the United States start online, and that some 200 million people on Facebook identify as being single.

Facebook's developer conference comes as the giant faces global scrutiny over the mass harvesting of personal data for use by a British political consultancy, Cambridge Analytica, which worked for Donald Trump's 2016 election campaign.

"We need to make sure that never happens again," Zuckerberg told the audience packed with software developers, as he



Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg speaks during the annual F8 summit in San Jose, California, on Tuesday. **PHOTO: AFP**

underscored the firm's commitment to boosting privacy protections. Facebook has admitted up to 87 million users may have had

their data hijacked in the scandal, which saw Zuckerberg grilled at length by the US Congress last month.—AFP ■

At New York's Met, an opera even babies can go gaga for

NEW YORK — New York parents, ever vigilant for new ways to amuse their offspring, are picking up babies and flocking to the Metropolitan Opera this week for a very special US performance.

"Bambino" — a 40-minute opera composed specifically for infants — has crossed the Atlantic for a booked-out, six-day run after winning over audiences in Britain and Paris.

Well-dressed and well-groomed six- to 18-month-old New Yorkers assemble in a small auditorium at the Met, either cradled on parents' knees or crawling and toddling among a sea of soft blue cushions.

Babies can make as much noise as they want, the audience is told. Adults, on the other hand,

are told to pipe down.

Then the music starts. Sung in Italian and baby sounds, it's performed by a cellist, a percussionist and two singers, who roam among the children, introducing them to furry toy birds and a golden egg.

Almost any baby contemplating a meltdown stopped crying, variously grinning, baffled and engaged by the colorfully-costumed singers. Sloane Campbell, 12 months, already goes to a music class once a week and her mom Kate Mangiameli is a Met singer herself, but Monday marked her first live performance.

"Hearing that kind of singing from someone other than me is probably pretty great for her," says Mangiameli.

The plot, secondary to the music as in most operas, tells the story of a bird, a baby bird and their relationship before the baby's quest for flight ultimately leads to separation.

"It's not a patronizing kiddies show, it's a genuine, beautiful piece of quite challenging music," explains director Phelim McDermott.

Jokes aside about the Met's quest to lower the average age of its audience, each performance seeks to win over babies and caregivers to an art form often castigated as elitist and out of touch.

"We thought what a magical thing to bring true opera to little people," says composer Liam Paterson, believing even very young children respond to musi-

cal patterns, rhythm and text. **'Toddlers get bored'**

Initially commissioned by Scottish Opera and performed in Scotland and Manchester, Paterson said coming to New York, arguably one of the world's greatest opera venues, was a "amazing."

Charlotte Hoather, who plays the character Uccellina, says reactions are different every time, and vary from country to country. If French children were very calm, Americans were more forthright. "We had confident babies today. Very brave," she says.

"I was just having fun because she was clearly overjoyed the whole time. I couldn't stop smiling," says nurse Jessie Thisell, whose daughter Bonnie wandered around transfixed.

"She wouldn't have enjoyed it if she had to sit still."

In a world of opera obsessed with widening outreach, Bambino makes no secret of its determination to win over new audiences. "We've had people who love rock music and punk rock people and they were like 'I might go to something at my local theater' and that's really cool," says Hoather. The performers say meltdowns are surprisingly few, and usually food or tiredness-related. "It's an experiment. We'll see what happens," said Peter Gelb, general manager of the Met, asked whether it could become regular repertoire.—AFP ■

Serena's strength and fears unveiled in new documentar

NEW YORK — Serena Williams, winner of an Open Era-record 23 Grand Slam singles titles, unveils the joys and pains of her private life in an HBO documentary debuting on Wednesday.

In the five-part series, the former WTA world number one recounts her victory in last year's Australian Open, complications surrounding the birth of her eight-month-old daughter Olympia and her wedding to Alexis Ohanian last November. "It's about ups and downs," Williams said in an HBO interview released on Tuesday. Williams won the Australian Open while pregnant and returned in February alongside her sister Venus in a US Fed Cup first-round tie. She lost to Venus in the third round at Indian Wells and to Japan's Naomi Osaka at Miami in her WTA returns. "I'm sure there are some moments in there that I'm not excited about. But that's what it's all about," Williams said. "The camera follows you. You have to just allow yourself to just be." Williams revealed in an interview with Vogue that she suffered a pulmonary embolism after her daughter was born and spent six weeks recovering with bed rest. "I chose now to share these moments because I was going through something different in my life," Williams said. "I always wanted to get it down in a documentary so I can always say to my daughter, 'Olympia look at all of these moments.'"—AFP ■



The character Pulcino, played by Timothy Connor, performs "Bambino" for children and parents at the Metropolitan Opera House in New York. **PHOTO: AFP**

States and Regions Chess contest in Nay Pyi Taw

WITH the cooperation of the Ministry of Health and Sports and the Myanmar Chess Federation, an opening ceremony of State and Regional Contest for International and Traditional Chess was launched at Wunna Thiekhthi Stadium in Nay Pyi Taw. The contest will be held from 2 to 9 May.

The ceremony was attended by responsible officials including the Director-General of Sports and Physical Education Department U Myo Hlaing, Chairman of the Myanmar Chess Federation U Maung-

Maung Lwin and chess players and their coaches.

