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Saturday, 5 May 2018



President U Win Myint poses for photo with Chairman U Nyan Win and members of the Union Legal Supporting Group in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

President U Win Myint meets Union Legal Supporting Group

PRESIDENT U Win Myint met Union Legal Supporting Group Chairman U Nyan Win at the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

At the meeting, the President mentioned the importance of im-

plementing the rule of law; maintaining the uprightness of the judiciary sector; citizens obtaining equality, justice and freedom according to the law; providing legal support to law breakers, victims and witnesses; informing and

educating the public of their individual and basic rights under the existing laws; reducing unnecessary detention at police detention centres and prisons, and eliminating illegal detentions.

SEE PAGE-2

Day temperature to increase slightly in Nay Pyi Taw, Mandalay

Day temperatures will increase slightly in the Nay Pyi Taw, Lower Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway and Bago regions in the next two days, as it is slightly cloudy over the Andaman Sea and the North Bay, and partly cloudy elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal, according to the Myan-

mar Daily weather report issued by the Department of Meteorology and Hydrology yesterday.

The forecast for Nay Pyi Taw, Mandalay, Yangon and the neighbouring areas for today is isolated rain or thundershowers. The degree of certainty is 80 per cent.—GNLM ■



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi chairs the meeting of the Central Committee for Implementation of Peace, Stability and Development in Rakhine State. **PHOTO: MNA**

More efforts needed for peace, stability, development in Rakhine

THE work coordination meeting (2/2018) of the Central Committee for Implementation of Peace, Stability and Development in Rakhine State was held at the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi who chaired the central committee addressed the meeting.

In her address at the meeting, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi said the central committee had been formed since the new government took over with the aim of conducting the works systematically. Due to the developing situation, the work of the central committee was expanded,

but the continuous implementation of the work processes for peace, stability and development of Rakhine State was progressing. The reception and resettlement of returnees will be conducted based on the Myanmar-Bangladesh bilateral agreements. At the same time, works related to security, health, education and livelihood must be implemented. The central committee is required to reassess, along with the relevant ministries, the works that are the outcome of the situation, the set priorities and conduct them accordingly. Long term stability, peace and development of Rakhine State is needed to avoid further conflict, and more efforts are required

in the work processes of the central committee. Emphasis must be on quality assurance inspection of the redevelopment and reconstruction works, said the State Counsellor in her opening address.

Next, the Central Committee Secretary and Deputy Minister Maj-Gen Than Htut explained the status of implementing the decisions of the past meeting and the future works.

This was followed by Central Committee Vice Chairman and Rakhine State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu explaining the current situation in Rakhine State and the work conducted to accept returnees.

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President U Win Myint meets Union Auditor General, state/region auditors

PRESIDENT U Win Myint met Union Auditor General U Maw Than and state/region auditors general at the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

At the meeting, the President urged the Union Auditor General's Office to prevent wastage of public funds, ensuring the Union Budget sanctioned by the government reaches the respective entities and the entities utilize them effectively and fully, and to check and ensure the implementation of the set targets.

Union level organizations, ministries and departmental organizations must be audited to ensure the following of the financial regulations and whether the projects and works actually benefit the people.

There should be an audit on whether there are systematic control, maintenance and usage of state, public and cooperative owned assets as well as audit on proper records kept of own-



President U Win Myint meets with Union Auditor-General and state/region auditors general in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday . **PHOTO: MNA**

erless, detained and discarded assets, and its maintenance and usage said the President.

An audit should be conducted on government departments whether an audit group is formed in it and orders, instructions and procedures are followed. If state funds are wasted or misappropriated, action should be taken regardless of

who the perpetrator may be, said the President in his guidelines.

Present at the meeting were President's Office Deputy Minister U Min Thu, Union Auditor General U Maw Than, Myanmar Institute of Certified Public Accountants Chairman U Wan Tin, Kachin State Auditor General U Tin Hlaing, Kayah State Auditor

General U Aung Maung, Kayin State Auditor General U Saw Hla Tun, Chin State Auditor U Larl Tin Mann (aka) U David Larl Tin Maung, Sagaing Region Auditor General U Soe Lwin, Taninthayi Region Auditor General U Thein Tun, Bago Region Auditor General Daw Than Win, Magway Region Auditor General U Hla Than, Mandalay Region Audi-

tor General Daw Khin Aye Swe, Mon State Auditor General Daw Thein Thein Oo, Rakhine State Auditor General Daw Yin Hla, Yangon Region Auditor General Daw Khin Than Hla, Shan State Auditor General Daw Nan Wo Hein and Ayeyawady Region Auditor General Daw San San Khaing.—Myanmar News Agency ■



President U Win Myint meeting with outgoing British Ambassador Mr. Andrew Patrick. **PHOTO: MNA**

President U Win Myint receives outgoing British Ambassador

PRESIDENT U Win Myint received British Ambassador Mr. Andrew Patrick, who has completed his ambassadorial duties in Myanmar, at the Presidential Palace yesterday morning.

At the meeting, they discussed matters related to supporting and assisting in

the internal peace process of Myanmar and increasing bilateral friendship and cooperation.

Also present at the meeting were President's Office Deputy Minister U Min Thu and other officials. — Myanmar News Agency ■

President U Win Myint meets Union Legal Supporting Group

FROM PAGE-1

The Union Legal Supporting Group is the main implementing organization for the rule of law and maintenance of the uprightness of the judiciary sector.

Coordination with the state/region governments must be ensured to form state/region level legal supporting groups. Such

groups must be formed with well-intentioned people, who can do their jobs correctly. In conducting their works, the processes and plans must be drawn up systematically, said the president in the guideline provided to the group.

Next, Group Chairman U Nyan Win and the members ex-

plained about the work requirements.

Present at the meeting were President's Office Deputy Minister U Min Thu, Union Legal Supporting Group members Union Judicial Supervisory Office Director Daw Thi Mar Nwe, Union Attorney-General's Office's Department of Prosecution Di-

rector U Aung Shan, Ministry of Home Affairs Bureau of Special Investigation Director U Thein Htay, Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement's Social Welfare Department Director Daw Le Yin Win, Ministry of Education's Yangon University Law Department (Head of Department) Professor Dr Khin Mar

Yi, Advocate U Kyaw Hoe, Advocate U Kyaw Htay, Ministry of Planning and Finance's Foreign Economic Relations Department Director U Thet Tin Lin, Advocate U Kyaw Soe Bo, Advocate U Maung Maung Hla Thaung, Advocate Daw Nan Kham Ohn and Secretary Advocate U Khin Zaw.—MNA ■

“ Our country is still in poverty with necessities in every sector; which is why we need to carry on our struggle and work hard in all sectors. In the international arena, we are facing pressure, criticisms and misunderstandings. The challenges and difficulties our country and our people are facing today are many. Although every issue cannot be solved easily, we will have to make utmost efforts to solve these issues according to each priority sector.

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

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

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

More efforts needed for peace, stability, development in Rakhine

FROM PAGE-1

Chairman of the work committee for cooperation with international organizations Union Minister U Kyaw Tint Swe explained the international relations status with regards to the events in Rakhine State. Union Minister for Border Affairs Lt-Gen Ye Aung explained the cases transferred to the central committee by the Ministry of State Counsellor's Office and the Ministry of the Office of the Union Government.

Later, Immigration and National Verification Work Committee Chairman U Thein Swe explained the immigration and national verification work matters, while Resettlement in the Region and Socio-economic Development Work Committee Chairman Dr. Win Myat Aye explained the committee's and UEHRD's works.

The attendees at the meeting then discussed and suggested works to be conducted for the implementa-

tion of peace, stability and development in Rakhine State and other general matters.

The meeting ended after State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi delivered a concluding speech.

