

NATIONAL

State Counsellor receives Ambassadors from Indonesia, Bangladesh and the Marshall Islands separately

PAGE-3



INTERVIEW

Voices of the dignitaries and participants at 17th (CONSAL XVII) in Nay Pyi Taw

PAGE-10



LOCAL NEWS

Some 89 river terns researched in 2018

PAGE-4

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Vol. V, No. 18, 5th Waning of Kason 1380 ME

www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

Friday, 4 May 2018



President U Win Myint (Left) accepts the Letter of Credence presented by Mr. Zahairi bin Baharim, Ambassador of Malaysia. **PHOTO: MNA**

President accepts credentials of newly-accredited Ambassadors

Prof. Dr. Iza Fadri, the newly-accredited Ambassador of the Republic of Indonesia to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, presented his Letter of Credence to U Win Myint, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, at the Presidential Palace, Nay Pyi Taw at 10:00 am yesterday.

Mr. Manjurul Karim Khan

Chowdhury, the newly-accredited Ambassador of the People's Republic of Bangladesh to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, presented his Letter of Credence to U Win Myint, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, at the Presidential Palace, Nay Pyi Taw at 10:30 am yesterday.

SEE PAGE-2



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi strikes the Mingalar Gong to open the 17th Congress of Southeast Asian Librarians (CONSAL XVII) in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

State Counsellor delivers speech at CONSAL XVII

STATE Counsellor DawAung San Suu Kyi delivered an opening speech at the opening ceremony of the 17th Congress of Southeast Asian Librarians (CONSAL XVII) hosted by Myanmar for the first time. It was held in Nay Pyi Taw Myanmar International Convention Centre-2 (MICC-II) yesterday morning.

The ceremony was attended by Vice President U Myint Swe, former President U Htin Kyaw and wife Daw Su Su Lwin, Union Ministers Dr. Pe Myint, Thura U Aung Ko, U Thein Swe, U Ohn

Maung, Dr. Myo Thein Gyi, Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman Dr. Myo Aung, Deputy Ministers, Ambassadors from ASEAN countries, Permanent Secretaries and departmental heads from the Ministries, congress representatives, Myanmar Library Association Chairman, executive committee members and other members, chief librarians from local and abroad and invited guests.

At first, artistes from Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture performed a musical dance with the ASEAN song.

Next, State Counsellor DawAung San Suu Kyi opened the ceremony by sounding the golden Mingalar gong.

In her opening speech, State Counsellor said that the Congress of Southeast Asian Librarians was launched 48 years ago, in 1970, to promote library and information development in the region, and to lead us towards greater participation in the international information community. One of its objectives is to provide a platform for the sharing and

SEE PAGE-2

INSIDE TODAY

LOCAL NEWS

Yangon Region gov't to allocate exhibition space for 2019 international expos

PAGE-4

BUSINESS

Myanmar officials to visit India to discuss beans exports

PAGE-5

NATIONAL

Performance of Kachin State Government in 2nd Year in Office

PAGE-6-7



NATIONAL

Meeting held to establish movie studio, skill training school

PAGE-11

SPORT

Antoine Hey meets MFF for better future of Myanmar football

PAGE-16

President accepts credentials of newly-accredited Ambassadors

FROM PAGE-1

Mr. Ichiro Maruyama, the newly-accredited Ambassador of Japan to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, presented his Letter of Credence to U Win Myint, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, at Presidential Palace, Nay Pyi Taw at 11:00 am yesterday.

Mr. Zahairi bin Baharim, the newly-accredited Ambassador of Malaysia to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, presented his Letter of Credence to U Win Myint, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, at the Presidential Palace, Nay Pyi Taw at 2:00 pm yesterday.

Mr. Tom D. Kijiner, the newly-accredited Ambassador of the Republic of the Marshall Islands to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, presented his Letter of Credence to U Win Myint, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, at Presidential Palace, Nay Pyi Taw at 2:30 pm yesterday.

Present on the occasions were Union Minister for International Cooperation U Kyaw Tin and Director-General of the Protocol Department U Thant Sin.—Myanmar News Agency



President U Win Myint accepts the credential of the newly-accredited Ambassador of Bangladesh Mr. Manjurul Karim Khan Chowdhury in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**



President U Win Myint accepts the credential of the newly-accredited Ambassador of Indonesia Prof. Dr. Iza Fadri in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**



President U Win Myint receives the newly-accredited Ambassador of Japan Mr. Ichiro Maruyama in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**



President U Win Myint receives the newly-accredited Ambassador of Marshall Islands Mr. Tom D. Kijiner in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

State Counsellor delivers speech at CONSAL XVII

FROM PAGE-1

exchange of information and experience on issues in the field of librarianship, library and information sciences, documentation, information and related services in the region. The long history of the Congress stands evidence to the strength and unity of the organization.

The theme of this Congress, 'Next Generation Libraries: Collaborate and Connect', highlights the future role of the library and information services profession, a role that will be both challenging and exciting. Next Generation Librarians will have to collaborate and connect with each other to share their experiences and expertise and also to work towards innovative trends and new age technologies. Like all goals, there will be difficulties and obstacles along the way but I believe that the positive environment provid-

ed by CONSAL, will contribute strongly towards the removal of these challenges and help next generation libraries to be shaped positively and constructively. I am happy to have this opportunity to play a small part, through this congress, in promoting a love of reading among our people. Reading is fundamental to meaningful communication, not just across cultures but across the ages, giving us access to the past, the present and the future, all at the same time.

By instilling a love of reading in children at an early age, we provide them with magic carpets and spaceships that will carry them across physical and mental barriers to new, challenging worlds. By promoting libraries, particularly school libraries, throughout our country we shall not only be providing a necessary aid for the development of basic

education but also an instrument for cultivating a love of literature, social sciences, history and humanities among our people.

Our government aims at establishing a strong library culture in our society and the level of enthusiasm is high. The desire for change among librarians is notable. We can make a difference to our libraries, enabling them to promote life-long learning through information literacy instructions integrated with library activities.

In this knowledge age, the role of libraries is changing. They have been identified as one of the key elements for open access to information. By providing a gateway to knowledge and culture, Libraries and librarians play a significant role in encouraging citizens to participate in society-transformation.

The Vision of the National Li-

brary of Myanmar, a governmental organization under the Department of Historical Research and National Library, is "to be a center of Myanmar literary heritage". Hence, it collects and maintains ancient manuscript collections throughout the country. These are preserved at the National Library, Naypyitaw and the National Library, Yangon. A beautiful building, of the colonial era is being renovated in accordance with the recommendations of the Yangon Heritage Trust, and this will soon be our new, modernized National Library in Yangon.

The Myanmar Library Association (MLA), a non-governmental organization, is endeavouring to motivate reading and to improve access to and use of new technology for the promotion of information literacy development in the country. It is playing an important role in transforming libraries and librarians' functions in Myanmar and in giving access to reliable information and

knowledge. The Association has launched programmes to reenergize and develop school libraries with strong support from the Department of Basic Education under the Ministry of Education in Myanmar, the Asia Foundation, and other international organizations.

The majority of Myanmar's population, i.e. 70%, live in the rural areas and it is essential to provide access to information for citizens who have no library facilities in their wards and villages. The Daw Khin Kyi Foundation, a non-profit charitable organization, was established in 2012 in memory of my mother and its purpose is to promote health, education and living standards of the people of Myanmar, focusing its attention on the needs of least developed areas. The Daw Khin Kyi Foundation started the first mobile library programme in 2013 in collaboration with the Ministry of Information.

SEE PAGE-3

“ 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)

“ No matter what kind of projects we implement, the main factor for success is collective endeavor. I am firmly convinced that we can overcome any challenge— no matter how big or difficult— if we can set aside prejudices of organizations and select groups, and work without pointing fingers and if every one of us makes concerted efforts with goodwill, wisdom, and courage.

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

State Counsellor delivers speech at CONSAL XVII

FROM PAGE-2

We wish to provide library services, particularly for those who live in rural areas where there is little access to books. Our aim is to stimulate reading interest and to broaden the intellectual horizons of all our people, said the State Counsellor.

As the library is a hardcore necessity for higher education, it has to be restructured to align with the educational policy and revised curriculum of the Government. Public libraries take on the role of community centers for citizens by offering informal education opportunities.

Myanmar's literacy rate of 92.7% suggests that the potential of libraries to support community development could be high, said Daw Aung San Suu Kyi.

This Congress provides an excellent opportunity for networking between Southeast Asian Libraries and Librarians, for promoting the collaboration and strengthening of library and library-related professionals in the ten member countries in Southeast Asia and also for ensuring sustainable development.

CONSAL recognizes the outstanding contribution of librarians in the region, for the region. It has positioned itself as an important element in the area of Knowledge and Information Sharing. Libraries are not fading away in the age of the internet and digital media.

On the contrary, everywhere they are taking on an even stronger role in community life, bringing together diverse peoples and providing access not only to books, but also to a variety of social activities, said the State Counsellor.

I would like to conclude by thanking all of you for your commitment to collaboration and connection among our next generation libraries. I am confident that the discussions that will take place over the next three days will



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi. **PHOTO: MNA**

be dynamic and fruitful. I wish you a pleasant stay in Myanmar, said the State Counsellor.

After her speech, the State Counsellor, the Vice President and guests attending the opening ceremony took commemorative group photo.

Following this, speeches were delivered by the Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture Thura U Aung Ko and International Federation of Libraries and Associations (IFLA) President Ms. Christine Mackenzie. The opening ceremony came to a close with artistes from Department of Fine Arts singing songs in honor of ASEAN and performing dances.