Firstly, the Director-General delivered his opening speech.

Afterwards, the officials looked over the chess contest taking place with young and old chess players from across Myanmar.

There were altogether 223 chess players forming 10 male teams and 8 female-teams. All interested persons can enjoy the contest free of charges according to an official. —Myanmar News Agency ■



Youths contesting chess in yesterday's States and Regions Chess Contest at Wunna Thiekhthi Stadium in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: KYISOE LIN (SPORTS & PHYSICAL)**

ISPE (A) stands half season Champion of U21-MNL

AFTER completing the first round matches of MPT Myanmar National League (U-21) 2018, Institute of Sports and Physical Education ISPE (A) team became the half season Champion with garnering 34 points after playing 13 matches with 11 wins, one draw and one loss.

Among the total of 14 teams, Yadanabon (U-21) followed the ISPE with garnering 29 points of 9 win, 2 draw and 2 loss.

Shan United (U-21) is standing in the third place of the markingtable with 27 points of 8 win, 3 draw and 2 loss.

Yangon United (U-21) is in the fourth place with 26 points of 7 win, 5 draw and one loss and Magwe in the fifth place with 25 points of 8 win, one draw and four loss. Distinctly, Sagaing United (U-21) is in the last place of the standing with 3 points with no win, 3 draw and 10 loss. —Lynn Thit (Tgi) ■

Myanmar in Group A of AFF Suzuki Cup

Myanmar's national football team is in Group A of the 2018 AFF Suzuki Cup together with Viet Nam, Malaysia, Cambodia and Laos after the draw ceremony yesterday held in Jakarta, Indonesia organised by ASEAN Football Federation (AFF).

Defending champions

Thailand are in the tougher Group B with Indonesia, the Philippines, Singapore and the winning team from qualifying round, according to the official draw.

Thailand was two-time winners of the last two editions of the tourney in 2014 and 2016.

The qualifying round this

year will be between Timor Leste and Brunei, who will be playing on a home and away basis on 1 and 8 September.

This year's AFF Suzuki Cup will take place from 8 November to 15 December across 10 Southeast Asian countries.

In 2016, the AFF Suzuki Cup was the most watched

sports programme of the year in Indonesia and Thailand, with cumulative viewership figures of 35 million and 40 million respectively, eclipsing the ratings enjoyed by global sporting events like the UEFA EURO 2016, according to the ASEAN Football Federation. —Lynn Thit (Tgi) ■

'You have to suffer' — Zidane hails gritty Real win

MADRID — Real Madrid scrapped their way into a third consecutive Champions League final on Tuesday and coach Zinedine Zidane said he would not have wanted it any other way.

After their last-gasp win over Juventus in the quarter-finals, Real were left hanging on against Bayern Munich at the Santiago Bernabeu as Karim Benzema's double secured a 2-2 draw and 4-3 win on aggregate.

When Joshua Kimmich gave Bayern an early lead and James Rodriguez levelled with 27 minutes remaining, Real looked in danger of surrendering their 2-1 advantage from the first leg.

By the end, Real's fans were begging for the full-time whistle and if it is to be Liverpool in the final in Kiev, Jurgen Klopp's men will take heart.

Zidane, however, insists the grit his team have shown to overcome Paris Saint-Germain, Juve, and now Bayern, should not be underestimated.

"In football, you have to suffer," Zidane said. "You cannot be in the final without suffering, it's even better, more beautiful when



Karim Benzema scored twice but Real Madrid had to hang on for a 4-3 aggregate win after Bayern levelled 2-2. **PHOTO: AFP**

you win like that.

"Madrid never gives up. It is the same in adversity, we believe in what we do and we get things done by believing in ourselves and fighting."

Real, and Zidane, are now on the brink of a third consecutive Champions League triumph, and 13th overall in Europe's pre-

mier tournament. Whether it be Liverpool or Roma they face in Kiev, Los Blancos will be strong favourites to lift the title.

"We are only in the final," Zidane said. "You can be happy, you have to be, it is not normal to be in the final for the third consecutive time. "But now that we are, what we have to do is try to win. We will

fight to defend our title."

'Spectacular' Navas

Benzema's two goals were also credit to Zidane, who had picked the striker despite a poor run of form that had included only one goal in 12 games.

"He never gave up and I'm happy for him," Zidane said. "I

defended Karim as I defend all my players, I defend them until the end."

Bayern, meanwhile, are left wondering what might have been after dominating large spells of the two legs but paying a heavy price for individual mistakes.

Benzema's second, which proved decisive, was a gift, with goalkeeper Sven Ulreich making a mess of Corentin Tolisso's under-hit back pass and allowing the Frenchman to slot into an open net. "If you look at both games it is quite apparent we were the best team," Bayern coach Jupp Heynckes said.

"I'm very disappointed in the result. We dominated, I believe, and they should thank Keylor Navas for his performance in goal, he was spectacular, particularly towards the end of the match."

On Ulreich's error, Heynckes added: "He had a little blackout, he got confused, he didn't realise he couldn't pick it up with his hands. "It's terrible for a player to live through such a moment, but nevertheless we did have a lot of opportunities, and all in all our keeper performed well." —AFP ■