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State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi holds talks with External Affairs Minister of India Smt. Sushma Swaraj in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, State Counsellor receives Smt. Sushma Swaraj, External Affairs Minister of India

7 Agreement/ MoUs including Agreement on Land Border Crossing signed

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi received the External Affairs Minister of India Smt. Sushma Swaraj at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Nay Pyi Taw, in the morning of 11 May 2018 and held a bilateral meeting.

During the meeting, they cordially discussed matters pertaining to promotion of bilat-

eral relations and cooperation; provision of assistance for the development of Rakhine State and support to the Myanmar Government's endeavours on the repatriation process of displaced persons from Rakhine State; and closer cooperation and collaboration between the two countries in the regional and

international fora. Present on the occasion were Union Minister for Labour, Immigration and Population U Thein Swe, Union Minister for International Cooperation U Kyaw Tin, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs U Myint Thu, Indian Ambassador to Myanmar Shri Vikram Misri, departmen-

tal officials and members of the Indian delegation.

It was followed by the signing ceremony of bilateral cooperation agreement/ Memorandums of Understanding which was witnessed by the State Counsellor and the External Affairs Minister of India.

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Vice President U Myint Swe addresses 17th meeting of Myanmar entrepreneurs

VICE President U Myint Swe, Chairman of the Private Sector Development Committee, attended the 17th regular meeting between the Private Sector Development Committee and Myanmar entrepreneurs at the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI) office in Yangon yesterday morning.

Also present at the meeting were Vice Chairman of the Private Sector Development Committee and Union Minister for Commerce Dr. Than Myint; Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein; Deputy Ministers U Aung Htoo and U Win Maw Tun, Yangon Region Ministers, officials from five work committees, UMFCCI President and members, Permanent Secretaries, Directors-General, representatives of the Kalay-Tamu Border Trade Merchant Association, Sagaing Region Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Myanmar Flour Business Association, Myanmar Gems and Jewellery Entrepreneurs Association and other officials.

Addressing the meeting, U Myint Swe said the committee was formed more than one and a half years ago to implement matters in the private sector development framework.

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Vice President U Myint Swe addresses 17th meeting with Myanmar entrepreneurs

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Since its formation, five works were designated and five work committees were formed to implement these works.

The Private Sector Development Committee coordinated and discussed the works of the five work committees in its bi-monthly meetings, and the committee's seventh work coordinating meeting was held on 27 April.

To support the private sector development works, meetings with entrepreneurs were held since December 2016, where sector and group wise difficulties were resolved. In the 16 meetings that were conducted, 245 suggestions were made and responses were sent to the relevant businesses.

In some matters yet to be concluded, the five work committees are arranging public-private dialogues between the relevant ministries and private businesses. To increase investment, the Union Government has been enforcing and relaxing laws, frameworks, rules, regulations, procedures and processes, according to the age and system.

For the sustained development of small and medium enterprises, the import of illegal products was being prevented by forming a special task force with the help of the Ministry of Home Affairs, relevant ministries and state/region governments.



Vice President U Myint Swe addresses the 17th regular meeting between the Private Sector Development Committee and Myanmar entrepreneurs at the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry office in Yangon yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

In the World Bank's Ease of Doing Business Index for 2018, Myanmar ranks 171, and special emphasis has been placed to break into the top 100 in three years. A 14-member group, led by the Deputy Minister for Commerce, on improving the Ease of Doing Business ranking was formed to implement this, said the Vice President. Some 10 support groups, based on the Ease of Doing Business indicators, were also formed, and of these 10 indicators, a Credit Bureau was being permitted for the 'Getting Credit' sector.

Respondents needed to

meet with the relevant businesses and groups to respond to questions raised on improving the Ease of Doing Business ranking. UMFCCI also needed to assist the businesses to provide answers that show progress and reforms, added the Vice President.

The Vice President urged the four groups and organizations participating in the meeting to openly discuss the problems they faced.

Union Minister for Commerce Dr. Than Myint then explained the status of the works implemented by the Ministry in

the export/import and investment sectors.

Next, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein explained the arrangements made for the economic and travel sector development in the Yangon Region.

Later, Deputy Minister for Commerce U Aung Htoo, leader of Improving the Ease of Doing Business Ranking Group, explained the works conducted to improve the Ease of Doing Business Ranking.

Following this, UMFCCI President U Zaw Min Win explained the achievement in var-

ious sectors.

The Vice President, Union Minister, Yangon Region Chief Minister and officials then coordinated and resolved the discussions made by the representatives of the Kalay-Tamu Border Trade Merchant Association, Sagaing Region Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Myanmar Flour Business Association and the Myanmar Gems and Jewellery Entrepreneurs Association.

The meeting concluded after U Myint Swe delivered a closing speech.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Peace Conference organising work committee secretaries hold meeting

The Union Peace Conference—21st Century Panglong organising work committee secretaries held a coordination meeting at the meeting hall of the Ministry of the State Counsellor's Office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

At the meeting, the Union Peace Conference—21st Century Panglong organising work committee secretary and Deputy Minister for the State Counsellor's Office U Khin Maung Tin told of the plan to hold the Union Peace Conference—21st Century Panglong third session in the last week of May. The Central Committee

led by National Reconciliation and Peace Center Chairperson State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and all the work committees are working toward their aim of successfully conducting the Union Peace Conference—21st Century Panglong meetings.

To successfully hold the conference, arrangements must be made for the conference delegates to attend the political dialogues conveniently with peace of mind in addition to arranging for their board and lodgings. In conducting the administrative support works, relevant ministries are urged to base decisions



The coordination meeting of the Union Peace Conference—21st Century Panglong organising work committee secretaries being held at the Ministry of the State Counsellor's Office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

on the strengths and weaknesses of their past work experiences to make the present work better and complete.

Next, Ministry of the State Counsellor's Office Director General U Zaw Htay talked about the strengths and weaknesses of

Union Peace Conference—21st Century Panglong's second session, invitations to be made and delivered on time, preparations for lodging, providing of IT support materials, taking of records conveniently, better linking of sector-wise expertise, experi-

ences for successful holding of the congress and convenience of board and lodging.

Afterwards, secretaries of various work committees explained sector-wise strengths, weaknesses, and requirements.—Myanmar News Agency ■

“ We have much to carry on fulfilling the hopes and needs of the people of the country. We must press on until our citizens have their dignity raised and our country can retain its former glory on the global stage.

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

“ We have many opportunities to learn in order to overcome and eliminate the evil legacies of the past and to fulfill the aspirations for the future of the nation. We know how much loving kindness, truth and bravery are needed; how greed, anger and ignorance can impact negatively. We have learnt the importance of having good friends. The most important lesson we learned is the value of understanding and unqualified support of our people.

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

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, State Counsellor receives Smt. Sushma Swaraj, External Affairs Minister of India

FROM PAGE-1

On the occasion, Union Minister for Labour, Immigration and Population U Thein Swe and Indian External Affairs Minister Smt. Sushma Swaraj signed the Agreement between the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and the Government of the Republic of India on Land Border Crossing; and Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture U Htun Ohn and Ambassador of India Shri Vikram Misri signed the Memorandum of Understanding between Myanmar and India for the Conservation of Earthquake Damaged Pagodas in Bagan.

According to the Agreement between the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and the Government of the Republic of India on Land Border Crossing, nationals of Myanmar and India and any third country with valid passports with visas/e-visas will be allowed to enter/exit through the authorized entry/exit points at the land border in Tamu (Myanmar)- Moreh (India) and Rihkhawdar (Myanmar)- Zowkhawthar (India) as per the permitted stay of respective visas whereas the local people living in the border areas of the two countries will be able to enter/exit to the

other country upon the application of Border Pass which has a validity of one year. According to the Memorandum of Understanding between Myanmar and India for the Conservation of Earthquake Damaged Pagodas in Bagan, the Department of Archaeology, National Museum and Library of the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture and the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) will jointly implement the maintenance plan for the earthquake-damaged pagodas in Bagan.

Moreover, the officials concerned of both sides exchanged 5 MoUs namely, Supply of Ten Vehicles to the National Reconcili-



Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture U Htun Ohn (Right) and Ambassador of India Shri Vikram Misri (Left) exchange the MoU.. **PHOTO: MNA**

ation and Peace Centre (NRPC), setting up of Indo-Myanmar Industrial Training Centre at Thaton, setting up of Indo-Myanmar Industrial Training Centre at Monywa, Capacity building of

Myanmar Foreign Service Officials and Exchange of Letter for the Implementation of the five years Comprehensive Maintenance Plan to IMITC (Mingyan).—MNA ■



Union Minister for Information Dr. Pe Myint welcomed at the Yangon International airport by officials. **PHOTO: MNA**

Union Minister for Information Dr. Pe Myint returns from Singapore

Union Minister for Information Dr. Pe Myint returned from Singapore yesterday afternoon after attending the 14th conference of ASEAN Ministers Responsible for In-

formation (AMRI) and other related meetings in Singapore.

