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Friday, 15 June 2018

Thai PM welcomes President U Win Myint



President U Win Myint meets with Thai Prime Minister General Prayut Chan-o-cha (Retd) in Bangkok yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

PRESIDENT U Win Myint was welcomed to Thailand with a formal ceremony hosted by Thai Prime Minister General Prayut Chan-o-cha (Retd) at the Government House yesterday.

The President and First Lady were cordially greeted by Prime Minister Gen Prayut (Retd) and his wife upon arrival.

The President and the Prime Minister then received the salute of the Guard of Honor and inspected them.

The President was then introduced to the guests by the

Prime Minister after which the President introduced his entourage to the Prime Minister.

The President and First Lady, and the Prime Minister and his wife then took a documentary photo together.

The President then signed the guest book at the Government House and took another documentary photo with the Prime Minister and his wife.

Afterwards, the President and the Prime Minister met in the guest hall of the Government House. **SEE PAGE-7**



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and youths hold the peace talk at Mawlamyine University in Mon State. **PHOTO: MNA**

State Counsellor holds Peace Talk with youths in Mon State

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and youths held a peace talk at Mawlamyine University in Mon State, discussing the role of youths in the peace making process, development, education, menace of drugs, socio economy of local people.

At the peace talk, State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi said all ethnic nationals representing Mon State were here. She said in Mawlamyine, there were Kayin, Mon and PaO ethnic nationals. "When I entered the compound of this university, I noticed that there were more females than males among the students. We will discuss about this issue," she said.

In talking about peace, the State Counsellor stressed the

importance of development for a country to have peace and stability, explaining two parts in security, physical and mental security.

"Physical security is not ceasefire only. Development is required. When there is development, there wouldn't be worries about livelihood and survival. Security also depends much on education. It depends on stability. Men need to participate more in education sector," said the State Counsellor.

She also discussed the ratio between male and female teaching staff, saying that 97 per cent are female and only 3 per cent are male. "I don't know how it is in Mawlamyine University. In Yangon University

roughly 60 per cent is female and 40 per cent is male. Numbers of male attending university is declining while female attendance is increasing. Females are also ahead of males in passing percentage too."

She stressed the need to review at the earliest on why that is happening. This is happening in other countries as well. Females are becoming better in teaching. Percentage of males completing school is gradually declining. Percentage of females attending university is increasing. But interestingly, males attending post graduate courses are increasing. This is not only in our country but in other countries as well. **SEE PAGE-5**

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Pyidaungsu Hluttaw

10th-day meeting of 2nd Pyidaungsu Hluttaw's 8th regular session held

AT the 10th-day meeting of the second Pyidaungsu Hluttaw's eighth regular session held yesterday morning, Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than announced the Hluttaw putting on record the bill amending the Myanmar Red Cross Society Law and the bill amending the Television and Broadcasting Law.

Joint Bill Committee report on Science, Technology and Innovation Bill

Next, the report of the Joint Bill Committee on the committee's findings and comments on the Science, Technology and Innovation Bill, sent back with comments by the President, was explained and read.

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than requested the Hluttaw representatives who wanted to discuss the report to enrol their names. **Discussion on six-month period work of National Education Policy Commission**

Later, a report on the work conducted by the National Education Policy Commission dur-

ing the six-month period (2017 October to 2018 April) was discussed by U Khin Cho of Hlaingbwe constituency, U Hla San of Magway Region constituency (1), Tatmadaw Amyotha Hluttaw representative Lt-Col Maung Maung Soe, U Than Aung of Ngaputaw constituency, U Kyaw Htwe of Yangon Region constituency (8), U Win Aung of Moemaik constituency, U Bo Gyi of Chauk constituency, U Aung Thihe of Seikpyu constituency, U Zon Hle Htan of Chin State constituency (4), U Oo Tun Maung of Ponnagyun constituency, Daw Htu May of Rakhine State constituency (11), Dr. San Shwe Win of Yekyi constituency, Naw Hla Hla Soe of Yangon Region constituency (10) and U Myint Lwin of Twantay constituency.

Hluttaw put on record JCC on Hluttaw development progress report

Vice Chairman of the Joint Coordination Committee (JCC) on Hluttaw Development U Aung Kyi Nyunt then responded to discussions made by the Hluttaw



Pyidaungsu Hluttaw being convened in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

representatives on the 2016-2017 year progress report submitted by the JCC on the Hluttaw development.

The vice chairman thanked the three Hluttaw representatives who supported, discussed and suggested on the report and explained in two parts the formation of the JCC and the

works conducted by the JCC, in response to the discussion by Tatmadaw Pyithu Hluttaw representative Maj. Zin Lin. He further explained that the decision of the Hluttaw will be obtained on putting the report on record.

When voting was conducted on the report, there were 347 for,

184 against and seven who abstained, while Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than announced the Hluttaw putting the report on record.

The 11th-day meeting of the second Pyidaungsu Hluttaw's eighth regular session is scheduled for 21 June. —Aye Aye Thant ■

Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Tun Tun Hein receives HSF Resident Representative

PYITHU Hluttaw Deputy Speaker and Chairman of Joint Coordination Committee (JCC) on Hluttaw Development U Tun Tun Hein received Hanns Seidel Foundation (HSF) Resident Representative Mr. Achim Munz and delegation at the Hluttaw Building, Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker's office, in Nay Pyi Taw, yesterday afternoon.

At the meeting, they cordially discussed the Hluttaw development works conducted by HSF, assistance for capacity building for Hluttaw representatives and Hluttaw staff, cooperation between



Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Tun Tun Hein meets with HSF Resident Representative Mr. Achim Munz in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

the parliaments of Germany and Myanmar, and experience of federalism and exchanged views.— MNA ■

Union Minister for the Office of the Union Government receives Former President of Timor-Leste



Union Minister U Thaung Tun meets with Senior Minister and Former President of Timor-Leste Mr. Jose Ramos Horta in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

U Thaung Tun, Union Minister for the Office of the Union Government, received Senior Minister and Former President of Timor-Leste H.E. Mr. Jose Ramos Horta at 11:30 am yesterday at the Ministry of the

Office of the Union Government in Nay Pyi Taw. During the meeting, they discussed the current situation in the region and constructive developments in Myanmar.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Rainfall intensity to decrease in central Myanmar

THE intensity of rainfall will decrease in the central Myanmar area as the monsoon is strong to vigorous over the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal, according to the Myanmar 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 one or two rain showers, and the degree of certainty is 100 per cent.

Occasional squalls with rough seas will be experienced off and along the Myanmar coast. The surface wind speed in squalls may reach 40m.p.h. The wave height will be some 10-13 feet off and along the Myanmar coasts. —GNLM ■

President U Win Myint, First Lady Daw Cho Cho arrive in Thailand

President U Win Myint and First Lady Daw Cho Cho, arrived in Thailand yesterday to pay a goodwill visit and to attend summits.

PRESIDENT U Win Myint and First Lady Daw Cho Cho left Nay Pyi Taw by special flight to pay an official visit to Thailand at the invitation of Thai Prime Minister General (retired) Prayut Chan-o-cha yesterday morning. The President is also attending the 8th Ayeyawady-Chao Phraya-Mekong Economic Cooperation Strategy (ACMECS) Summit and the 9th Cambodia-Laos-Myanmar-Viet Nam (CLMV) Summit that will be held in Bangkok.

The President, First Lady and delegation were seen off at Nay Pyi Taw International Airport by Vice Presidents U Myint Swe and U Henry Van Thio, Tatmadaw Commander-in-Chief Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, Union Minister for Transport and Communications U Thant Sin Maung, Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman Dr. Myo Aung and wife, Nay Pyi Taw Command Commander Maj-Gen Myint Maw, Charge d'affaires of the Embassy of Thailand to Myanmar and other officials.

The President and First Lady were accompanied by Union Minister for International Cooperation U Kyaw Tin, Deputy Minister for Commerce U Aung Htoo and other officials.

President U Win Myint, First Lady Daw Cho Cho, Union Minister for International Cooperation U Kyaw Tin, Deputy Minister for Commerce U Aung Htoo and other officials arrived at the Royal Thai Air Force Wing

6, Bangkok, Thailand where they were welcomed by Deputy Prime Minister Somkid Jatusripitak and wife, Minister of the Prime Minister's Office Mr. Suwapan Tanyu-wattana and wife, Myanmar Ambassador to Thailand U Myo Myint Than and wife, Thai Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Jukr Boon-Long and wife, Myanmar Military Attaché (Army, Navy, Air) to Thailand Brig-Gen Khin Zaw and officials from the Myanmar Embassy. After a brief rest in Bangkok Shangri-La Hotel, the President and the First Lady went to the Grand Palace in Bangkok where the President signed the Royal Guest Book.

Next, the President and the First Lady paid homage to Emerald Buddha, made cash donation and took documentary photo.

Afterwards, the President and the First Lady went to Myanmar Embassy in Bangkok and met with officials from the embassy, military attaché and department and their family members.

At the meeting, the President spoke of the Myanmar embassy legalizing Myanmar workers working illegally in Thailand, to work together with labour organisations to obtain the workers' legal rights and then presented gifts.

