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Saturday, 16 June 2018



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi welcomes Chinese Defence Minister General Wei Fenghe in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

State Counsellor separately receives Timor-Leste's former President, Chinese Defence Minister, US senior official

STATE Counsellor and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs Daw Aung San Suu Kyi separately received Mr. Jose Ramos Horta, Senior Minister and Former President of Timor-Leste, General Wei Fenghe, Chinese State Councilor and Minister of National Defence, and Mr. Matt Pottinger, Senior Director for Asian Affairs at the White House National Security Council in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

At the meeting with former President of Timor-Leste Mr. Jose Ramos, they discussed matters related to bilateral re-

lations and cooperation.

At the meeting with General Wei Fenghe at the Presidential Palace, they discussed matters related to bilateral relations and cooperation in security affairs, Myanmar's efforts for achieving peace and Rakhine issue.

At the meeting with Mr. Matt Pottinger at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, matters relating to the bilateral relations between Myanmar and the United States, peace process and the situation in the Rakhine State were discussed.— Myanmar News Agency ■

President U Win Myint delivers speech at ACMECS CEO Forum



President U Win Myint addresses the ACMECS CEO Forum at Shangrila Hotel in Bangkok. **PHOTO: MNA**

President calls for closer cooperation among stakeholders to promote growth of ACMECS members, region

PRESIDENT U Win Myint delivered an address at the Ayeyawady-Chao Phraya-Mekong Economic Cooperation Strategy-ACMECS CEO Forum, which was held under the theme "Connecting our Future: Enhancing ACMECS Cooperation and Integration", at the Shangrila Hotel in Bangkok yesterday.

The opening of the forum was attended by Prime Minister of Thailand General Prayut Chan-o-cha (Retd), Prime Minister of Cambodia Samdech Hun Sen, the deputy prime

minister of Thailand, ministers, deputy ministers and officials from Myanmar, Thailand and Cambodia, CEOs of ACMECS member countries and business representatives.

Following the opening address by Prime Minister of Thailand General Prayut Chan-o-cha (Retd), President U Win Myint delivered a speech, in which he stressed the important role ACMECS member countries in developing links, not only among member countries, but also with other countries outside ACMECS.

The President also expressed his appreciation of the new initiatives to re-design AS- MECS cooperation by working closely with the Government, private sector and financial institutions from both member countries, as well as development partner countries.

"In line with the objective of this forum, closer cooperation among stakeholders will enable us to promote the growth of each member country, as well as that of the region as a whole," said President U Win Myint.

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Motion to fight terrorism, to provide security in Rakhine approved

By Aye Aye Thant
(MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY)

THE second Pyithu Hluttaw's eighth regular session held its 15th day meeting in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday, debating a motion on fighting against terrorism in Rakhine in accordance with the Anti-Terrorism Law in attempts to prevent terrorist attacks in the state.

The motion submitted by U Thaung Aye of Pyawbwe Constituency has urged the government, in cooperation with international organizations, to crack down the ARSA terrorists who attacked Rakhine State in 2016 and 2017 and to prevent further terrorist attacks especially in Rakhine State as part of efforts for peace and stability, and the rule of law in the state.

Discussing the motion, Lt-Col Ye Min Oo, Tatmadaw Representative, said Myanmar's sovereignty is under threat from terrorists as the United Nations and other international organizations have made an attempt to intervene the internal affairs of Myanmar by citing groundless news and information.

The current situation in Rakhine State demanded special measures to systematically respond to alleged accusations in the state, to restore the rule of law and to prevent further terrorist attacks in the state, said Lt-Col Ye Min Oo.

"It is urgently required a national security strategy which can guarantee the security to the live and property of the people, the sustainable development which can bring about perpetuation of the national characteristics," said Lt-Col Ye Min Oo.

The Tatmadaw representative continued to say that it is required to review the Defence White Paper, which was released in 2015, in accordance with the constitution to be able to adopt a national security strategy as part of efforts for restoring the sovereignty which was violated in Rakhine State.

Afterwards, Daw Pyone Kathy Naing of Kalaw constituency discussed, "Terrorism makes a threat to national security based on humanitarianism and basic human rights.

"We understand that it is needed to safeguard the inter-



Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat. PHOTO: MNA

vention of great Powers by means of strategic diplomatic cooperation," said Daw Pyone Kathy Naing, "In order to maintain stability and sovereignty of the state, it is very important to tackle the root of the problem."

As for the small countries which are weak in military and economy, it is hard to resist the international influence, without taking legitimacy and the rule of law into consideration, she added.

"All can cooperate with the incumbent government in making efforts for the rule of law without doubt," said the lawmaker.

Regarding the motion, U Saw Tun Mya Aung of Papun constituency, U Aung Thaung

Shwe of Buthidaung constituency, U Hla Tun Kyaw of Maungdaw constituency, Daw Khin Saw Wai of Yathedaung constituency, Dr. Maung Thin of Meiktila constituency, Tatmataw representative Lieutenant Colonel Toe Lwin, Tatmataw representative Major Kyaw Min Han, Tatmataw representative Colonel Tun Than Ohn, U Aung Kyi Thein of Chaungzon constituency, U Thein Tun of Kyaunggon constituency, U Oo Hla Saw of MyaukU constituency, U Myint Wai of Gwa constituency, Daw Zin Mar Aung of Yankin constituency, U Pe Than of Myaypon Constituency, Daw Ni Ni May Myint of Taungup constituency and U Bo Bo Oo of Sanchaung

constituency discussed it.

Then, Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Maj-Gen Aung Thu answered that the government formed a Central Committee for the Implementation of Peace and Development in Rakhine State, which is led by the State Counsellor.

In order to achieve success in implementation of peace, stability and development, the four working committees namely Security, Peace and Stability and the Rule of Law Working Committee, Immigration and Citizenship Scrutinizing Working Committee, Settlement and Socio-economic Development Working Committee and Working Committee on Cooperation with UN Agencies and International Organizations have been formed.

The government is working together with international organizations to bring the terrorists who attacked Rakhine State to court while stepping up its efforts for development and restoring the rule of law in Rakhine State.

Finally, the motion was sought for approval by the Hluttaw. The parliament approved the motion. ■

Amyotha Hluttaw holds Q&A session, discusses bill

By Aung Ye Thwin
MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY

A question-and-answer (Q&A) session on starred questions was held, and a bill was discussed, during the 15th-day meeting of the eighth regular session of the second Amyotha Hluttaw yesterday morning.

Q&A session

In the question-and-answer session, U Bwe Khane of Chin State constituency (3) first posed a question on the plan to set up nature reserves across all nine townships of Chin State to preserve and protect wildlife. Union Minister for Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation U Ohn Win replied that employing more staff (forest rangers), a requirement to expand and construct offices and conduct patrols, was difficult. It is not possible to set up nature reserves in all nine townships. However, plans are underway to set up small nature reserves, such as the 46.875-sq. mile Bwepa mountain area and the 13.104-sq. mile Kyirian mountain area between Haka and Thantlang townships,

as well as in other areas. Once these are completed, attempts will be made to designate more nature reserves, said the union minister.