He was welcomed at Yangon International Airport by officials from the Ministry of Information.—MNA ■

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JMC-U 16th meeting day two continues

By Zaw Gyi

THE Union-level Joint Monitoring Committee (JMC-U) 16th meeting continued for second day at the National Reconciliation and Peace Centre (NRPC) in Yangon yesterday morning.

The meeting was attended by JMC-U Chairman Lt-Gen Yar Pyae and Tatmadaw representatives Lt-Gen Aye Win, Lt-Gen Than Tun Oo, JMC-U Vice Chairman (1) Saw Isaac Po and heads of ethnic armed organizations, JMC-U Vice Chairman (2) U Pyae Sone and civilian representatives and members of the technical assistance office.

Commenting about the meeting, JMC-U Secretary (1) Dr Shwe Kha said the second general meeting of JMC was held a couple of days ago. Decisions and records of the general meeting were approved in the JMC-U meeting. In addition to this, conducting office works and office personnel matters were also approved. Discussion on the current occurrence related to KNU Brigade 5 were also discussed he said.

After two days of JMC-U

meeting that was started on 10 May, implementation of decisions made at the 15th meeting, discussions made at the secretariat meetings of the various levels of JMC, discussions made at the 3rd JMC civilian representatives meeting, summary of the discussions made at the second general meeting were submitted, discussion on ceasefire implementation between 15th and 16th meetings and general discussions were conducted.

After the conclusion of the second day meeting, a press conference was held. In replying to questions raised by the media, JMC-U secretary (2) Col. Wunna Aung said, "With regards to the Hpapun incident, discussion were conducted under the principles of reducing and eliminating conflicts in JMC, to do everything through discussion and negotiation between the two sides and to form JMC civilian representatives who will mediate between the two sides. Negotiations and discussions will continue."

Similarly JMC-U Secretary(1) Dr. Shwe Kha said



Press conference held following Union-level Joint Monitoring Committee (JMC-U) 16th meeting at NRPC in Yangon. **PHOTO: PHAE ZAW**

JMC has the responsibility to monitor as well as working toward overcoming problems, avoiding, reducing and eliminating conflicts.

We did the best we can. As JMC could not resolve the matter directly, we have to find ways. We sent the civilian representatives of the JMC twice already. I think they went again for the third time. We try to resolve this matter through this way he said.

He continued and said "The government had provided detailed explanation about the reason for building this road. Ar-

rangment made around March 29 and 30 failed and another arrangement is being made. Anyway, it is best to continue discussing. Arrangements are made to meet by the third week of May."

At the 16th JMC meeting, decisions and records made at the second general meeting was approved. Discussion on KNU Brigade (5) matter was also conducted. Secretariat meeting of the various levels of JMC was held on 7 May and the second general meeting of JMC was held on 8 and 9 May respectively in Yangon.

Over 14,900 workers took overseas jobs in eight countries last month

MORE than 14,900 Myanmar workers officially accepted overseas jobs in eight countries last month, according to figures released by the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population.

In April, 12,484 workers of the 14,985 went to Thailand, while 1,381 others were legally sent to Malaysia, followed by 759 to the Republic of Korea, 285 to Japan, 30 to Singapore, another 30 to Jordan, nine to Qatar and seven to the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

During the same period, some 15,550 local job-seekers took up domestic jobs in states and regions, including in remote areas. Yangon topped the chart with more than 10,000 new employees, followed by the Bago Region with 1,317, Mandalay Region with 896 and the Sagaing



People seen in front of the office the Myanmar Passport issuing Board, Yangon. **PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR**

Region with 700.

The remaining regions and states experienced an influx of fewer than 700 new

employees.

The ministry has made concerted efforts to create more employment opportu-

nities for both domestic and overseas job hunters through the labour exchange management system.—GNLM ■

World Bank calls for Myanmar's Ease of Doing Business reform

May Thet Hnin

THE World Bank has called for reforms in the business sector for Myanmar to improve its Ease of Doing Business ranking, said U Aung Htoo, Deputy Minister for Commerce.

The suggestions made by the World Bank include updating laws, adopting a legal framework for electronic transactions, conducting legislation related to construction permits, implementing a new unifying land law, drawing up a secured transaction law, enacting a tax administration procedure act,

amending the customs law, implementing online registrations of businesses through an e-government framework, installing electronic system for tax application and payment, implementing a single window system for import and export businesses, ensuring transparency in government procedures and effective communication between government and entrepreneurs, allotting a unit business identifier, that is a single number for tax and company licences, and putting in place a machinery for public announcements.

The projects must be implemented as short-term, mid-term and long-term plans, he said.

Some of the projects have already been implemented by the government, the deputy minister said.

"The New Company Act has already been amended. The YCDC Law and Municipal Act have also been enacted. We are planning to hold discussions with the related ministry over the suggestion of having the same number for export/import and company licences," U Aung Htoo said.

The Ease of Doing Business reforms will support private sector development, as well as attract foreign direct investments.

A survey conducted last year to determine the Ease of Doing Business rank noted that respondents gave speculative answers and lacked knowledge about the government's reform process and performance. Therefore this year, the ministries have coordinated with each other over answering the survey questions, as well as coordinated with other respondents who are representatives

of private companies, lawyer organisations and accounting groups. Currently, the country is ranked 172 out of 190 countries in the Ease of Doing Business index. It lags behind other countries in the ASEAN region. The government is trying to achieve a rank of 99 by 2020, aiming to rise by 24 spots per year on average.

By 2020, the ministry has planned to form support groups to discuss the survey answers, as well as set up a website to share information about the economic reforms, U Aung Htoo said. ■



A farmer walks past the harvester in a paddy field in Kangyidauk, Ayeyawady Region. PHOTO: PHOE KHWAH

Maritime trade up by \$352 million this April

THE external trade value via sea routes between Myanmar and its international trade partners topped US\$1.594 billion over the first 27 days of this transitional fiscal year, the Ministry of Commerce reported.

The total value of maritime trade between 1 and 27 April this year included \$501 million in exports and \$1.093 billion in imports. During the same period, Myanmar also exported \$282 million worth of commodities to its neighbouring countries through its borders. Its border imports were valued at \$183 million.

According to the ministry, the country's non-border trade, as of 27 April, increased in value by \$352 million than last year, while its border trade

value increased by \$74 million.

The current export/import figures reached \$2.06 billion. This time last April, the value of trade carried out through the country's border and non-borders was less than \$2 billion.

Myanmar's major import items are divided into three groups — capital goods, intermediate goods and consumer goods. The country primarily exports six groups of commodities, such as agriculture products, animal and fisheries products, forest products and manufacturing goods.

Concerted efforts have been made by the government to decrease the trade deficit by reducing imported commodities, such as luxury goods. — Shwe Khine ■

Agricultural exports decrease slightly this FY

MYANMAR exported agricultural goods worth US\$204.5 million this April, recording a slight decrease in value by \$10.9 million than last April, according to the latest report of the commerce ministry.

Last April, agricultural exports were worth \$215.5 million.

Myanmar's major agricultural exports include beans and pulses, rice, melons, mangoes, coffee beans, avocado and other fruits and vegetables, as well as herbal plants and other market-

able items.

Over the first 27 days of the current transitional financial period, the country sold domestically-produced goods such as agricultural goods, animal products, aquaculture products, minerals, forest products, manufactured goods and other miscellaneous items, earning \$784.6 million, registering an increase in value by \$150 million as against the same period last year.

Myanmar conducts trade

with ASEAN member countries, East Asian nations, some European states and African states, mainly through sea routes.

Despite an increase in the value of exports, Myanmar is facing a yearly trade deficit because the country's imports exceed its exports. The government is making sustained efforts to boost the country's exports in each sector, as part of its economic development plan. — Swe Nyein ■

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Our water resources must be conserved, maintained and managed: U Henry Van Thio

At a coordination meeting of the National Water Resources Committee yesterday, Vice President U Henry Van Thio said that effective management of the country's water resources must be a cohesive effort by all relevant ministries and organisations.

U Henry Van Thio, who is chairman of the National Water Resources Committee, said the purpose of the meeting at the Presidential Palace yesterday morning was to discuss the development of water-related sectors, effective management and usage of water resources to support cooperation with international organizations, effective coordination in overcoming difficulties while implementing the works in the water resource sector, and to coordinate and discuss future work processes.