Later, the President, First Lady and party attended the luncheon hosted by Myanmar Ambassador U Myo Myint Than. —Myanmar News Agency ■



President U Win Myint and First Lady Daw Cho Cho are seen off by Vice Presidents U Myint Swe, U Henry Van Thio and officials at Nay Pyi Taw International Airport as they depart for Thailand yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**



President U Win Myint and First Lady Daw Cho Cho are welcomed by Thai officials as they arrive in Bangkok, Thailand. **PHOTO MNA**



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Due to limitation of space we are only able to publish "Letter to the Editor" that do not exceed 500 words. Should you submit a text longer than 500 words please be aware that your letter will be edited.

State Counsellor visits Mawlamyine

STATE Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi visited Kyaikthalan Pagoda and paid homage to Sayadaws of the pagoda Board of Trustees yesterday.

The State Counsellor, together with Union Ministers Lt-Gen Kyaw Swe, Lt-Gen Ye Aung, Dr. Myint Htwe and Deputy Minister U Min Thu, arrived in Mawlamyine yesterday morning and were welcomed by Union Minister for Ethnic Affairs Nai Thet Lwin, Chairman of the Peace Commission Dr. Tin Myo Win, Mon State Chief Minister Dr. Aye Zan, Speaker of Mon State Hluttaw Daw Tin Ei, members of the Mon State Cabinet, MPs, Mon State Advocate, Mon State Auditor and local people.

During the visit to Kyaikthalan Pagoda, the State Counsellor donated offertories to the members of sangha led by Bhaddanta Sumana Ovadacariya Sayadaw of the Board of Trustees of the pagoda.

After the visit, the State Counsellor attended the peace talk with local people at the Mawlamyine University.

After the peace talk, State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi viewed local products from Chaungzon Township displayed outside the hall.

Local people gifted a slate as a souvenir to the State Counsellor.

Local women gave a demonstration of traditional weaving for



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi views local products following the Peace Talk. **PHOTO: MNA**

producing blankets and textiles.

The State Counsellor held a meeting with members of the New Mon State Party at the Aung San Hall of the Mon State Government.

Also present at the meeting were Union Ministers Lt-Gen Kyaw Swe, Lt-Gen Ye Aung, Dr. Myint Htwe and Nai Thet Lwin, Chairman of the Peace Commission Dr. Tin Myo Win,

Mon State Chief Minister Dr. Aye Zan and members of the Mon State Cabinet, Mon State Advocate, Chairman of New Mon State party Nai Htaw Mon and members.

At the meeting, State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi delivered an opening speech and attendees discussed organizing a coordination committee for regional development tasks,

and another coordination committee for carrying out business through the Public, Private Partnership-PPP.

Following the meeting, the State Counsellor held a meeting with the Union Ministers and members of the Mon State Cabinet. She arrived back in Nay Pyi Taw by special flight in the evening.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Local media gathers news in Maungtaw

A group of local media visited villages in Maungtaw Township to report development there. They arrived at the Sit-tway Airport yesterday morning by air.

The media group went to the Angu Maw Port via the Yaychanpyin Port by boat, and continued to Indin village where they met local residents and collected news on ARSA terrorist attacks which occurred on 25 August, their living conditions, and living in harmony between the two



Journalist from local media interview a woman in Ngakhuya Village in Maungtaw. **PHOTO: MNA**

communities.

Next, they proceeded to Kainggyi (Mro village) and interviewed local people. The media group arrived at the Ngakhuya Reception centre

where they met with the boat crash survivors and asked their experiences which they encountered in the sea. Afterwards they went to Kyet Yoe Pyin village where they met lo-

cal people and gathered news.

The group included reporters from various media houses, including VOA, MIZZIMA, Irrawaddy, MRTV, MITV and MNA. —MNA ■

State Counsellor holds Peace Talk with youths in Mon State

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We need to think of how equality in education can be achieved for females and males from the start. We will have to find way to keep the males happy in the school compound and make them want to have an education. If males don't have jobs, don't want to get an education, and waste their time in teashops, it will affect our social stability. From there, it will affect the long term peace and stability of our country, said the State Counsellor.

Price stability of rubber, improving transportation, creating job, effective actions against drug

In his discussion, Ko Kyaw Zin Oo, third year math major student, said there is no one in the country that does not want peace. During the time of our forefathers, Mon State was not peaceful and due to this there were difficulties in the economy, education and transport. Now there is peace. But if there is peace only in military side and no peace in economics, education and job opportunities, our country, the states, townships and rural area will not have peace. Because of this, many in Mon State went abroad to seek out a living. They took along their children as they can't afford to educate them here due to their personal financial situation. On the other hand, lack of job opportunity is making even graduates to go oversea and work.

Transportation is not good for villages in lower part of Mon State. Electricity is lacking and in some villages electricity is provided by the private sector but is very expensive.

Drugs are being used by both the elders and youth. Drug usage is affecting the stability in villages and wards.

He discussed on price stability of rubber (the primary product of the state), improving transportation, creating job opportunities, effective actions against drugs and fulfilling health requirements.

Peace and public health

Ma San Thiri, a nurse then discussed on peace and public health. According to her parents and grandparents, the state was not at peace and the people lived in fear all the time while being vigilant about possible dangers. Health personnel could not provide health education



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi holds talks with youths at Mawlamyine University in Mon State. PHOTO: MNA



Mi Zin Win Mon. PHOTO: MNA



Khun Htoo Aung. PHOTO: MNA



Ma San Thiri. PHOTO: MNA



Ko Kyaw Zin Oo. PHOTO: MNA

and services as there was no peace. As the public could not get the services and treatment of doctors and experts in hospitals and clinics, they have to make do with whatever sub-standard treatment they have resulting in unnecessary losses in life and health. As there was no peace, expecting mothers could not get the babies delivered properly with doctors and nurses in hospitals and clinics, many uses the services of untrained midwives resulting in the death of both the mother and child. These are the bad outcomes of not having peace.

At our time now, we have peace. Compared with the past when there was no peace, there has been development in economy, social, transport, education, health and many others. As there is peace, health personnel are conducting more health education and health care services. Peace plays an important role in health sector. As there is development, people are relying more on hospitals and clinics. She hoped that the government provides sufficient staff in the hospitals and clinics.

She said there are many who want to become nurse in her

village but the entry requirement to become a nurse for a student who passes matriculation examination is high. Many never had the chance to become a nurse. She hope the entry requirement could be reduced so that more can become nurses.

Victims of conflict or not having peace

Khun Htoo Aung of Capacity Development Myanmar, an NGO, said there are two to three ethnic armed organisations in PaO region. When they came to a village, there accommodation and food had to be taken care of by the village. When they leave, villagers had to carry their things. This is what he'd been experiencing since he was young. His region never tasted the flavor of peace.

As there was no peace, education and healthcare was not good. When he was young school education up to fourth standard was available. For higher standards, he needed to travel about 10 miles through areas where there is no or bad transportation.

Thanks to the head monk in a monastery, he graduated last year. There were over 80 youngsters like him from con-

flict areas in the monastery in Mawlamyine. With the support of Su Foundation, he started working in Capacity Development Myanmar (CDM) regional development works. He was able to do this because Mon State is at peace he discussed.

Youth participation in peace

Mi Zin Win Mon, youth affairs committee member, Nyein Foundation discussed on public participation in peace and said a certain numbers of youths are participating in peace process.

She wanted youth to participate in important sectors. Only when youths understand the reason of not having peace can their participation be true and accurate. She thinks that youth need to study and know the historical truth. Only when the historical truth is well understood can they know why there is no peace. With this understanding, she believed that mutual understanding and good relation can be established in youth more quickly.

Participation of local ethnic nationals in peace

In his discussion on the participation of local ethnic nationals in peace, Saw Kyaw Moe in

the restaurant business said the current effort toward peace is to establishing a union based on democracy and federal system. He thinks the aim is to have a union where democracy is alive and well, where there is politics, economy and social equality and self-determination.

Thaton Township is one of the ten Townships in Mon State where Kayin ethnic nationals are the majority and they lived in area of conflicts. But there aren't any of them participating in the present peace process. Nor there were anyone who understands about it. This is the main obstacle toward achieving long term peace. We are entering the third year of ceasefire. Once they get the taste of peace and see it as a huge attraction, they will become more involved in it.

Peace and regional status

Mi Yin Nun Swam, second year law student, discussed about peace and regional status. She spoke about rubber that is the main product of the region. She believed that foreign investment in rubber would greatly benefit the state as well as create income for the country.

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The Committee for Implementation of Recommendations on Rakhine State

Report to the People on the Progress of the Implementation of Recommendations on Rakhine State
(January to April 2018)

(CONTINUED FROM YESTERDAY)

With support from the JICA, a solar system was installed as a step to provide required electricity for setting up a mini-blood bank in Buthidaung township hospital.

Suggestion boxes are now in place at all hospitals and health care centres to prevent and address corruption, illegal collection of service fees, exploitation and discrimination in the health sector.

Five meetings and discussions with experts from Norway, the European Union and 3MDG fund were held, and a Working Group Committee was established for developing a master plan for upgrading Sittwe General Hospital. Eight repair and maintenance activities of Sittwe General Hospital are now completed, and the other three are ongoing.