Regarding plans to prioritise the promotion and transfer of public servants serving in remote and border areas, raised by U Sai San Aung of Shan State constituency (12), Union Civil Service Board (UCSB) Chairman Dr. Win Thein replied that a policy was in place to transfer public servants who had served a minimum one year and maximum two years in remote and border areas. Ministries have been informed that if public servants apply for an early transfer because of family and social problems, the management committee must decide on transferring them to a post closest to the one applied for, if the post applied for is not vacant, said the UCSB chairman.

Ministries and departments follow specified rules and regulations on promotion, which is based on the education level, expertise, years of service, as well as the availability of the position. However, if a relevant assessment board supports a certain



Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than. PHOTO: MNA

public servant for outstanding works, there are related rules and regulations for such cases, and the public servant will be promoted according to such rules and regulations, said the UCSB chairman.

Also, Dr. U Kywe Kywe of Mandalay Region constituency (6) asked whether there is a plan to provide information to develop the planting, production and trading of *sterculia versicolour* wall, a source of fibre and gum (locally called *saekalama*).

Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation U Hla Kyaw replied that it was of the highest value, in high demand and the market information about

it had been posted on the Ministry of Commerce's website. The state/region trade centres and officials are also providing information about it, said the deputy minister.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation is also providing information on planting techniques, conducting demonstrations on plots and gum collection methods with skilled workers, as well as acquiring high quality seeds and saplings.

The ministry is also coordinating and cooperating with interested persons who want to plant it in their state/region and the state/region government, said the deputy minister.

Similarly, questions raised by U Saw Moe Myint @ Samuel of Kayin State constituency (1), Daw Nang Moe Moe Htwe of Kayin State constituency (4) and U Sai Tun Aung of Shan State constituency (2) were answered by Union Minister U Ohn Win and Deputy Minister U Hla Kyaw.

Amendment to fourth bill amending the Anti-Corruption Law approved

Following this, Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than obtained the decision of the Hluttaw on the fourth bill amending the Anti-Corruption Law, sent back by the Pyithu Hluttaw with amendment. As the Hluttaw agreed to confirm the amendment, an announcement was made accordingly.

Discussion on Myanmar dental, oral medical council bill

Dr. Pyae Phyo of Ayeyawady Region constituency (7) then discussed the Myanmar dental, oral medical council bill.

The 16th-day meeting of the eighth regular session of the second Amyotha Hluttaw will be held on 18 June. ■

VP U Myint Swe attends National Level Social Protection Committee meeting

THE National Level Social Protection Committee Chairman, Vice President U Myint Swe, addressed the National Level Social Protection Committee meeting 1/2018, held at the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, Nay Pyi Taw, yesterday morning.

Present at the meeting were committee Vice Chairmen Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr. Win Myat Aye and Union Minister for Labour, Immigration and Population U Thein Swe, committee members Deputy Ministers U Win Maw Tun and U Maung Maung Win, Permanent Secretaries and departmental officials.



Vice President U Myint Swe addresses the National Level Social Protection Committee meeting 1/2018 in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY**

Formation of National Level Social Protection Committee

The vice president said the day's meeting was an important development for the reduction of poverty and development of human resources, which was among the priority tasks of the State. According to worldwide research findings, social protection projects were most effective for poverty reduction and human resources development. It could be seen that in the past two decades, social protection projects were widely conducted in many countries. In Myanmar, the President's Office formed an 11-member National Level Social Protection Committee, led by the Vice President, on 17 May 2018, and established 11 main projects to allow the government to conduct social protection programmes throughout the country.

11 work responsibilities of the committee

The 11 work responsibilities of the committee include reviewing and assessing the projects on implementing the National Level Social Protection Strategic Plan, setting up and conducting cooperation methods with each department, coordinating with the UN, INGOs and NGOs to collect technology and resources,

coordinating with state/region governments to effectively draw up and implement regional level social protection projects, carry out social protection works as a priority for those age groups that are most vulnerable, establishing a protection and support system based on the requirements of women, handicapped persons, poor and other vulnerable persons at all levels and sectors, striving to provide healthcare, education, income and job assurance to all nationals, increasing the rights of workers and farmers by establishing an insurance system that provides full coverage, conducting redevelopment projects for those affected by any disaster, managing, evaluating and assessing the works implemented, as well as setting up a committee to form work committees and sub-committees, if required.

Implementation of National Level Social Protection Strategic Plan

As part of implementing the National Level Social Protection Strategic Plan, financial assistance to expectant mothers and children up to the age of two was provided in Chin State, Rakhine State and Naga Self-Administered Zone in the Sagaing

Region, and a countrywide social pension programme and an all-round social protection programme in 37 selected townships were conducted. For the five-year period from the 2018-2019 fiscal year to the 2022-2023 fiscal year, a mid-term social protection programme had been drawn up.

In today's meeting, the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, which was the implementing ministry, would discuss the status of projects conducted, based on the 11 work responsibilities of the committee and future work. Committee members are urged to openly discuss and provide suggestions on future work and requirements, said the vice president.

Four main points to consider

The vice president then spoke about four main points to be considered when conducting the discussion. First, it must be ensured that it was in line with the policies and priorities set by the state. Care should be taken so that the sustainable development programme for Myanmar and the Myanmar National Level Social Protection Strategic Plan were carried out in accordance with one another. The second point was to obtain funds and the ability to bear the cost in the long

run. These two points were to be considered together. Funds could be used from the State budget, but there was a limitation on how much could be used. As such, other resources, such as financial support/assistance and low interest loans, also need to be considered. Investments in the social protection sector would not show significant returns in the short term, but results such as reducing the income gap between the rich and the poor, rising nutrition and health indexes, and increased developments in childhood education need to be displayed as proof. Only then can this sector attract investments.

The third was to set up a system for country-wide implementation. This system would include management, and an information and funding system.

The fourth, a committee had been formed to coordinate among the government ministries. For coordination between government ministries and partner organizations, there must be social protection and disaster management sector coordination groups. These two would help establish better coordination.

The committee would expand the work responsibilities included in the Myanmar National Level Social Protection

Strategic Plan.

It would conduct the projects in the Myanmar National Level Social Protection Strategic Plan and expand the social protection works effectively by implementing the 11 programmes of the committee, said the vice president.

Next, committee Vice Chairman (1) Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr. Win Myat Aye explained the setup and work responsibilities of the committee, the formation of a national committee for health insurance system that provides full coverage, establishing insurance systems, including agriculture insurance systems and increasing the rights of workers and farmers.

Later, Department of Social Welfare Director General Dr. San San Aye explained the status of implementing the Myanmar National Level Social Protection Strategic Plan, the completion status of social protection projects, the financial assistance programme for expectant mothers and children up to the age of two, the social pension programme, and children and youth protection programmes. Department of Social Welfare Director U Kyaw Lin Htin then explained about the future work of the Myanmar National Level Social Protection Strategic Plan.

Later, committee Vice Chairman (2) Union Minister U Thein Swe, deputy ministers U Win Maw Tun and U Maung Maung Win, and permanent secretaries U Tin Myint, Daw Khin San Oo and U Kyaw Ngwe provided suggestions on the sector-wise work responsibilities to implement the National Level Social Protection Strategic Plan.