At the coordination meetings of the committee, U Henry Van Thio said respective committee members must coordinate the works conducted by the Ministries and organizations to ensure the all-round management of water resources in Myanmar, cooperate with international organizations, fulfil the work requirements for priority works conducted in states and regions and coordinate the works between ministries and organisations. This helps ease the implementation of the works, as well as the designation of future works, said the , chairman of addressed its coordination meeting 2/2018 at the Presidential Palace yesterday morning Vice President.

As water-related works are vital for each country's develop-



Vice President U Henry Van Thio addresses the meeting of the National Water Resources Committee in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

ment, all are urged to implement the Yangon Declaration and the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals to achieve good results. A Myanmar delegation led by the Union Minister for Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation U Ohn Win, attended the 8th World Water Forum held at Brasilia, Brazil, in March 2018 and submitted the results achieved during the Third Asia-Pacific Water Summit held in Myanmar, and included Myanmar's involvement at the ministerial-level declaration of World Water Forum. Myanmar has cooperated and participated in the water-related international cooperation sector.

Water-related Ministries, organizations and National Water Resources Committee members, and the personnel under their management are urged to participate and do their best to implement the work processes and works of the State.

In the water-related sector, the committee needs to establish sustainable water management and utilisation, reduce and mitigate water-related natural disasters, increase cooperation with neighbouring countries on cross-border river, obtain technology and cooperate for mutual benefit, as well as support and participate in collecting and distributing water-related data and information. In the all-round management of water resources and related works conducted in cooperation with international organizations, priority must be given to capacity building works that meet the requirement of the people and the state.

In addition to international cooperation in water-related works with countries within the ASEAN, Lancang-Mekong, coordination was required between the relevant ministries and organisations to prepare and conduct the necessary future works

and projects.

The National Water Resources Committee members were requested to actively discuss the water-related works conducted by the ministerial organizations, cooperation with international organizations, and requirements and suggestions on coordinating with other ministerial organisations. In addition to this, all need to strive to implement an all-round water resources management system that was effective and beneficial for the people and the country, said the Vice President.

Next, Committee Vice Chairman Union Minister for Transport and Communications U Thant Sin Maung explained about maintaining the rivers and creeks, conducting works to prevent bank erosion, inspecting river crossing bridges for long-term existence, monitoring water quality in the rivers, measuring meteorological and hydrology

data and informing the public, conducting inland water transport and managing port works, ensuring the safety of the vessels and the public using it, developing and producing technicians and experts on water transport, the Ayeyawady basin all-round development project, rainwater harvesting system in the Bagan region and the highlighted works implemented in the water-related sectors.

Later, Committee Secretary Director-General of the Directorate of Water Resources and Improvement of River Systems U Tun Lwin Oo explained the works completed by the National Water Resources Committee.

Union Ministers Lt-Gen Ye Aung, U Kyaw Win, U Ohn Win, Deputy Minister U Soe Aung, National Water Resources Committee members, the advisory group and the departmental expert group then explained the sector-wise works conducted and the future works.

Following this, U Henry Van Thio coordinated a discussion.

In his concluding speech, the Vice President said that for the committee to manage the water resources of the entire country, Ministries and organizations must conduct their regular works, as well as support and participate in works to develop the water-related sectors. The meeting was concluded after the Vice President pledged his support to the successful management of the country's water resources and implementation of the water-related works. —Myanmar News Agency ■

Union Legal Supporting Group office opens in Nay Pyi Taw

THE opening ceremony of the Union Legal Supporting Group Office was held at Cluster-3, Building (7), in Sports Training Ground, Union Territory, in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. The ceremony started with Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat, Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat, Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than, Union Chief Justice U Htun Htun Oo and Union Legal Supporting Group

Chairman U Nyan Win cutting the ceremonial ribbon.

The ceremony was attended by Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat, Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than, Union Chief Justice U Htun Htun Oo, Union Legal Supporting Group Chairman U Nyan Win, group members, officials and other invited guests. — Myanmar News Agency ■



Officials open the Union Legal Supporting Group Office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Press conference on ministries, judicial performance



Deputy Minister for Information U Aung Hla Tun (centre) talks to media at the press conference in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA

The Office of the Union Supreme Court, the Ministry of Border Affairs and the Ministry of Electricity and Energy held a press conference jointly on the three institutions' performance in the second year in office at the Ministry of Information yesterday.

Speaking at the event, Deputy Minister for Information U Aung Hla Tun said ministries, understanding the importance of the right of access to information, are planning to form media committees to quickly respond to queries raised by journalists.

The ministries were also coordinating to put their performances on their websites for timely public notice, said U Aung Hla Tun.

The Ministry of Information made arrangements for media trips as much as possible to conflict areas, and also recognised that there are still unrealised requirements to meet journalists' wishes.

The Deputy Minister also disclosed that the ministry was reviewing laws which are believed to cause hindrances to press freedom in the country, adding that some would be revoked or renewed if necessary.

He also expressed the ministry's commitment to holding press conferences regularly.

Plans are underway to generate 3,000 MW in three years to fulfill local deficiency

The Ministry of Electricity and Energy plans to produce 3,000 megawatts of electricity within three years to fulfil the domestic need for power, said Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Electricity and Energy U Tin Maung Oo.

"To meet the target of 3,000 megawatts, necessary measures including engineering and design works are being undertaken. Surveys are also jointly being carried out with the maritime transportation department to transport LNG (liquid natural gas) by ship," said the Permanent Secretary of the ministry at the press conference.

Total company from France and Siemens AG from Germany are working together on implementing the LNG-to-Power project in Kanpauk area in Taninthayi Region to produce 1,230 megawatts, while Zhefu Holding Group Co Ltd and Supreme Trading Co Ltd from Myanmar

are also implementing a LNG-to-Power project in Milaunggyaing area in Ayeyawady Region to produce 1,390 megawatts.

Meanwhile, the LNG-to-Power project in Ahlon, Yangon Region, being implemented by TTCL Public Company Limited Company, is expected to produce 356 megawatts and a gas-fired and waste-to-energy plant project being implemented by Sino-hydro Corporation Limited from China and Supreme Trading Co Ltd from Myanmar in Kyaukp-yu, Rakhine State, is expected to produce 135 megawatts upon completion, according to the Ministry of Electricity and Energy.

Myanmar has the potential to produce 40,000 MW of hydro-electricity.

"Generating hydroelectricity is a long-term plan. At the moment, we cannot yet produce electricity from coal-fired plants. We need to articulate it to the people. We will produce the electricity from coal-fired technology when the people understand it," said U Tin Maung Oo.

Due to the nationwide electrification project, about 40 per cent of the country's rural population have access to electricity

today, according to the ministry.

Supreme-Court of the Union

Regarding the performance of the Supreme-Court of the Union over second year in office, U Ko Ko Naing, Director-General of the Union Supreme-Court, said the code of conducts for judiciary sector was released in August, 2017, Annual Court Report for 2016 was released in 2017 and the second annual court report for 2017 in May, 2018.

Some of the objective of the reports is for public transparency of judicial accountability, quantity justice, quality justice and highlighting the changes and challenges in reinforcing the judiciary sector.

The annual court reports are available at the www.unionsupremecourt.gov.mm.

The Supreme-Court of the Union also released a manual handbook for media and promoted rights of access to information for media at courts.

Daw Tin Nwe Soe, Director-General of the Supreme Court of the Union, explained the reforms being carried out by the Supreme-Court of the Union, disclosing that the Supreme-Court

of the Union is implementing the new strategy for judiciary sector 2018-2022.

As the completion of settlements at courts reached about 96 percent nationwide and crime management program will be launched at courts nationwide, she added.

She also explained reforms at courts, amendment of laws, and promoting human rights at prisons and correctional departments.

Ministry of Border Affairs

Following her explanation, U Sai Tun Nyo, Assistant Permanent-Secretary of Ministry of Border Affairs said the ministry constructed the Magwayza-Khaunglanphu Road in Naungmon Township, Kachin State in the second year term and would upgrade the road sections on the Magwayza-Ngalondam and Ngalondam-Ridam roads to gravel ones. The ministry also opened four vocational training schools, conferring completion certificates on 150 women.