The Congress was then held in designated places. At the Congress, IFLA President conducted a discussion, Myanmar Library Association Chairman U Than Aung read out the message of the Myanmar Library Association Patron Sithu Dr. Thaw Kaung, Congress attendees were divided into six groups and read papers titled Access and Opportunities for All; Media and Information Literacy; Digital Library Management; Advocacy; Transforming Libraries; Strategic Alliances and Partnership; New Competencies and Training for Library and Information Professionals; Marketing and Promotion; Conservation and Preservation; and ASEAN Vision and Libraries it is learnt.—Myanmar News Agency ■



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi receives Prof. Dr. Iza Fadri, Ambassador of Indonesia, in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi shakes hands with Mr. Manjurul Karim Khan Chowdhury, Ambassador of Bangladesh yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi shakes hands with Mr. Tom D. Kijiner, Ambassador of Marshall Islands yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

State Counsellor receives Ambassadors from Indonesia, Bangladesh and the Marshall Islands separately

DAW AUNG SAN SUU KYI, State Counsellor and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, received Prof. Dr. Iza Fadri, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Indonesia, at 11:00 am, Mr. Manjurul Karim Khan Chowdhury, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, at 2:30 pm and Mr.

Tom D. Kijiner, Ambassador of the Republic of the Marshall Islands at 3:30 pm, separately at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw.

During the meeting with the Indonesian Ambassador, they discussed and exchanged views on matters pertaining to bilateral relations and cooperation.

At the meeting with Mr. Manjurul Karim Khan Chowd-

hury, they discussed in a cordial manner matters related to the promotion of bilateral relations and cooperation and the repatriation of displaced persons from Rakhine State.

During the meeting with the Ambassador of the Marshall Islands, they discussed matters relating to bilateral relations and cooperation between Myanmar and Marshall Islands.—Myanmar News Agency ■

GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

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subscription@globalnewlightofmyanmar.comPrinted and published at the **Global New Light of Myanmar Printing Factory** at No.150, Nga Htat Kyee Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon, by the **Global New Light of Myanmar Daily** under Printing Permit No. 00510 and Publishing Permit No. 00629.gnlmdaily@gmail.com
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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, Thein-byu Street, Yangon.

At the 2nd paper reading session of Myanmar Press Council, totaling 10 papers will be read; Myanmar Democratic Nation and materialization of the fourth pillar by U Ohn Kyaing (MPC) Jimmy's World

and Mine by Dr. Maung Maung San (MPC) Rakhine Affairs and Peace Journalism Terms by U Zeya (MPC), The Image of a Journalist by U Ye Myint Pe, Media Men and Code of Ethic in Media by U Nyunt Tin (Maung Nyein Thu—Gyobinguak) (Myanmar Writers Association), "The Establishment of Myanmar Press Council and its measures that should be taken by MPC" by Dr. Tin Hlaing (MPC), Media Freedom Campaign by U Myat

Khaing (Myanmar Journalist Association), Myanmar Press Freedom Reviews in the tenure of the NLD Government by U Chit Win Maung (MJU), Public Health and the Role of Press Media by Prof. Dr. Myint Maung Maung (MPC), Glimpses of the Current Press Media World by U Naing Maung and U Kyi Naing (MWU).

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 outside 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.—MNA ■

Some 89 river terns researched in 2018

SOME 89 river terns, one of the endangered species, were researched in 2018.

According to the IUCN Red List, some 101 river terns and 29 nests were recorded in 2017 along Chindwin River and Ayeyawady River. In 2018, the number of river terns increased remarkably. Some 89 river terns, 23 nests and 43 small baby birds were recorded in 2018. But this year, we cannot research some areas of Ayeyawady and Chindwin Rivers because of human instigation, said Ko Naing Lin, in charge of Ayeyawady Delta conservation from the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) (Myanmar).

River terns mate in February and May. They usually breed in colonies along less accessible areas such as sandbanks in rivers. They keep laying eggs close to each other, said Htin



Lin Kyaw, assistance researcher from WCS (Myanmar).

"River terns usually move their nests when they face a threat. They usually lay two or three eggs per nest. They hatch

and emerge into a small body in 20 or 25 days and their body hair grows within 24 hours. They start to fly over 30 days," Htin Lin Kyaw added.

Recently, the Forestry De-

partment erected an educational board to spread awareness campaigns among local villagers and is researching the conservation of river terns in cooperation with WCS (Myanmar).—Nyi Tu ■

Yangon Region government to allocate exhibition space for 2019 international expos

THE Yangon Region government is planning to allocate new exhibition spaces in certain townships in the Yangon Region to host international exhibitions in 2019, said Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyto Min Thein during the second anniversary meeting of the Gems and Entrepreneurs Association (Yangon).

"Other respective sectors also need to stage an exhibition like this. We aim to increase the number of international expos in 2019, but we are facing

challenges in finding exhibition spaces. We are arranging one on Bayintnaung Road and finding spaces near Ngamoeyek creek to facilitate transport by car or water taxi for those entrepreneurs who stay in the downtown area. There is an eight-acre-old jute factory in Bayintanung area. If this factory can be converted to an exhibition space, it can accommodate many cars. We are screening the places, along with restaurants and other related businesses," said U Phyto Min Thein.

Yangon's economy is likely to improve if exhibitions such as furniture expos, car expos are held once a month, besides the gems expo, he maintained.

"When Yangon is packed with sellers and buyers, it helps enhance the tourism industry. We still have not achieved the standards of an international-level expo. Gems and jewelry are good trade items to keep pace with other countries," said U Phyto Min Thein.

"If the respective associations want to invite internation-

al-level event organisers, the Yangon Region government will welcome them," he added.

To enhance Myanmar's gems sector, the Yangon Region government is ready to help with government procedures, including getting easier access to visas, ensuring smooth trade flow and opening of the branch office.

Union Minister for Natural Resource and Environmental Conservation U Ohn Win attended the second anniversary meeting of the Gems and Entrepreneurs Association.—Thiri ■

Onion prices continue to drop in domestic market

ONION growers are facing losses as the onion price continues to decline in the domestic market this season due to the late harvest, according to a report in Myawady Daily on Thursday.

U Khin Han, chairman of Myanmar Onion, Garlic and Kitchen Crops Producer Association, said the onion market is cooling down owing to the low price. The onion price has dropped by half from its peak. Onion prices were more than Ks700 in the post-Thingyan pe-

riod. Now, a viss (3.6 pounds) of onions is currently sold for Ks500-Ks600.

U Khin Han said onion prices are expected to rise next week, adding there was a huge stockpile of onions in the local market, but the demand for the crop is low. So, prices of the crop have been on the decline.

Onion is a popular cooking staple and is normally harvested in March. Growers are facing losses owing to the late harvest.—GNLM ■



Labourers carrying sacks of onions on their shoulders. **PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR**

Myanmar imports consumer goods worth \$174 million within 20 days

MYANMAR'S imports of consumer products in the current six-month transitional fiscal year (FY) topped US\$174 million, recording an increase of \$14.046 million against the same period last year, according to official figures released by the commerce ministry.

Between 1 and 20 April this year, the private sector bought \$170 million worth of similar goods from foreign trade partners, while public sector imports were valued at \$4.24 million.

The country's total import value during the first 20 days of this FY reached \$913 million, including \$276 million in capital goods and \$462 million in intermediate materials. The

total imports were worth \$255 billion more than the imports last FY.

Myanmar chiefly imports luxury products, personal goods, construction materials, agricultural machinery, raw materials, household goods, food items and electronic devices from neighbouring countries.

The import value of consumer goods has increased each year. The import value was \$1.245 billion in the 2011-12 FY, \$1.4 billion in the 2012-13 FY, \$2.3 billion in the 2013-14 FY, \$2.9 billion in the 2014-15 FY, \$3.5 billion in the 2015-16 FY, more than \$4 billion in the 2016-17 FY, and \$4.403 billion in the 2017-2018 FY.—Khine Khant ■

Myanmar officials to visit India to discuss beans exports

By May Thet Hnin

A delegation led by officials from the Ministry of Commerce is preparing to visit India to discuss the matter of beans exports/imports this month.

"During the past few days, officials from the Ministry of Commerce and Myanmar Pulses, Beans and Sesame Merchants' Association have been holding discussions on the matter. In the first week of March, a delegation led by officials from the Ministry of Commerce went to India for the first time. Now, the ministry is preparing to visit India again this month," said U Min Ko Oo, secretary of Myanmar Pulses, Beans and Sesame Merchants' Association.

"As the matter is still under discussion, we cannot say much at this moment," added U Min Ko Oo.

The prices of beans have declined significantly in the local market after India announced a new policy in August 2017 to buy only 200,000 tonnes of pigeon peas, 300,000 tonnes of mung beans and green beans from bean exporting countries, including Myanmar. India's amended import policy was valid until the end of March, but India has yet to fix a new policy.

Even though a new policy was not set, India has issued special import licences to some bean traders. Traders who hold the special licenses can import Myanmar beans to India.

"We have concluded that India lacks transparency in its import policy. A few traders who hold special licences are importing beans from Myanmar to India. It is confusing, because though India has limited the import of beans, some traders are being issued special import licences. The lack of transparency seems to be a deliberate attempt to buy at reduced rates," said U Min Ko Oo.

Myanmar exports some 90 per cent of its pulses and beans, mainly pigeon peas and mung beans, to India. Last year, the price of mung beans was Ks900,000 per tonne, while the price of pigeon peas was Ks800,000 per tonne. The price of mung beans dropped to 390,000 per tonne, while the price of pigeon peas plunged to Ks350,000 per tonne.