Also present at the meeting were Central Committee Deputy Chairmen Union Minister for Border Affairs Lt-Gen Ye Aung and Rakhine State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu, and Central Committee members, including Union Minister for Defence Lt-Gen Sein Win, Union Minister for Office of the State Counsellor U Kyaw Tint Swe, Union Minister for Information Dr. Pe Myint, Union Minister for the Office of the Union Government U Thaung Tun, Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture Thura U Aung Ko, Union Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation Dr. Aung Thu, Union Minister for Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation U Ohn Win, Union Minister for Electricity

and Energy U Win Khaing, Union Minister for Labour, Immigration and Population U Thein Swe, Union Minister for Industry U Khin Maung Cho, Union Minister for Commerce Dr. Than Myint, Union Minister for Education Dr. Myo Thein Gyi, Union Minister for Health and Sports Dr. Myint Htwe, Union Minister for Construction U Han Zaw, Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr. Win Myat Aye, Union Minister for Ethnic Affairs Nai That Lwin, Union Minister for International Cooperation U Kyaw Tin, Union Attorney-General U Tun Tun Oo, Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Maj-Gen Aung Soe, Deputy Minister for Border Affairs Maj-Gen Than Htut, Deputy Minister for the State Counsellor's Office U Khin Maung Tin, Deputy Minister for Transport and Communications U Tha Oo, and Deputy Minister for Planning and Finance U Maung Maung Win.—MNA ■



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi welcomes Mr. Zahairi bin Baharim, Ambassador of Malaysia, in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

State Counsellor receives Malaysian Ambassador

DAW Aung San Suu Kyi, State Counsellor and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, received Mr. Zahairi bin Baharim, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Malaysia, at

the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the meeting, they discussed on the matters relating to bilateral relations and cooperation between the two countries.—MNA ■



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edited.

Tourists visit Myanmar via Tachilek border gate

INTERNATIONAL tourists are visiting Myanmar through cross-border gateways to observe the country's natural landscapes, sceneries, tourist attractions and its various traditions, customs and lifestyles.

A culture-based tourism package is now available for tourists to observe the traditions and culture of the ethnic people.

Some 15,522 visitors entered Myanmar via the Tachileik border gate on a day's return trip from 27 April to 3 May 2018. Further, some 426 tourists, including from Thailand and third-world countries, visited Mongphyat and Kengtung. Some 111 tourists visited the country with a visa from 27 April to 3 May 2018.

Tourists who travelled on a day's return trip visited Tarlot market, Bayintnaung Statue, Maha Myatmuni Pagoda, Wamkaung market, Padaung Village, Shwedagon Pagoda,



Visitors seen in Tachilek. PHOTO GNLM

the national landmark garden, Arrkhar market, Chinese monastery and Kyauk Ton market in Tachilek.

Tourists who stayed overnight visited Buddha Footprint

Pagoda, Maha Myatmuni Pagoda in Kengtung, Soon Taung Pagoda, and other famous pagodas and places in Mongphyat.

Among the tourists who entered via the Tachilek border gate

were 72,122 day trip visitors, and 1,130 who travelled onward to Mongphyat and Kengtung from 1 April to 3 May 2018. Some 775 tourists travelled by air to Tachilek.—GNLM■

Authorities grant permits to 1,648 hotels

SOME 1,648 hotels, with room capacities of 66,065, were given permits to operate in Yangon, Mandalay, Nay Pyi Taw, Bagan/Nyaung U, Taunggyi and Inle area, as of the end of April 2018, according to the hotels and tourism ministry.

The Ministry of Hotels and Tourism issued some 4,522 tour guide licences, 3,449 regional tour guide licences and 2,576 transport licences by December 2017. Some 2,724 travel agencies were granted permits by the ministry.

Myanmar's famous tourist attractions are Mandalay, Yangon, Bagan, Inle, Kayin State and Mon State, Myeik Archaeology, Chin Hills and beaches such as Chaungtha, Ngwesaung and Ngapali.

Additionally, tourists like to explore cultural zones, such as the Bagan-Nyaung U cultural zone, Ava cultural site and Pyin Oo Lwin.

The ministry has created eco-tourism sites and community-based tourism (CBT) sites, such as Thandaunggyi in

Kayin State, Pa-O community involved tourism in Shan State, Kayah cultural community tour, CBT with dolphins along Ayeyawady River, Phoe Kyar Elephant Camp, Popa Mountain National Park, Indawgyi Wildlife Sanctuary and other wildlife sanctuaries.

Tourists visit Myanmar through the three international airports, as well as border checkpoints on bike or in vehicles. Tourists also flock to Myanmar in luxury cruise liners. – Ko Htet■

Five more healthcare service centres to be opened in Hlinethaya

THE Yangon Region Public Health Department plans to open five more healthcare service centres in Hlinethaya Township, according to a report in Myawady Daily.

The department plans to expand its health coverage in the township, which is the most populated area in Yangon due to internal migration.

"We are planning to open healthcare service centres as soon as possible to ensure sufficient coverage," said Dr. Tun Myint, deputy director-general of the Yangon Region Public

Health Department.

Hlinethaya Township has a 200-bed hospital, the Shwelinpan station hospital, a central healthcare centre and two sub-healthcare centres with more than 3,000 health staff, including doctors and nurses. The population of the township is estimated to be more than 900,000, though official figures suggest the population is only above 600,000.

"It is important to open more health centres. This will benefit more people," said U Zaw Oo, administrator of No. 20

Ward in Hlinethaya Township.

The public health department has already submitted a proposal to the government and is awaiting the government's approval to open new healthcare centres. Currently, the township has only 19 midwives.

The new healthcare centres will bring in more doctors, nurses and health staff. This will benefit the local people." Land acquisition is a major challenge in opening healthcare facilities in the township," said Dr Tun Myint.—GNLM■

New bridge to ease traffic jams along Gotetwin Road

A new suspension bridge will be constructed on the Gotetwin section of the Muse-Mandalay Union Highway this year, according to a report in Myawady Daily on Thursday.

The Muse-Mandalay Union Highway is the busiest route for border trade between China and Myanmar. Some 3,000 cargo trucks use the route daily to conduct border trade, valued at nearly US\$16 million per day. Traffic jams are frequent on the road, triggering delays in the transport of commodities to China.

To reduce traffic congestion along Gotetwin Road, the Ministry of Construction will implement its suspension bridge construction project, said a spokesperson for the ministry.

The new bridge will help ease the traffic congestion along the road and reduce travel time by some 45 minutes.

Border merchants said they frequently suffered losses while exporting perishable goods, such as marine products, owing to the traffic congestion.—GNLM■

YSX stock trading worth Ks875 million in April

THE five listed companies on the Yangon Stock Exchange (YSX) traded some 153,166 shares, valued at Ks875 million, last month.

The volume declined slightly compared with the same period last year, according to historical data provided by YSX online.

Some 153,381 shares worth Ks1.21 billion were traded in April 2017. The trading values remained on the low side, though the matching time of the YSX was increased from two to four times per day.

Trading by the listed companies registered an all-time record low of Ks740 million in February 2018, according to YSX online. The poor economic climate, low income and the lack of publicity about stock market contributed to the steep drop in trading, said an official from the YSX.

Officials from the YSX, under the guidance of the planning and finance ministry, are conducting awareness campaigns about the stock market

in Yangon and other towns, in cooperation with securities companies, to draw public attention.

The shares of five listed companies — First Myanmar Investment (FMI), Myanmar Thilawa SEZ Holdings (MTSH), Myanmar Citizens Bank (MCB), First Private Bank (FPB) and TMH Telecom Public Co. Ltd (TMH) — are being traded on the YSX.

The stock market saw more than 20,000 shares being traded daily in the 2016-2017 fiscal year, at an estimated value of Ks100 million. Only 10,000 shares were traded daily on the stock market in the 2017-2018 FY, with their estimated value being Ks70 million.