Besides, the ministry arranged excursion trips for the ethnic youths in rural areas.— Myanmar News Agency

Expect rainfall, thundershowers in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon and Mandalay

Thunderstorms will continue to be felt in southern Myanmar areas, and rainfall or thundershowers will be fairly widespread in Nay Pyi Taw, widespread in the Yangon region and scattered

in the Mandalay Region in the next two days, as clouds will be few over Central Bay and partly cloudy to cloudy over the Andaman Sea and elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal, according

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

The forecast for Nay Pyi Taw, Mandalay and neighbouring ar-

reas for today is isolated rain or thundershowers, and the degree of certainty is 80 per cent, whereas one or two rainfall or thundershowers will be experienced in Yangon and neighbouring areas,

with the degree of certainty being 80 per cent. Seas will be slight to moderate in Myanmar waters. The height of the waves will be some 3 to 5 feet off and along Myanmar coast.—GNLM

We invite the sincere cooperation of Bangladesh to start repatriation

WHILE Myanmar has insisted that it is ready to begin the repatriation process to accept the verified displaced people from Bangladesh, it is very upsetting to hear that the Prime Minister of Bangladesh called on the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) to put pressure on Myanmar to take back the displaced people and ensure their rights and security.

The repatriation forms were to be completed in accordance with the agreement between the two countries. If so, why did Bangladesh fail to fill in the forms of more than 8,000 people? The forms received by Myanmar were not the ones agreed upon by both countries. What came as a complete surprise to Myanmar is that the Bangladeshi Foreign Minister did not know that the forms were not completed in accord with the bilateral agreement until he met with a Myanmar delegation led by the Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement in mid-April.

We would like to urge Bangladesh to take all necessary steps to help the repatriation process in accordance with the bilateral agreement as we are ready to facilitate the dignified return of the displaced persons from Rakhine.

The displaced people did not produce signed documents stating they were returning of their own free will, and their fingerprints and individual photographs were not included in the documents sent to Myanmar.

This shows that the actions of the Bangladeshi government are not workable for the repatriation process.

We reject the OIC meeting's Dhaka Declaration as it lacks balance and fairness, and fails to denounce the brutal attacks of the terrorist group, the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA), which triggered the humanitarian situation unfolding today.

Myanmar categorically rejects the irresponsible labelling of "ethnic cleansing" or "State-backed violence" to describe events in Rakhine State. More than 50 per cent

of the Muslim community, which represents the majority in Maungdaw region, have remained in their villages.

The term genocide should not be used in the case of Myanmar, nor in other countries, without clear evidence.

We should note that the problems in Rakhine State are long-standing, complicated and sensitive. For Myanmar there are many arduous tasks ahead of us, and this may be considered to be just the beginning of a long journey to bring peace and prosperity to Rakhine State.

Our main strength is cooperation. Rehabilitation is a social and political need.

There is motto which goes: Winning the peace is harder than winning the war.

We would like to urge Bangladesh to take all necessary steps to help the repatriation process in accordance with the bilateral agreement as we are ready to facilitate the dignified return of the displaced persons from Rakhine.

At the same time, we hope that the international community will constructively contribute to our efforts to advance the democratization process and promote and protect human rights in line with the country's circumstances and needs. ■

Keeping the Inya Lake in an original state of preservation

By Tin Win Lay
(Kyimyindaing)

THESE days, there is no reason why I was humming softly to myself: a song on a university girl student by Ko Min Naung. The proximity of the Yangon University to the Inya Lake has created a famous location for romance and coming to my mind the first days of student life in the University.

But Yangon Region Hluttaw Representative Daw Khine Mar Htay from Hlaing Constituency No. 2 raised a query about the maintenance of Inya Lake: "Are there any plans of maintaining the original state of preservation for the Inya Lake not only for the Yangonites but for foreign tourists?" Again on 5 May, Mayangon Constituency No.1 Hluttaw Representative U Yan Shin also raised some questions about hundreds of rat holes and leftover foods thrown into the Lake on the east side facing the Myanmar Plaza.

There are two famous lakes in Yangon: the Kandawgyi and the Inya Lakes, with latter roughly five times larger than the former. With long historical backgrounds of the two lakes, only the Inya Lake has created a lot of love stories among the university students due to its proximity to the University Campus.

During the heyday of the University of Yangon, there was a little bit of maintenance of the

lake. Walking on the lanes on the bank, students used to be at a popular rendezvous at the roadside shops where fried fruit and vegetables were available. Now these places have become an area of scenic beauty: shady trees with beautiful red flowers have grown on both sides of the bank for holidaymakers. From dawn till dusk, more and more restaurants and shops have sprouted in recent years to sell food and drinks.

Beautification of the Lake

Yangon Major U Maung Maung Soe responded to the queries that arrangements and plans are being carried out for beautification and upgrading of the lake for the Yangonites as well as for foreign tourists. For beautification purposes, rubbish are being salvaged from the lake daily; silt has been removed with the help of suction pumps; and floodgates are put in places to control the level of the water in the lake. Silt has been salvaged from the inlet pipes of Kokkine and Inya Myaing to raise the level of water up to 47' to 48' by installation of 12 floodgates. For strength and cleanliness of the lake bank on the side of the Pyay Road, big concrete slabs were put in place for the length of 2350 pieces and 2015, silt-sieve pool and 170-foot long embankment of polluted water were also constructed.

Keeping Inya waters clean

In 2017, some experts from



the Irrigation and Water Management Department investigated the strength of the bank on the side of Pyay Road. In order to the waters clean, nearby polluted water, rubbish and dirty water from restaurants have been purified or channeled into the drains beside the Inya Road at the back of the Convocation Hall. On the side of Yangon Sailing Club, the letout of polluted water through the floodgate is released 10 feet above the surface of the water. In the same way, polluted water from the restaurants of Myak-

yuntha side is released in the same manner, keeping the water in the lake purified and clean.

Upon the scenic beauty of the Lake, an officer-in-charge U Zaw Win Htun said: On the Pyay Road, the Inya Lake is connected with townships of Kamayut and Hlaing with the White Bridge in the middle. When asked about hundreds of rat holes, he pointed out at the reckless behavior of holidaymakers; they throw away leftover foods without taking anything into consideration. He continued to point out these animals live on these foods by making holes in the ground. These holes have been filled with sand, broken bricks and mud on a daily basis. The owners of restaurants are strongly urged not to let the polluted water flow into the Lake; systematic collections of rubbish are closely watched; collected rain water should be released through the drains into the White Bridge creek.

Daily cleanliness

Those who walk on the bank for relaxation are reminded to throw the rubbish into the dustbins; 108 trashcans are already put in place on the Pyay Road

side with 111 garbage cans on the side of Kaba Aye Road.

These dustbins are cleaned by a workforce of 60 employees on a daily basis. The bank on the side of Pyay Road is long but beautiful with a park on Inya Road meticulously planned for beautification. Even if there are no fences or barriers near the Lake, the path on the bank is hugely popular for walkers under the shady trees in the morning.

Security for walkers

For the security of those who spend a few hours of relaxation, installation of 34 CCTV are already carried out on the Pyay side and with 39 CCTV on the Kaba Aye side. The idea is to record all events and accidents occurred near the lake and it is as well meant to make the images of the lake better. Park benches were built on the bank by some business companies; some benches are removed to make ways for fun seekers. Arrangements are urgently made not only for Yangonites but for pleasure-seeking foreign tourists as well. The passage ways to the bank and restaurants are meticulously paved under the

shady trees.

Reckless throwing of rubbish

Billboards with notices are erected near the lake to abide by walkers as well as fun seekers. These people are believed to have thrown rubbish recklessly, making a lot of rat holes in the grass on the ground. If foreign tourists happen to find these holes, we may get shy and embarrassed. Eradication of these rodents is being supervised with the help of Animals and Slaughterhouse Department, according to U Zaw Lin Htun. More than three hundred thousand rats were eliminated in 2016 and more than that number in 2017, according to an official.

The Inya Lake is 1800 feet long on the Pyay Road side and can hold 4 trillion gallons of water according to an expert. It would be of great concern to local people if the strength of the bank becomes weakened by rat holes in the grass on the ground. As the lake has been a symbol of historic and natural beauty of Yangon, the maintenance of the Lake should be carried out by active cooperation and participation of people from all walks of life. ■

Closing the gaps in economic statistics for sustainable development

Asia-Pacific Economic Statistics Week 2018

THE 2018 Asia-Pacific Economic Statistics Week (APES) closed today in Bangkok with a strong focus on strengthening the capability of Member States to produce core economic statistics and improve monitoring of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Senior economic statisticians from statistical offices and central banks of countries in the region, as well as international development experts gathered at the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) in Bangkok for the four-day forum to exchange research priorities and best practices, and help close the data gaps for sustainable development.