Data collection from 30 Enumeration Areas (EAs) (23 EAs of only ethnic nationals, 4 EAs of only Muslims and 3 EAs of both ethnic nationals and Muslims) in Rakhine State - as part of the nation-wide Myanmar Micronutrient Food Consumption Survey - is now completed; and the data collected are now being analyzed. At the same time, routine nutrition activities such as vitamin A supplementation and deworming continues as planned in Rakhine State.

Four training courses on management of malnutrition for a total of 204 health staff were delivered.

Commodities for nutritional development including 100 sets of training aid materials for Integrated Management of Acute Malnutrition, 6 electronic devices for measurement of nutritional status of mothers and children, 6 height measuring instruments, 200 measuring tapes for mid-arm circumference of children and 6 boxes of different special infant formulas were also provided.

Drugs

A new National Drug Control Policy that is rooted in the principles of public health, human rights and development was launched on February 20, 2018, with an aim to affectively deal with drugs issues alongside health and education efforts.

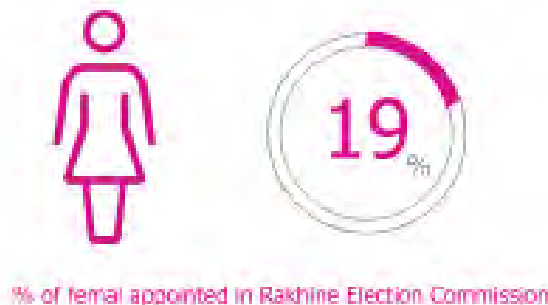
There were 66 drug-related arrests during this reporting period, with a total 88 suspects (80 males and 8 females) and drugs worth of 25,324.93 million MMK (equivalent to US\$ 19.04 million) in custody.



Communal Participation and Representation

Efforts are being made to promote political representation and civic participation of ethnic minorities, communities and women in Rakhine State. The Union Election Commission organized four training workshops and two follow-on workshops for election tribunal office staff, chairpersons, members and staff of sub-commissions at different levels - including those from Rakhine State. The purpose was to identify needs and explore ways for promoting equal participation of all citizens in electoral process, increased youth participation in 2020 general elections, and greater involvement of women and disabled persons in different stages of electoral cycles. In a closer look at women participation in the election commissions, the percentages of women working for sub-election commissions at Rakhine state level, district levels and township levels are found to be 16.67%, 24.14% and 17.89% respectively.

Registration of CSOs are also being supported as a measure to promote social works of all communities and religious organizations, in accordance with the rules and regulations. A total of 21 organizations were registered during this reporting period, including 10 organizations that received registration certificates from the State Registration Board (7 of those received temporary registration certificates); and 11 organizations that received registration certificates from the Township Registration Board.



Inter-communal Cohension

Promoting inter-communal cohesion is a crucial part of endeavors to bring development, peace and stability to Rakhine State. As an initial stage, a meeting to discuss this issue was held in Nay Pyi Taw on 29 April 2018 with MPs of Rakhine State parliament, representatives from all the communities in Rakhine State and government officials. The suggestions and outcomes of this meeting will be reviewed and implemented as a step-by-step approach to build inter-communal cohesion.

The drafting of an anti-hate speech bill is currently in progress, with an aim to prevent spreading hate speech, incitement of violence and shattering unity among different religions and races; as well as to promote harmony and peaceful coexistence between diverse racial and religious groups.

The Security Sector

Training and capacity building programs continue to enhance the performance and capacity of security forces as well as to strengthen the implementation of the Community Policing System. During the reporting period, seven training and workshops were organized, with 245 police officers/other ranks trained.



All police personnel on active duty for security and law enforcement now wear visible name badges. The Office of the Chief of the Rakhine State Police Force has requested to allocate 20.53 million MMK from the State budget, for installation of 26 CCTV cameras in 26 checkpoints in Rakhine State.

All police personnel in Rakhine State are under the command of the Chief of Myanmar Police Force. Police personnel are executing their duties -including arrests and detentions of suspects - in accordance with the standard operating procedures prescribed within the legal framework. The Myanmar Police Force initiates departmental investigations that they receive for any complaints on breach of such procedures; and takes actions for those who are found guilty as accused.

Additionally, the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission and the Anti-Corruption Commission are also carrying out investigations upon receipt of complaints and taking actions if the accused is found guilty, in accordance with the laws and procedures.

To enhance communications and avoid unnecessary misunderstanding between the security forces and the communities, local people and police personnel who speak local dialects are now used as interpreters.

Cultural Development

The following activities were carried out in this reporting period as part of continuing efforts for promoting cultural development in Rakhine State, as well as to enlist Mrauk-U as a UNESCO world heritage zone:

- field visits and data collection on water sources in some wards and villages of Mrauk-U;
- Drone Photography of ancient buildings in Mrauk-U;
- Education programs in urban wards of Mrauk-U regarding Mrauk-U cultural heritage;
- Documentation of intangible cultural heritage; observations, studies and documentation of Rakhine traditional wedding ceremony; field study of an ancient pagoda and stone sculptures in Pyine Mountain near the boundary post between Kyauktaw and Ponnagyun townships; documentation of silver coins, glazed ware and utensils exhibited in the Mrauk-U Museum;
- Repairs and preservation work by Mrauk-U Cultural Heritage Site Conservation Working Group for Mya Wah Taung, Barbu Taung, Shin Nge Tet, Phote Taw Maw and Mingala Munaung Pagodas, as well as preservation of Buddha images in the Nivuzar Mountain Range;
- Layout documentation and unearthing work of the ancient palace site;
- 11 coordination meetings with ministerial officials, national/ international experts, ambassadors from partner countries and locals, for listing Mrauk-U as a UNESCO World Heritage Site; Documentation of the history of 43 pagodas and Buddhist religious buildings that are over 100 years old in Ponnagyun, Rathaedaung, Sittwe and Pauktaw Townships.

(TO BE CONTINUED)



President U Win Myint and Thai Prime Minister General Prayut Chan-o-cha (retired) receive the salute from the Guard of Honour in Bangkok, Thailand. **PHOTO: MNA**



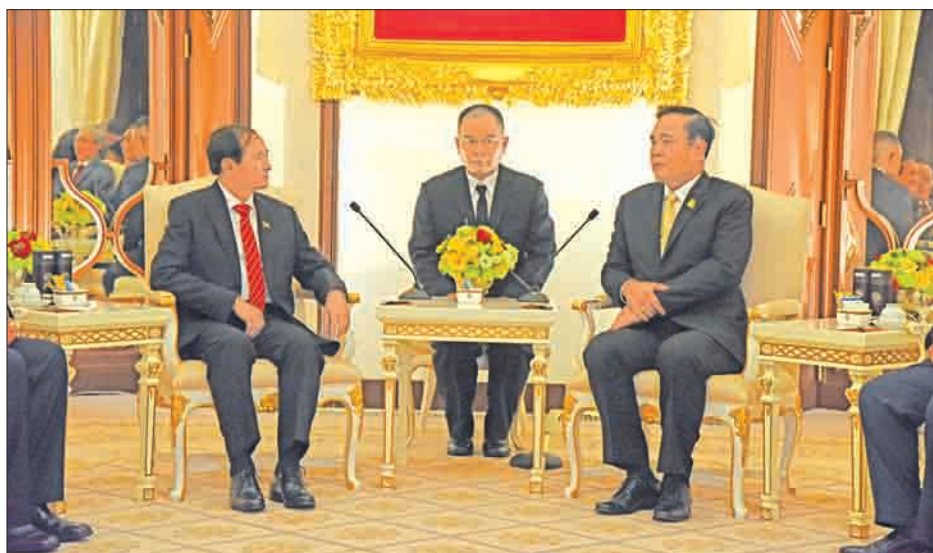
President U Win Myint accompanied by Thai Prime Minister General Prayut Chan-o-cha (Retd), inspect the Guard of Honour in Bangkok. **PHOTO: MNA**



President U Win Myint signs the Royal Guest Book at the Grand Palace in Bangkok. **PHOTO: MNA**



President U Win Myint visits the Grand Palace in Bangkok yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**



President U Win Myint meets with Thai Prime Minister General Prayut Chan-o-cha (Retd) at the Government House yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**



President U Win Myint and Thai Prime Minister General Prayut Chan-o-cha (Retd) attend the Myanmar-Thai bilateral meeting held in Pakdi-bodin Hall, Bangkok. **PHOTO: MNA**

Thai Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha welcomes President U Win Myint with formal ceremony

FROM PAGE-1

The President and Prime Minister then attended the Myanmar-Thai bilateral discussion held in the Pakdi-bodin Hall.

Together with the President at the meeting were Union Minister U Kyaw Tin, Deputy Minister U Aung Htoo, Ambassador U Myo Myint Than and other officials.

During the meeting they discussed promoting bilateral relations, ensuring that Myanmar workers in Thailand receive legal work permits along with their rights and security, collaborating on developing their border areas and upgrading the border gates, constructive assistance from

Thailand to Rakhine issue, cooperating on repatriation of displaced people in Thailand back to Myanmar; promoting bilateral trade and investments, and plans for celebrating the 70th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Myanmar and Thailand.