In mid-April, the price of mung beans was Ks460,000 per tonne, while the price of pigeon peas was Ks400,000 per tonne. Traders stocked the beans anticipating a decline in volumes after the water festival. However, more beans continue to enter the market pushing down

the price further.

Last January, the price of pigeon peas and mung beans increased slightly, owing to the demand from Bangladesh, Pakistan and the UAE.

"We cannot control the price of beans due to the low demand from India. This is the first time I have ever seen the prices of beans sliding. We should not cultivate pigeon peas and mung beans this year," said U Min Ko Oo.

"We have advised local farmers to cultivate beans only for local consumption and export to China," he added.

Traders have formed a committee and contributed Ks50 billion to control the beans market. Last October, the committee bought pigeon peas and mung beans from local cultivators.

Although the government planned to buy directly from local cultivators with a Ks15-billion fund in January, the plan has yet to be implemented because the government decided to buy only when the prices decline, which are lower than the cultivation costs.

The market for mung beans, pigeon peas and green beans cultivated in Myanmar relies solely on India. Myanmar exports some 1.5 million tonnes of beans to India annually. ■

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi poses for documentary photo together with Kachin Societies' leaders. **PHOTO: MNA**

Performance of Kachin State Government in Second Year in Office

By Shin Min



Kachin State Chief Minister Dr Khat Aung. **PHOTO: MNA**



Kachin State Chief Minister Dr Khat Aung and wife donate cash to priest in Myitkyina. **PHOTO: MNA.**



Union Minister Nai Thet Lwin delivers the speech at the Lisu traditional New Year Festival in Putao. **PHOTO: MNA**

THE Kachin 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. The authorities concerned of the Kachin 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 Kachin 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.

Geographical Features

It is Kachin State where Maykha river and Malikha river meet lying in the north part of Myanmar with a total area of 34379.22 square miles. It is a hilly triangular region occupying lush and green grass and plants. The two rivers, namely the Maykha and the Malihka originate from the head of the Ayeyawady River and form meanders adapting themselves to the obstacles, creating a confluence called Myintsone.

With famous Mt. Khakaborazi, the state is complete with marvelous and

fantastic elements including Hukaung plain. It is also blessed with abundant rivers and creeks, valuable timbers, as well as rare species of flora and fauna that could attract peoples from different countries.

Kachin State is sharing border with the Republic of India as well as the People's Republic of China and is blessed with priceless natural beauties and natural resources. It is made up of

To be able to bring about development in Kachin state, efforts have been made with added momentum and as a result, the state has been able to enjoy the fruits of development in various spheres in the two years tenure of the new Kachin State Government.

four districts, 18 townships, 30 towns, 160 wards and 2547 villages. Although the region is complete with natural beauties in abundance, its transport sector is still poor for various reasons.

To be able to bring about development in Kachin state, efforts have been made with added momentum and as a result, the state has been able to enjoy the fruits of development in various

spheres in the two years tenure of the new Kachin State Government.

Population

With a total population of over 1.3 million, Kachin State is home to Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Chin, Mon, Bamar, Rakhine, Shan, Naga and other national races. Although the majority of local people are Christians and there are also Buddhists in the state. There are altogether 81 departmental bodies with over 50,000 government employees in service in Kachin State.

In Kachin State, there are 870,000 voters who have the right to choose 12 Amyotha Hluttaw representatives, 18 Pyithu Hluttaw representatives and 36 the state Hluttaw representatives from 20 political parties based in the region.

Aims and objectives

The aims and objectives of the Kachin State Government are: to restore peace and security, to improve transport infrastructure, to get electricity supply, to stop abusing drugs, to strengthen friendship among national brethren, to prevail rule of law, to promote socio-economic status of the people, to increase agriculture, to boost breeding, to promote tourism and to foster performance of public-oriented tasks and services which are devoid of all malpractices.

The Kachin State Chief Minister Dr. Khat Aung said, "Only if peace can first be brought about, will the country see progress in the nation's development. However, there is not yet total tranquility in Kachin State. At such a time when the country is marching towards creating a

Democratic Federal Republic, all individuals have the right to enjoy the benefits of their regions. It is of great importance to cooperate in negotiations. For as long as there are arguments about differing views and religions, the country will not move ahead in national development. It will lose opportunities for the nation and its people. Due to lack of regional tranquility, construction of major roads cannot be successfully carried out. In the rainy seasons, people are still finding it difficult to travel from one place to another.”

Transportation and Housing Units

As for the Kachin State Government, efforts have been made to improve the transportation systems in and out of the region. The Kachin State Road/Bridge Department under the Ministry of Construction built 10.728-kilometre-long Myitkyina-Mohnyin-Bamaw-Putao-O nylon-tar road, 48.49-kilometre-long concrete road, 331.08-kilometre-long tar road and 18.22-kilometre-long gravel road during the two years in office.

Being a Union highway, the Myitkyina-Swanparabwan-Putao road had been upgraded to be serviceable all the year round. In doing so, the facility had been extended and concreted, and its Myitkyina-Tiyanwut section had been extended to 34 feet wide in order to go tarred.

During the two years in office, the Kachin State Government had arranged to build 162 housing units for public service personnel in the region.

Electricity Supply

Altogether 798 villages in 30 townships in Kachin State have been facilitated with electricity and 791 villages have been supplied electricity.

In a bid to supply sufficient electricity to the local people, the state government has tried ways and means to increase the electricity supply. With regard to electric power distribution, the Upper Namthtwet hydropower project is being implemented on Namthtwet Creek, about 7 miles northwest from Putao Township.

The project is expected to be completed in 2018 and upon completion the project, it will generate 14.13 million megawatts and electricity will be distributed to the region across the Kachin State.

Water Supply

With the loan of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), water supply projects had been conducted; utilizing Ks. 6000 million, to the towns and villages of the Myitkyia Towns; utilizing Ks. 282.605 million to Hopin town respectively.

Cooperation is of paramount importance for the people in Kachin State to work together with the local government as regional development tasks will be undertaken only when peace and stability prevailed in the region. The Kachin State Government has been making earnest efforts to promote education, health and road transportation sectors with the aim of nurturing outstanding people and improving socioeconomic status of the local people.

(Translated by Win Ko Ko Aung)



Union Minister U Win Khaing, Kachin State Chief Minister Dr Khat Aung and officials stroll on the Malikha Bridge (Machanbaw) opened in Kachin State in March 2017. **PHOTO: MNA**



Union Minister Dr. Pe Myint looks around the community centre in Myitkyina, Kachin State. **PHOTO: MNA**



Tatmadaw airplane is loaded with rice and other foodstuff to Putao Nanpong Air Base, Myitkyina, on 28 February and 1 March. **PHOTO: STATE IPRD**

Cooperation is of paramount importance for the people in Kachin State to work together with the local government as regional development tasks will be undertaken only when peace and stability prevailed in the region.



Birds soar near a visitor boat in Indawgyi lake in Mohnyin, Kachin State, which is to be preserved. **PHOTO: SALAI MANG NGAI**



Wahshaung reservoir beneficial for local residents in Kachin State. **PHOTO: MNA**

Advancing national welfare via trade

MYANMAR'S foreign trade value in the 2017-2018 fiscal year (FY) reached US\$33.32 billion, recording the highest value in the country's history. The trade value was \$27.72 billion in the 2015-2016 FY and \$29.21 billion in the 2016-2017 FY.

The increase in foreign trade can be credited to improvements in border trade and ocean trade. Of the \$33.32 billion trade, ocean trade amounted to \$24.86 billion and border trade amounted to \$8.46 billion. The Ministry of Commerce and Trade stated the ocean trade increased by \$3427.25 million and border trade by \$686.95 million compared to the previous FY.

The expansion into new markets has improved the ocean trade recently. Also, in the previous years, rice exports to China were legalised by Myanmar, but were still illegal on China's side. However, this year, Yunnan has legally offered to purchase one million tonnes of rice, thus stabilising the border trade to a certain extent.

Myanmar's exports include agricultural products, such as rice, broken rice, corn/maize and rubber, fishery products, industrial finished products and cut-make-pack garments. Its export value reached \$14.67 billion last FY, exceeding the export value of the preceding years. As a result, the trade deficit was brought down from \$5.44 billion in the 2015-2016 FY to \$5.21 billion in the 2016-2017 FY. It was \$3.97 billion in the 2017-2018 FY.

Among the exports, rice exports proved to be the most profitable. An estimated 3.584 million tonnes of rice were exported in the 2017-2018 FY, the largest volume to be sold since Myanmar gained independence. Myanmar exported 3.59 million tonnes of rice between the years 1934 and 1935, and was the largest exporter of rice in the world then.

Myanmar is among the top five rice exporting countries this year. Recently, the base price for buying paddy was fixed at Ks500,000 per hundred tin baskets. This will ensure that more income will flow in for farmers.

Border trade too has been on the rise and looks promising. In the previous years, some 1.8 million tonnes of rice were exported through border trade, while 1.6 million tonnes of rice were exported through ocean trade, combining to generate \$1 billion income in foreign trade for rice alone. Similarly in the previous years, some 70 per cent of the rice was exported through border trade and 30 per cent through ocean trade. The expansion into new markets has improved the ocean trade recently. Also, in the previous years, rice exports to China were legalised by Myanmar, but were still illegal on China's side. However, this year, Yunnan has legally offered to purchase one million tonnes of rice, thus stabilising the border trade to a certain extent. ■

Moeyungyi Wildlife Sanctuary

By Maung Tha (Archaeology))

MYANMAR is home to an extraordinary diversity of wetlands, which include mountainous wetlands; large freshwater marshes and lakes; and coastal mangroves, mudflats and coral reefs. Natural lakes such as Indawgyi and Reed and man-made lakes such as Meikhtila Lake and Moeyungyi Wetlands are popular places for local and foreign visitors.