Economic statistics are specifically required for almost half the current indicators in the global monitoring framework for the SDGs, yet many countries continue to struggle with getting the basics right such as population and economic statistics. Therefore, there is an urgent need to improve data collection in order to present a complete picture of the region's development.

"It is critical that governments invest in national statistical systems to address monitoring needs of the SDGs," said UN Under-Secretary-General and Executive Secretary of ESCAP Dr. Shamshad Akhtar. "The support that different development partners give to advance statistical capacity development is crucial to promote evidence based policy making for the benefit of the regions' most vulnerable populations."

The forum included a two-day seminar, which covered big data, modern technologies for production of economics statistics, administrative data, System of National Accounts, Islamic finance, natural resources and communication, and the use of statistics. The seminar was held back to back with the fifth meeting of the Steering Group for the Regional Programme on Economic Statistics, where delegates outlined research priorities for the region such as the digital and creative economy.

Participants decided on priority topics for collaboration including the use of big data technologies and national accounts statistics. The forum also provided a platform to expand the knowledge repository of national studies to improve data collection.

APES was established in 2016, within the Regional Programme on Economic Statistics, to provide substantive, consistent support to countries to ensure effective production and dissemination of basic economic statistics, and share national research studies across the region.—ESCAP News ■

Invitation to young writers for Sunday section

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



Goods supplied by NGO. **PHOTO: MNA**Sandbagged defensive position with over head cover. **PHOTO: MNA**People forced to install CCTV Camera pointed at Myanmar side. **PHOTO: MNA**

Protest lodged against Bangladesh for construction of fortifications

MYANMAR has summoned the Bangladeshi Ambassador to lodge a formal protest against the construction of fortifications, such as sandbagged with overhead covers and bunkers on the Bangladesh side of the border, in violation of the terms described in the bilateral border agreement.

From Taungbro Village in Bangladesh facing border posts 34 and 35 near Rakhine State, Maungtau Township, Taung Pyo Town to Lower Bashbari Village, the No. 34 BGB battalion had constructed seven fortifications — two sandbagged defensive position with overhead cover, three sandbagged/earth defensive position with overhead cover, one earth bunker and one concrete bunker, which were then manned by BGB troops day and night.

Furthermore, the No. 34 BGB battalion installed four CCTV cameras and 10 security solar lamps on the Bangladesh

side of the border between the two countries on 6 and 7 March, and 9 and 10 March, respectively.

Union Minister U Kyaw Tin summoned Bangladesh Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Majurul Karim Khan Chowdhury to demand that Bangladesh remove the installations constructed in violation of the bilateral border agreement, stop supporting the construction of houses and buildings in the no-construction zone on the Myanmar side of the border line, and cooperate in removing displaced persons living there illegally. Myanmar informed him about 368 Rakhine, Mro, Khami and Daingnet peoples thought to be Bangladesh nationals who had entered Myanmar in the past few months.

Their nationalities will be assessed, and they will be sent back to their places of origin in Bangladesh, as per their wishes as soon as possible, he said.

The Union Minister then reiterated the readiness of Myanmar to receive the displaced persons from Rakhine State, according to the bilateral agreement between the governments of Myanmar and Bangladesh before the monsoon.

The Union Minister also urged cooperation from the Bangladesh side for the speedy repatriation of some 1,200 Hindus and Muslims in a list provided by Myanmar and 929 persons already assessed by Myanmar from a list provided by Bangladesh.

Furthermore, the Ambassador was told to provide the list of displaced persons who wanted to return through the forms prescribed in the agreed physical arrangement for receiving returnees, resolve the matter of displaced persons and other bilateral matters through bilateral discussion with neighbourly spirit. — Myanmar News Agency ■

A Concrete Bunker seen at Bangladesh side. **PHOTO: MNA**Solar lamps installed between 34 and 35 mile post of Myanmar-Bangladesh border line. **PHOTO: MNA**

UCS Board Chairman attends programme on civil service cooperation with China

UPON the invitation of the Chinese Academy of Governance (CAG), Union Civil Service Board (UCSB) Chairman Dr. Win Thein and party attended the China-Myanmar Cooperation on Civil Service Affairs held in Beijing from 7 to 11 May and arrived back in Yangon by air yesterday evening.

The study tour was part of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between Central Institute of Civil Service under UCSB and CAG on 15

November 2017.

During the study tour, the Myanmar delegation met with Chinese Academy of Governance Vice President Mr. Chen Li and talked about establishing the academy and matters relating to training of public servants. Next, the Myanmar delegation met with Deputy Minister for the Ministry of Education to discuss and study the education system of People's Republic of China. Afterwards, they went to the Institute of South-South Coopera-

tion and Development (ISSCAD) in Peking University, studied and discussed the Leadership Development Programme, met with the department head of the Chinese Bureau of Civil Service, Department of the Central Committee of the CPC, to discuss and study public servant matters. On 10 May, a discussion was held with Shanghai Province Deputy Mayor Shanghai Institute of Administration Chairman Mr. Peng Chenie about the Shanghai Province public servant manage-

UCSB Chairman Dr. Win Thein meets Chinese officials in China. **PHOTO: MNA**

ment system. On 11 May, the Myanmar delegation went to Yunnan Institute of Administration in Kunming to study and discuss

the training of public servants and conducting public servant affairs matters, it is learnt. —Myanmar News Agency ■

SG Min Aung Hlaing receives Indian Minister of External Affairs

COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing received Indian Minister of External Affairs Ms Sushma Swaraj at the Zeya Thiri Beikman in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

At the meeting, they discussed about peace and stability in the border areas of the

two countries, cooperation in bilateral security, anti-drugs and anti-terrorism measures, cooperation between the two armed forces, Indian assistance in the repatriation process and the efforts made by the Tatmadaw for the peace process in Rakhine State.—Myanmar News Agency ■



Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing holds talks with Indian Minister of External Affairs Ms Sushma Swaraj in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

We are responsible for safety for the international aid groups when they go to the armed conflict areas. It is not true that we denied them to go the conflict areas: Kachin State Chief Minister

Interview with authorities in Kachin State regarding armed conflicts

By: Ye Khaung Nyunt

A media delegation led by Chief Editor U Tha Sein of the Myanmar News Agency (External) visited the conflict areas in Kachin State from 9 to 11 May.

During the three-day visit, the delegation visited churches where displaced people, who fled their homes amid armed conflicts, were sheltering and Awng Lawt area, where KIA's brigade-2 was established, and is currently under control by the Tatmadaw.

The journalists interviewed Chief Minister of Kachin State Dr. Khat Aung, Kachin State Security and Border Affairs Col Thura Myo Tin, Kachin State Advocate General U Disinyal, Chairman of Kachin State Red Cross Supervisory Committee U Ge Nas, and officials.

Following is the interview with Kachin State Chief Minister Dr. Khat Aung.

Q: Is it correct that Kachin State Government denied the offers by international communities to give assistance to Kachin State?

Chief Minister: After co-ordination with the Northern Command, we permitted rescue groups depending on the security situation to go to the areas where the armed conflicts happened between the Tatmadaw and KIA. Some asked permission from the Kachin State Government to go to the areas. There are landmines in the conflict areas. We are responsible for safety for the international



Members of the Kachin State Cabinet meeting with the media delegation in Myitkyina, Kachin State. **PHOTO: PHOE HTAUNG**

aid groups when they go to the armed conflict areas. It is not true that we denied them to go the conflict areas.

Q: Can you say that there is no people who are trapped amid armed conflicts?

Chief Minister: We can not say that there is no people who are trapped amid armed conflicts. Youths staged protests here recently demanding to rescue people trapped in the conflict areas. We have the same ambition with the youths. So, we asked them to give information on locations where the people are believed to be trapped, who needs health care services, etc. We, the Kachin State Government, will help them, rescue them by ourselves or by co-ordination with the Tatmadaw. Only when we hear the voices of the people, we can help them. We have formed committees to rescue and to aid the displaced people. We are ready to give our help to the people at the state, district and town levels.

Q: There are accusations. People are anxious. Can we say that there are political reason behind that. How is your government planning to return the situation into normalcy?

A: Maybe there are political grounds. The main reason is lack of peace here. We all must work together to achieve peace in Kachin State.

Q: Some said that residents are trapped in armed conflicts areas. I think the General Administration Department have the list of the people trapped in the conflict areas. What is the difference between the number of people who fled their homes and who were trapped in the conflict areas?

A: Some areas are within the reach of our administration, but some are not. For example, Awng Lawt area where the media delegation visited yesterday was not within our administration. First, we got the information that about 160 people were trapped in the Manwae. Of them,

30 have no household document. Kachin State Government have made arrangements to grant household documents to them. You can get the detailed information from the Director of the Immigration and Population Department and Kachin State Security and Border Affairs Minister.