The President and Prime Minister then held a press conference.

Next, the President and First Lady observed the exhibits at the Government House displaying traditional Thai cuisine, garments, and traditional handicrafts.

In the evening, the President and First Lady attended the banquet dinner hosted by the Prime Minister and his wife.—MNA



President U Win Myint and First Lady, Thai Prime Minister General Prayut Chan-o-cha (Retd) and wife, browse traditional Thai cuisine, garments, and traditional handicrafts displayed at the Government House. **PHOTO: MNA**

All work can be done through dialogue

WE need to think deeply about why conflicts are happening in the world even though everyone wants to live in peace. The youth of our country should be aware of what destroys peace so they can participate in the country's peace-making process.

The problems and challenges are not the same. Each person is different from the other. So we need to use different ways to persuade all to participate in the peace process.

Learning the true history is sine qua non for today's youth to understand why we cannot achieve peace yet.

While carrying out development tasks, we have to ensure that they are in conformity with the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement and with the country's existing laws.

existing laws.

A government is responsible for the construction of development infrastructure such as building roads, bridges and achieving electrification as the fruits of peace.

But all efforts for peace must be made in keeping with the law. It is important that all activities conducted for peace do not damage the rule of law. To achieve this, cooperation between the government and armed groups is important.

Regarding infrastructure, while the local people must take care of their region's development, the government must work in the national context.

The entire country needs roads and electric supply, and so, the government must plan for balanced development nationwide by distributing its resources equitably and focusing on each state and region fairly.

Some organizations have offered to do business in regions and states where there is peace. Business activities must be conducted within the law.

In this case, dialogue between organizations and the government is important to offer better assistance and work together towards peace and development while steering clear of illegal activities.

Only when they learn history, can they understand why we cannot achieve total peace yet. We can say that true history is important for building trust and friendship among youth through mutual understanding. To disseminate knowledge on peace, talks related to peace should be conducted in all 330 townships across the country by collaborating with the respective state and region governments, and the NRPC officials.

Poverty destroys peace. Peace suffers when people are not happy with the condition of the economy. Peace and development are inseparable. We need to keep this in mind always.

While carrying out development tasks, we have to ensure that they are in conformity with the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement and with the country's existing laws.

By Myo (IR)

Widely and popularly known as "Shangri-La Dialogue", it mainly centered on "Asia Security Summit" attended by security heads of Asia, which was held from 1 to 3 June 2018 at Shangri-La Hotel in Singapore. In fact, the IISS Shangri-La Dialogue is Asia's premier defence summit, a unique meeting of ministers and delegates from over 50 countries. As this year's "Shangri-La Dialogue" was important for Myanmar, the author takes the opportunity in presenting the main features of the dialogue through this article to the esteemed readers.

A Glance at "Shangri-La Dialogue"

The government of Singapore and the London based International Institute for Strategic Studies -- IISS had launched its first dialogue in 2002.

The security heads of the region interacted through confidence building and exchanged views at the Dialogue. The Dialogue's agenda is intentionally wide-ranging, reflecting the many defence and security challenges facing a large and diverse region. Each year it recognizes emerging as well as established regional security concerns. All events took place at the Shangri-La Hotel, 22 Orange Grove Road, Singapore, and it is therefore called "Shangri-La Dialogue".

The format of "Shangri-La Dialogue"

Each summit typically is opened with welcome dinner and followed by opening remarks by Dr. John Chipman, Director-General and Chief Executive of IISS. Then a keynote address was delivered

by specially invited chief guest for that year. Historically it was given by a prominent Singaporean figure. Beginning in 2009, a head of state or head of government has delivered the keynote address. The keynote address usually dealt with the security matters of that country.

Over the years, the prime ministers of Vietnam; Japan; Singapore; Thailand; and Australia had delivered keynote addresses from 2013 to 2017.

At the "Shangri-La Dialogue", plenary sessions are held under five topics on regional security matter, which have been attended by respective delegates. Opening remarks were delivered by relevant delegates, followed by question and answer sessions. Every year, the defence secretary of the United States delivered a speech.

Recent important security matters of the region is taken up at the Special Session at the "Shangri-La Dialogue". The Special Session is participated by ministerial level or high ranking official, representatives from international and regional organization, including researchers, followed by Q and A session. They also exchanged views. Bilateral meetings as well as multilateral meeting also had taken place.

While largely unpublicized, the Shangri-La Dialogues provide an annual venue for ministers and top defence officials to network and expand their defence diplomacy in private, both bilaterally and multilaterally. Rooms are reserved for the meetings to take place during breaks. A government delegation might typically arrange 15-20 such encounters, lasting half an hour each, over the course of the summit. Singapore's defence minister usually

also hosts multilateral private lunches.

2018 "Shangri-La Dialogue"

In the evening of 1 June 2018, welcoming dinner was hosted, followed by speech of Director-General and Chief Executive of IISS and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Sessions were held as follows.

First Plenary Session - US LEADERSHIP AND THE CHALLENGES OF INDO-PACIFIC SECURITY

Second Plenary Session - DE-ESCALATING THE NORTH KOREAN CRISIS

Third Plenary Session - SHAPING ASIA'S EVOLVING SECURITY ORDER

Fourth Plenary Session - NEW DIMENSIONS OF TERRORISM AND COUNTER-TERRORISM

Fifth Plenary Session - RAISING THE BAR FOR REGIONAL SECURITY COOPERATION

Special sessions under six topics were held as follows.

1. New strategic technologies and the future of conflict
2. Enhancing maritime security: codes of conduct and confidence-building measures
3. The security and humanitarian crisis in Myanmar's Rakhine state
4. Competition and cooperation in the Indian Ocean region
5. Strategic implications of military capability development in the Asia-Pacific
6. Managing competition in regional security cooperation

Across several sideline conversations at the dialogue this year, governmental and nongovernmental delegates alike probed

Stepping into the halls of "Shangri-La Dialogue", National Security Advisor U Thaung Tun and the delegation have grasped and maneuvered over the controversial and one-sided accusations, and eventually cleaned up the mess in a dignified manner.

the utility of the Indo-Pacific. Depending on the interlocutor, the concept was either reduced to a mere geographical descriptor in search of a strategic purpose or the call-sign of an emerging concert of democracies, led by the United States and Asia's major regional powers.

Prime Minister Modi, for his part, sought to clarify that India saw the Indo-Pacific as primarily a geographic domain — a "natural region," to India at least. Modi added that this region was ultimately multi-polar as well, contesting the idea that either China or the United States could be the one regional hegemonic.

Union Minister for the Office of the Union Government and National Security Advisor U Thaung Tun took part in the Asia Security Summit, the IISS Shangri-La Dialogue held in Singapore from 1 to 3 June 2018. Major-General Soe Naing Oo, Vice Chief of Armed Forces Training of the Ministry of Defence attended as member of Myanmar delegation.

This year "Shangri-La Dialogue" and Myanmar

Delegates took part and discussed with much interest as the security and humanitarian crisis in Myanmar's Rakhine State was included in the agenda.

The session saw the following lead persons.

Chair: Sarah Raine, Consulting Senior Fellow for Geopolitics and Strategy of IISS;

U Thaung Tun, Union Minister for the Office of the Union Government and National Security Advisor of Myanmar;

Peter Maurer, President, International Committee of the Red Cross;

Jean-Christophe Belliard,

Deputy Secretary General, Political Affairs; Political Director, European External Action Service, European Union.

Major General Md. Saiful Abedin, Director-General of Forces Intelligence of Bangladesh could not attend the session due to health reason.

At the Shangri-La Dialogue, National Security Advisor U Thaung Tun called on international community to see situation in Rakhine more objectively. At the Special Session "The Security and Humanitarian Crisis in Myanmar's Rakhine State", he underscored that terrorism was the main cause of the recent outbreak of violence in Rakhine and that the premeditated and brutal killings of village heads and civilians by the self-styled ARSA terrorist group caused Islamic community and ethnic minorities to flee the area. He said "The situation was exacerbated as a result of an unscrupulous propaganda campaign by ARSA. There is no denying that the Islamic community in the Rakhine State has suffered. But the Buddhists Rakhine, Hindu and other ethnic minorities have suffered no less." He called on the international community to see the situation in Rakhine more objectively. He said naming and shaming can only further inflame the current tension and it is antithetical to a peaceful and durable resolution of the crisis. He added "Unhelpful pressure is inflaming the discourse and detracting from the essential pursuit of a peaceful and diplomatic solution. Worse still, a prejudiced propaganda campaign and exploitation of the plight of refugees are being

used by terrorists to achieve their aims."

Next, the Q and A session followed.

Those who were doubtful and distrust over the Rakhine State issue raised motley assortment of questions, which was expounded and answered by U Thaung Tun. As a result, constructive and positive results were seen in return as they were convinced and satisfied.

Assessment and evaluation on the achievement

At this juncture, Myanmar is on the bumpy and rough road under the stormy and turbulent pressure in the international arena. A clean slate of the country in connection with the Rakhine situation is necessary, and therefore, facing against all odds in an amicable and straight forward way is very much vital.