Among many aquatic bodies of natural formation and artificial creation in Myanmar, Meikhtila Lake is the largest and prominent. Meikhtila Lake is formed both naturally and artificially to supply water to local people. Moeyungyi Wetlands, situated about 70 miles north of Yangon by the Yangon-Mandalay highway in Waw Township, Bago Region, is used for storing water to irrigate farmland.

Like Moeyungyi Wetlands, the other ecosystems support fisheries, provide clean water, store carbon and protect local people from the impacts of floods, tsunamis and landslides.

Moeyungyi Wetland Wildlife Sanctuary, established in 1896, used to be a reservoir which changed naturally into wetland with the extend of 40 square miles.

Moeyungyi Wetland

Moeyungyi Weland was originally constructed as a reservoir by British colonialists in 1878 after they occupied the lower Myanmar to supply water to the Bago Sittaung Canal in order to facilitate the transport of timber by boat. After passing of time, it became a wildlife sanctuary with an area of 40 square miles. It now functions as a source of fresh water for downstream areas where rice cultivation takes place.

Moeyungyi Wildlife Sanctuary and Wetlands Resort have attracted local and international tourists. Myanmar has rich wildlife resources which include over 1,000 species of birds, 130 of which resided in the Moeyungyi Wetland.

Migratory water birds annually visit the Moeyungyi Lake in early November. It is home for 20,844 birds from 44 species of migratory birds and 67 species of resident water birds according to the figures for the end of January.

The Moeyungyi covers almost 104 square kilometers (40 square miles) and was designated as a Ramsar site in 2004. It is a permanent freshwater lake and plays hydrological, biological and ecological role to the resident and migratory water fowls and the local people.



Since 1988 the government has designated the 25,600-acre wide Moeyungyi Wetland a wildlife sanctuary, on which about 17 villages rely on for their daily survival. Plans are underway to perform a survey on migratory birds coming to the wetlands in winter. The survey programme had conducted by the ministry in cooperation with bird observers and experts to collect exactly the numbers and species migrating to the wetland each year.

Promoting the tourism industry is one of the government's proprieties to reduce poverty by implementing community-based tourism services in the country.

Bird Species Richness

Myanmar is blessed with rich and diverse bird fauna. Currently, some 1,117 species have been recorded from the country. These include 8 endemics and 45 species that are globally endangered. There are 55 IBAs (Important Bird Areas). According to the Myanmar Bird and Nature Society, Myanmar is one of the richest and most diverse bird fauna in the world.

Bird Watching

The Moeyungyi becomes one of the favourite places of the bird-watchers who watch species of the forest migratory birds in the region and it is an ideal place for picnickers, naturalists, botanists and bird-watchers. They will have an opportunity to appreciate over 42 water bird species, and 33 shore bird species as well as more than twenty species of aquatic grass and herb (Emergent macrophytes) especially Kaing grasslands, the most suitable breeding ground for water birds.

In addition to watching hundreds of resi-

dent and migratory water birds, they can study wetland environment by boat. Moeyungyi offers sweet little bungalows where visitors can have a very special overnight and then it is really nice to wake up in the middle of the different birds' song in the middle of wet land.

Although the Moeyungyi Wetlands is still a heaven for birds and a wonderful place to visit, there are a number of environmental issues that threaten its long-term such as bird trapping, battery /electro-fishing, the trafficking of turtles and snakes. Cooperation is of vital importance to prevail rules and regulation for the conservation of biodiversity and its environment.

Moeyungyi Ramsa

The Moeyungyi covers almost 104 square kilometers (40 square miles) and was designated as a Ramsar site in 2004. It is a permanent freshwater lake and plays hydrological, biological and ecological role to the resident and migratory water fowls and the local people.

Wetland areas are important for Myanmar and are essential for agriculture in the country and cooperation is needed to conserve the wetland areas effectively not only to reduce climate change, and environmental disasters which are being faced all over the world, but also to increase the development of the country and improve the economic lives of the people. Therefore the importance of conserving wetlands is very important.

Wetland Migratory Birds

Wetlands are important natural resources in Myanmar. They are natural heritages of the country and play a vital role in the economy

of Myanmar. Principle wetlands of Myanmar are mangroves, swamp forests, lakes and marshes. Coastal forests provide many valuable resources such as fishery, forest products and medicinal plants. Moreover, they act as natural barriers against introduction of sea water into the agricultural areas as well as prevent the costal land from erosion.

The Moeyungyi is a well-known place wetlands as well as a popular Bird Areas in Myanmar. The key representative lakes in Myanmar need to be preserved to maintain the biological diversity of wetland ecosystem. Myanmar is considered as integral part in the context of wise use and international importance of wetlands in Asia, and accordingly Myanmar has been participating in the regional wetland collaboration.

Due to population increase and growing demand on fresh water resources there is a heavy pressure on the long term conservation of wetlands in Myanmar.

Collaboration of relevant stakeholders in the wise use of wetland is urgently needed in Myanmar. It needs to look at the livelihood of poor communities living near the wetlands so that their dependence on wetland resource can be made sustainable.

Increased national and international collaboration are needed to manage and conserve the wetland of international importance in Myanmar.

The Moeyungyi is one of the tourist destinations in Bago where only two and half hour drives from Yangon and not very far away from Bago. It is regarded as a paradise for bird watchers and eco tourists. It is located in Bago and Waw townships of Bago division and along Yangon - Bago - Pyinpongmyi highway. ■

Translated by William Ko

Good hand hygiene: A simple, cost-effective way to save lives and transform the quality of health care at all levels

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

GOOD hand hygiene is the cornerstone of safe and effective health care. Just 20-30 seconds of washing with an alcohol-based product, or 30-40 seconds with soap and water, will help anyone in a health care setting stop the spread of infection, control the risk of bacterial mutations (and therefore antimicrobial resistance) and advance the safety and quality of health care for all. Importantly, they will also help make health care more effective, saving billions of dollars in associated costs.

The benefits of good hand hygiene in health care settings – from the primary level up – have long been known. In the mid-19th century hand-washing was identified as a key factor in driving down maternal mortality and reducing the risk of childbirth. More recent studies have confirmed the critical role good hand hygiene plays in preventing the spread of a range of health care-associated pathogens. In particular, good hand hygiene is vital to preventing sepsis, a potentially life-threatening condition that can result from the body's response to infection, and which kills over 30 million patients across the world annually. The bulk of these deaths are in low- and middle-income countries, including those of the WHO South-East Asia Region.

By promoting good hand hygiene in both practice and policy, patients, health workers, administrators and policymakers can dramatically enhance the safety, quality and effectiveness of health care at all levels. In doing so, they can also accelerate progress towards the Sustainable Development Goal target of universal health coverage, at the same time as combating the threat of antimicrobial resistance – one of the Region's Flagship Priorities.

To achieve these outcomes, a series of key initiatives – outlined in WHO's Guidelines on Hand Hygiene in Health Care – should be embraced, implemented and enforced with immediate effect. Core among them is ensuring health workers are aware of and habitually practice the 'five moments for hand hygiene' – a five-step formula that requires health workers to wash their hands as per WHO standards before touching a patient, before clean/aseptic procedures, after bodily fluid exposure, after touching a patient, and after touching patient surroundings.

Facility-based infection prevention and control leaders should meanwhile seize all opportunities to champion hand hygiene. That can – and should – include communicating the critical importance of implementing WHO guidelines on hand hygiene to policymakers, hospital chief executive officers, administrators and health workers. It should also include advocating for the health facility they are responsible for to sign up to WHO's global SAVE LIVES: Clean Your Hands campaign, which all facilities can be a part of.

Health facility leaders and senior management should similarly make hand hygiene a key quality monitoring indicator. Compliance with hand hygiene standards should be a core part of every health facility's infection control regimen, with areas of risk identified and solutions found as a matter of priority. Where compliance is found wanting, clear means of enforcement must be created and implemented.

Importantly, promoting good hand hygiene goes beyond health facilities themselves, requiring buy-in at the highest levels of government. Ministries of health from across the Region, for example, should fully implement the 2017 World Health Assembly resolution on sepsis, which makes improving the prevention, diagnosis and management of sepsis a critical imperative. As the resolution outlines, one of the best ways to tackle the problem is via good hand hygiene and the development of clear, country-wide guidelines on the issue.

Individual citizens, too, have a role to play. Patient advocacy groups, for example, should continue to insist on good hand hygiene as a way to limit the occurrence of health care-associated infection and sepsis, and advocate for the development and implementation of effective hand hygiene-related policies at national and local levels, in addition to the provision of appropriate equipment and consumables and the highest standards of practice within health care facilities.

The impact each one of these interventions will have is substantial. Though health and wellbeing is often discussed and written about in the same breath and on the same pages that detail cutting-edge technologies and research, some perspective is in order. Clean hands remain one of the most powerful ways to prevent health care-associated infections, save lives and transform the quality of health care at all levels. Across the WHO South-East Asia Region, good hand hygiene is a tool that can – and must – be harnessed to decisive effect. ■

Voices of the dignitaries and participants at 17th Congress of Southeast Asian Librarians (CONSAL XVII) in Nay Pyi Taw

By Aung Ye Thwin, Hmwe Kyu, Kyaw Htike Soe
Photo: Ko Ko Soe Nyunt, Kyaw Zin Htike

UNION Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture Thura U Aung Ko

This congress is held every three years. We hosted this conference for the first time. Members of delegates and observers totaling more than 700 are attending this conference. The culture of library is fading away in Myanmar. That's why, our ministry arranged to host this congress after consulting with international experts to promote the role of libraries and to connect the libraries with our next generation.