Some 10,916 shares were traded yesterday, at an estimated value of Ks67.7 million. The share prices have dropped below the base prices, which were Ks11,500 for FMI, Ks3,000 for MTSH, Ks7,800 for MCB, Ks25,000 for FPB and Ks2,850 for TMH at closing time. — Ko Khant ■

Yangon Region Investment Committee receives 16 investment proposals this month

THE Yangon Region Investment Committee received 16 investment proposals this month, according to a recent report in Myawady Daily.

The proposals will be screened in the upcoming meeting on 16 May, U Myo Khaing Oo, secretary of Yangon Region Investment Committee, told Myawady Daily.

Most of the proposed investments will be in the manufacturing sector. The Yangon Region gives priority to busi-

nesses that will invest in the infrastructure, livestock and agriculture sectors.

According to the new Myanmar Investment Law, the region and state Directorate of Investment and Company Administration offices are authorised to grant approval to investment proposals with capital not exceeding US\$5 million (Ks6,000 million) to facilitate the verification process of investment projects. —GNLM ■



A worker dries cotton fibre dyed in the Sun at a weaving factory in Meiktila. PHOTO: CHAN THAR (MEIKTILA)

Online registration facility to be available for SMEs

May Thet Hnin

SMALL and medium enterprises (SMEs) in Myanmar will soon be able to register online, said Daw Mi Mi Kyaw, Assistant Director of the Department of Small and Medium Enterprise.

“The online registration platform was fully developed last month. It is being tested now and will be introduced to the public in July,” she said.

The online application must be filled in manually as described on the website, following which the SME department will screen the applications. The registration card can then be obtained from the respective office of the nearest regions and states once the approval is received.

“Currently, the SME smart cards can be sought at SME

branch offices in the respective regions and states. However, the cards are scrutinised in Nay Pyi Taw (headquarters). Therefore, the processing takes at least three weeks,” Daw Mi Mi Kyaw said.

“Online registration saves time, facilitating the work process. Thus, the number of registered SMEs will increase,” she maintained.

Applicants can check their registration status on the website. They will be informed if they fail to provide all the facts.

SMEs constitute 90 per cent of Myanmar’s businesses. However, of the 100,000 registered business persons, only 20,000 have smart cards.

Entrepreneurs with smart cards have access to business courses, technical assistance,

marketing and loan plans, among others.

Additionally, SME smart cards are certified in ASEAN countries, which is useful for trading with regional partners. It costs Ks5,000 for small enterprises and Ks10,000 for medium ones.

The Small and Medium Enterprise Law was enacted in 2015 in Myanmar and the by-law was instituted in 2017. The SME department has some 53 branches in 15 regions and states across the country.

The SME sector plays a vital role in Myanmar’s economic development. Nevertheless, domestic SME businessmen are facing challenges in the field of capital, technology, market share and skilled labour, entrepreneurs pointed out. ■

Myanmar-Canada trade reaches \$105 million before end of 2017-18 FY

THE value of trade between Myanmar and Canada reached US\$105 million before the end of the 2017-2018 fiscal year (FY), according to the latest monthly trade report of the Ministry of Commerce.

Bilateral trade with Canada was valued at \$45.564 million in imports and \$59.608 million in exports. Canadian imports from Myanmar have increased each year. Its imports were valued at \$4.86 million in the 2011-12 FY,

\$6.508 million in the 2012-13 FY, \$8.542 million in the 2013-14 FY, \$10.937 million in the 2014-15 FY, \$13.637 million in the 2015-16 FY and \$39.914 million in the 2016-17 FY. Myanmar’s exports to foreign countries include agricultural products, minerals, animal products, marine products, manufactured goods and forest products. Its imports cover capital goods, intermediate goods and personal goods.

Canada is among the coun-

tries providing humanitarian aid and development assistance to Myanmar. The North American country works with Myanmar through the ASEAN. The ministry’s yearly statistics showed that the Myanmar-Canada trade value amounted to \$4.904 million in the 2011-12 FY, \$9.057 million in the 2012-13 FY, \$11.863 million in the 2013-14 FY, \$15.061 million in the 2014-15 FY, \$24.71 million in the 2015-16 FY and \$80.234 million in the 2016-17 FY.—Shwe Khine■

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Vice President U Myint Swe delivers speech at closing ceremony of CONSAL XVII

VICE President U Myint Swe delivered a speech at the closing ceremony of the 17th Congress of Southeast Asian Librarians (CONSAL XVII) at the Myanmar International Convention Centre-II (MICC-II) in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

Vice President U Myint Swe said that by hosting the CONSAL XVII, Myanmar had successfully conducted works related to the congress with the cooperation of librarians, library related organizations and library expert representatives.

Myanmar took pride in hosting the Congress of Southeast Asian Librarians for the first time, he said. Together with the Congress, the 3rd Executive Board Meeting, 26th Congress of Directors of National Libraries of Asia and Oceania Meeting (CDNLAO) and other related meetings were held simultaneously.

Myanmar held the first and second Executive Board Meetings in Yangon in 2016 and 2017, and the 3rd Executive Board Meeting and CONSAL XVII was hosted in Nay Pyi Taw.

The first CONSAL was held in Singapore back in 1970 under the leadership of the ASEAN, in accordance to its form and essence. At the moment, CONSAL includes the 10 countries of Bru-



Vice President U Myint Swe addresses the closing ceremony of the 17th Congress of Southeast Asian Librarians at the Myanmar International Convention Centre-2 in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

nei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam, as well as library organizations and librarians as members. Partner countries worldwide have been participating in CONSAL meetings and activities. More than 600 representatives and observers from the ASEAN and partner countries attended the CONSAL XVII held in Nay Pyi Taw from 2 to 5 May. Paper reading sessions were held at the congress mainly under the theme "Next Generation Libraries: Collaborate and Connect." In addition to this, the implementation reports of the member countries

and the work progress report of CONSAL were also submitted. Representatives and observers in attendance actively discussed and found solutions for problems. It was felt that the preservation of culture and heritage, distribution of information and the mass use of literature, as well as raising the experience of libraries in the region, were required.

CONSAL is held in member countries alternatively once every three years. Holding the CONSAL helps raise the library and related methods among ASEAN and partner countries. To achieve the aims set by CONSAL, library organizations need

to establish a strong and effective partner relationship.

The Vice President concluded his speech by thanking the regional and partner countries who had cooperated and participated in the successful holding of the congress and attributed the success to the help and assistance of the friends.

At the closing ceremony, Myanmar Library Association Chairman U Than Aung announced the winners of CONSAL XVII Outstanding Librarian Award and the scores achieved by the winners.

Next, Department of Historical Research and National Library Director General U Aung

Myint presented awards to five CONSAL XVII Outstanding Librarian Award gold prize winner from the Philippines, and silver prize winners from Viet Nam, Thailand, Myanmar and Indonesia.

Later, artistes from the Department of Fine Arts, Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture performed Myanmar traditional dances.

An official from the Myanmar Library Association then transferred the CONSAL flag and funds to Cambodia, which will hold the CONSAL XVIII. This was followed by the screening of a video clip showing the cultural heritage and sceneries of Cambodia.

The closing ceremony was attended by Union Ministers Dr. Pe Myint, Thura U Aung Ko, U Thein Swe, Dr. Myo Thein Gyi, Deputy Ministers, International Federation of Library Associations (IFLA) President Ms. Christine Mackenzie, Permanent Secretaries and departmental heads, congress representatives, the Myanmar Library Association Chairman, executive committee members and other members, chief librarians from Myanmar and abroad, and other invited guests.—MNA ■

Union Minister Dr. Pe Myint receives Japanese State Minister for Internal Affairs and Communications

Union Minister for Information Dr. Pe Myint received State Minister for Internal Affairs and Communications of Japan Mr. Manabu Sakai at the Ministry of Information's office yesterday afternoon.