Stepping into the halls of "Shangri-La Dialogue", National Security Advisor U Thaung Tun and the delegation have grasped and maneuvered over the controversial and one-sided accusations, and eventually cleaned up the mess in a dignified manner.

The writer of the article would like to sum up that by attending the Shangri-La Dialogue and interacting with the delegates have enhanced the faith and trust among the nations; further strengthen friendly relations; improved cooperation and regional security. Moreover, the image of Myanmar has been freshen up and elevated to the advantage of the people of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Translated by UMT

Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Thursday 14th June, 2018)

BAY INFERENCE: Monsoon is strong to vigorous over the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF THE 15th JUNE, 2018: Rain will be fairly widespread in Taninthayi Region and Kayah State and widespread in the remaining Regions and States with regionally heavy falls in Magway Region and Rakhine State and isolated heavy falls in Upper Sagaing, Mandalay, Bago, Yangon and Ayeyawady Regions, Kachin, Chin, Kayin and Mon States. Degree of certainty is (100%).

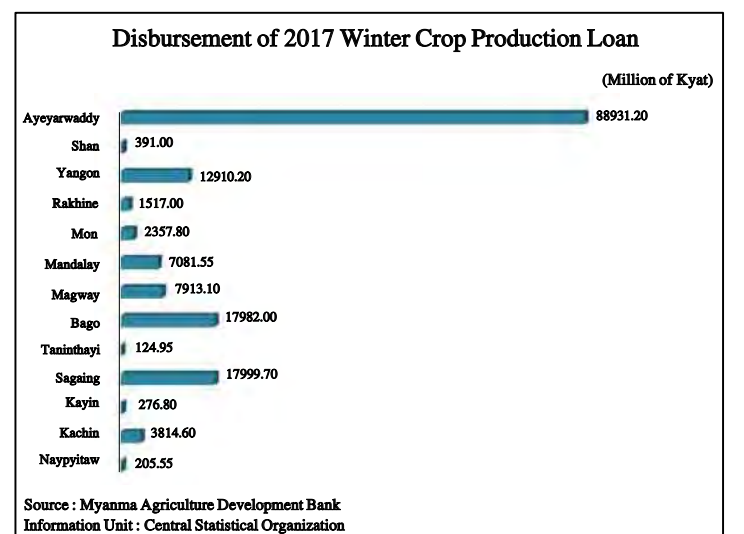
STATE OF THE SEA: Occasional squalls with rough seas will be experienced off and along Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (40)m.p.h. Wave height will be about (10 - 13) feet in off and along Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Rainfall intensity will decrease in the Central Myanmar area.

FORECAST FOR NAYPYITAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 15th JUNE, 2018: One or two rain. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 15th JUNE, 2018: One or two rain. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 15th JUNE, 2018: One or two rain. Degree of certainty is (100%).



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

International Theravada Buddhist Missionary University confers diploma on monks, students

INTERNATIONAL Theravada Buddhist Missionary University of the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture held a ceremony to present diplomas for the 2017-2018 academic year and to welcome the 2018-2019 academic year diploma trainees at the university in Mayangon Township, Yangon.

International Theravada Buddhist Missionary University Rector Sayadaw Dr. Bhaddanta Nanda Marla Bivamsa delivered a welcome speech on the occasion.

Next, the Rector Sayadaw presented diplomas and other accessories to 48 students, including eight foreign sanghas,

four men, six nuns, five women, 15 Myanmar sanghas, nine nuns and one woman, who attended the 2017-2018 academic year diploma course.

Later, the Rector Sayadaw presented velvet hand fans and shawls with the university emblem to the 2018-2019 academic year diploma trainees, consisting of a foreign contingent of 20 sanghas, six nuns, nine men and nine women and a local contingent of 11 sanghas, nine nuns, two men and four women, making up to a total of 70 students.

Trainees from 17 countries attended the 2018-2019 academic year diploma course.—Myanmar News Agency ■



International Theravada Buddhist Missionary University Rector Sayadaw Dr. Bhaddanta Nanda Marla Bivamsa presents diplomas to a Member of the Sangha at the graduation ceremony in Mayangon Township, Yangon. **PHOTO: MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY**

Union Minister Dr. Pe Myint visits community centres in Nay Pyi Taw



Union Minister Dr. Pe Myint visits Dekkhina district community centre in Pyinmana Township, Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY**

UNION Minister for Information Dr. Pe Myint visited the Information and Public Relations Department (IPRD) community centre in Pyinmana Township, the Dekkhina District office and training centre in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

First, the union minister arrived at the community centre, operating under the Information and Public Relations Department (IPRD) in Pyinmana, and observed children competing in a colouring contest in the children's reading room, and presented toys to them.

He then visited the book

club and instructed its members to organise young people to join as members. He next visited the women's club and the youth club and discussed club matters with the members.

The union minister inspected the computer skills class, foreign language classes, and the sports classes taught for free at the community centre.

Later, the union minister inspected the mobile libraries, a collaboration project between the IPRD and Daw Khin Kyi Foundation.

Next, the union minister arrived at the IPRD in Dekkhi-

na District and presented toys to the children competing in a colouring contest in the children's reading room. He then inspected the library and the mini-museum there.

The union minister also visited the IPRD's training centre and met the assistant directors from state and region IPRD, offices attending the news writing and publishing class being held there.

He instructed them to adhere to news writing ethics while delivering swift and accurate news to the public.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Australian Minister, Senator leaves Yangon

THE Australian Minister for International Development and the Pacific and Senator Concetta Fierravanti-Wells left Yangon yesterday morning.

The delegation, led by the

Australian minister, was seen off by Australian Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Nicholas Coppel and officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs at Yangon International Airport.—Myanmar News Agency ■



Senator the Honourable Concetta Fierravanti-Wells, the Minister for International Development and the Pacific of Australia, seen off by Australian Ambassador Mr. Nicholas Coppel at Yangon International Airport yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

SWRR Union Minister separately receives UN Special Envoy, Timor-Leste's Senior Minister, Japanese Ambassador

UNION Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr. Win Myat Aye received United Nations Secretary-General's Special Envoy to Myanmar Ms. Christine Schraner Burgener in Maykhalar Hall at his office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the meeting, the Union Minister Dr. Win Myat Aye and the Special Envoy exchanged views on Myanmar's continued efforts on the repatriation process for displaced persons, receiving the returnees with systematic measures according to the bilateral agreement, voluntary return of the returnees in dignity, cooperation with the UN agencies and other international organisations, and viewing on pragmatic ways for the International Organisations.

During the meeting with Timor-Leste's Senior Minister and For-

mer President Mr. Jose Ramos Horta, they cordially discussed matters related to the implementation process aiming to provide humanitarian assistance, relocation, resettlement and development sectors, holding NV Cards, reception centres, transit centre, providing infrastructure for personal hygiene, clean drinking water, electrification, transportation, MoU with UNDP, UNHCR and Myanmar. Likewise, the Union Minister received Japanese Ambassador Mr. Ichio MARUYAMA, and they discussed matters regarding the ground situation in Rakhine State, education for the youths at the reception centres, issuing NV Cards, cooperation with ministries the rule of law, measures on anti-corruption, and cooperation with UN Agencies—MNA ■

Over \$50 million grant aid from Japan for financial market infrastructures signed



Deputy Minister U Set Aung shakes hands with Mr. Ichiro Maruyama after exchanging notes concerning grant aid. **PHOTO: MNA**

U SET AUNG, Deputy Minister for Ministry of Planning and Finance, and Mr. Ichiro Maruyama, Ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of Japan to Myanmar, exchanged notes concerning the grant aid for the project for the development of financial market infrastructures, worth 5,549 million Japanese yen (approximately US \$50.5 million) in Nay Pyi Taw

yesterday.

The project aims to enhance the functions of CBM-NET, which was introduced in January 2016; thereby, adapting to the changes of the environment surrounding financial infrastructure.

The enhanced CBM-NET is expected to contribute to strengthening the Myanmar economy further.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Ministry of Construction Republic of the Union of Myanmar REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST Flooding and Landslide Emergency Recovery Project (FLERP) IDA Credit5889-MM

Assignment Reference Number: C1-C2-MOC-CS-01

Assignment Title: Rural Roads and Highways Design and Supervision (Consulting) Firm

Lot	Project Office	Project Site	Contracting Agencies
Lot 1	DOH project office Nay Pyi Taw	Rakhine and Chin States	Department of Highways
Lot 2	DRRD project Office Nay Pyi Taw	Ayeyarwaddy, Bago, Magway, Sagaing and Yangon Regions	Department of Rural Road Development

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar has received financing from the World Bank towards the cost of the Flooding and Landslide Emergency Recovery Project (FLERP). The Department of Highways (DOH) and the Department of Rural Road Rehabilitation (DRRD) of the Ministry of Construction (MOC) who implement the FLERP intend to apply part of the proceeds for the hiring of a specialized consulting firm in the broad area of Design and Supervision of Civil Road Works.