We have a plan to upgrade the National Library, libraries at universities, in districts, townships and wards and to link them with each other. We find ways to link our libraries with others in ASEAN and Asia-Pacific nations.

U Aung Myint, Director-General of the Department of Historical Research and National Library

The development of libraries is very important because our next generation can learn a lot from libraries. Our government has also an ambition to develop libraries in our country. This congress would benefit us so that we can develop libraries. About 80 papers will be submitted to this congress.

Daw Hnin Yi (Head of Myingyan District Information and Public Relations Department)

These kinds of conferences provide a lot of support for mobile libraries in our regions and villages. There have been increased public interest libraries as people begin to realize knowledge stems from them and reading can change your life for the better. That's why rural libraries are being upgraded.

U Than Aung (Chairman of Myanmar Library Association)

The 17th Congress of Southeast Asian Libraries began in 1970 and so has been held for 48 years, once every three years. The 16th Congress was held in



U Aung Myint.



U Khin Maung Aye.

Bangkok in 2015. There they chose Myanmar as the next host country since Myanmar, Cambodia and Laos have not hosted yet. As a result, we held working meetings in 2016 and 2017 and decided to hold the congress in Nay Pyi Taw. When deciding for a motto we reviewed three suggestions each from the ten member countries, so a total of thirty, and we voted. We also chose ten mottos to supplement our current motto which resulted in 230 papers from ASEAN countries, Japan, Korea, Australia, India, and Bhutan. We managed to review 90 of the papers and the rest are displayed in posters. We focused more on information as we want to point out that libraries are also hubs for news and information.

U Khin Maung Aye (Head librarian of Yaung Kyi Oo Library, Kyipinkan Village, Myingyan Twnshp)

I'm attending with the purpose of sustaining rural libraries. People in rural areas have little knowledge and I believe that reading will lead to individual development and thus the development of the whole village. Our village library was set up by ourselves and is stocked with books to some extent. It is a bit small for reading inside though. These kind of weaknesses are common in rural libraries



Daw Hnin Yi.



Ms. Christine Mackenzie.



U Than Aung.



Ms. Rima Kupryte.

Libraries are not just about books and reading; they are also about events and using modern technology, it depends on your vision and creativity.

Ms. Rima Kupryte

and so I wish for more support for them. I want the libraries to be a place people can read in ease and comfort.

Ms. Christine Mackenzie, President of The International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA)

Public libraries are very important for development. School libraries are also very important. I understand that there is a lot of work being done at the moment and yesterday there was a big conference with 200 school librarians who are working hard to make sure children can learn about literacy and learn to love reading. I think that everybody can always learn from everybody else it doesn't matter who you are.

It is wonderful Myanmar has been able to host this conference so it could be seen how the library profession has been able to engage the government

because it is a really important thing that the government can understand how important librarians are. We look at a lot of libraries around the region for things like preservation of our memories, the heritage collections and how to provide public services to people and programs through public libraries. So there is a very wide range of programs. Over the next two days, we'll talk about what is happening in the libraries in the region. I am sure that all the delegates here from Myanmar can learn a lot from the people.

Ms. Rima Kupryte, Managing Director, Electronic Information for Libraries

My name is Rima Kupryte. I am Managing Director of EIFL, Electronic Information for Libraries. It is an international nonprofit organization which works in developmental areas with libraries in more than 40 developing and transnation-

al countries. And we have a project in Myanmar. We started in 2013 so we have been visiting your country since 2013.

At the beginning, we worked with the two universities –University of Yangon and University of Mandalay— to bring access to electronic books, journals and databases and also to do extensive training not only for librarians, but also faculty members and students for accessing and searching electronic databases, and also basic information literacy courses. We had to start with basic IT courses so we had to set up e-mail address to communicate electronically. Then we expanded to more universities in 2018 and we are now working with additional six universities. So altogether we work with 13 universities here in Myanmar.

I imagine librarians from the country of Myanmar must be very proud to host this event. I attended this kind of conference in the past in other countries. I think one I remember was hosted by Singapore. I don't remember which other countries hosted the conference, maybe in Vietnam. I think when I attended those two conferences I would always find one Myanmar representative. There will always be one librarian and most of the time someone from the National Library of Myanmar. So I imagine how grateful Myanmar librarians are. This event is taking place here and so many of them can attend this event. They can get a great learning opportunity. There are a lot of sessions and a lot of topics. I think Myanmar librarians will be presenting 19 papers. It is an international conference so there is a lot to learn. I think it is a great opportunity. I think librarians should be professionals. Modern libraries should be a great place to learn. Libraries are not just about books and reading; they are also about events and using modern technology, it depends on your vision and creativity.

So as I mentioned, we will be working with only 13 universities and school libraries. I know there are many more university libraries. They should be working together with university administration and the faculties to support the development of the country. ■

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat receives US Ambassador to Myanmar



Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw U T Khun Myat meets with US Ambassador Mr. Scot Alan Marciel in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

PYITHU Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat received US Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Scot Alan Marciel at the Pyithu Hluttaw Building in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the meeting, they exchanged views and discussed matters related to cooperation on the continuing bilateral friendship, the Hluttaw development programme, aid and legislative

affairs. Present at the meeting were Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Tun Aung (a) U Tun Tun Hein and officials from the Pyithu Hluttaw office. —Myanmar News Agency

Meeting held to establish movie studio, skill training school



Union Minister for Information Dr Pe Myint delivers the speech at the meeting to establish a movie studio and a skill training school yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

A MEETING to establish a movie studio and a skill training school was held at the Ministry of Information's office yesterday afternoon.

The meeting was attended by Union Minister for Information Dr. Pe Myint, Deputy Minister U Aung Hla Tun, officials and representatives of the Myanmar Motion Picture Organisation.

At the meeting, directors Zaw Myint Oo and Kyi Min Thein of the Myanmar Motion

Picture Organisation discussed the use of the large studio, virtual studio and 5.1 surround sound studio housed in the Myanmar Radio and Television building in Tatkon Township, Nay Pyi Taw; the offices and parks nearby; the various locations in the vicinity of Nay Pyi Taw, where urban and rural movie settings can be set up; administrative and other additional matters; and convenient locations around Nay Pyi Taw where movies could be shot,

such as the Pyin Oo Lwin and Mount Popa areas.

Next, the union minister said the ministry was coordinating with the relevant departments to use the ministry's studios and related areas in Nay Pyi Taw and Yangon. As it becomes convenient to make movies in Nay Pyi Taw, the aim is to achieve both local and foreign investments, as well as cooperation with experts, said the union minister. —Myanmar News Agency ■

Eleventh Regional Working Group (RWG) meeting of the Lower Mekong Initiative (LMI) & Friends of the Lower Mekong (FLM) convenes

THE Opening Ceremony of the 11th Regional Working Group (RWG) Meeting of the Lower Mekong Initiative (LMI) and Friends of the Lower Mekong (FLM) was held on 3rd May at the M Gallery Hotel, Nay Pyi Taw.

Delegations from LMI/FLM members (the United States, Cambodia, Lao PDR, Thailand, Viet Nam, World Bank, Australia, Asian Development Bank, Republic of Korea and ASEAN Secretariat) as well as delegations from the relevant ministries of Myanmar attended the ceremony. U Kyaw Moe Tun, Myanmar SOM Leader and Director General of the International Organizations and Economic Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, delivered welcome remarks together with other Heads of Delegation.

The meeting was co-chaired by Myanmar and the United States.

The meeting focused on streamlining and restructuring the LMI framework for better

effectiveness and made preparations for the upcoming LMI and FLM Ministerial meeting to be held in later part of July 2018.

The concurrent sessions of six cooperation pillars (Agriculture and Food Security, Connectivity, Education, Energy Security, Environment and Water, and Health) under the LMI cooperation framework were held.

On the sidelines of the Regional Working Group meeting, the Water Data Management meeting, the Public-Private Sector Engagement Dialogue, the One Health - Systems Mapping and Analysis Resource Toolkit (OH-SMART) workshop and the thematic sessions on education and market-oriented agriculture trade were also held.

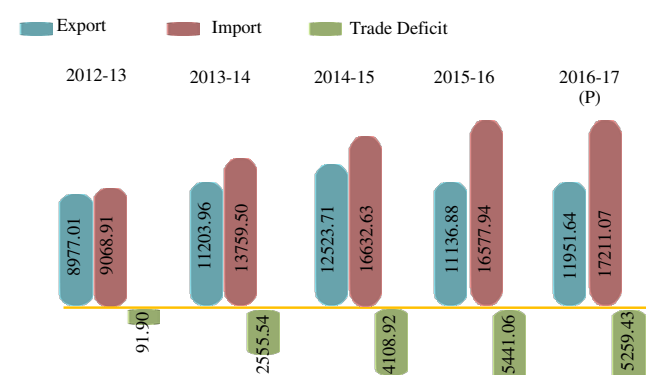
In the evening of 3rd May, a welcome reception was hosted by Myanmar SOM Leader in honour of delegates from the LMI and FLM members at the M Gallery Hotel. —Myanmar News Agency ■



The 11th RWG meeting of the Lower Mekong Initiative & Friends of the Lower Mekong held in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

VALUE OF FOREIGN TRADE IN MYANMAR

(US \$ Millions)



Source : Customs Department
Information Unit : Central Statistical Organization

Luyechuns travel around Ngwesaung, Bagan, Inle

OUTSTANDING students from Ngwesaung, Bagan and Inle visited prominent pagodas and attractions in their respective regions yesterday.