Q: Is it correct that the Kachin State Government sent the displaced people to their relatives' homes, not to the IDP camps? How about your opinion on the information that IDP camp is not allowed to be established in Tanai?

A: We transported them to their relatives' homes on their own volition. The real situation is that they sheltered at monasteries and churches temporarily due to security concern. Now, IDP camps have been established and the Union Government and the Kachin State Government have provided assistance to them. NGOs and INGOs are also giving assistance to them.

Q: Kachin State Government said it is ready to rescue the people who are trapped once it gets the information. How can you carry out the rescue operation?

Kachin State Security and Border Affairs Minister: Officials of the Tatmadaw have promised that they will assist in rescuing the people who are trapped in the conflicts and will transport them to safe place. If the people need urgent medical care, the Tatmadaw will move them by helicopter. It depends on the choice of the people. Re-

garding the IDP camps, there are about 100 IDP camps in the government areas and non-government areas. This is not a good sign. We sent the people from Manwei to the relatives' houses on their own volition. They want to return home but they don't due to some pressure on them, I think.

Kachin State Social Affairs Minister: First, we moved the people from Manwei to Karmai. First, we sent the red cross members to the area and they got the list of people who want to stay at their relatives' homes. You can check that list from the U Gae Nas, Chairman of Kachin State Red Cross Supervisory Committee.

U Gae Nas, Chairman of Kachin State Red Cross Supervisory Committee: We sent the list of 28 households to the Kachin State Government. We, red cross members, were also together with the Kachin State Government when they transported the displaced people to the relatives' homes.

Q: Could please tell the messages from the State Counsellor for the current situation here?

Chief Minister: First priority is the prevalence of peace and the second is the rule of law in Kachin state. The Rule of Law includes elimination of drugs. But, we can not work in full swing for the drug elimination here as we still not yet achieve peace. The next step is the social economic development. The whole country is facing the peace problem. If we have strong desire for peace, we can achieve it. Thank You. ■

Historic Trump-Kim summit set for 12 June in Singapore

WASHINGTON—Donald Trump on Thursday revealed his historic summit with Kim Jong Un — the first-ever between a sitting US president and a North Korean leader— will take place in Singapore on 12 June.

The location and date of the landmark meeting were announced in a presidential tweet just hours after Trump welcomed to the United States three American prisoners released by Pyongyang.

“We will both try to make it a very special moment for World Peace!” Trump wrote.

The talks, which are expected to last one day, are set to focus on North Korea’s rapidly advancing

nuclear and ballistic weapons programs.

“I think it will be a big success,” Trump said as he boarded Air Force One, on his way to a political rally in Indiana.

US officials said the release of Americans Kim Hak-song, Tony Kim and Kim Dong-chul removed a major obstacle to the summit, providing Trump with some tangible evidence that his twin-track policy of engagement and “maximum pressure” was working.

“We’re not under any illusions about who these people are. We know who we are dealing with here,” said Victoria Coates, of the National Security Council.

“But we got, up front,



US President Donald Trump says he will meet with North Korea’s Kim Jong UN (R) 12 June in Singapore.

PHOTO: AFP

our people home.”

Neutral setting

The United States and North Korea are technically still at war — a stop-gap armistice ended the brutal three-year Korean war in 1953 and around 30,000 American troops remain in

neighboring South Korea, which the US supported in the conflict.

Singapore will provide a neutral backdrop for the summit, avoiding some of the security and political challenges associated with a meeting in the Demilita-

rized Zone that separates North and South Korea.

The Southeast Asia city state has long acted as a bridge between the United States and China, with successive prime ministers offering Oval Office occupants their cherished geopolitical counsel.

When Trump and Kim do sit down a month from now, the two relatively untested leaders will be presented with a puzzle that has stymied seasoned diplomats for decades.

A series of US administrations have sent envoys, both official and unofficial, to Pyongyang in the hope of stopping North Korea’s provocative nuclear weapons program.

Former presidents

Bill Clinton and Jimmy Carter visited after leaving office, multiple rounds of non-proliferation talks have taken place, and a deal was even signed in 1994.

But despite the optimism of that moment, all efforts to limit North Korea’s nuclear program have, to date, failed. And more than two decades and multiple provocative weapons tests after the last accord, the threat from Pyongyang has only grown.

The country is now believed to be on the cusp of developing an intercontinental ballistic missile that could deliver a nuclear warhead to the US mainland.—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 Electric Power Project (EPP). The IDA No. of the financing agreement is No. 5306 MM. The Electric Power Generation Enterprise (EPGE) of the Ministry of Electricity and Energy in its role as implementing agency of the EPP, intends to apply the portion of the proceeds of this credit towards eligible payments under the contracts for which this invitation for Quotation is issued.

MOEE now invites eligible suppliers to express the interest in supplying the following items.

Item No.	Reference No.	Description	Quantity	Units
1.	G-03	Digital Gas Meter & skid Accessories	10	Sets
2.	G-04	(a) 33kV Energy Meters	27	Nos
		(b) 33kV Current Transformer	24	Sets
3.	G-05	(a) 66kV Energy Meters	40	Nos
		(b) 66kV Current Transformer	23	Sets
4.	G-06	(a) The Universal Relay Test Set and Commissioning Tool	2	Sets
		(b) Double Stage Vacuum Transformer	2	Sets
		(c) Turbine Oil purifier	3	Sets
5.	G-07	(a) 125V Battery Bank (300Ah) & Battery Charger Complete with DC Distribution Board	5	Sets
		(b) 230V Battery Bank (300Ah) & Battery Charger Complete with DC Distribution Board	10	Sets

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 dead line (Friday, 8th June 2018, at 2 P.M Myanmar time), after which no Quotations will be accepted.

Suppliers will be selected following the shopping Method as per the “Guide 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 Quotation to; U Khin Maung Win, Managing Director, Electric Power Generation Enterprise Office No. (27), Nay Pyi Taw, for detailed information please contact to U Han Zaw, Chief Engineer, Gas Turbine section, mobile phone +959428610206 and U Aung San Win, General Manager, Procurement section, mobile phone +959457733044 or Office phone +95678104319, E-mail: procurementepge.wb@gmail.com. Please indicate your E-mail address as only electronic copies of the RFQ will be send.

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 72 Supply of Water Quality Testing Kits including end user Training for 54 Townships

Reference No.	Lot No	Description	Quantity (Number)
G 72	1	Supply of Water Quality Testing Kits including end user Training for 54 Townships	54 kits

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 below at the latest **at the dead line of Wednesday 13 June 2018 at 10am Myanmar time**, 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.

circulation@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

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Indonesian volcano erupts, sparking evacuations

JAKARTA (INDONESIA) — Indonesian villagers living in the shadow of one of the world’s most active volcanoes fled to safety Friday as Mount Merapi erupted, sending a cascade of ash and smoke some 5,000 metres (16,400 feet) into the sky.

The government ordered residents living within a five-kilometre (three-mile) radius of the crater on Java island to leave as ash covered surrounding communities and even reached parts of Yogyakarta, Indonesia’s cultural capital some 30 kilometres away.

Officials have shuttered the city’s international airport with two dozen flights cancelled following the eruption, which began around 7:30 am (1230 GMT). It was not clear how



More than 12,000 people live in the immediate vicinity of Mount Merapi, one of the world’s most active volcanoes.
PHOTO:AFP

many residents living around Merapi had left for local shelters, but around 12,000 people live in its immediate vicinity. “Everybody ran here immediately,” resident Fa-

milia Ekawati said from a shelter, adding that there was little warning of the blast before it happened. “There was no sign it would be erupting.” Some 120 people who

were hiking on the mountain when the eruption happened are safe, the government said. Merapi previously erupted in 2010, killing more than 300 people and

forcing 280,000 to flee, in what is considered its most powerful eruption since 1930. Despite Friday’s evacuations, officials played down the danger, saying

it was a phreatic eruption, which happens when magma heats up ground water, building up pressure inside the crater. “This kind of eruption is not dangerous and could happen anytime to an active volcano,” national disaster agency spokesman Sutopo Purwo Nugroho said in a statement. “There have not been any more eruptions (since this morning).” The volcano’s alert status has not been raised. The Southeast Asian archipelago nation of more than 17,000 islands and islets — and nearly 130 active volcanoes — is situated on the Pacific “Ring of Fire”, a vast zone of geological instability where the collision of tectonic plates causes frequent quakes and major volcanic activity.—AFP ■

CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE M.V HAI YU

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V HAI YU are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 12-5-18 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MIPL. 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 WILHELMSSEN SHIPS
SERVICES PTE LTD**

Phone No: 2301928

CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE M.V MCC TORRES STRAIT VOY. NO. (1813/1814)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V MCC TORRES STRAIT VOY. NO. (1813/1814) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 12-5-2018 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.