The meeting concluded after the National Level Social Protection Committee chairman and vice president gave comments and suggestions to ensure effective coordination and delivered a closing speech. —Myanmar News Agency ■

Certificate Course in Basic Diplomatic Skills (40/2018) concludes

THE Graduation Ceremony of the Certificate Course in Basic Diplomatic Skills (40/2018), conducted by the Strategic Studies and Training Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, was held at Wunzinminyarzar Hall of the Ministry at 10:00 a.m. yes-

terday, with a closing address delivered by U Myint Thu, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Present on the occasion were retired Myanmar Ambassadors, Directors-General and responsible officials of the departments under the Ministry,

senior diplomats, professors and instructors as well as trainees. On this occasion, Directors-General and retired Ambassadors presented the certificates to trainees. The 12-week long course comprised the subjects related to diplomacy, negotiation skills,

international relations, international law, international conferencing, contemporary international affairs, economics, etc., and also the simulation exercises for some subjects.

And it was attended by (189) trainees. Since 2000, the Ministry

of Foreign Affairs has conducted Basic Diplomatic Skills Courses for the public who are interested in diplomacy and international affairs. At present, there are (6,922) trainees graduated from the training programme.—Myanmar News Agency ■

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Free course on fish farming to be opened at Hlawga hatchery this month

By May Thet Hnin

A fish farming course, including the hatching technique, will be taught free of charge at Hlawga hatchery, operating under the Yangon Region Fisheries Department, by the end of June.

The fish farming courses, including artificial breeding, maintaining the origin of fish, nursing fingerlings or larvae, quality control of water, fish disease and treatment, will be conducted by the Yangon Region Fisheries Department, said U Hla Htay, Deputy Director of Yangon Region Fisheries Department.

"The courses aim to share fish farming knowledge, which we learnt abroad, to enhance the fish farming sector," he said. The course will start on 25 June, and it is a five-day intensive course free of charge, providing accommodation for 20 to 30 trainees.

Some 30 hatcheries are operating under the Myan-

A fish farm worker feeds his stock. **PHOTO: SUPPLIED**

mar Fisheries Department. Similar courses will be conducted once or thrice every year. The training course will expand the traineeship next year. In a bid to improve the livestock sector, the Fisheries Department is providing educational courses and

raising awareness about illegal fish farming and the preservation of endangered fish species, as well as adding of fish into the rivers, creeks, dams and reservoirs and collecting fishery data, in cooperation with international organisations.

Currently, farmers want to do mixed farming. They have asked fish breeders about fish farming techniques to work on a manageable scale. The Myanmar Fishery Federation has requested the Fisheries Department to offer more classes. ■

‘Patent and Copyright’ forum to be held this Sunday

THE Intellectual Property Proprietors' Association (IPPA) and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) will jointly host a forum, entitled 'Patent and Copyright', to be held on Sunday, 17 June in Yangon.

The event is scheduled to take place on the 5th floor of Cooperative Business Centre in Sayasan Plaza, at the corner of Sayasan Road and New Uni-

versity Avenue Road in Bahan Township from 9 a.m. to 3.30 p.m. The public is invited to participate in the forum.

The forum is part of the efforts to educate the public about intellectual property (IP), which refers to creations of the mind, literary and artistic works and symbols, and names and images used in commerce. IP is divided into two categories—industrial property and

copyright. Patents for inventions, trademarks, industrial designs and geographical indications are included in industrial property. Copyright covers literary works, films, music, artistic works and architectural designs.

The government of Myanmar is making concerted efforts to enact an intellectual property law to spur economic growth, create employment

and establish industries, as well as enhance the quality of life. The forum will discuss legal protection for new creations and encourage a commitment to seek additional resources to ensure further innovations.

A certificate will be provided to those who attend the one-day discussion.

For further information, dial 09-5143419 and 09-798433183.—Khine Khant ■

Nearly 166,500 foreign day-trippers via Tachilek since April

THE number of day-trippers who entered Myanmar via Tachilek, a border town between Myanmar and Thailand, from April to mid-June reached 166,498, the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism reported yesterday.

The foreign visitors toured the town's well-known destinations, including Talaw Market, Mahamyatmuni Pagoda, Shwedagon Pagoda, the ethnic village and Chinese

temples.

During the second week of this month, 16,664 international visitors, including 16,435 day-trippers, entered the country through the Tachilek cross-border point. Most of the foreign travellers were from Thailand.

Foreigners visit Myanmar to enjoy its beautiful landscapes, scenic views along its mountain ranges, its archaeological and histor-

A busy scene at the Tachilek border between Myanmar and Thailand. **PHOTO: SUPPLIED**

ical sites, as well as to observe the diverse range of customs, traditions and lifestyles of the ethnic people.

To enhance the country's tourism industry, the hotels and

tourism ministry is cooperating with tourism organisations and NGOs to develop community-based eco-tourism, marine tourism and cross-border trip planning.—Khine Khant ■

Sales of plots for Thilawa SEZ Zone B available

THE Myanmar-Japan Thilawa Development Limited (MJTD) yesterday announced that plots for the Zone B second phase covering 77 hectares of the Thilawa Special Economic Zone (SEZ) will be available for sale in July this year.

This will bring the total operating area in Thilawa SEZ up to 583 hectares, and open up more opportunities for businesses to further invest in the fast-growing economic zone.

Located on the southeast area of Yangon, Thilawa SEZ is the first development of its kind in the country.

In line with the top facilities offered throughout the SEZ, the new second phase of its Zone B provides locators international-standard infrastructure - from roads and utilities to supporting services such as maintenance.

Six years ago, a deal was signed to develop Thilawa SEZ between Myanmar and Japan, and it has flourished since its beginning of operations in 2015.

By 8 June, Thilawa SEZ had



File photo shows the construction site at the Thilawa Special Economic Zone's Zone B, in Yangon. **PHOTO: MNA**

20,000 staff and a total investment amount of over 1.4 billion from 17 countries with 94 investments across various sectors with these numbers expected to grow. Myanmar notably has a sizable labor force and untapped

areas for growth, which has been a focus for successfully attracting worldwide manufacturers.

"The opening of the latest phase of Thilawa SEZ's Zone B, is yet another positive milestone in our objective to spur economic

industrial growth in Myanmar.

Among the total development area of 583 hectares, 49 locators have started the operations, 31 are under factory construction and over 90 locators will have been started the operations with-

in the next two years.

This has been a great achievement and a strong sign of investment interest in the zone and the region," said Mr. Tomoyasu Shimizu, President of MJTD.—GNLM ■

Continued heavy rainfall causes shortage of raw fish

SOME fishing boats were suspended due to continuous heavy rainfall, causing shortage of raw fish and an increase in its price.

"The torrential rain caused a shortage of raw fish and an increase in price. It has been three days since the supply of fish has not been available at Yangon's eight jetties," said U Tun Sein, secretary of Myanmar Fish Paste, Dried Fish and Fish Sauce Association.

Following the lack of raw fish, dried fish processors are buying farmed fish, especially river catfish.

The banned fishing period is between 15 May and 15 August this year. Some businessmen trading in fish paste and dried fish made an advanced purchase of fish since April.

The dried fish businessmen are dependent on local consumers and so they purchased and stored both freshwater and salt-water fish. Currently, offshore fishing vessels are yet to return to the bank on account of the



continued rainfall, harming businessmen. Additionally, the fuel oil price is also high. The shortage of raw fish harms dried fish production, said U Yan Naing, a fishery businessman from Mon State.