At the meeting, the opening of a company jointly formed by Japan's NHK and Myanmar's Shwe Than Lwin Media on 26 June, the possibilities of cooperation between Myanmar Radio and Television and Japan's broadcasting media, organisation setup and the works conducted by Japan's Ministry of Internal Affairs and NHK, the broadcasting and other interesting programmes from Japan, and the possibility of continuing the ongoing work of a translation



Union Minister for Information Dr. Pe Myint holds talks with State Minister for Internal Affairs and Communications of Japan Mr. Manabu Sakai in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

machine, jointly conducted by the Ministry of Information and Japan's National Institute of Information and Communications Technology, were discussed.

Also present at the meeting were Deputy Minister U Aung Hla Tun and other officials.—MNA ■

Deputy Minister U Aung Hla Tun receives minister counsellor of Chinese embassy

Deputy Minister of Information U Aung Hla Tun received Ms. Li Xiaoyan, Minister Counsellor from the China Embassy to Myanmar at the Ministry of Information's guest hall yesterday morning. At the meeting, they discussed strengthening the China-Myanmar Pauk Phaw relations, the status of China as an important and good neighbour

to Myanmar, areas of bilateral cooperation, the current status of Myanmar's media sector, one-sided news on Myanmar, as described in some international media, cooperation between the media of the two countries, creation of more job opportunities for Myanmar workers in China and better quality export products from China.—MNA ■



Deputy Minister for Information U Aung Hla Tun meets with Ms. Li Xiaoyan, Minister Counsellor from the China Embassy to Myanmar. **PHOTO: MNA**

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Stimulate interest in reading to widen intellectual horizons

PUBLIC libraries and school libraries are very important for the development of young minds. The next generation can learn a lot from libraries.

Young people can take advantage of numerous learning opportunities available in a library. There are a lot of educational sessions held on numerous topics. Modern libraries should be a great place to learn, with the help of professional librarians. Libraries are not just about books and reading; they are also about events and using modern technology. The only limits to learning are one's vision and creativity.

Our government has an ambition to develop libraries in our country.

By promoting libraries throughout our country, particularly school libraries, 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.

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.

But a love of reading must be instilled in children at an early age, when we can provide them with magic carpets and space-ships that will carry them across physical and mental barriers to new, challenging worlds.

The Union Government aims at establishing a strong library culture in our society, and the level of enthusiasm is high.

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 the transformation of society.

The majority of Myanmar's population, about 70 per cent, live in rural areas, making it essential to provide access to information for citizens who have no library facilities in their wards and villages.

There have been increased interest in public libraries as people begin to realize that knowledge stems from them. Reading can change a life for the better. That is why rural libraries are currently being upgraded.

People in rural areas have less access to knowledge, and we believe that reading will lead to individual development and thus the development of the whole village. But a village library is often too small and not an attractive place for reading. These kinds of weaknesses are common in rural libraries.

The government wishes to provide library services, particularly for those who live in rural areas. There must be a concerted, nationwide effort to spark an interest in reading so that the intellectual horizons of all our people can be broadened. ■

Concerted efforts needed for implementation of crop insurance scheme for paddy farmers

By Maung Lu Aye

THE crop insurance system is designed to cover damages to crops due to erratic weather conditions in the country. The government gave the green light to carry out the pilot project of crop insurance on 31 January 2018. This permit is not meant for running a crop insurance business but for research and experimentation.

Myanmar urgently needs a crop insurance system. This plan has been developing even during previous governments.

According to statistics, in 2012, about 400,000 acres of farmlands in Ayeyawady Region were damaged by flooding. Farmers are going into debt due to floods that come about every three years and there is no system for them to recover their losses as there is no crop insurance system.

Currently, farmers rely on agricultural loans. But a loan system coupled with crop insurance would provide more benefits to farmers. It is difficult for farmers to pay full premiums for crop insurance. The solution is probably some kind of government subsidy for crop insurance. It is also necessary to raise public awareness about insurance in areas at higher risk for natural disasters.

Similar programmes have been implemented in neighbouring Thailand and India. I would like to urge responsible bodies in our country to follow their example.

Agriculture is listed in ten prioritized sectors by Myanmar Investment Commission (MIC). However, it is time-consuming



Agriculture investments have been rare because they are usually seen as long-term investments. Myanmar also has onerous requirements for foreign investments in land... PHOTO: AFP

investment.

Agriculture investments have been rare because they are usually seen as long-term investments. Myanmar also has onerous requirements for foreign investments in land.

It was found that foreigners were keen to invest in agriculture but are wary of regulatory obstacles and other risks

including erratic weather and pests. Crop insurance policy was largely unavailable in Myanmar. Inefficient land-use regulations, however, are the main obstacle to foreign investment in agriculture

Myanmar has approved a crop insurance scheme for smallholder farmers to assist them in facing agricultural challenges and fighting uncertainties

The programme is in line with Myanmar government's ambitious plan to protect crop damages due to unpredictable weather conditions in the far-eastern Asian nation.

Yangon-based Global World Insurance is supporting Myanmar government in implementing the project on an experimental basis. The insurance scheme will include only paddy for the moment, extending to the region such as Yangon, Ayeyawady,

Magwe and Mandalay.

According to the source, agriculture provides almost one-third of Myanmar's GDP, representing one-fifth of the country's exports to the international marketplaces.

The proposed crop insurance scheme, first time in Myanmar, is expected to boost development in the country's paddy production, the cost of which is higher than the neighbouring countries. This is mainly because of the poor agricultural infrastructure and erratic weather conditions that led to severe crop damages.

A couple of years back, Myanmar's close neighbour India announced to deploy satellites to digitally map each farmland in the country using GPS technology to offer yield-based crop insurance to farmers. Thailand also provides crop insurance to

protect its farmers from agricultural damages.

The new crop insurance programme follows Myanmar's Development Assistance Policy (DAP), which aims to effectively channel aid funds, provided by international agencies, to develop the country's various sectors including agriculture.

Myanma Insurance was founded in 1952, providing 27 types of insurance. There is no insurance to cover the agricultural sector or crops. This will be a new challenge for the insurance industry.

Crop insurance will pay for any loss depending on the yield, according to the agreement made by both the parties. This means insurance will cover the loss if the yield is lower than the expected volume owing to erratic weather.

Neighbouring countries

such as India and Thailand have been providing a crop insurance system for farmers since 1970. We developed the crop insurance scheme for the benefits of the farmers.

An insurance expert pointed out that there is no mathematician in the insurance sector in our country. Hence, to a premium rate, the sum insured (maximum amount payable) is calculated on the risk factor and the possible loss,

The premium rate may vary depending on crop varieties, growing season and regions. To achieve success in the crop insurance sector, multi-stakeholders, including officials, the insurer, the insurance buyer and related organisations, must make concerted efforts to achieve success in implementing the crops insurance system. ■

Translated by William Ko

MYANMAR GAZETTE

Heads of Service Organizations appointed

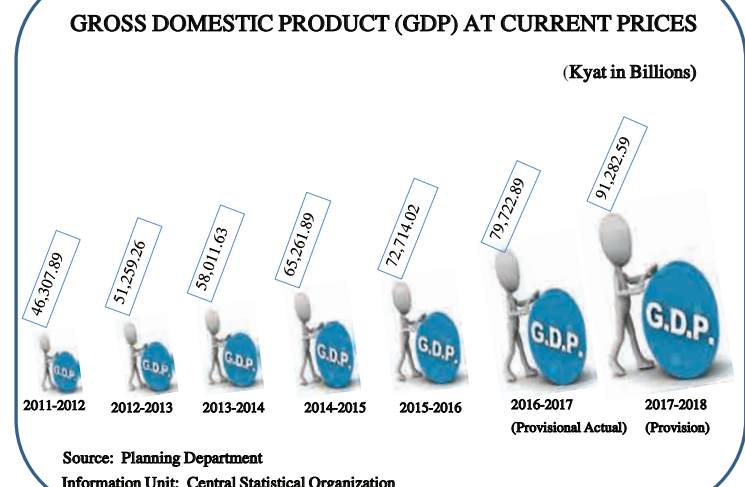
The President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has appointed the following persons as Heads of Service Organizations shown against each of their names on probation from the date they assume charge of their duties.