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S MCC TRANSPORT
(S’PORE) PTE LTD**

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE M.V HUNSA BHUM VOY. NO. (420)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V HUNSA BHUM VOY. NO. (420) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 12-5-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T/A.I.P.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S REGIONAL CONTAINER
LINES**

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE M.V EVER ALLY VOY. NO. (0240-563W/E)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V EVER ALLY VOY. NO. (0240-563W/E) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 12-5-2018 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.

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S EVERGREEN SHIPPING
LINE**

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE M.V SINAR BALI VOY. NO. (054N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V SINAR BALI VOY. NO. (054N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 12-5-2018 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 SILKAGO LOGISTICS
PTE LTD**

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE M.V LIZ STAR GLORY VOY. NO. (3)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V LIZ STAR GLORY VOY. NO. (3) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 12-5-2018 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 TOKO KAIUN KAISHA
LTD JAPAN**

Phone No: 2301191/2301178

Age cannot wither Brazilian seniors in beauty contest

SAO PAULO (BRAZIL)— Brazilian Rosalia Pereira had two reasons to celebrate Thursday: her miraculously rekindled true love 40 years to the day after their first date and being crowned Sao Paulo's senior beauty queen.

"Today is even more special because of this," the 62-year-old said after winning the beauty contest, which aims to give the elderly a bit of fun just before Brazilian Mother's Day on Sunday.

"To participate, to have the courage to participate, is proof that the elderly today are active and this is very good, because it boosts everyone's confidence," Pereira told AFP.

Now in its 15th year, the contest is run by a community center for the elderly in the northeast of the city.

"This is part of social inclusion, getting people out of their houses," said Nilton da Silva Guedes, social integration director at the center, known as the Paulista Institute of Geriatrics and Gerontology.



Brazilian Rosalia Pereira, 62, is crowned Sao Paulo's senior beauty queen. PHOTO: AFP

"There's a different world, people of the same age range who maybe have similar problems, people who can talk or exchange ideas, understand each other, and see things aren't that bad," he

said.

Organizers whittled down more than 100 initial contestants to 25 finalists.

On the day of the final, hopeful beauties aged between 62 and

77 paraded before a loud audience, mostly consisting of other elderly -- though not always.

"That's my mother!" one younger woman shouted, pointing proudly at the stage.

Up for grabs were titles in five other categories: Miss Timidity, Miss Elegance, Miss Smile, Miss Congeniality and Miss Beauty.

The previous editions' winners hung the sashes around their successors' shoulders. Last year's Miss Beauty 2017 appraised the new title-holder critically before conceding the sash, and outgoing beauty queen Aureluce Gastao seemed to need a little persuasion to surrender her crown.

Mother-of-two Pereira, a commercial manager, is no stranger to the catwalk, having won another title in her suburb in 2016.

But what is beauty without love? In this, Pereira says she has been the biggest winner of all.

Her greatest achievement, she says, was "rediscovering the big love of my life."

Divorced, she recently rekindled a relationship with her very first boyfriend after he found her through Facebook.—AFP ■

Feel-good Egyptian leper film charms Cannes

CANNES (FRANCE) —First-time director A.B. Shawky said Thursday that piecing together financing for a feel-good road movie about an Egyptian leper and his orphan friend nicknamed Obama was the least of his troubles getting his film to Cannes.

The newcomer is going toe-to-toe with Spike Lee, his former professor, and Jean-Luc Godard for the coveted Palme d'Or at the world's premier film festival with his debut feature "Yomeddine".

The touching, upbeat picture tells the story of Beshay, who lives in a leper colony north of Cairo, and Obama, who joins him on a cross-country trek after he escapes his overcrowded orphanage.

"It's my first film so obviously I didn't have any record to fall back when I go to financiers but also I had non-actors who weren't able to read and the main actor also had leprosy," said the Egyptian-Austrian director, who at 32 is the youngest in the competition.

On top of that came Egypt's notorious red tape — the crew had to wait a month and a half just for one permit, for a key scene on a train.



Egyptian director A.B. Shawky and his producer wife Dina Emam turned to crowdfunding to gather funds for the feature 'Yomeddine'. PHOTO: AFP

- 'Last of their kind' - Shawky found his lead actor Rady Gamal at the Abu Zaabal Leper Colony, where he made a short documentary in 2008, and said he was taken with the natural charisma behind his heavily scarred face and disfigured limbs.

"When you live in a secluded leper colony, you're not used to people staring at you all the time and now you have stand in front of a camera and have 60 people (on the crew) staring at you all day," he said.

"But by the end of the shoot he was the star -- everybody

loved him, he cracks jokes all the time."

Shawky said advances in treatment of leprosy meant its devastating effects may make his film a historical relic in just a few decades.

"The older generation (such as Gamal) that contracted the disease before they came up with a cure for it in the 1980s are basically the last of their kind," he said. As for the Nubian boy nicknamed Obama, Shawky said he didn't aim to get into US politics but rather show the global reach of cultural touchstones.—AFP ■

Meghan unveiled at London waxwork museum

LONDON—A waxwork of Meghan Markle wearing a replica of her diamond engagement ring was unveiled on Wednesday at London's Madame Tussauds museum, less than two weeks before her wedding to Prince Harry.

"Excitement ahead of the royal wedding is reaching fever pitch and we have been inundated with questions about when people can finally meet Their Royal Likenesses," general manager Edward Fuller said.

The likeness of the US former television actress is in a green dress like the one she wore when the couple, who are getting married at Windsor Castle on 19 May, announced their engagement in November.

"They take about six months to make. We had to speed up a little because obviously once the engagement was announced we were off and running," Stephen Mansfield, the principal sculptor, told AFP. Asked if Harry and Meghan had posed for the sculptures, he said: "As you can imagine they've got one or two other things on their minds currently, so we were able to create the figures using techniques that we're built up over the years".

Harry's figure, which was

originally created to mark the royal's 30th birthday, has been updated for the occasion with the ginger beard he currently sports.

"The massive challenge in this case was that there would be a huge expectation and people interested to see how our figures would look," Mansfield said.

The waxworks will go on public show the day before the wedding. On the day, the museum said it will offer free entry to guests named Meghan or Harry.—AFP ■



Wax figures of Britain's Prince Harry and his US fiancée Meghan Markle are at Madame Tussauds in central London. PHOTO: AFP

US museum explores Louise Bourgeois, beyond the spiders

POTOMAC (UNITED STATES) — There's something deeply unsettling about navigating through the latest Louise Bourgeois exhibition, an experience that feels like trespassing in the late French-American artist's psyche.

A five-decade survey that opened Thursday at the private Glenstone museum in the town of Potomac, Maryland outside Washington explores the breadth of deeply autobiographical, sexually-charged creations by this prolific artist, best known for her giant metal spider sculptures displayed around the world.

Traumatized as a child by her philandering father's infidelities, including with her nanny, Bourgeois took a revenge of sorts with "The Destruction of the Father" (1974), her first large-scale installation.

A red-lit room lined in soft fabric suggests a womb-like bedroom/dining room, but also a crime scene.

Abstract blobs represent children who have rebelled against their overbearing father; murdered him and eaten him up, his body reduced to lamb shoulders and chicken legs cast in soft plaster.

"So he was liquidated... the same way he had liquidated his children," Bourgeois once said about the piece.

Nothing surprising, really, for someone who said "art is a guarantee of sanity."

The ferocious aspects of Bourgeois's femininity are on display in an untitled piece from 1996 that's a macabre take on a mobile or clothing tree, with fine undergarments hanging from huge bones.

Jerry Gorovoy, Bourgeois's longtime assistant who now leads the Easton Foundation dedicated to her life and work,



A woman looks at "Je t'aime" (2005), a series of 60 double-sided drawings by Louise Bourgeois, at Glenstone museum in Potomac, Maryland on 8 May 2018. PHOTO: AFP

recalled that the artist kept most of her old clothes -- including from her childhood -- and used them for her creations.

"Ode a la Bievre" (2002), an embroidered book made of fabric pieces, pays tribute to the tannin-rich river that ran near the Bourgeois family's tapestry restoration workshop.