Fishing vessels have departed yesterday after being suspended recently. However, raw fish supply is seen only three or four days per week during the banned fishing season, said U Maung Maung Soe, president of Myanmar Marine Fisheries Association.

Farmed fish are supplied chiefly in the domestic market

once the banned season starts. The fish price is up by 20 per cent, said the merchants.

The banned fishing period was 45 days in 2013, with 75 per cent of the fishing vessels allowed to fish. The banned season extended to 60 days with 65 per cent authorised for fishing, while in 2015, it was further extended to 90 days, with 50 per cent authorised fishing vessels. Authorised fishing vessels were reduced to 40 per cent in 2016 and 30 per cent in 2017 during the 90 days of the banned season.—May Thet Hnin/Htut Htut (Ye) ■

Manipur Chambers, MCCI hold business networking event

TO promote economic cooperation and bilateral trade, the Mandalay Chambers of Commerce and Industry (MCCI) and its associate members, and India's northeast Manipur Chambers of Commerce and Industry held a Business Networking and Growth event at the MCCI meeting hall on 13 June.

The information and technology, tourism, health, electricity and electrical appliances production, garments, arts and crafts and education sectors were discussed at the event.

Mandalay Region Minister for Planning and Finance U Myat Thu gave an opening speech at the event. U Aung San Win, vice president of

MCCI, gave a welcome speech. The president of Manipur Chambers of Commerce and Industry discussed matters concerning trade promotion and economic cooperation.

Bilateral trade between India and Myanmar was valued at US\$1.71 billion in the 2015-2016 fiscal year. The trade grew to \$1.94 billion in the 2016-2017 FY and decreased to \$1.37 billion in the 2017-2018 FY, according to data provided by the commerce ministry.

A total of 25 enterprises from India are investing in Myanmar, with capital amounting to \$738.49 million, according to statistics provided by the Myanmar Investment Commission.—Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay)/ Ko Khant ■

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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)

Border Issues and the Bilateral Relationship with Bangladesh

To enhance mutual understanding and bilateral cooperation between Myanmar and Bangladesh, Lieutenant General Kyaw Swe, Union Minister for Home Affairs and Dr. Win Myat Aye, Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement visited Bangladesh from February 15 to 17, 2018 and from April 11 to 13, 2018 respectively.

The first coordination meeting of Myanmar-Bangladesh Joint Working Group was held in Nay Pyi Taw on January 15, 2018. And this resulted in the signing of the "Physical Arrangement for Repatriation of Displaced Myanmar Residents from Bangladesh" between the two nations. Discussions and negotiations with UNDP and UNHCR have started since 23 February 2018 to sign MoUs to support the repatriation work.



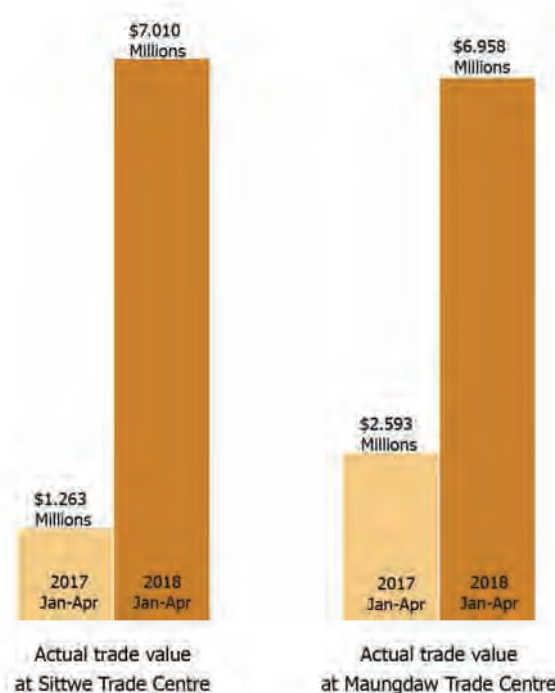
A total of 1,308 housing units - including 1,126 housing units for displaced ethnic nationals and Hindus, and 182 housing units for displaced Muslims- are being constructed with support from the regional and state governments of Ayeyawaddy, Mandalay, Yangon, Bago, Sagaing Regions and Kachin, Kayin and Shan States, the Ministry of Border Affairs, UEHRD, Daw Khin Kyi Foundation, CB Bank, the Tatmadaw and the Indian Government. Additionally, Magway and Taninthari regional governments, Chin State government and the Tatmadaw also supported construction of 4 schools and 2 hostels for school teachers, 4 monasteries and roads and pagodas etc. These returnees will be resettled in their villages of origin after construction of their houses are completed.



Efforts are taken to enhance bilateral cooperation for security and border area management between Myanmar and Bangladesh. During this reporting period, 4 regiment-level flag hoisting ceremonies between the two border guard forces took place on Myanmar side, and one ceremony on Bangladesh side; as well as one Myanmar-Bangladesh district administrator level meeting.



The establishment of Ka Nyin Chaung Trade Zone in Maungdaw started in FY 2015-16 for trade promotion in the area. And construction of infrastructure including 2 concrete jetties, 1 main building, and 20 buildings for trade fair/exhibition are now completed. Business is resuming as usual at Sittwe and Maungdaw Border Trade Centres. The actual trade value at Sittwe Trade Centre from January 1 to April 27, 2018 was USD 7.01 million, and this is a USD 5.747 million increase in comparison with the same period from the previous year. Similarly, the actual trade value at Maungdaw Trade Centre from January 1 to April 27, 2018 was USD 6.958 million, a net increase of USD 4.365 million in comparison with the same period of the previous year.



Regional Relations

Senior figures of the State and Myanmar government officials continue their efforts to inform and update the international community with regards to measures taken in Myanmar. Notable events include -

- President H.E U Win Myint attending the 32nd ASE-

AN Summit hosted by Singapore from April 25 to 28, 2018, and updating the progress made in Rakhine at ASEAN Summit Retreat;



- The State Counsellor H.E Daw Aung San Suu Kyi attending the ASEAN-Australia Special Summit and the Leaders' Retreat in Sydney, Australia from March 17 and 18 2018, and discussing the challenges of the country including Rakhine issue;



- Union Minister H.E U Kyaw Tin attending the ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Retreat in Singapore on 6 February 2018, explaining the efforts taken by the Government of Myanmar for Rakhine State.



Three diplomatic visits to Rakhine State were arranged for heads of diplomatic missions and UN agencies in Myanmar to see for themselves the situations on the ground. These visits took place on February 6, 9 and 15, 2018.



(TO BE CONTINUED)



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi receives Mr. Jose Ramos Horta, Senior Minister and Former President of Timor-Leste. **PHOTO: MNA (NEWS ON PAGE-1)**



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi welcomes Mr. Matt Pottinger, Senior Director for Asian Affairs, at the White House National Security Council. **PHOTO: MNA (NEWS ON PAGE-1)**

President U Win Myint delivers speech at ACMECS CEO Forum

FROM PAGE-1

The Government of Myanmar has recognized, in the context of the market-oriented economic system, the private sector as a prime mover and a market mechanism, and places great emphasis on its development, he added.

"All efforts are being made to encourage the active participation of the private sector in international trade and investment and support is given from every possible angle," said the President.

In conclusion, the President stressed the importance of co-existence with understanding and cooperation in the region, urging the peoples of the Great Mekong Region to march towards the region's goal of peace and development.