Name	Appointment
(1) Dr. Daw Thein May Saw Professor/ Head of Department Pharmacology Department University of Medicine (Mandalay) Ministry of Health and Sports	Rector University of Pharmacy (Mandalay) Ministry of Health and Sports
(2) Dr. Daw Yi Yi Tin Professor/ Head of Department Pharmacology Department University of Medicine (2) Yangon Ministry of Health and Sports	Rector University of Pharmacy (Yangon) Ministry of Health and Sports

Public Announcement for remonstrance

- The Four Eights People's Party headquartered at No. 279, First Floor (B), Thumgalar Road, Ward-9, South Okkalapa Township, Yangon Region, has submitted its application for the registration as a political party to the Union Election Commission on 2-5-2018 along with the following party's flag and seal. In their application, they mention that they will use the name, flag and seal of the party as described hereunder.
- In accord with Section 14 (d) of the Political Parties Registration Rules, it is hereby announced that those who want to remonstrate with the UEC about the party's flag may submit a complaint along with the supporting evidence within seven days starting from issuance of this announcement.

Union Election Commission



Performance of Mon State Government in Second Year in Office

By Ma Honey

THE Mon 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 Mon 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 Mon 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.

Aims and objectives

The aims and objectives of the Mon 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.

Bogyoke Aung San Bridge

As for the Mon State Government, efforts have been made to improve the transportation systems in and out of the region. The Mon State Road/Bridge Department under the Ministry of Construction built the Bogyoke Aung San Bridge with 5203.4 feet in length. The Bogyoke Aung San Bridge is about a mile long and was built by Myanmar engineers with the use of international construction techniques.



Bogyoke Aung San Bridge (Bilugyun) is commissioned into service in April 2017.



Machinery are used for post harvest in Bilugyun Township.



Land reclamation in Bilugyun Township.

The span across the Thanlwin River is especially important for Chaungzone Township on the Bilugyun island, a large, major island that, until this bridge was built, was accessible only by boat. The bridge is the one spanning Bilugyun, which is a part of the Gulf of Mottama/ Gulf of Martaban. Bilugyun Island has a population of over 120,000, 858 square kilometers in area. With better transpor-

tation, the industries and businesses of local people will develop, creating more job opportunities for local people with upgraded socio-economic lives.

And the region will also gain better education and healthcare. With the added convenience of communication not only for locals and but also for the whole nation, friendship between national brethren and union spirit will develop.

The bridge has become the 9th span over the Thanlwin River and the 2nd bridge for Mon State. The landmark bridge connecting Mawlamyine and Bilugyun region would boost the socio-economy of the area as the businesses, including hotels, tourism and production businesses, will flourish, thanks to better communication and transportation.



Sluice Gate in Kyaikmayaw is under construction.



Children in Mon State receive vaccination.



Experts are working for reclamation of farmland in Mawlamyine.



A campaign on vaccination against encephalitic in Mon State.



A ceremony to raise awareness against elephantiasis in Mawlamyine, Mon State.

During the two years period in office, the state government had built a 40-foot-width-Yangon-Myeik Road (Sit-taung-Kyaikhto-Moatame Section) which has upgraded into a four-way-road in the state.

The Mon State Government had arranged to build many housing units for public service personnel in the region.

Emerald Project

With the aim of boosting the socio-economic status of the region, em-

erald project had been conducted in ten townships of the Mon State, from 2014-2015 fiscal years to 2017-2018 fiscal years. The project has covered rural development programmes for establishment of commercial crops farms, forest plantations agricultural farm, fish hatching station, livestock breeding farm and nurseries and other development tasks including value-added production, milling, packaging, microfinance and mobile banking systems.

Electricity

The Mon State Government has been planning to distribute electricity supply in the region with the aim of providing opportunities for employment, education, business and the social sectors. Efforts had been made to transmit the power lines including 33 - Kilovolt (KV) transmission lines (5.938 miles), 11 - Kilovolt (KV) transmission lines (39.021 miles), 0.4 - volt (44.98 miles), one 66 / 33 - KV - electricity station, two 33 / 11-KV electricity station, 115- 11/0.4-KV-electricity station, changing 33 KV (54.4 miles), changing 11 KV (11.67 miles), changing 400-volt (25.32 miles) in the region.

Implementation Process

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

The New Mon State Party (NMSP)

Signing the Nationwide Cease-fire Agreement (NCA) by the New Mon State Party (NMSP) has strengthened the security and the rule of law in Mon State and has brought situation for implementing regional development tasks effectively.

As for the Mon State Government, concerted efforts 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.

(Translated by Win Ko Ko Aung)



A creek is being draged in Mudon Township to prevent from flooding in the rainy season.



33/11 KV MVA transformer is being installed in Mudon under the electrification plan.



A campaigning on fighting against malaria in a far-flung area in Mon State.

Signing the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA) by the New Mon State Party (NMSP) has strengthened the security and the rule of law in Mon State and has brought situation for implementing regional development tasks effectively.

Cable Car Project

For the convenience of the Kyaik Htee Yoe pagoda Pilgrims, the officials concerned of the Mon State had officially opened the cable car service. Sky Asia

Garbage dump under observation for heat emissions

By Zaw Gyi

ALTHOUGH the fire at the Htein Bin garbage dump in Hlinethaya Township, Yangon Region has been put out, heat continued to be emitted from the ground under the garbage dump and was kept under observation for the second day running.

U Zaw Min Oo of Hmawbi Township Fire Services Department, who was leading the group observing the fire, said, "Due to the heat underneath, some places were emitting heat. The heat emitting places were kept under close observation by groups. There were no fires in those places, but heat was emitted in the form of smoke and the heat can turn into a fire. That is why these places are put under observation and preventive actions are being taken. We will continue keeping any places under observation where heat is being emitted."

"Due to the light rain today, the roads (in the garbage dump) were slippery. In some places, fire engines can't enter because of this. Manpower is used to overturn the earth by axes and fire hooks in places that are not reachable by the fire engines and is doused with water to reduce the heat", he added.

Light rain fell for about half an hour yesterday afternoon, but after the rain, heat continued to be emitted and groups were formed in zones A,

B, C and D to keep the places under observations.

Yangon City Development Committee (YCDC) Pollution Control and Cleansing Department Deputy Head Dr. AungMyint Maw said, "Today, some zones are emitting heat. We connected pipes in order to douse it with water. Heavy machineries are used to form roads (in the garbage dump) for the fire engines. In some places where it is required, our YCDC personnel are cooperating with the fire department personnel."

More than a hundred fire department personnel, police, and YCDC personnel together with fire engines, water bowsers and heavy machineries are keeping the place under observation and conducting preventive measure when required while welfare associations and public donors are donating food.

A movie actress, Ma Tu, said "When the fire in the garbage dump started, I was away in Rakhine State shooting a movie. I wanted to help since then. Now, even though the fire was put out, I'm here to pass to the fire department personnel and people helping them foods and materials donated by Saint John Latha (2). I'm glad on behalf of donors who made donations."