The FLERP's stage 1 has started with a number of road works in both the Rakhine State and the Ayeyarwaddy Region which will be completed before the end of 2018. For the FLERP's stage 2, the DOH and the DRRD now jointly invite expressions of interest (EOI) from qualified and experienced consulting firms (the Consultants) for an assignment of which the core objective is to assist both DOH and DRRD with the planning, design and implementation of the works identified for stage 2 which is expected to start late 2018, early 2019. More specifically:

1. This Consultancy will support the DOH project office in Nay Pyi Taw and the local governments in Chin and Rakhine States through the following tasks: (i) technical surveys and investigations; (ii) preliminary and detailed engineering designs with cost estimations; (iii) preparation of safeguards documentation; (iv) tender documents preparation as per relevant WB standards; (v) construction supervision, monitoring and verification/quality control, (vi) reporting; (vii) knowledge transfer and capacity building.
2. This Consultancy will support the DRRD project office at Nay Pyi Taw and the DRRD field offices in Ayeyarwaddy, Bago, Magway, Sagaing and Yangon Regions through the following key tasks: (i) technical surveys and investigations; (ii) preliminary and detailed engineering designs with cost estimations; (iii) preparation of safeguards documentation; (iv) tender documents preparation; (v) construction supervision, monitoring and verification/quality control, (vi) reporting; and (vii) knowledge transfer and capacity building.

The assignment is divided into two lots: Lot 1 for DOH and Lot 2 for DRRD. Two separate contracts will be awarded. Expression of Interest shall clearly indicate which lot if applied for. Consultants may apply for both lots.

Interested consulting firms must provide specific information demonstrating that they have the required qualifications and relevant experience to perform the Services. Short-listing criteria are (1) at least 10 years of experience in the field of road construction and road rehabilitation covering rural roads as well as highways and covering engineering and works supervision; (2) Having delivered in the last 5 years at least 3 similar projects of similar size, scope and nature; (3) Substantial experience in the development of road construction documents, bidding documents and plans; (4) Substantial experience in the supervision of large and complex road construction works including supervision of the physical realization of the works and contractual financial management processes; (5) Substantial experience in the development and the operation of effective QA programs and compliance records; (6) Substantial experience in terms of development and delivery of capacity building and knowledge transfer programs; (7) The ability to interact with a multiple stakeholders, ranging from government partners to contractors and the civil society. Interested Consultants are requested to provide specific information and past project references in order to demonstrate they meet each of the short-listing criteria. There is no need, at this stage of the selection process, to provide with individual key expert CV's as they will not be taken into consideration earlier than the technical proposal evaluation phase.

Expressions of Interest must be submitted in a written form to the address below (in person, or by mail, or by e-mail) **by Monday 9 July 2018.** A Consulting Firm will be selected in accordance with the QCBS method set out in the World Bank Guidelines for Selection and Employment of Consultants under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits and Grants, January 2011 and revised July 2014. Interested consultants should pay attention to paragraph 1.9 of these Guidelines, setting forth the World Bank's policy on conflict of interest. Consultants may associate with other firms in the form of a joint-venture or a sub-consultancy agreement to enhance their qualifications. In the case of a joint-venture, all the members thereof will be evaluated jointly for the purpose of short-listing. Unclear expressions of interest worded as "in association with ..." and/or "in affiliation with ..." without indicating the status of the partnership and the designation of the lead partner may not be considered for short-listing.

Further information and a copy of the detailed Terms of Reference (TOR) may be obtained at the address below during office hours from 09:00 to 16:00, Monday through Friday, except public holidays, or by simple e-mail request to:

U KhinZaw, FLERP Project Director

The Department of Highways, Ministry of Construction

Office No. 11, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.

Email address: flerp.moc@gmail.com, dkhinzaw@gmail.com, easterlily.eieimyo@gmail.com, azam.mustafa@gmail.com

Office Phone: +95(67)407583, 407658

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State Counsellor holds Peace Talk with youths in Mon State

FROM PAGE-5

As language barrier is an obstacle in education sector, she wanted the government to establish more schools that teaches in mother tongue for ethnic Mon children.

Peace and democracy

In his discussion on peace and democracy, Ko Tun Tun Lin, a teacher from a private school said establishing peace is the basic requirement for democracy. Without peace, there wouldn't be rule of law. Without rule of law, there wouldn't be democracy. Rule of law is the most important pillar for democracy. Democracy is important to establish peace and without a firm democracy in place, ethnic nationals would have difficulty in accepting peace.

Participation of the public in peace

Mi Ngwe Lay, Mon Cetana Development Foundation and clothing shop discussed about public participation in peace. She urges the maintaining of symbols and emblems that the ethnic nationals consider as important. Women have a strong will to participate deeply in the peace process and if a place for women to participate in the process is created, a sustainable peace will be achieved.

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi replies to questions

The State Counsellor replied that if everyone wishes for peace than we have to figure out why there are so many conflicts around the world. She said we must develop our capabilities to achieve our dreams and ambitions via peaceful means, and it is part of the government's job to support the people in this endeavour. She said that a country's citizens are its most crucial component and no matter how capable the government can be nothing can be accomplished without the cooperation of the citizens.

Vocational training is valuable

The State Counsellor said Myanmar's vocational education sector needs more development since it guarantees a job and income upon completion. A person with no income may upset the peace and stability of their community which is why creating jobs is a top priority.



Ko Tun Tun Lin. PHOTO: MNA

She said that she is not looking down on higher education but wishes for everyone to understand that vocational training is as valuable as a college or university degree. Some of the most developed countries in the world such as Switzerland, Sweden, and Germany have progressive vocational education systems that are on par with university education, and the Myanmar government is working towards a similar goal, said the State Counsellor.

Reviving the rubber sector

The State Counsellor said that the rubber sector in Mon State is in decline partly because the local rubber quality is not up to international standards, and local businesses currently do not have the technology or skills to produce high-end products. She said it is the government's responsibility to provide the necessary support and training to produce high-end products as well as to create a market for them. She said the government is doing its best to provide electricity to the area and that drug abuse is a huge danger throughout the country.

Healthcare and personal hygiene

The State Counsellor said that if the public had more health education then less people would need to go to hospitals. She said this also applies to raising awareness and discipline concerning traffic safety, such as wearing seatbelts and motorbike helmets, which would effectively reduce traffic accidents. Similarly, better personal hygiene and overall cleanliness of the environment will reduce diseases and sickness. The State Counsellor also said that litterers have no respect for their community and the nation's integrity and something as small as littering can go a long way in influencing



Mi Yin Nun Swam. PHOTO: MNA

a person's manners and accountability.

More youth involvement in peace process

The State Counsellor said she wishes for the youth to be more knowledgeable and up-to-date with the peace process. She said only if the youth understand the reason for conflicts can they be involved with the peace process in a positive and beneficial way. She urged the young generation to study about the country's history and causes for conflicts saying that understanding history can speed up building trust and friendship among youths of ethnic races. The State Counsellor said there are plans to hold peace talks in all 330 townships across the country by collaborating with the respective state and region government and NRPC officials.

The importance of the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement

National Development relies on the contents of the NCA to be in harmony with the laws, rules, and policies of the nation. She said the efforts of the government in constructing roads and supplying electricity is only possible because the peace process is going well.

She said local residents need only to take care of their region's development but the government needs to work in the national context. She said that the entire country is in need of roads and electric supply thus the government has to equally distribute its resources and focus on each state and region fairly.

The State Counsellor said dialogue between both sides is important to better offer assistance and work together towards peace and development while steering clear of illegal activities.



Saw Kyaw Moe. PHOTO: MNA

Continued fighting will lead to more DPs

Regarding the businesses offered by organizations when peace prevails in regions, the State Counsellor said that if there is no peace in the land then there will continue to be displaced people fleeing from armed conflicts. It is important to remove the underlying causes for conflicts and fighting.

Preserving our priceless culture

The State Counsellor said that the government can only aid preserving the culture to a certain extent. Loving and respecting one's culture is the only way to keep it alive and preserve it for future generations. She said that successful people bring respect and confidence to their culture which helps to preserve it.

Amending the 2008 Constitution

The State Counsellor said the National League for Democracy – (NLD) has made it part of their policy to fix parts of the 2008 Constitution since the 2012 by-elections. She said general discussions and plans had been drawn up during the 2014 Hluttaw to work towards this goal within the legal framework and through unbiased dialogue. Democracy does not happen overnight and it takes time to strengthen the democratic foundation as well.

In a democracy, everyone values their own rights as much as another person's while adopting an attitude of responsibility amidst different opinions. She said that discussing each other's differences is not just limited to democracy but should be incorporated in everyday life.

Understanding different culture and norms

Concerning Mon etiquette, the State Counsellor said that



Mi Ngwe Lay. PHOTO: MNA

personally she feels out of place addressing an elderly lady without the honorific Daw. Hence, if we take the name Mi Ngwe Lay for example, someone versed in Mon etiquette would address her as simply Mi Ngwe Lay while others would address her as Daw Mi Ngwe Lay or Ma Mi Ngwe Lay. She explained that this is not intended to attack Mon etiquette or culture but is how people from other culture view the situation and it is important for different culture to be understanding of each other's differences.

The State Counsellor said women should be fully involved in the peace process as well and it is globally recognized that the first casualty of war strikes women and children.

Next, the State Counsellor replied to three questions asked to her online.