The outstanding students of grade 11 in Ngwesaung Luyechun Recreation Camp first visited the Yuzana prawn breeding centre, and then went to Thazin village B.E.H.S to observe the R.O water purification machine donated by German-based Morkwater Solutions. They then visited the fishing and sun-drying workplace in Thazin Village, where they observed the aquatic creatures kept in glass aquariums and learnt about how natural water resources

are protected from extinction. In the afternoon, the outstanding students visited the hotels in Ngwesaung and attended a concert performed by students of Pathein and Ngwesaung schools. Meanwhile, the grade 10 outstanding students of Inle Kaung Tine Resort observed the sacred remains of Konlong Sayadaw in Pindaya Township. Next, they visited the famous Pindaya Caves and then the Aung Htee business centre, where they observed the process of making handmade umbrellas. The outstanding students also travelled to Ayetharyar industrial zone and visited the Sein Ngwe Mya food process-

ing factory, Aung Kyarphu dry fruits factory, Padamyar Nagar steel melting factory, and the Sein Ngwe Myaysdried corn processing factory. Later, they went to B.E.H.S (1) Taunggyi to stay the night.

The grade 9 outstanding students in Bagan visited the Salay Yokesone Monastery in the morning. They viewed exhibitions, some of which displayed artefacts from the Konebaung Dynasty. The students then paid respects to the Shinpin Saw Kyo-hla Buddha at the monastery. They returned to their Luyechun camp in the evening and held an impromptu speech competition.—Myo Zin Naing ■



Outstanding students visit Salay Yokesone Monastery to observe the mural paintings and architectural designs at the monastery in Bagan yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**



Outstanding students visit Pindaya Caves in Pindaya Township, Shan State yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**



Outstanding students making excursion tour in Ngwesaung. **PHOTO: MNA**

Sixth National Press Awards ceremony held



NLD central committee member central information committee secretary Monywa Aung Shin presents the best editorial award to a winner. **PHOTO: ZAW MIN LATT**

By Ye Win

The sixth National Press Awards ceremony, organised by the Myanmar Journalism Association (MJA), was held at Sky Star Hotel in Tamway Township, Yangon.

At the ceremony, MJA Vice Chairman U Myat Khaing delivered a message of greeting, following which, messages sent by Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat, Myanmar Press Council (MPC) Chairman Pho Thaukkyar (Khit Moe), Myanmar Journalist Network, Myanmar Journalist Union, Burma News International and Myanmar Writers Association were read by officials.

Next, MPC Vice Chairman U Ohn Kyaing delivered a speech of appreciation, while the message sent by National Press Awards Organisation Committee Chairman U Win Nyein on the aim of presenting the awards was read by MJA Chief of Information U Tha Zaw.

Later, the awards were handed out. The best feature award was obtained jointly by “Fishery workers enslaved near Pyapon”, written by Ma Khin Myat Myat Wei in The

Voice Journal, and “The Worse Habitat”, written by Min Zaw Min in Kanbawza Time.

The best editorial award went to the editorial “Getting access to information is a human right”, that appeared in Thanlwin Thwaychin journal. The best cartoon award went to Ngwe Kyae’s cartoon in the Standard Times, the best news photo award went to a photograph of flooding at Tamway junction in Yangon that appeared in the Daily Eleven newspaper, while the best TV news story award went to “Conflict in jade land” by DVB news.

The sixth National Press Awards were presented on World Press Freedom Day, 3 May. No winners were announced for the best news story award and the hero of journalism award. The winners of the sixth National Press Awards were selected from among 17 news stories, 42 features, 29 news photos, 121 news cartoons and 13 editorials by a panel of independent experts.

At the end of the ceremony, wellwishers made donations to MJA and documents of honour were presented to them in return. ■

Rain or thundershowers to continue in Kachin, Shan, Kayah, Kayin and Mon

Rain and thundershowers will continue to lash Kachin, Shan, Kayah, Kayin and Mon states, as the weather is partly cloudy over the Central Bay and partly cloudy over the Andaman Sea and else-

where over the Bay of Bengal, according to the Myanmar Daily weather report issued by the Department of Meteorology and Hydrology yesterday evening.

The low pressure area over

the North Andaman Sea still persists, and it is forecast to reach the Gulf of Mottama and the adjoining delta area during the next 36 hours. It is likely to intensify into a depression. The forecast

for Nay Pyi Taw, Mandalay and neighbouring areas for today is isolated rain or thundershowers, and the degree of certainty is 100 per cent; whereas for Yangon and the neighbouring area, it is iso-

lated rain or thundershowers, and the degree of certainty is 80 per cent. Seas will be moderate in Myanmar’s waters. The wave height will be some 4-7 feet off and along Myanmar coast.—GNLM ■

Senior General receives outgoing British ambassador



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing meeting with outgoing Ambassador Mr. Andrew Patrick. **PHOTO: MNA**

Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing received British Ambassador Mr. Andrew Patrick, who has completed his ambassadorial duties in Myanmar, at Bayintnaung Guest Hall in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

During the meeting,

they cordially discussed cooperation and relations between the armed forces of the two countries, efforts made in the local peace-keeping processes, works conducted by the Tatmadaw and its cooperation in the political transformation of Myanmar.— Myanmar News Agency ■

Firefighters keep watch on area where garbage fire broke out

FIREFIGHTERS are keeping a close watch on the garbage dump in the western outskirts of Yangon, where a fire broke out recently.

“The situation is totally under control. Today, we doused the area which had smoke coming out,” said U Zaw Min Oo of the Hmawbi Township Fire Services Department.

Twelve days after the garbage fire broke out in Hlinethaya Township, firefighters, Tamadaw men and volunteers managed to bring it completely under control on Tuesday evening.

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.

Some 40 patients were admitted to Hlinethaya 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.

A dinner in honour of officers and other ranks of the Tatmadaw, who participated in the fire-fighting efforts, was held at Konmyintthar Hall of the Yangon Command yesterday evening.— Zaw Gyi ■

Construction of a modern Mingalar Market in 30 months

By Maung Sein Lwin
(Myanma Alinn)

The Mingalar Market in the central business area of Mingala Taungnyunt Township in Yangon that was burnt down by a fire will be reconstructed in 30 months.

The modern Mingalar Market will be constructed by Hsan Myat Tun Construction Company under the supervision of the Yangon Region government and the Yangon City Development Committee. The market is expected to be completed in two-and-a-half years. A stake driving ceremony was held at the site of the old Mingalar Market yesterday morning.

“People depend on the Mingalar Market. Goods from this market are distributed to wards



The scale model of new Mingalar Market. **PHOTO: MIN**

and villages in various townships. Due to various reasons, a fire burnt down the market. Losses were incurred not only by shop owners but also by the government. From the (temporary) relocation of burnt down shops to the reconstruction programme of the market, many obstacles, difficulties and differences were encountered. However,

the market will be a modern one, with the scope to conduct much trade and sales. A quality controller will start checking the quality, as soon as the construction starts. It will be managed step by step. The shops will be allocated according to the wishes of the market people and their coordination. At the moment, market places are managed by develop-

ment committee personnel. Later on, they will be systematically managed by a service company, as in international markets. The Mingalar Market will be converted into a modern model market,” said Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein at the stake driving ceremony.

The market will have some 17 floors, with the two bottom floors to be used as a parking lot. The five floors above the parking lot will be constructed as a market place and will be handed back to the Yangon City Development Committee.

Fire broke out at the old market in May 2010 and on 9 January 2016. The second fire had rendered the structure unsuitable for further use. ■

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V THANLWIN STAR VOY. NO. (030 N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V THANLWIN STAR VOY. NO. (030 N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 4-5-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P 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 CONTINENTAL
SHIPPING LINE PTE LTD**

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V BESIKTAS-M VOY. NO. (1102)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V BESIKTAS-M VOY. NO. (1102) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 4-5-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MITT where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S CA SHIPPING PTE LTD.**

Phone No: 2301928

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V SHAHR E KORD VOY. NO. ()

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V SHAHR E KORD VOY. NO. () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 4-5-2018 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 LAND & SEA LOGISTICS**

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V UNI AMPLE VOY. NO. ()

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V UNI AMPLE VOY. NO. () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 4-5-2018 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 EVERGREEN SHIPPING
LINES**

Phone No: 2301185



Premiere Of Screen Gems' "The Wedding Ringer" - Arrivals. PHOTO: AFP

‘Jackass’ prankster Johnny Knoxville on his latest eye-popping role

Slapstick superstar Johnny Knoxville was relaxing in his hotel after his latest on-set mishap when some dried blood in his nostril caused him to blow hard and his eyeball popped out. Luckily, he hadn't been eating hot and sour soup or taking a bubble bath, and he was able to reach under, scoop it up and push it back into the socket. It was the latest in a litany of injuries that would make the blood drain from the toughest stunt professional's face -- but it was far from the most stomach-churning. "I have, like, 15 doctors for different parts of my body and they all have a special talk with me. I don't know what to tell