Established in November 2003, the ACMECS aims to strengthen bilateral economic collaboration, tap comparative advantages of member regions and countries, and narrow development gaps. The ACMECS now covers eight cooperation fields of trade-investment, agriculture, industry-energy, transportation, tourism, human resources development, health care and environment.

ACMECS countries include Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Vietnam and Thailand. Also, Prime Minister of Cambodia Mr. Samdech Hun Sen delivered a speech.

The opening ceremony of the ACMECS CEO Forum concluded after the President, Thai Prime Minister, Cambodian Prime Minister had a documentary photo



President U Win Myint and First Lady Daw Cho Cho pose for photo together with leaders of ACMECS countries. **PHOTO: MNA**

taken together with CEOs of the ACMECS member countries and business personnel.

After the opening ceremony, President U Win Myint greeted Myanmar businessmen who attended the ACMECS CEO Forum.

After the ceremony, the Myanmar delegation, led by President U Win Myint and First Lady

Daw Cho Cho, visited the Mado Pavilion agricultural museum in Pathum Thani, Thailand.

At the museum, the delegation viewed agriculture in rural areas, agricultural research, producing fuel from waste, efforts for successful agricultural research, a Father Footstep Video presentation and traditional Thai products.

In the evening, President U Win Myint and First Lady Daw Cho Cho attended a dinner hosted by Thai Prime Minister General Prayut Chan-o-cha (Retd) in honour of the leaders from ACMECS countries who will attend the 8th ACMECS Summit and 9th Cambodia-Lao-Myanmar-Viet Nam- CLMV Summit. — Myanmar News Agency ■



President U Win Myint and First Lady Daw Cho Cho, view products at the Mado Pavilion agricultural museum in Pathum Thani, Thailand. **PHOTO: MNA**

UEHRD provides aid, resettlement to boat crash survivors

DEPUTY MINISTER for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement U Soe Aung and Maungtau District Deputy Commissioner U Ye Htut went to Hla Phoe Khaung Transit Centre yesterday morning.

They met with 92 survivors of boat mishap and provided a month provision of rice, cooking oil, pea, salt, kitchen set, dried noodle and biryani packets.

The Deputy Minister then inspected the status of the cash-for-work construction programme of houses for the boat mishap survivors at their places of origin or nearest to their places of origin, reunion with families remaining in the other country and explained about the relief supplies provided by the State and to be loyal and faithful to the State.

The Deputy Minister then observed the boat mishap survivors transported back to their villages of origins.

The Deputy Minister and party then left Maungtau for Sittway in the afternoon, it is learnt. — Myanmar News Agency ■

Through coexistence, understanding, let's march towards Great Mekong Region's goal of peace and development

THE leaders of Ayeyarwady, Chao Phraya, and Mekong Economic Cooperation Strategy (ACMECS) member countries are meeting for its 8th Summit in Bangkok, Thailand from 15-16 June, to review their economic cooperation strategy.

On the same occasion, the leaders will also meet for the 9th Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Vietnam (CLMV) Summit.

Prior to the summit, the ACMECS CEO forum was held on 15 June under the theme “Connecting our Future: Enhancing ACMECS Cooperation and Integration,” as a platform for the leaders and representatives of the public and private sectors to network and exchange views on trade and investment.

We believe that the ACMECS CEO forum, in line with its objective, will enable us to promote the growth of each member country, as well as that of the region as a whole.

Myanmar has carried out reforms and transformed itself from a centrally-planned to a market-oriented economy.

The Union Government has been in office for more than two years and has been able to establish microeconomic stability. Myanmar's economy is growing, and has become one of the fastest growing economies in ASEAN.

Through its economic reforms, Myanmar has relaxed rules and regulations to attract foreign investment and promote local businesses.

The Government of Myanmar has recognized, in the context of a market-oriented economic system, the private sector as a prime mover of market mechanisms, and places great emphasis on its development.

The CEO forum has brought together business people in the five countries, along with the bloc's commitment to encouraging the role of the private sector in international trade and investment.

We consider the cooperation of private businesses as a driving force for the region's economy, as their active participation in international trade and investment will underpin the economy.

Established in November 2003, the ACMECS aims to strengthen bilateral economic collaboration, tap comparative advantages of member regions and countries, and narrow development gaps.

The ACMECS now covers eight cooperative fields of trade and investment, agriculture, industry and energy, transport, tourism, human resources development, health-care and environment. The biennial ACMECS Summit is held alternately in each country.

We welcome Thailand's initiative to re-design ACMECS Cooperation by working closely with the government, private sector and financial institutions from both member countries and development partner countries.

Regional cooperation cannot succeed through just political commitment, but coexistence with better understanding of the region is important.

The people in the Great Mekong region are urged to march towards the goal of peace and development in the region through coordination, negotiation and cooperation among the countries of the region. ■

The flash floods are getting more severe

By Khin Maung Myint

THE rainy season had just begun. However, we are witnessing many incidents of flash floods and overflowing of rivers, streams and creeks in the country already. To my judgement, they are becoming more frequent and more severe in recent years than before. In the past, there may be flash floods and inundating of towns and villages due to heavy rains. However, though I have no access to any official records, my guess is - the flash floods and the overflowing of the waterways causing the inundations, we are witnessing now, are the most severe of such incidents we had ever been exposed to.

So, what could have triggered these conditions? Well, I am definite that it is mainly due to the deteriorating climate conditions or rather, the climate change is behind all these devastations. If that's the case, we should expect them to become worse. Besides the impact of the climate change, another culprit, which causes flash floods, waterways overflowing and inundations is the extensive depletion of forests.



PHOTO: MDN

bridges resulting in the disruption of transportations. All these conditions affected the populace, destroying their homes and loss of properties, depriving them of their incomes and also impacting on the economy of the country. Their authorities, under the guidance of their late King, pinpointed the root cause of those disasters to be the

banks bursting that cause inundations are becoming less frequent and less severe than before. Also the Royally initiated dams and reservoirs constructions contributed enormously to the control of flooding. I know this for fact, because during my visits, I had stayed at six diversion weirs and one reservoir construction project sites at different locations in the North Eastern, Central and Eastern regions of Thailand. All the projects were designed for irrigation and flood control purposes. After many years, they are found to serve their purposes very well, thanks to the meticulous planning and guidance given by their late Monarch.

The Thai Monarch's contribution to control the flooding didn't end with just the constructions of weirs and reservoirs. He was a driving force behind the reforestation and conservation of the forests. The trees - leaves, branches, trunks and roots - are very helpful in absorbing, storing and retaining the rain water and thus protect the slopes from erosions and mudslides, which could intensify the flash floods. Thus such incidents are becoming far less frequent and less severe. The reforestation method invented by the King proved to be very effective and was even patented in his name. It was one of the very useful inventions made by him during his lifetime. Though they are patented, they were available to those who were interested, free of charge from him. I'm sure they are still available today even after

his demise.

His innovation of the reforestation method was the most admirable achievement. It is very simple and utilizes the nature to do the work, without much need for human labour apart for the initial stage, is quite amazing. The method is to take a few saplings of fast growing species of trees, as many as a person can carry and climb up to the top of a barren hills or mountain ranges at the beginning of the rainy season. The tree saplings are planted at the highest places strategically chosen to help in the effective propagation of the trees. Only minimal care and attention would be necessary in the beginning, but once they had taken root, they are left to the nature to do what it is supposed to do.