At the moment, a combined force of more than 100 is keeping the smoke emissions under observation and putting out any leftover fires. ■



Fire fighters stationed near the garbage dump. PHOTO: PE ZAW



World Press Freedom Day celebrated by UNESCO and journalists in Yangon. PHOTO: YE KHAUNG NYUNT

UNESCO, journalists celebrate World Press Freedom Day in Yangon

By Ye Khaung Nyunt

UNESCO and Myanmar journalists commemorate the World Press Freedom Day-2018 in Yangon yesterday.

The ceremony was opened with an address by Head of UNESCO in Myanmar Ms. Min Jeong Kim.

This year's global theme is 'Keeping Power in Check: Media, Justice and The Rule of Law', and will focus on issues of media and the transparency of the political process, the independence and media literacy of the judicial system, and the accountability

of state institutions towards the public.

The United Nations Secretary General, Antonio Guterres in his message for WPF day makes a call to governments to strengthen press freedom, and to protect journalists.

U Swe Win, Chief Editor of Myanmar Now news agency, and Managing Director of Myanmar ICT Daw Htike Htike Aung-MI-DO gave remarks on media situation in Myanmar.

Following the ceremony, a talks titled "Media, Justice and the Rule of Law" was held at the

same venue to mark the World Press Freedom Day.

Dr. Maung Maung San, Member of the Myanmar Media Council, U Htein Win, Legal Adviser of the Mandalay Rule of Law Centre, U Kyaw Min Swe, the Chief Editor of the Voice Journal, Ma Thida (Sanchaung), member of the Board of Pen International and U Than Zaw Aung, Vice Chairman of the Myanmar Lawyers Network for Media took part in the talks.

Pen Myanmar also released a report on press freedom in Myanmar at the ceremony. ■

Closing ceremonies for Luyechun Recreation Camps held

The closing ceremonies for the Luyechun Recreation Camps were held in Ngwesaung, Bagan, and Inle yesterday.

Experts conducted talks on the subjects of IT and hotel business while officials explained the history of Ngwesaung beach to outstanding eleventh-grade students.

A bonfire event that was part of the closing ceremonies of Ngwesaung Luyechun Recreation Camp was held on the sands of Ngwesaung beach in front of the Pearl Ngwesaung Hotel. Outstanding students and supervising teachers then played games, sang songs and exchanged gifts after which they sang the "MyaNandar" song to conclude the event.

Similarly, grade ten outstanding students in Ho Pone Township, Pa'O Self-Adminis-



Luyechun students visit Htan San Cave in Shan State. PHOTO: MNA

tered Zone in southern Shan State visited Htan San Cave, MwaytawKakku Pagoda and Sulamuni Pagoda in Taunggyi and also visited the Taunggyi Myoma Market.

The Shan State Chief Minister hosted a dinner for the outstanding students and a camp closing event with a bonfire was held at the No. 1 Basic Education

High School.

Likewise, grade nine outstanding students in Bagan visited Thihoshin Pagoda and Shwe Mote Htaw Pagoda in Pakokku Township and also visited the Pakhangyi Shwemuhtaw Pagoda and Sithushin Tharekkhan Buddha image. The closing celebrations last night included entertainment.—MNA ■

India storm toll rises with more wild weather forecast

KHERAGARH (INDIA)—The death toll from freak storms that hit India climbed above 140 on Friday as people told how they had no time to escape the ferocious winds which tore down homes and toppled walls.

Amid warnings of further wild weather, thousands of families spent the night in the open air in the northern states of Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan.

They told how 130 kilometre (80 mile) an hour winds carrying choking sand hit so quickly late Wednesday that they had no time to reach safety from falling walls and trees.

The dust storms claimed 121 lives in Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and nearby Uttarakhand and Punjab states, according to latest official tolls.

Separately 21 people were killed by lightning in two southern states.

Authorities in Uttar



The storm flattened homes and toppled electricity pylons in Rajasthan. PHOTO: AFP

Pradesh, where 76 died, and Rajasthan, where the storms claimed 39 lives, battled to restore power, clear roads and help people who lost houses.

Residents remain fearful.

“We couldn’t sleep and were worried if the storm hits again. We took

precautions and secured everything but nothing can stand up to nature’s fury,” 40-year-old Agra resident Munna Lal Jha told AFP.

Agra district was one of the worst hit areas with at least 43 people killed, according to the state disaster management authority.

Twenty-four of them

were killed in the small town of Kheragarh, near Agra. Many people in the region live in mud-wall homes that would have barely resisted the ferocious winds.

Four children from the same family were killed when a wall collapsed on them in Kheragarh.

Left to mourn

Damaged houses lined the town’s dusty roads. Heaps of stones and bricks lay where dozens of homes were destroyed by the gale-force winds.

Villagers salvaged belongings from under the debris or fixed broken windows and doors blown away in the storm.

Some were only left to mourn.

Ram Bhorosi told AFP how his son and a nephew died when their house caved in as they welcomed people who had attended his daughter’s wedding.

“We had guests at home and my son went inside the room to get a bed when the storm struck,” he said. “A big stone crushed his head after the roof collapsed. His cousin was also caught under the crumbling roof. Half a dozen men helped us to clear the rubble to take out bodies. They didn’t get time to raise the

alarm, it was so sudden.”

In nearby Burera village, Anil Kumar told of his narrow escape when their house fell.

“We were sitting outside when the winds suddenly started raging. Four of us were crushed under the debris after the wall fell. My grandfather died but the others survived with injuries.”

At Bharatpur in Rajasthan, another of the worst-hit towns, a college gate pillar toppled killing three young men, all 18, who had just been accepted as police constables or soldiers, media reported.

The winds in Rajasthan raged at more than 100 kph, destroying houses, tearing up electricity pylons and uprooting trees.

The India Meteorological Department has warned there are likely to be more storms over a wider area until Tuesday.—AFP ■

China, US reach agreements on some economic and trade issues

BEIJING— China and the United States reached agreements on some issues in their economic and trade consultations in Beijing from Thursday to Friday, and agreed to set up a work mechanism to keep close communication.

Chinese Vice Premier Liu He, also a member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China Central Committee, held candid, efficient and constructive talks with the US delegation led by US

president’s special envoy and Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin, on economic and trade issues of common concern. The two sides agreed that a sound and stable China-US trade relationship is crucial for both, and they are committed to resolving relevant economic and trade issues through dialogue and consultation. The two sides had thorough exchange of views on issues including increasing US exports to China, bilateral service

trade, two-way investment, protection of intellectual property rights, as well as resolving tariff and non-tariff issues, reaching consensus in some areas.

Both sides recognized that given that considerable differences still exist on some issues, continued hard work is required for more progress. They also agreed to stay in close communication on relevant issues and establish a corresponding work mechanism.—Xinhua ■

Pigeon pie anyone? Thai town hosts cook-off of culled birds

LOPBURI, THAILAND—A Thai district chief has clipped the wings of his town’s pigeon population by paying residents to trap the birds and organising a cook-off to build support for the cull.

The campaign to go after hundreds of thousands of pigeons started earlier this week in a dis-

trict of Lop Buri province - a region better known for its monkey menace.

“The number of pigeons increases four to five times each year, if we don’t do anything the problem will get worse,” said Plaek Thepparak, the highest government official in Mueang district, who came up with the idea.

The birds were a nuisance and defecated on government offices, historical sites, temples and houses while ravaging local crops, he added.

“Before people can drink rain water but now they have to buy drinking water because rain water is dirty from bird droppings,” he said.—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 Community Driven Development Project (NCDDP). The IDA N° of the financing agreement is N° H814MM. The Department of Rural Development (DRD) of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation, in its role as implementing agency of the NCDDP, intends to apply a portion of the proceeds of this financing towards eligible payments under the Purchase Order/Contract for the following packages. DRD now invites eligible suppliers to express their interest in supplying the following item:

Reference Number: G 113 T-Shirt with NCDDP Logo

Reference No.	Lot No	Description	Quantity (Number)
G 113	1	T-shirts with the logo and text of the NCDD Project	145,980

Expressions of Interest on Quotation must be submitted in a written form to the email address below and clearly indicate the reference number above. The invitation to quote will be distribute on the needs of DRD. Eligible suppliers having expressed interest will receive an INVITATION TO QUOTE (ITQ). Sealed Quotations will be submitted to the address by **date and time as stated in the ITQ**, after which no Quotations will be accepted.