'em," Knoxville shrugs in an interview with AFP. The star — who rose to fame mesmerizing fans with his shocking stunts in MTV's 2000-2002 reality prank series "Jackass" — was at Las Vegas CinemaCon to promote his new movie "Action Point." He recalls a day's shooting for the comedy about a disastrous theme park when he landed flat on his face after flying 20 feet (six meters) through the air off a slide. Knoxville, whose 31 movies include "Men in Black II," "The Dukes of Hazzard" and four releases in the "Jackass" canon, was rushed to the emergency room with a bad case of concussion and a fractured eye socket. "I go back to the hotel room and I blow my nose because I had blood there. My left eyeball just pops out of my head. It's like a cartoon. I was like, 'Oh no!' I pushed it back in and I called the producer," he said. "I was like, 'You've got to come get me. My left eyeball just popped out of my head.' He's like, 'Ah ha ha ha ha ha!' I'm like 'I'm serious.' He goes, 'I'll be right there.'" **'Complete anarchy'** The actor, born Philip John Clapp Jr, came up with the idea for "Jackass" 20 years ago, and it quickly became a hit among the skating crowd, making

stars of Knoxville, Ehren "Danger Ehren" McGehehey and Stephen "Steve-O" Glover. Cast members struggled with alcoholism, drug addiction and depression, however. And the series was rocked by the 2011 death of Ryan Dunn in a drunk driving accident. Knoxville, devastated by the loss of his friend, threw himself back into work, writing and appearing in "Movie 43," "Jackass Presents: Bad Grandpa" and "Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles." In "Action Point," due out on June 1 in the US, Knoxville plays a daredevil who designs and operates his own theme park with his friends.—AFP ■

Bollywood greats Bachchan, Kapoor reunite after 27 years

BOLLYWOOD— Two of Bollywood's greatest stars, Amitabh Bachchan and Rishi Kapoor, will share a screen together for the first time in almost three decades when comedy "102 Not Out" is released Friday. The movie, directed by Umesh Shukla, sees Bachchan play a 102-year-old who dreams of becoming the world's longest-living man by making it to 118. But to do so, he decides he has to put his downbeat 75-year-old son, played by Kapoor (who is 65 in reality), into an old people's home. The two actors -- who

were the stars of a string of hits throughout the 1970s and '80s -- last paired up for a film in 1991. "Getting together after a gap of 27 years with Rishi ji, was just like getting off a bicycle and getting on it again," Bachchan, 75, told the Press Trust of India news agency this week. The cinema icon affectionately known as "Big B" shot to stardom in the early 1970s on the back of powerful roles in hits "Zanjeer" and "Sholay". He was dubbed India's "angry young man" for portraying violent heroes fighting an unjust system and

injecting a new aggressive element into Bollywood movies, which had previously consisted of polite romances. Kapoor, part of India's legendary Kapoor acting family, made a name for himself as a romantic hero following his breakthrough role in the 1973 classic "Bobby". Bachchan and Kapoor's first film together was the 1976 romantic drama "Kabhi Kabhie" ("Sometimes"). "Amar Akbar Anthony" followed in 1977, "Naseeb" in 1981, "Coolie" in 1983 and "Ajooba" ("Prodigy") in 1991. —AFP ■

Live Nation buys key stake in iconic Rock in Rio festival

LOS ANGELES— Entertainment giant Live Nation said Wednesday it will acquire a controlling stake in the iconic Rock in Rio festival, the latest consolidation in the fast-growing world of live music. The Los Angeles-based company said it will take a majority stake in Rock in Rio in 2019, although a representative for the festival in Brazil said that the arrangement would be a 50-50 split. The festival's Brazilian founder, Roberto Medina, will maintain a key role in organizing the festival, Live Nation said. "The partnership will generate a number of synergies that will enable the realization of even greater ambitions for Rock in Rio," Medina said in a statement. Rock in Rio has its roots in the fall of Brazil's military dictatorship in 1985 when a total of nearly 1.4 million people came out for 10 days of music that included Queen, Rod Stewart, AC/DC and Yes. With a seventh edition taking place last year, Rock



Music festivals have become a rite of passage for many young people, such as these fans at the Rock in Rio performance by Brazilian band Sepultura in September 2017. PHOTO: AFP

in Rio has become South America's best-known music festival. It has also expanded overseas with editions in Lisbon, Madrid and, in 2015, a first US version in Las Vegas that starred some of the top names in pop music including Taylor Swift and Bruno Mars. Live Nation is the largest live entertainment company, promoting tours and handling sales through Ticketmaster. Like its rivals, it has increasingly set its sights on festivals and has acquired major events such as Lollapalooza, Bonnaroo and Austin City Limits in the United States and the Leeds and Reading festivals in England. Festivals have grown sharply in number, attendance and profitability since the turn of the century, becoming a rite of passage for many young people in the Western world. With their growth, festivals have also turned into one of the music industry's major money generators, and companies such as Live Nation look set to maximize efficiency by running multiple events. — AFP ■

INVITATION FOR PRICE QUOTATIONS

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar has received financing from the International Development Association (IDA) towards the cost of the National Electrification Project (NEP). The IDA No of the financing agreement is No-5727MM. The Department of Rural Development (DRD) of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation, in its role as implementing agency of the NEP, intends to apply a portion of the proceeds of this credit towards eligible payments under the Contracts for which this invitation for Quotation is issued.

DRD now invites eligible suppliers to express their interest in supplying the following items:

Item No	Reference No	Description	Quantity	Units
1	C2-G.18	Office Equipment for Union Level (Re-Advertise)	14	Nos
2	C2-G.27	IEC Material	1500	Nos

Eligible suppliers having expressed interest will receive a REQUEST FOR QUOTATION by e-mail. Sealed Quotations will be submitted to the address below at the latest at the deadline, after which no Quotations will be accepted. Suppliers will be selected following the Shopping Method as per the "Guidelines for Procurement of Goods, Works and non-Consulting Services under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits & Grants by World Bank Borrowers" dated January 2011 (revised July 2014).

Please submit: Sealed Quotations to: U Thein Lwin, Deputy Director General, Department of Rural Development, Office No.(14), Nay Pyi Taw. For detailed information please contact U Kyaw Swa Aung, Director, Procurement and Logistic Section, Mobile phone 0943434333 or office phone 0673409529/Email: neppmo.drd@gmail.com. Please indicate your e-mail address as only electronic copies of the RFQ will be send.

Tokyo digital art museum looks to 'expand the beautiful'

TOKYO — The waterfall appears to run down the wall of a room and across the floor, but the flow is an illusion — a digital exhibit at a new interactive museum in Tokyo.

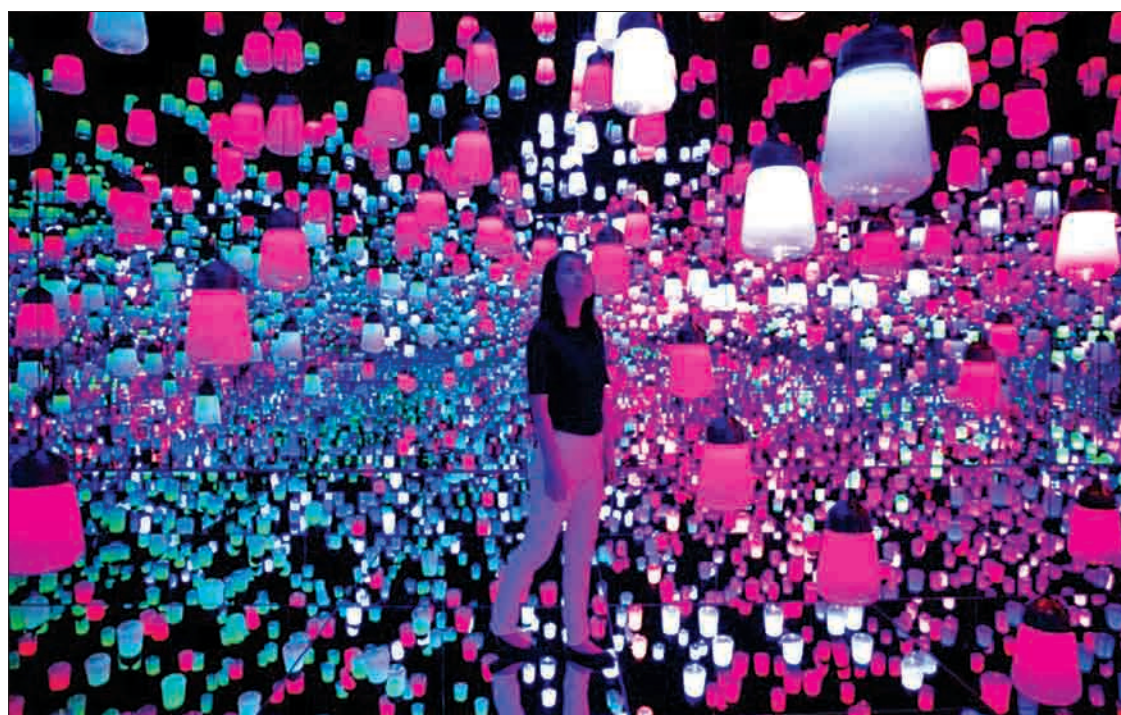
The flower-filled waterfall is the work of Japanese collective teamLab, known internationally for their innovative "digital art" that combines projections, sound and carefully designed spaces to create other-worldly, immersive experiences.

After exhibitions around the world, they are opening this summer a museum dedicated entirely to their unique brand of artwork.

The space is being billed as a first, a digital museum with artwork that envelopes and interacts with visitors.

One space features a bucolic rice field, another is filled with seemingly endless hanging lamps that illuminate as the visitor nears, the light moving from one lamp to another around the room. Elsewhere, a waterfall filled with flowers appears to flow over a hill or waves crash along the walls, throwing spray towards the ceiling. The exhibits are designed to flow into one another and interact with each other and the viewer. Some follow visitors or react in different ways when they are touched.