In "Cell (Choisy)" (1990-1993), Bourgeois placed a guillotine in front of a reproduction of her childhood home in hollow flesh-colored marble inside a metal enclosure lined with knocked out windows.

There are architectural qualities to "He Disappeared into Complete Silence," a book of engravings and letterpress text Bourgeois first made in 1947, here in an edition she reworked through 2005.

Various figures are represented as large, inhuman structures in a world where communication is often problematic.

On one page, a tall figure holds up a smaller one. Bourgeois's accompanying parable: "Once a man was angry at his wife, he cut her into small pieces, made a stew of her. Then he telephoned to his friends and asked them for a cocktail-and-stew party. They all came and had a good time."

'Unparalleled'

Glenstone founders Mitch and Emily Rales amassed this varied assemblage of the artist's works over just a few years.

Having an in-house collection has its advantages. Totem-like wood structures were drilled directly into the floor as they were originally intended to be shown, rather than fixed on a metal base, as other museums have traditionally done.

Gorovoy called Glenstone's holdings of late pieces in particular "unparalleled."

"To take this in-depth trajec-

tory is really significant," he said.

There's a series of six hand-colored etchings, "I Give Everything Away," that Bourgeois created in 2010, the year she died at the age of 98.

The elderly artist here made her final goodbyes with messages such as "I am packing my bags" in shaky handwriting alongside large images of humans, plants or abstract forms.

After taking this journey, it's a relief to step out into Glenstone's carefully manicured landscape of rolling hills, meadows and woodlands, the air filled with birdsongs and the sun-tinged fragrance of spring.

"Louise Bourgeois: To Unravel a Torment" runs through January 2020, with a temporary closure in September as Glenstone prepares to unveil on October 4 the site's stunning expansion that will make it America's biggest private art museum. —AFP ■

Nine Inch Nails to sell most tour tickets offline only

NEW YORK — American rock band Nine Inch Nails have announced they will sell tickets for their upcoming tour from physical vendors, in a bid to avoid abuse by online ticket touts.

On their website, the band said "limited quantities" of tickets will be available online at an unspecified later date -- but for the most part, fans will have to line up in person to get tickets for the "Cold and Black and Infinite" North American tour.

"The promise of a world made better by computers and online connectivity has failed us in many ways, particularly when it comes to ticketing," the group, founded in 1988, said on their official website.

"Everything about the process sucks and everyone loses except the reseller," they added. "We've decided to try something different that will also likely suck, but in a different way."

The announcement of the tour, which also features Scottish alternative rockers Jesus and Mary Chain, came as the American group released a six track mini-album entitled "Bad Witch." The 26-date tour, from September to December, will see the bands play mid-size venues, such as New York's 6000-capacity Radio City Music Hall and the Palladium in Los Angeles, which holds just under 4,000 people. For years, online ticket sales have been plagued by resellers using bots to instantly buy in-demand tickets to then offer at hiked-up prices — meaning fans miss out on face-value seats. —AFP ■

Hollywood glitters as 'Star Wars' stages 'Solo' premiere

LOS ANGELES — Lucasfilm brought the biggest party in the galaxy to Hollywood on Thursday as rapt devotees gathered under the Millennium Falcon for the world premiere of the latest "Star Wars" spin-off.

"Solo: A Star Wars Story," which gets its US release on 25 May, tells the coming-of-age tale of smuggler Han Solo before he was the galaxy's most adored

scoundrel.

The glittering array of stars in Hollywood Boulevard included cast members Alden Ehrenreich, Woody Harrelson, Emilia Clarke, Donald Glover, Thandie Newton and Paul Bettany.

"One of my favorite movies growing up was 'Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid.' I think this movie has a little bit of the fun of that film," said Ehrenreich,

who plays Solo, on the red carpet.

Hollywood's A-list — "Star Wars" alumni or otherwise — turned out for the second in the "anthology" series of spin-off films that started in 2016 with "Rogue One."

Among them were Mark Hamill, Ewan McGregor, Sofia Vergara, Alexandra Daddario, Benjamin Bratt and Johnny

Knoxville.

The Disney-owned Lucasfilm delighted fans in April with a sneak peak of one of the most hotly-anticipated scenes from the movie, the first meeting between the young Solo and Glover's Lando Calrissian.

"A very slow week, but hopefully it will speed up as soon this movie comes out," joked Glover, whose rap alter ego

Childish Gambino has racked up a record-breaking 70 million YouTube views in just four days with his latest single "This is America"

Glover said the best thing about playing Lando was the fans, who began recognizing him as the galaxy's sexiest gambler the very day he was announced for the part, when he went for a pizza. —AFP ■

Leeds United beats Myanmar in second friendly

IN their second friendly in Myanmar, English Football League club Leeds United played against the Myanmar national football team at Mandalay Thiri Stadium in Mandalay yesterday, defeating them by a score of 2-0.

The youths comprising Leeds United FC were very strong in yesterday's match with sure and steady ball handling.

Myanmar played Leeds United to a draw in the first half with flawless defence.

The second half was very different. After Leeds United made some substitutions, Leeds was markedly better, with speedy play and great ball support.

At the 58-minute mark, after an error of the Myanmar goalkeeper, Leeds United youth striker Ryan David scored the opening goal with a soft kick of the ball into the net. With the first goal scored, the match began to heat up.

Myanmar changed to an



Myanmar (red) battles for the ball with Leeds United (white) in yesterday's friendly match at Mandalay Thiri Stadium in Mandalay. **PHOTO: MFF**

attacking style, but their efforts were negated with the brilliant football control of Leeds United.

At the 84-minute mark,

Leeds United's big striker Jay-Roy Jornell Grot scored the second goal for his team with a surprise kick from the left side,

which sent the ball directly into the net. Myanmar attempted to equalise, but time ran out.—Lynn Thit (Tgi) ■

Lacklustre Man Utd seal second with stalemate at West Ham

LONDON — Manchester United manager Jose Mourinho refused to criticise his side despite another display lacking inspiration in attacking areas as they sealed second place in the Premier League with a 0-0 draw at West Ham on Thursday. In a game of precious few clear-cut chances, Luke Shaw hit the post and Paul Pogba headed wide with United's best opening. A third blank in their last five league games for United means local rivals Manchester City can seal another Premier League record by winning the league by at least 19 points if they win at Southampton on the last day of the season on Sunday.

"We are the second best team in the Premier League, a fantastic competition with lots of good teams," said Mourinho.—AFP ■

Myanmar in final of AFF U-16 Girls' Championship

THE Myanmar U-16 Girls' football team advanced to the final of the AFF U-16 Girls' Championship with an exciting 6-5 win over the team from Laos that had to be decided with penalty shootouts at Bumi Sriwijaya Stadium in Indonesia yesterday.

The contest was evenly matched, with both Myanmar and Laos playing back and forth in the middle of the pitch at the beginning of the match.

At the 27-minute mark, the match came alive with an opening goal for Myanmar scored by Myat Noe Khin, who was able to manoeuvre between the Laos defenders and kick a low and accurate shot directly into the net.

Laos changed into an offensive style of play in the second half, creating several scoring chances.

At the 57th minute, Laos got the equaliser when Pimpha Thongsavang got through Myanmar's defence before delivering a shot past the Myanmar keeper Sein Lat Lat Oo.

In the penalty shootouts,



Laos (white) poised to shoot the ball while Myanmar (red) attempts to clear it at semifinal of AFF U-16 Girl's Championship at Bumi Sriwijaya Stadium in Indonesia yesterday. **PHOTO: MFF**

Myanmar survived a miss from Myat Noe Khin to win in sudden death after the score was tied 3-3

after the first five shooters. The game was a thriller from start to finish, with the

score at the end of regulation time knotted at 1-1.

The Myanmar girls made

good decisions in the penalty shootout.

Laos missed their last attempt off Sengdeuan Phongphallath as Pimpha Thongsavang, Saysamone Inthaphone and Phonesavanh Phonesavanh also missed.

Vilayphone Phengsana, Inthida Khounsy, Pe Pe and Chaikham Chaikham converted theirs.

Myanmar's Zin Mar Htwe scored the crucial goal. Su Pyae Pyae Kyaw, Khin Myat Moe, Pont Pont Pyae Maung and Phyu Phyu Win were also able to score in the shootout.

May Thawe Ko and Khaing Thazin Oo missed their attempts.

At Athletic Jakabaring 1 Stadium, defending champions Thailand won 5-4 also on penalty shots over Vietnam after the completion of regulation time resulted in a scoreless draw.

Myanmar and Thailand will now battle for the championship, which will be played on Sunday at Bumi Sriwijaya Stadium.—Lynn Thit (Tgi) ■