The goods will be contracted in lot-by-lot basis. 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.

Please submit your Expression of Interest for receiving the Invitation to Quote (ITQ) to: U Kyaw Soe, 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 067409071/ Email: unioncddprocurement@gmail.com. Please indicate your e-mail address as only electronic copies of the ITQ will be send as well as introduce your company name and contact number to communicate with you. For more information on the NCDD Project please also visit Website: www.cdd.drdmyanmar.org.

Netflix chief says ‘mistakes’ led to Cannes boycott

LILLE (FRANCE) — Netflix CEO Reed Hastings said Thursday the streaming giant had made errors regarding its spat with the Cannes film festival over the platform’s dramatic withdrawal of its films this year. “Sometimes we make mistakes. We got into a bigger situation with Cannes than we meant to,” said Hastings, in Lille, northern France, for the Series Mania festival. For 2018, Cannes banned from competition any film from the streaming service which did not respect France’s strict 36-month window between cinematic release and availability on demand.

Last month, festival director Thierry Fremaux said he was hoping to heal the rift with the Silicon Valley giant after Netflix’s



Netflix CEO Reed Hastings said streaming companies and cinemas did not have to be in competition with one another. **PHOTO: AFP**

chief content officer Ted Sarandos claimed its films were being “treated disrespectfully”.

Sarandos suggested Cannes were thereby putting distribution ahead of the art of cinema.

Cinema owners had protested last year at the in-

clusion of two Netflix films, “Okja” and “The Meyerowitz Stories” as they had not already been released in French cinemas. Netflix, with some 125 million global subscribers, reportedly then pulled five films in the running for this month’s festival after the three-year

rule was brought in. “I know we have a reputation as a disruptor,” said Hastings, adding that Netflix did believe Cannes was “very sincere at finding a model that works for them and us” eventually.

“We love Cannes. We’ve been many years and have buyers going this year,” he stressed, saying Netflix did not aim to derail a system he said had proved its worth for the French film industry. At the same time, he said the firm had to think of subscribers who would not want to wait three years to watch a new release which the company had produced directly, pointing out that Netflix treats films as it does series, targeting subscribers rather than cine-magoers.—AFP ■

Polanski accuses Academy of ‘harassment’ over expulsion: lawyer

WARSAW — Oscar-winning film director Roman Polanski on Friday accused the US Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences of harassment after it expelled him along with actor Bill Cosby in light of historic sexual assault cases. Polanski, who lives in France, is wanted in the United States for the statutory rape of a 13-year-old girl in 1977. The veteran 84-year-old director of “Rosemary’s Baby” has for years been seeking to negotiate a deal in the case with US authorities.

The board of governors of the Academy, the body which hands out the Oscars, voted this week to strip both men of membership “in accordance with the organisation’s Standards of Conduct”.

“It has the hallmarks of psychological abuse against our client, who is an older person,” Jan Olszewski, Polanski’s lawyer in Poland told AFP.

“Roman feels that the Academy is acting in violation of its regulations and has asked me to review them,” Olszewski added, calling the Academy’s move the “height of hypocrisy”.

The lawyer also said that “comparing Bill Cosby to Roman Polanski is a total misunderstanding and harassment.” Cosby, once the darling of American television, faces up to 30 years in prison after being found guilty on three counts of sexual assault on 26 April for drugging and molesting a woman in 2004.—AFP ■

CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE

M.V DYNAMIC OCEAN-01 VOY. NO. (-)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V DYNAMIC OCEAN-01 VOY. NO. (-) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 7-5-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of TMT-2 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 RK SHIPPING &
TRADING PTE LTD**

Phone No: 2301928

CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE

M.V SINAR BATAM VOY. NO. ()

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V SINAR BATAM VOY. NO. () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 5-5-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MITT/AIPT 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 INTERASIA LINES**

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE

M.V CAPE FLORES VOY. NO. (087N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V CAPE FLORES VOY. NO. (087N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 5-5-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
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Consignees of cargo carried on M.V GSS YANGON VOY. NO. (1084 S/N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 5-5-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE

M.V OLYMPIA VOY. NO. (1813-1814)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V OLYMPIA VOY. NO. (1813-1814) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 5-5-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T/MIP where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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American football under fire over treatment of cheerleaders

WASHINGTON — Cheerleaders are a staple of American professional sports.

But the treatment of the scantily-clad women who encourage their teams from the sidelines is drawing scrutiny.

The New York Times published an article Wednesday about questionable treatment of cheerleaders for the Washington Redskins, a National Football League (NFL) team, during a trip by the squad to Costa Rica in 2013. And cheerleaders for two other NFL teams, the New Orleans Saints and the Miami Dolphins, have filed lawsuits recently alleging discrimination.

The Times spoke to several members of the 36-strong Redskins cheerleading squad who went on the weeklong trip to an exclusive resort in Costa Rica for a photo calendar shoot.

Speaking anonymously, several cheerleaders said they were made to be pose topless or wearing only body paint for pictures taken for the calendar — although it would not include nude shots. They complained that sponsors and luxury suite holders at Redskins stadium — all of whom were men — were

granted access to the photo shoots.

Nine cheerleaders were also allegedly made, at the end of a 14-hour day of posing and dance practice, to attend an event at a nightclub as escorts for the sponsors.

“They weren’t putting a gun to our heads, but it was mandatory for us to go,” one of the cheerleaders told the Times. “We weren’t asked, we were told.” The arrangement did not involve sex, the cheerleaders said, but they were not comfortable with it.

‘I’m the mama bear’

Stephanie Jojokian, the director and choreographer of the Redskins cheerleading squad, insisted she had not forced anyone to attend the nightclub event.

“I was not forcing anyone to go at all,” Jojokian told the Times. “I’m the mama bear, and I really look out for everybody, not just the cheerleaders.

“It’s a big family. We respect each other and our craft,” she said. “It’s such a supportive environment for these ladies.” — AFP ■



Washington Redskins cheerleaders dance at a game against the San Francisco 49ers at FedExField in Landover, Maryland. **PHOTO: AFP**



Seen as bearers of high culture, the The Swedish Academy, founded in 1786, is traditionally known for its integrity and discretion. **PHOTO: AFP**

2018 Nobel Literature Prize postponed after #MeToo turmoil

STOCKHOLM — For the first time in almost 70 years there will be no Nobel Literature Prize this year, as the Swedish Academy that selects the laureate finds itself in turmoil over links to a man accused of sex crimes amid the #MeToo campaign. “We find it necessary to commit time to recovering public confidence in the Academy before the next laureate can be announced,” the Academy’s interim permanent secretary Anders Olsson said in a statement Friday, adding two prizes would be announced in 2019. The body has been plunged in crisis since November, in the wake of the global #MeToo campaign, when Swedish newspaper of reference Dagens Nyheter published the testimonies of 18 women claiming to have been raped, sexually assaulted or harassed by Jean-Claude Arnault, an influential figure on the Swedish culture scene.

Arnault, the French husband of Academy member and poet Katarina Frostenson, has denied the allegations. The revelations

have sowed deep discord among the Academy’s 18 members about how to handle the matter, and in recent weeks, six of them have chosen to resign, including permanent secretary Sara Danius.