After a few years, though all the saplings may not survive, most of them will still remain and in

time they will mature and start to flower and bear fruits. In due course of time the fruits will ripen, fall to the ground or carried away by birds and bats or eaten by mammals and will be scattered on the slopes in the immediate vicinity of the trees or dispersed to distant places. Thus the trees will continue to propagate in their natural manners and eventually the forests will regenerate. This method proved very successful that some countries requested permission from the King to use his patented method in their countries. I, myself had observed with my own eyes, how the once barren hills and mountains ranges in Thailand were covered with lush green virgin forests over the duration of the past twenty years.

Here, it's noteworthy how the tiny Himalayan Kingdom of Bhutan reforested the barren

country to the extent so as to be commended as the most forested, measured by percentage of land area covered in trees, during the COP21 or the Paris Climate Change Conference in 2015. How did they managed that? It was their young King, who as a Crown Prince was a great admirer of the late King of Thailand. He used to visit there frequently, especially on the occasions of the old Kings birthdays. While on one such visits, during an audience with the old King, he asked permission to use the tree planting method and was duly granted permission. That led to the citation as being the most forested country, as over 80 percent of Bhutan was covered in forest at the time of the COP21.

In conclusion, I would like to emphasize that depletion of the forests are the root causes of climate change and is the main culprit in the causes of severe flash floods, bursting of river, stream and creek banks and inundating of villages and towns. Thus I want to urge the introduction of ban on legal timber extractions and strictly clamp down on illegal loggings, that are still going on in the country. Strict and severe actions should be taken against those who commit them. In my humble opinion, considerations should be given to banning the legal logging until the depleted forests can be fully replenished. It would certainly take some time to regain the old status that we used to take pride in. Banning logging altogether may have adverse effects on the country's economy for the time being, but it would be much better off than being devastated by the ravages of the climate change. ■



PHOTO: MDN



Thura U Shwe Mann meets with UNSG's Special Envoy Ms. Christine Schraner Burgener in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA

Thura U Shwe Mann receives UNSG's special envoy on Myanmar

CHAIRMAN of Legal Affairs and Special Cases Assessment Commission of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann received the United Nations Secretary General's Special Envoy on Myanmar, Ms. Christine Schraner Burgener, at the Hluttaw building in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

During the meeting, they cordially discussed developing a balanced thinking and approach to their responsibilities, in addition to an understanding of the nature and history of the local Myanmar ethnic races. — Myanmar News Agency ■

Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Friday 15th June, 2018)

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

FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF THE 16th JUNE, 2018: Rain will be scattered in Lower Sagaing, Mandalay and Magway Regions, Northern Shan State, fairly widespread in Upper Sagaing Region, (Southern & Eastern) Shan and Kayah States and widespread in the remaining Regions and States with regionally heavy falls in Ayeyarwady Region and Rakhine State and isolated heavy falls in Bago and Yangon Regions, Chin, Kayin and Mon States. Degree of certainty is (100%).

STATE OF THE SEA: Occasional squalls will be experienced rough seas Deltaic, Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon-Tanin-thayi Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (40) m.p.h. Sea will be moderate to rough elsewhere in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about (10 - 12) feet in Deltaic, Gulf of Mottama and off and along Mon-Tanin-thayi Coasts and about (6 - 9) feet in off and along Rakhine Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Continuations of increase of rain in Taninthayi Region, Kayin and Mon States.

FORECAST FOR NAYPYITAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 16th JUNE, 2018: One or two rain. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 16th JUNE, 2018: Some rain. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 16th JUNE, 2018: Isolated rain. Degree of certainty is (100%).

WEATHER OUTLOOK FOR WEEKEND: Rain will be fairly widespread in Nay Pyi Taw, widespread in Yangon Region and scattered in Mandalay Region.



Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than receives UNSG's Special Envoy Ms. Christine Schraner Burgener in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than receives UNSG's Special Envoy on Myanmar

AMYOTHA Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than received the United Nations Secretary General's Special Envoy on Myanmar, Ms. Christine Schraner Burgener, at the

Amyotha Hluttaw building in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

During the meeting, they discussed promoting relations between Myanmar and the

United Nations, the Hluttaw's role in Myanmar's democratic transformation, the peace processes and the Rakhine issue.— Myanmar News Agency ■

Union Minister for the Office of the State Counsellor receives UNSG's Special Envoy

UNION Minister for the Office of the State Counsellor U Kyaw Tint Swe received United Nations Secretary-General's Special Envoy Ms. Christine Schraner Burgener and the delegation at the Ministry of the Office of the State Coun-

sellor in Nay Pyi Taw at 3 p.m. yesterday. During the meeting, they discussed matters relating to the cooperation between Myanmar and the United Nations. They also discussed the issue on Rakhine State. —Myanmar News Agency ■



Union Minister U Kyaw Tint Swe meets with United Nations Secretary-General's Special Envoy Ms. Christine Schraner Burgener in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

All-round youth development festival to be held in Mandalay

UNION Minister for Information Dr. Pe Myint delivered a speech at the coordination meeting to conduct an all-round youth development festival in Mandalay, which was held at the meeting hall of the Information Ministry in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

At the meeting, the union minister said he met Mandalay Region Chief Minister Dr. Zaw Myint Maung, cabinet members and officials, and visited Mandalay University, where the festival will be held.

He invited the meeting's attendees to discuss creative programmes that could be included in the festival, targeting university and high school level students. He also invited discussions and suggestions on holding a festival, in which the public would be able to participate, along with the youths.

Further, Information and Public Relations Department Director-General U Ye Naing explained the arrangements made to hold the Mandalay all-round youth development festival.

Later, officials from the



Union Minister Dr. Pe Myint addresses the coordination meeting to conduct an all-round youth development festival. **PHOTO: MNA**

Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Health and Sports, Ministry of Planning and Finance, Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Transport and Communications and the Union Auditor General's office also discussed their related sectors.

Deputy Minister for Information U Aung Hla Tun, the permanent secretary and directors-general also joined in the discussion.

The Mandalay all-round youth development festival will

be held with the aim of promoting youths' skills, knowledge, ethical values, as well as developing their five strengths – physical, mental, ethics, friendship and strength – and establishing a future Myanmar society based upon their views and ideas. The all-round youth development festival (Yangon) was held at Yangon University from 1 to 3 December 2017.

The all-round youth development festival (Mandalay) is to be held mid-August 2018 at Mandalay University. —Myanmar News Agency ■

Myanmar Gazette

Appointment as Permanent Secretary

The Union Government has appointed Director-General U Ko Ko Naing from the Office of the Supreme

Court of the Union, to assume the duties of Permanent Secretary. —Myanmar News Agency

Magway's Bailey bridge 80% complete

A bailey bridge on Myothit-Natnauk route in Myothit Township was washed out by flash floods on 31 May this year.

A temporary detour was made for the convenience of locals due to current weather conditions by officials from the Magway Region. However, the temporary detour was closed because of torrential rains that hit on 12 June. So, a 150 feet long and 14.75 feet

wide temporary bailey bridge was constructed starting at 12 pm on 13 June and 80% of the construction was completed at 5 pm yesterday. "Approach roads will be constructed as soon as the bridge has been completed. If the weather is good, it may be finished on 16 June and the weight limit of the bridge is 36 tons" said an official from the Township Road Department.— Zaw Zaw (Myothit)/MDN



Rakhine State Chief Minister meets boat crash survivors at Nga Khu Ya Reception Centre

RAKHINE State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu, went to Nga Khu Ya Reception Centre and met with survivors of a boat crash.