Union Minister Dr. Myint Htwe

The Union Minister for Health and Sports said that the request for a Ks37 million CT scanner from Mawlamyine in Mon State has been approved. He urged the listeners to adhere to traffic safety and wear helmets so as to avoid head injuries.

Present at the peace talk were union ministers, state chief minister state ministers, state Hluttaw speaker, peace commission chairman, MPs from the Pyithu Hluttaw, Amyotha Hluttaw and Mon State Hluttaw, ethnic representatives, peace organizations, political parties, local residents and humanitarian organizations.

Public peace talks began in 2017 and so far have taken place twice at the International Convention Centre-II in Nay Pyi Taw, and once in Panglong in Shan State, Wundwin Township in Mandalay Region, Loikaw City in Kayah State, and Myaungmya Township in Ayeyawady Region.—Myanmar News Agency

World can 'sleep well' after North Korea summit, Trump says

WASHINGTON — A jubilant-sounding President Donald Trump declared Wednesday that his "deal" with Kim Jong Un has ended the North Korean nuclear threat, as his top diplomat said he hoped to see "major disarmament" of the country by 2020.

Despite the lack of detail, or binding terms in the joint statement agreed with Kim — which has alarmed a majority of observers of the nuclear standoff — Trump struck a resolutely bullish tone.

"There is no longer a Nuclear Threat from North Korea," he tweeted

in one of a series of early morning pronouncements.

Trump added that everybody "can now feel much safer than the day I took office" and people could "sleep well tonight!"

Critics said the unprecedented encounter between Kim and Trump was more style than substance, producing a document short on specifics about the key issue of Pyongyang's atomic weapons.

But the US president trumpeted the outcome as a "deal" with North Korea and vowed there would be "no more rocket launches, nuclear testing or re-

search!"

Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, speaking to reporters in Seoul, said the United States hoped for "major disarmament" of North Korea by the end of 2020.

In the summit statement, Kim pledged to "work toward the complete denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula" — a stock phrase favored by Pyongyang that stopped short of longstanding US demands for North Korea to give up its atomic arsenal in a "verifiable" and "irreversible" way.

When questioned on



US President Donald Trump steps off Air Force One upon arrival at Andrews Air Force Base. **PHOTO: AFP**

the wording, Pompeo said Trump's intention was to allow the US the opportunity to pursue further productive conversations on the issue with Pyongyang.

"Let me assure you that 'complete' encompasses verifiable in the minds of everyone concerned," Pompeo said.

"One can't completely denuclearize without validating, authenticating."

Pompeo said he expects the US would next speak to North Korean officials "fairly quickly after we return to our home countries," adding he was "very confident" that some form of engagement would

occur in the next week.

'Meeting of the century'

In North Korea, state media praised Kim for "opening a new chapter" in relations with the United States, and said Trump had accepted an invitation to visit the North.—AFP ■

Hungarian court to hand down heavy sentences for migrant truck deaths

BUDAPEST — Nearly three years after the gruesome discovery of 71 migrants suffocated in a lorry on an Austrian highway shocked Europe, a Hungarian court is due Thursday to hand down expected heavy sentences for the traffickers. State prosecutor Gabor Schmidt has asked for life terms for four of the 14 accused, insisting that three should get life

without parole under Hungarian law.

The victims — 59 men, eight women and four children, including a baby — came from Syria, Iraq and Afghanistan, joining hundreds of thousands like them trying to get to Germany in 2015 at the height of Europe's worst migrant crisis since World War II.

The deaths sparked international revulsion

and led a shocked German Chancellor Angela Merkel to announce she would open the country's doors, eventually allowing in some one million refugees, mostly from Syria. Having made their way to the Serbian border with Hungary, the group of 71 were packed into the airtight truck, their cries to stop and open the doors for fresh air ignored.

Realising what had happened, the driver abandoned the refrigerated lorry by the side of a motorway in Austria.

The accused were charged with "aggravated murder with particular cruelty," and went on trial a year ago in the south Hungarian town of Kecskemet.

They said they had not known their human cargo was dying, although

evidence was produced to say they did.

'Let them die'

The alleged ringleader, Samsoor Lahoo, himself a young Afghan of 31 who had fled his country, told the court in a final statement that he "had not wanted anyone's death".

But police telephone intercepts of calls made with his men on the truck

asking what to do came across differently — he told them not to open the doors.

"Let them die instead. That's an order," Lahoo allegedly says in one of the calls. "If they die, let him dump them in a forest in Germany," he adds.

Challenged with this evidence, Lahoo told the court they were simply "thoughtless remarks".—AFP ■

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North Korea's Kim knows denuclearisation must be 'quick': Pompeo

SEOUL — Kim Jong Un understands that denuclearisation must happen “quickly”, US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said Thursday, warning there will be no sanctions relief for Pyongyang until the process is finished.

Washington remained committed to the “complete, verifiable and irreversible” denuclearisation of North Korea, Pompeo added, after the historic US-North Korea summit in Singapore drew criticism for its vague wording on plans for Pyongyang to give up its nuclear weapons.

“We believe that Kim Jong Un understands the urgency... that we must do this quickly,” he said of the effort to have North Korea abandon its atomic arsenal.

Washington's top diplomat was in Seoul to brief his South Korean and Japanese counterparts after President Donald Trump's



Donald Trump has said the nuclear threat from North Korea no longer exists after his summit with Kim Jong Un. **PHOTO: AFP**

post-summit comments sparked confusion and concern in Tokyo and Seoul.

But Pompeo insisted at a joint press conference with the two countries' foreign ministers that there was no daylight among the allies on how to achieve the denuclearisation of North

Korea. Contrasting the Trump policy with previous US administrations, Pompeo said: “In the past, they were providing economic and financial relief before... complete denuclearisation had taken place.” “That is not going to happen, President Trump

made that clear.” Pompeo's comments came after North Korean state media reported Wednesday that Trump had not only offered to stop military exercises during dialogue, but also lift sanctions imposed on Pyongyang. Trump said after his meeting with Kim --

the first between sitting US and North Korean leaders — that Washington would halt its joint military exercises with South Korea, an announcement that caught Seoul — and apparently the Pentagon — by surprise.

The US and South Korea conduct several large drills every year to maintain readiness for operations on the peninsula, a source of irritation for Pyongyang, which considers them preparations for an invasion.

‘Frank’ discussions

South Korean Foreign Minister Kang Kyung-wha appeared to sidestep the issue at the joint press conference, saying the matter would be left to military authorities to discuss, and that the US-South Korea alliance remained “as robust as ever”.

Earlier, South Korean President Moon Jae-in acknowledged that “there

may be very conflicting views” about the summit, but it had still helped mitigate fears of a nuclear war.

“In this way I believe it was very successful.” He later said Seoul would carefully consider the future of the drills “if North Korea faithfully implements denuclearisation measures and sincere dialogue continues”, according to his office. While it is not directly involved, Japan also considers the exercises vital.

The “deterrence based on them (plays) an essential role for security in northeast Asia”, Japanese Foreign Minister Taro Kono said after the “frank” trilateral talks Thursday.

Kono said Japan understood the pause in the drills to be contingent on North Korean steps towards denuclearisation, adding that “no security guarantees have been given yet”. —AFP ■

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Farmer strives to preserve indigenous Japanese horses

OTSU, (JAPAN) — A farm raising only indigenous Japanese horses has been opened near a shrine known as a “horses’ sacred site” in western Japan, with the owner aiming to boost breeding to preserve such species.

Japanese horses were once raised across the country to work in fields and transport goods and people. However, the indigenous horse population decreased as modern transportation developed and currently there are only some 1,700 left, according to the Japan Equine Affairs Association.

Ikumi Isobe, the 33-year-old owner of the Mikarinonomori farm, was engaged in projects to preserve indigenous horses and promote traditional horseback military arts at a different farm she used to work for in Yamanashi Prefecture.

Mikarinonomori farm in Omihachiman, Shiga Prefecture, raises four horses from two different regions in the country, Hokkaido (Dosanko) and Nagano Prefecture (Kiso). Isobe plans to cooperate with other farms in breeding indigenous horses.

For her horse farm she picked a lot about 500 meters away from the Kamo Shrine, which is dedicated to gods protecting horses. She opened the farm, which is about 1,350 square meters on 1 May. According to the shrine, Emperor Tenchi is said to have established a farm in vast swathes of the region in 668.

Visitors can feed and ride the horses, and also try “Yabusame” horseback archery at her farm.

“I used to ride horses and I wanted to try it again,” a female visitor from the city, who brought carrots for the horses, said.

According to Isobe and the horse association, there are eight breeds of Japanese horses from the northernmost main island of Hokkaido to the westernmost island of Okinawa.

The other breeds are Noma (Ehime Prefecture), Taishu (Nagasaki Prefecture), Misaki (Miyazaki Prefecture), Tokara (Kagoshima Prefecture), Miyako and Yonaguni (both Okinawa Prefecture).

They are gentle-natured and have strong bodies although the sizes are smaller than thoroughbred racehorses. The height of their withers — the part between the shoulder blades — is around 1.3 metres while that of thoroughbreds is above 1.6 meters.

Other characteristics include relatively large heads and thick flowing manes.