"We have created a borderless world made up of pieces



A member of the teamLab collective walks through a digital installation room in Tokyo featuring hanging lamps that light up as the visitor nears. **PHOTO: AFP**

of artwork that move by themselves, communicate with each other and mix perfectly with others," teamLab co-founder Toshiyuki Inoko, 41, told AFP. "I would like this space to become a place where we can remember that borders do not exist in our world," he said. Some exhibits also encourage visitor participation — in one, viewers are "propelled into space" by bouncing on a trampoline in the midst of an intergalactic projection, in another they can dance in unison with performers who appear as translucent silhouettes. Inoko,

who has a background in physics, founded teamLab in 2001 with four fellow Tokyo University students, but the collective didn't make its artistic debut until 2011, with a show at a gallery in Taipei. Three years later, New York's Pace Gallery began promoting their work, and in 2015, they organised their first exhibition in Japan, drawing nearly 500,000 visitors over 130 days. Since then, they have shown across the world, with exhibitions in London, Silicon Valley, China and elsewhere and the collective has grown to some 500 members.

'Liberating art'

They describe themselves as "ultratechnologists", who combine expertise in speciality fields, including engineering, robotics and architecture, with hands-on manual labour to produce art. While teamLab works are now in several permanent collections, the new museum will be the first permanent space completely devoted to the collective's pieces.

The cost of the project has not been disclosed, but a team member told AFP that each piece of artwork can cost around \$1-2 million.

The collective will have some 50 exhibits in the 10,000-square-metre (more than 100,000 square-foot) space in the bayside Odaiba area of Tokyo.

They have partnered with property management company Mori Building, and secured support from Japanese companies ranging from Panasonic to Epson. Dubbed the "Mori Building Digital Art Museum: teamLab Borderless," the facility will open its doors on 21 June, charging 3,200 yen a ticket (\$29).

Maintaining the artwork requires a bank of 520 computers and 470 projectors, but the real key is the set of sophisticated algorithms that generates images in real time. The artworks are "neither pre-recorded animations nor images on loop," says teamLab. The collective say they want to use digital technology to "expand the beautiful".

"Unlike a physical painting on a canvas, the non-material digital technology can liberate art," they say in an explanation of their work.

"Because of its ability to transform itself freely, it can transcend boundaries."

"The fact that the universe transforms with the presence of the other is very important for us," Inoko told AFP.

"I am as much a part of the artwork as the other visitors," he said.—AFP ■

Prince Harry, Meghan pick carriage for wedding procession

LONDON — Britain's Prince Harry and Meghan Markle will ride in an open-top horse-drawn carriage through the streets of Windsor after their wedding later this month, Kensington Palace announced on Wednesday. The pair have chosen the Ascot Landau carriage for their procession through the town on 19 May, their official London residence said in a statement.

"Prince Harry and Ms. Markle are very much looking forward to this short journey which they hope will allow them to express their gratitude for everyone who has gathered to-



Prince Harry and Meghan Markle have chosen to ride in the Ascot Landau carriage on their wedding day. **PHOTO: AFP**

gether in Windsor to enjoy the atmosphere of this special day," the statement said. The carriage will be drawn by four Windsor Grey horses — Milford Haven, Storm, Plymouth and Tyrone — and accompanied by a travelling escort of the Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment as it departs St George's Chapel before touring a circuit of the town. The carriage is one of five Ascot Landaus

in the palace collection, which are used by Queen Elizabeth II for her procession at the Royal Ascot horse race.

Two featured in the 2011 wedding procession of Prince William and Catherine Middleton, also carrying best man Prince Harry, the maid of honour, bridesmaids and pageboys from Westminster Abbey to Buckingham Palace.—AFP ■

Turkish cartoonist wins press freedom prize

GENEVA — Turkish cartoonist Musa Kart, who has been convicted of helping "terrorist" organisations and sentenced to nearly four years in prison, was awarded a top prize on Thursday by the organisation Cartooning for Peace. The Swiss group hands out the honour, known as its International Editorial Cartoons Prize, every two years.

"The jury has chosen Musa Kart, iconic cartoonist of the Istanbul newspaper Cumhuriyet, for his talent and courage in the defence of freedom of expression," a statement from the group said. Cumhuriyet — which means simply "Republic" — was set up in 1924 after the Turkish republic was founded in 1923.

It has been fiercely critical of President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and has run front-page stories

that have angered the Turkish head of state. A Turkish court last month handed out multiple sentences to 13 journalists and executives from the paper for "aiding and abetting terror organisations", but the group remains free pending appeal. Kart was sentenced to three years and nine months in prison. The prize was judged by an official from Geneva's government, the head of Human Rights Watch Kenneth Roth, along with cartoonists from leading publications including Le Monde, the New York Times and The New Yorker. "Musa Kart is both a witness and especially a victim of the deterioration of freedom of expression in Turkey," a Le Monde cartoonist known as Plantu said a statement. Kart has denied the allegations against him.—AFP ■

Liverpool reach Champions League final after nervy night in Rome

ROME — Liverpool held off a spirited Roma fightback to reach the Champions League final 7-6 on aggregate despite losing a hectic semi-final second leg in Rome on Wednesday.

Jürgen Klopp's side will play defending champions Real Madrid in Kiev on May 26 after qualifying for their eighth European Cup final and first since 2007. The 4-2 defeat on the night in the Italian capital tested Liverpool's nerves but they rarely looked in danger of losing the tie.

First-half goals from Sadio Mané and Georginio Wijnaldum put Liverpool in control as Roma conceded their first goals in the Stadio Olimpico during this European campaign.

Despite Radja Nainggolan bagging two goals for Roma in the final eight minutes — the second from the penalty spot — there was to be no second miracle comeback for the Italians after last month's 3-0 win over Barcelona in Rome. It was another bitter defeat for Roma who lost the 1984 European Cup final to Liverpool on penalties in the same stadium.

"It's the first time we weren't really as good as we can be. We needed luck and that is what we got," said Klopp.

"7-6 on aggregate sounds crazy because it is crazy. We came in as qualifiers and now we're in the final and will go to Kiev. "Roma are strong, we had them where we wanted, as they were wild, ran the risks and we went 2-1 up. All good.

"But then we didn't do enough on the counter, we didn't use the space that they gave us and we lost the game after going 1-0 up already."

Klopp said he was confi-



Liverpool's German manager Jürgen Klopp (C) celebrates with Liverpool's Brazilian midfielder Roberto Firmino (L) and ings. PHOTO: AFP

dent Liverpool could threaten 12-time winners Madrid in the final.

"We have to play much better than tonight, the good news is we can play much better than tonight," he said.

Roma threatened early with Alessandro Florenzi sending the ball wide in the opening minutes but the hosts paid for woeful defending, giving Klopp's side space to gain an early advantage.

Senegalese forward Mané got Liverpool off to a dream start after just nine minutes to the horror of the home fans.

A Nainggolan howler in midfield gave Roberto Firmino the opportunity to barge through, delivering the ball to an unmarked Mané who left Roma 'keeper Alisson with no chance.

But six minutes later Roma

got the equaliser when Liverpool defender Dejan Lovren's attempt to clear a Stephan El Shaarawy header towards Dzeko across goal bounced off James Milner's head, flying past Loris Karius and into the Liverpool goal.

Liverpool's ticket to the final in Kiev looked well and truly booked after 25 minutes when Wijnaldum nodded in. Alisson denied Mané but from the resulting corner Dzeko's attempt to clear fell to the waiting Dutchman and he made no mistake.—AFP ■

Liverpool's Dutch midfielder Georginio Wijnaldum celebrates after scoring a goal during the UEFA Champions League semi-final second leg on 2 May 2018. PHOTO: AFP

Antoine Hey meets MFF for better future of Myanmar football

Antoine Hey, a German football coach and former professional player who played in the Bundesliga, met with officials from Myanmar Football Federation (MFF) yesterday at the MFF Headquarters.

CEO U Bhone Naing Zaw and General Secretary U Ko Ko Thein participated in the discussion according to the MFF. During the discussion they talked over the development of Myanmar National Football team along with the team's aim, direction and the future plan. They also focused on the potential contract with Antonie Hey for the Head Coach position or assistant coach position for the Myanmar national football team.

Antonie Hey was appointed manager of the Rwanda national team in March 2017. Hey played mainly for Fortuna Düsseldorf and Schalke in Germany, as well as Tennis Borussia Berlin, Fortuna Köln, VfL Osnabrück, Anorthosis Famagusta and VfR Neumünster. Hey began his management career in Germany with VfR Neumünster before moving to Africa to manage Lesotho.

In February 2017 he was one of a number of managers on the shortlist for the vacant Rwanda national team manager role. He was appointed manager of the Rwanda national team in March 2017. He asked to quit in January 2018. His father, Jonny Hey, was also a professional footballer, playing for MSV Duisburg, Arminia Bielefeld, Grasshoppers Zürich and Fortuna Köln between 1972 and 1980.—Lynn Thit (Tgi) ■

University Football Tournament 2018 launched in Yangon

UNDER the supervision of Department of Higher Education, with the support of Myanmar Football Federation and Myanmar National League, an opening ceremony of MPT University Football Tournament 2018

was held at Padonmar Football Stadium in Yangon yesterday morning.

Officials from respective universities in Yangon, Myanmar National League, football coaches, university Lecturers

and university students and their audiences attended the meeting.

The opening ceremony was followed by the match against the university girl's football match.

The girl's match was played between University of Foreign Languages (Yangon) and University of Yangon.

All the girls from both teams played energetically from the start with earning tremendous

opportunities.

The University of Foreign Languages (Yangon) team beat University of Yangon team by a single goal scored by Honey Nway Oo at 39-minute mark.—Lynn Thit (Tgi) ■