The survivors were stranded at Thaze Village after their motorboat crashed on 11 June.

Rakhine State Chief Minister asked the requirement and wish of the boat mishap survivors, telling them to systematically inform the reception centre authorities and giving instruction to the authorities to handle the matter according to set policy.

The Chief Minister then inspected the houses where the survivors are staying.

A total 104 survivors including 44 men and 60 women were rescued by the authorities and transported to the camp on 11 June.

Later, the Chief Minister and party went to

Kyeinchaung Taung village and inspected the construction of buildings where returnees will be relocated.

The Chief Minister remarked on conducting the necessary in time and Deputy Minister for Construction U Kyaw Lin gave additional suggestions to the work process.

They then went to Hla Phoe Khaung Transit Centre and inspected the constructed buildings.

The Chief Minister urged the authorities to complete the repair work and drainage system timely as the rainy season began.

Throughout the trip, the Chief Minister and the Deputy Minister conducted and established work programmes to repair the damaged roads and bridges caused by the continuous rain.—Aung Thu Ya, Nay Win Tun ■

School library opened in Letpadan Township

A ceremony to mark the opening of a school library was held at Kyay Ni Basic Education affiliated High School in Letpadan Township, Bago Region, yesterday.

During the ceremony, Township Administrator U Zaw Moe Aung and Township Education Officer Daw Aye Aye Than delivered speeches, followed by discussions by Mr. Iwase Keita, Second Secretary of the Embassy of Japan, and Mr. Aki San, Director of Shanti Volunteer Association, on the purpose of providing support to school

libraries.

Later, Daw Mya Mya Htwe, headmistress of the school, gave a note of thanks, followed by officials cutting a ribbon to mark the opening of the library. Mr. Iwase Keita then handed over the signboard commemorating the donors' names to the headmistress.

The ceremony was attended by educational officers and teachers, led by U Zaw Moe Aung and Daw Aye Aye Than, together with parents of the school children and students.—Mg Shwe Win (Pyay) ■

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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Birth of test tube baby becomes medical milestone in Myanmar

Interviewed:
Yi Yi Myint
PHOTO: HLA MOE

TUESDAY 12 June is a day of historical significant for Myanmar medical history. The reason is the birth of a first test tube baby in the Fertility Centre of Central Women Hospital (Yangon).

Following are interviews conducted with superintendent of Central Women Hospital (Yangon), Professor, head of departments as well as the parent of the test tube baby.

Professor Daw Khin Pyone Kyi

Superintendent, Central Women Hospital (Yangon)

I'm happy for successfully conducting a caesarean delivery of the first test tube baby conceived at Fertility Centre of Central Women Hospital (Yangon).

After In-Vitro fertilization or IVF treatment was



Professor Daw Khin Pyone Kyi.

made, health care for the mother and the conceived child was provided. The successful delivery of this baby is an important and invaluable milestone for this hospital. It is a milestone of success for Ministry of Health and Sports which provided guidance and support to the hospital.

Fertility Centre will strive toward providing this service. This is not a basic health care service. This is a special treatment.



Professor Daw San San Myint.

Professor Daw San San Myint

Professor/Department Head, Central Women Hospital (Yangon)

Fertility Centre of Central Women Hospital (Yangon) was established in 2 February 2016. We conducted IVF treatment on 16 couples out of which Ma Zin Mar Lin successfully conceived a child. On 12 June 2018, a seven pound five ounce baby boy was successfully delivered through

Caesarean section. It was not because of IVF treatment that C-section was conducted. C-section was conducted because of the position of umbilical cord.

Ko Bo Tun, father of the baby

I'm from Magway Region. After getting married, we have problems conceiving a child. We made enquiries. We even thought of going to Bangkok to have a test tube baby. Later, we discussed with Dr. Daw San San Myint in Fertility Centre and decided to try it out. If we are to do this in Bangkok, it will cost more than Ks 20 million. If travel and other costs are included it will be over Ks 30 million. Here, it only cost Ks 5.8 million to the time of conceiving and the payment is made in installments. Once the baby was conceived, we stay in Yangon. (Hospital provided pre-birth care).

Couples who are unable to have a child can come to Fertility Centre and discuss.

Ma Zin Mar Lin, mother of the baby

My healthy 7 pound

5 ounce son was born on 12 June. I'm so happy to give birth to a healthy son when I dearly wanted him. Thanks a lot to the doctors and nurses who help me give birth. ■



Ko Bo Tun, father of the baby.



Ma Zin Mar Lin, mother of the baby.



Tube baby delivered by specialists in the Fertility Centre of Central Women Hospital in Yangon.

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V MAENAM-1 VOY.NO. (018 N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V MAENAM-1 VOY. NO. (018 N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 16-6-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of AWPT where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S INTERASIA LINES.**

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V PACITA VOY.NO. (024 W/E)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V PACITA VOY. NO. (024 W/E) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 16-6-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MITT/AIPT where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S NEW GOLDEN SEA LINES**

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V JUN BENEFIT V-18066

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V JUN BENEFIT V-18066 are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 18-6-2018 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.

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CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V YU RONG V-1804

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V YU RONG V-1804 are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 18-6-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MITT-4 where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
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Phone No: 2301928

Independent journalists report from Maungtaw, Rakhine State

A delegation of local media visited Maungtaw yesterday to gather reports on stability, providing security to local people, and peaceful coexistence between different communities.

Following the visit to Maungtaw, the independent media group went to Kanyinchau Economic Zone and interviewed Vice Chairman of the economic zone U Aung Myint Thein about progress of completion of the zone and prospects for development of the region when Maungtaw Economic Zone is opened.

Afterwards, the journalists visited Shwezar

Village where Rakhine, Islam and Hindu people have been living in harmony.

At the village, they interviewed the villagers about situation of the region, their livelihood, issuing of National Verification cards.

Afterwards, the media personnel went to a temporary relief camp for Hindus opened in Maungtaw and interviewed displaced Hindu people about providing aid by the government to them, construction of housings and medical care.

In the afternoon, the independent media delegation arrived back Yangon by air.— Min Thit ■



Journalists interview villagers at the temporary relief camp for Hindus in Maungtaw. **PHOTO: MIN THIT**



Senior General receives General Wei Fenghe

Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing received People's Republic of China Central Military Commission member, State Councilor and Minister of National Defence General Wei Fenghe with a Guard of Honour in front of Zeyar Thiri Beikman in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

At first, Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services and People's Republic of China Central Military Commission member, State Councilor and Minister of National Defence took the salute of the Guard of Honour and then inspected the Guard of Honour. Next, they were introduced to high ranking military officials from the two armed forces.

Afterwards, Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services and People's Republic of China Central Military Com-

mission member, State Councilor and Minister of National Defence met in Zeyar Thiri Beikman guest hall.