According to the horse association, it is believed that all

Japanese indigenous horses are descended from animals brought from the mainland of Asia at various periods and routes dating back to the 6th century or earlier.

Horses played an important symbolic role in Japanese religion and certain shrines even today stable sacred white horses.

The Dosanko breed is descended from several local breeds imported from the Tohoku region when Japanese immigration to Hokkaido began in the 15th century, according to the association.

Records indicate that the Kiso breed was raised systematically in the Kiso region of Nagano Prefecture as early as in the 6th century.

“I fear that Japanese horses are close to extinction. I want many people to visit the farm as we protect them,” Isobe said. —Kyodo News ■



Photo taken on 11 May, 2018, shows Ikumi Isobe, the owner of the Mikarinonomori farm, riding an indigenous Japanese horse in Omihachiman, Shiga Prefecture, western Japan. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

Tight squeeze for Hong Kong’s young professionals

HONG KONG — As housing prices spiral in Hong Kong, young professionals are living in ever-shrinking spaces, with box-like “nano-flats” and co-shares touted as fashionable solutions.

Blocks of sleek miniature apartments packed with mod cons are springing up around the densely packed city, pitched as an attractive and more affordable lifestyle choice, but still at an eye-watering cost.

Finance worker Adrian Law, 25, paid more than HK\$6 million (\$765,000) two years ago for his tiny studio apartment in a new development in the gentrified Sai Ying Pun neighbourhood.

The slim glass building squeezes four apartments onto each floor and includes “nano-flats”, a new term for homes of under 215 square feet (20 square

metres). Law’s studio is a fraction bigger at 292 square feet, with a price per square foot of nearly HK\$20,000.

He has adapted to the limited space by buying transformable furniture — his bed folds away against the wall to reveal a desk tucked underneath — and he keeps most of his belongings at his parents’ home.

But with a fingerprint-activated door lock, washing machine, TV, fridge and even curtains, Law says the flat came with everything he needed.

“Property developers are marketing the concept to buyers that they only need a place to sleep and can do anything else outside,” he told AFP, admitting he eats mostly take-away food as the kitchen is too small for cooking. Law’s parents helped him

put down a 30 percent deposit when he bought the apartment and he sees it as an investment. He pays HK\$24,000 per month for the mortgage, around 40 percent of his salary.

“One can only get into a winning position by owning a place,” he said. “If you’re renting, you are spending all your money without gaining anything at the end.”

Health threat

Hong Kong’s real estate is the most expensive in the world, with median house prices at 19.4 times median incomes — the worst ratio globally according to the Annual Demographia International Housing Affordability Survey 2018. Property prices have been fuelled by an influx of money from wealthy mainland Chinese investors and developers, and the city government stands accused of failing to control the red-hot property market.

More than 60 per cent of new flats under 430 sq ft are taken up by investment buyers, according to government figures.

With the ability to buy a flat increasingly out of reach for the majority of Hong Kong’s 7.4 million residents, developers are creating smaller spaces to reach a wider market. Under Hong Kong law there is no limit to how small a flat can be. Ryan Ip, senior researcher at public policy think tank Our Hong Kong Foundation, describes it as an “unhealthy”

trend with developers putting profit above quality of life.

“If you count the per-square-foot price for smaller-size flats, it is even higher than larger flats,” said Ip, who believes mental and physical health will suffer if properties continue to shrink.

Rental prices have also rocketed and the wait for government-subsidised public housing can be five years.

Ip says expanding land supply by any means, including reclamation from the sea, is the only way to solve the affordable housing shortage.

But other local land research groups argue Hong Kong should develop under-utilised brownfield sites and idle government land first. The government is considering a host of options, from new artificial islands to developing the city’s cherished country parks.

Designers are also putting forward their own new concepts, including converting concrete pipes into living spaces and transforming shipping containers into homes.

Sharing space

Many poorer Hong Kong residents resort to renting dingy “subdivided” flats — apartments carved up into multiple living spaces. But even for those on a good salary, a decent home is often unaffordable.

Jezz Ng, 29, earns a monthly wage of HK\$32,000 as a teacher

and has chosen to live in a new co-share housing set-up, rather than shelling out for her own rent. At weekends she goes home to her parents.

Ng shares a unit with seven other women where she has her own small room, which can fit a single bed and a desk.

Housed in a revitalised residential building in the working class neighbourhood of Yau Ma Tei, privately owned Bibliotheque offers 166 bed spaces across 15 units, with monthly rents ranging from HK\$3,500 to HK\$6,200.

All tenants have access to communal facilities, from shower areas and a kitchen to activity rooms and study rooms.

“When I started to look for places to rent, my maximum budget was \$8,000 including utilities, but a simple, decent studio room could easily go over this price,” Ng told AFP.

She now pays \$5,600 per month, which she says allows her to support her parents financially and pay her sister’s tuition fees for a master’s degree — a common practice for young adults who are working. Ng adds she feels less cramped than when she lived at home. Founder of the co-share, Keith Wong, says it is designed for young professionals who need time to “accumulate wealth” by limiting their outgoings. For now it is an ideal solution, says Ng. —AFP ■



Michelle Chau sits on her bed in a co-sharing building in the Mong Kok district of Hong Kong, where spiralling housing prices have forced young professionals into ever-shrinking spaces. PHOTO: AFP

Myanmar women beat Chonburi FC in friendly



Myanmar(red) poised to kick the ball in yesterday's friendly match with Chonburi FC at BTU Sport Science Stadium in Thailand. **PHOTO:MFF**

The Myanmar women's national football team played against Chonburi's ladies FC at BTU Sport Science Stadium in Thailand yesterday, where they beat the Thailand club 3-1.

The Myanmar team included goalkeeper Thin Thin Soe, Aye Aye Moe, Khin Than Wai, Khin Myo Win, Yamin Lwin, Nilar Myint, Captain Than Than Htwe, Thandar Moe, Nu Nu, Nilar Win

and Yi Yi Oo. Myanmar's three successive goals were scored by Than Than Htwe, Nilar Win and Yi Yi Oo in the first half. Although the match was a friendly, both teams played with all efforts. Myanmar were on their toes at the start itself through clear-cut football passes, and at the 29th-minute mark Than Than Htwe's score broke the deadlock for Myanmar.

After the goal, Myanmar used power play and again scored at the 33rd minute through Nilar Win. Myanmar scored the third goal through the effort of Yi Yi Oo at the 43rd-minute mark.

Thailand's Chonburi did not give up and scored their lone goal at the 46th-minute mark.

By the end of full-time play, Myanmar had won 3-1. —Lynn Thit(Tgi) ■

Rakhine United's main players to be absent at match against Yadanabon

TWO main players, including defender Thet Tun Aung and striker Si Thu Than Soe, will be absent at Rakhine United's match against Yadanabon FC at Waitharli Stadium on 16 June, owing to the fines imposed on them in their previous matches, according to the Myanmar National League (MNL).

Defender Thet Tun Aung of Rakhine United played all the 15 matches this season, displaying brilliant defending skills and preventing his team from conceding too many goals.

Similarly, striker Si Thu Than Soe scored three goals for his team and played in most

of the matches for his team.

Head coach of Rakhine United U Soe Thein expressed his views about the lack of players in the coming matches.

"It will be a weak point for Rakhine United, as two main players cannot participate in the coming match. But we will do our best with the current players. Yadanabon is a good team, comprising many Myanmar national footballers. We will do our best to get good results," said U Soe Thein. Rakhine United is in the eighth place with 20 points, while Yadanabon FC is placed in the fourth spot with 23 points.—Lynn Thit (Tgi) ■

Manchester City to start title defence at Arsenal

LONDON — Premier League champions Manchester City will begin their title defence away to Arsenal on the weekend of August 11-12, the English Premier League announced Thursday as it unveiled the fixtures for the 2018/19 season.

The match will also be new Arsenal manager Unai Emery's first in English football's top flight.

The exact date of the game will be confirmed when television broadcasting schedules are drawn up.—AFP ■

World Cup trophy displayed at Moscow's Luzhniki as ceremony begins

MOSCOW — The World Cup trophy was displayed at Moscow's 80,000-seat Luzhniki Stadium on Thursday ahead of the tournament's opening match between host nation Russia and Saudi Arabia.

To deafening loud cheers at the crucible of Russian and Soviet sports, former Spain goalkeeper Iker Casillas held up the golden trophy for fans to photograph.

Outside the refurbished stadium, colourful crowds of fans danced and chanted, with a heavy police presence keeping order.

The mood was festive and peaceful, with Russian fans cheering a group of Saudi fans in green who were congregating outside one of the entrances.

The opening ceremony included a mini-concert by British pop star Robbie Williams,



Spanish goalkeeper Iker Casillas (L) and Russian model Natalia Vodianova stand next to the World Cup trophy during the opening ceremony at the Luzhniki Stadium in Moscow on 14 June 2018. **PHOTO: AFP**

who performed "Let Me Entertain You". Russian President Vladimir Putin and FIFA boss Gianni Infantino officially open the tournament minutes before the 1500 GMT kickoff.

A bellowing chant of "Russia!" echoed through the packed stadium as the opening ceremony got under way to music from Russian composer Pyotr Tchaikovsky.—AFP

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