“The active members of the Swedish Academy are of course fully aware that the present crisis of confidence places high demands on a long-term and robust work for change,” Olsson said. Seen as bearers of high culture, the Academy, founded in 1786, is traditionally known for its integrity and discretion, with its meetings and decisions shrouded in secrecy. But the row has turned into a titillating public spectacle, with Academy members dealing ugly blows to each other in the media.

‘Wise decision’

The last time the institution delayed a prize announcement was in 1949. William Faulkner received the prize a year later, the same year Bertrand Russell was honoured.

It has also reserved the prize

on six other occasions: in 1915, 1919, 1925, 1926, 1927 and 1936, and four of those times the prize was delayed then awarded at the same time as the following year’s prize, the Academy said.

Several Academy members had recently suggested the 2018 prize could be postponed because of the turmoil, which has dragged the Academy’s reputation — and that of the Nobel Literature Prize — through the mud. Literature experts in Sweden lamented the announcement, but agreed with the decision. “I think it’s wise, this is the best decision they could make. They’ll have a chance to restore (the Academy) this year and fill the empty seats, and come back with a strong Academy that can award the prize,” Dagens Nyheter’s literature critic Maria Schottenius told AFP.

Technically, Academy members have been appointed for life and have not been able to resign, though they could leave their chairs “empty” by not participating in meetings and decisions.—AFP ■

‘Black Panther’ leads MTV Movie and TV Award nods

LOS ANGELES — “Black Panther,” the breakthrough superhero film that has become one of the highest-grossing motion pictures of all time, on Thursday led nominations for the MTV Movie and TV Awards.

The action movie about the fictional African kingdom of Wakanda led with seven nomi-

nations including Best Movie for the June 18 awards, which will be decided by public voting.

Placing second with six nominations is “Stranger Things,” the Netflix series about supernatural occurrences in a small town in Indiana.

The MTV Movie and TV Awards, like the channel’s signa-

ture MTV Video Music Awards, celebrate pop culture moments and pride themselves on being less stuffy than the industry’s benchmark Oscars and Emmys.

Categories include “Best Kiss” and “Most Frightened Performance.” In another contrast with the industry-led awards, the MTV prizes for the second year

will be gender neutral with no separate competitions for men and women.

“Black Panther,” a rare action film to celebrate black culture, has already become the third highest-grossing movie ever in North America since its release in January.

Comedian Tiffany Haddish

will serve as the host of the MTV Movie and TV Awards, which hands out statuettes shaped like popcorn boxes.

Haddish stars in the comedy “Girls Trip” which is also up for Best Picture, along with the action flicks “Avengers: Infinity War” and “Wonder Woman” and horror adaptation “It.”—AFP ■

‘Clasico of honour’

— Real look to crash unbeaten Barca's party

MADRID — Real Madrid can transform their own season by beating Liverpool in this month's Champions League final, and on Sunday they can dent Barcelona's by becoming the first team to defeat the Catalans in La Liga.

This ‘clasico’ at Camp Nou will have minimal impact on the league, with Barca already crowned champions and Real's passing interest in pipping Atletico to second place diminished by their ambitions in Europe.

But there is still much at stake in what Madrid's daily newspaper Marca has billed “the clasico of honour”. It could even be argued this match will go some way to defining the seasons of these two teams.

Barca, in particular, have been careful in celebrating their domestic double, their players aware of the disappointment that lingers from their Champions League crash in the quarter-finals.

Even as they ordered pizza and slurped beer from the top of their open-top bus down Las Ramblas this week, it was noticeable how many interviews still referenced the disappointment in Rome.

“The elimination in the Champions League, it hurt us because it was unexpected,” said Barca coach Ernesto Valverde. “But it is very difficult to do what we have done and now what are we going to do? We keep trying.”

To soften the blow, Barca's best response was to win the Copa del Rey and

La Liga and finish unbeaten in the league for the first time, while hoping Real do not go all the way in the Champions League. The latter two are still to be decided.

Bye-bye Bale?

Real's march towards a 13th European triumph has certainly weighed heavily on Barcelona, whose sense of absence has been heightened by the progress of their rivals.

“It's amazing to be in a Champions League final for the third time in a row and have the chance to win it for the fourth time in the last five years,” Real midfielder Toni Kroos said on Tuesday.

“It's hard for me to find words to describe that. When it comes to the Champions League, we have extra motivation.”

Barca are looking to avoid defeat this weekend, and in their last three league games against Villarreal, Levante and Real Sociedad to seal a historic season.

But if Real snatch a victory at the Camp Nou and also see off Liverpool, perhaps the balance is tipped in their favour.

It will certainly be the last ‘clasico’ for Andres Iniesta as a player while Gareth Bale may also wave goodbye to this fixture, with the Welshman expected to consider his future at Real in the summer.

The suggestion is both teams could give the departing Iniesta, Barca's captain, a guard of honour, even if Real refuse to do so for Barcelona's La Liga triumph.—AFP ■



Cristiano Ronaldo's Real Madrid have a chance to end their season on a high. **PHOTO: AFP**

Zaw Win Naing stands as the current highest scorer in U-21 MNL 2018

After completing the first round of MPT Myanmar National League (U-21) 2018, Zaw Win Naing from Southern Myanmar U-21 was recognised as the current highest scorer of the tournament with earning 10 goals altogether. He scored ten goals after playing 13 matches and standing in the most scorer position of the half season of the tourney.

Following him, Thet Wai Moe from Myawady U-21 team, Yar Zar Aung from Ayeyawady U-21 team and Thet Aung from Hanthawady U-21 team are standing together in the second highest scorer position with earning 7 goals. Htet Arkar Lin from ISPE (A) U-21, a team which is a half season Champion is also standing in the third most scorer with scoring 6 goals altogether.—Lynn Thit (Tgi) ■

In-form Tsitsipas beats Anderson in Estoril

ESTORIL (PORTUGAL) — Greek rising star Stefanos Tsitsipas continued his excellent form on clay by beating Estoril Open top seed Kevin Anderson 6-7 (3-7), 6-3, 6-3 on Thursday to reach the quarter-finals. The 19-year-old held the big-hitting South African to just four aces in a second-round match which lasted for more than two hours in windy conditions. World number 44 Tsitsipas beat three top-20 players, including Dominic Thiem, en route

to the Barcelona Open final last week, where he lost to Rafael Nadal. Anderson, ranked eighth, sealed his fate as his first double-fault of the contest brought up two match points, with Tsitsipas quickly wrapping up victory at the first attempt. “It was really tough, with tricky conditions,” world number eight Anderson said. “I’ve not played a match in a while. “It’s a little disappointing, I would have preferred better conditions for my first match back, a

more comfortable environment. “But he was just too good today.” Tsitsipas, the first Greek man to break into the world's top 50, improved to 13-10 for the season. He will face a last-eight match against Spain's Roberto Carballes Baena, who knocked out British number three Cameron Norrie 5-7, 6-2, 7-6 (7/1). The 103rd-ranked Norrie went down in three hours, eight minutes to his Spanish opponent who won his first ATP title this season in Quito.—AFP ■

Dagon FC wins half season champion of U-18 MNL

AFTER completing the first round matches of MPT Myanmar National League (U-18) 2018, Dagon FC became the half season with garnering 15 points after playing five matches with all win.

Among the total of 6 teams, Royal Thanlyin FC followed the Dagon FC with

garnering 12 points of four win and one loss. University FC is sitting in the third place of the Standing Table with 9 points, 3 win and 2 loss.

Silver Stars FC is in the fourth place with 4 points of 1 win, 1 draw and 3 loss while Kachin United FC is in the fifth po-

sition with 1 win and 4 loss. Mawyawady FC is standing in the last place with one draw and four loss.

The second round of the MPT Myanmar National League (U-18) 2018 will start on 30 May according to the MNL.—Lynn Thit (Tgi) ■