In their meeting, they discussed matters relating to increasing friendship between the two armed forces, cooperation for peace and stability in the border area and security of the people of the two countries for the development of the two countries, China standing with Myanmar on the incidents in Rakhine State, Buthidaung and Maung-taw region, strategic co-operation between the two armed forces, exchange of military medical matter and cooperation in sports, status of international security and status of works conducted by the government and the Tatmadaw for internal peace in Myanmar were discussed.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Union Election Commission Chairman receives UN Special Envoy



Union Election Commission Chairman meets with United Nations Secretary-General's Special Envoy Ms. Christine Schraner Burgener in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

UNION Election Commission (UEC) Chairman U Hla Thein received United Nations Secretary-General's Special Envoy to Myanmar Ms. Christine Schraner Burgener and

party at Union Election Commission guest hall in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

At the meeting, UEC Chairman explained about the commission formed in

2016, successful conduct of 2017 by-election, preparation made for by-election in 2018 November; cooperation and support provided by NGO, INGO and CSO on conducting a success-

ful election and assistance provided by UNDP.

They then openly and cordially discussed about matters relating to election.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Sanitation services to be extended along Ayeyawady River

ARRANGEMENTS are being made to extend sanitation services along the Ayeyawady River, especially in the area near Lapha jetty in Kachinsu ward, Myitkyina Township, Kachin State, said U Ah Lay, head of a hundred households.

Waste materials are

commonly found along Lapha jetty in Kachinsu and in Lekhon wards, situated on the bank of the river. To clear the garbage along the river bank, residents, their ward administrators and those from Myitkyina Township Development Affairs will soon carry out a sanitation project. The project is expected to start when the water level in the river decreases, U Ah Lay said.

Water pollution largely affects aquatic life and disrupts the natural food chain, as well.

A resident noted that water pollution occurred in Ayeyawady River because

of the improper disposal of waste. Also, a villager residing near Lapha jetty said that residents obtain drinking water from tube-wells, while other villagers drink purified water.

Kachinsu ward houses some 1,968 people, living in 229 homes.—Myitkyina District IPRD ■

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Music boss urges open ears as songwriters enter Hall of Fame

CAIRO — Sara Bareilles, John Mellencamp and Kool and the Gang on Thursday entered the Songwriters Hall of Fame as top music executive Lucian Grainge urged the industry to keep its ears open to new sounds. In its 49th year, the Songwriters Hall of Fame recognizes the composers behind the hits and, true to the profession's profile, stays lower-key than major awards shows with a dinner in a New York hotel ballroom rather than a televised gala. Neil Diamond, the songwriter by trade who became an arena-packing pop singer in his own right, was honored with a prize to mark lifetime achievement by a composer who has already been inducted. Returning to stage despite his announcement in January that he was retiring from touring due to Parkinson's disease, the 77-year-old New York native showed no signs of illness on his rousing take on his classic

"Sweet Caroline," the audience joyfully singing along the "ba ba ba" of the chorus.

'Beautiful experience'

Grainge, the chairman and chief executive officer of the world's largest label group Universal, was presented an award as a long-time "hitmaker."

Befitting the status of one of the most powerful people in the music industry, Grainge was welcomed with previously unannounced appearances by two of Universal's top stars -- Ariana Grande, who sang her hit "Be Alright" to a jazzy piano, and The Weeknd, who flew in from Paris to briefly introduce his label boss.

Grainge, whose father ran a record store in London, spoke of his lifelong passion for music and how he spent a third of his career in the songwriting business, sometimes thrashing out tunes with composers over a solitary piano or guitar.—AFP ■



Kool & The Gang perform onstage during the Songwriters Hall of Fame 49th Annual Induction and Awards Dinner in New York. **PHOTO: AFP**

Rebel Wilson vows to appeal defamation payout cut

MELBOURNE (AUSTRALIA) — Australian actress Rebel Wilson has vowed to challenge an "absolutely flippant" Australian appeals court ruling that slashed a record US\$3.5 million defamation payout to her from a magazine publisher to \$452,000.

The "Pitch Perfect" star was awarded Aus\$4.5 million in damages against Bauer Media last September over articles claiming she lied about her age and background to further her career.

It was the largest defamation win in Australian legal history and Bauer appealed, arguing the size of the settlement set a dangerous precedent and there were errors of law in the judgement.

The Victorian Court of Appeal agreed on Thursday, cutting the payout to Aus\$600,000.

Tweeting from Europe, where she is filming, Wilson, 38, said the appeals court ruling included "some really bizarre things ... that are so obviously challengeable".

"Everybody knows I lost money after those maliciously defamatory articles were printed about me by @BauerMedia in 2015. The learned trial judge and Australian jury on the case who heard all the evidence clearly agreed," she tweeted.



The "Pitch Perfect" star said she will challenge a court ruling that slashed a record US\$3.4 million defamation payout to her from a magazine publisher to \$452,000. **PHOTO: AFP**

"But somehow the Court of Appeal have been absolutely flippant with regards to my economic loss, not to mention my overall hurt and distress at having to stand up to these bullies," she wrote.

Wilson had previously vowed to give her entire payout to charity and lamented that the latest ruling means "less going to less fortunate Australians and leaves a billionaire corporation, proven

guilty of malicious defamation, being able to get away with their seriously harmful acts for a very low pay day."

"Clearly not fair. Come on Australia," she concluded.

Wilson had claimed a series of articles in Woman's Day, Australian Women's Weekly and OK Magazine had portrayed her as a serial liar and damaged her reputation.

The Sydney-born actress told the trial she was sacked from DreamWorks animated feature films "Trolls" and "Kung Fu Panda 3" following the stories.

But the Court of Appeal said there was no basis for her to receive financial damages for the potential loss of roles.

It found that the previous judge had relied on evidence from Wilson and two Hollywood agents to draw the conclusion that she had lost job opportunities. "The Court of Appeal held that, for a considerable number of reasons, the critical inferences drawn by the judge could not be upheld," the summary of judgement said. The appeal court ruling can be overturned by Australia's High Court, if it agrees to hear the case. — AFP

Sophie Bush talks about Mark Schwann, allegations against him

LOS ANGELES—Actress Sophia Bush has spoken in depth about facing sexual harassment at the hands of "One Tree Hill" creator Mark Schwann.

Bush, 35, detailed her experiences on Sirius XM's Andy Cohen Live, where she recalled how she had to hit Schwann when he groped her.

"The first time Mark Schwann grabbed my a**, I hit him in front of six other producers, and I hit him f**king hard," Bush said, according to Entertainment Weekly.

"We knew about things he'd say to people, we knew about, like, the late-night texts, we knew when he was super-obsessed with one girl on our show that he started trying to bang down her hotel room door in the middle of the night. She had to be moved, her rooms were moved. And then her boyfriend came and stayed with her the next month and literally, like, it almost came to fisticuffs between the two of them," she added.

In November last year, Bush was one the many stars of the CW series, including actors Hilarie Burton and Bethany Joy Lenz, to release a joint statement in support of writer Audrey Wau-



Actress Sophia Bush. **PHOTO: PTI**

chope, who alleged harassment from the 51-year-old creator. A month later, Schwann was fired from the TV drama "The Royals" following an investigation into the allegations against him.

Bush said the experience of working on the show for nine seasons was "wonderful" when Schwann was not around.

"We're not the only group of girls that's ever had a boss who was a pig. That show for us was very interesting because at times it was wonderful and at times it really wasn't. Our writers' room was in LA, so we had plenty of time where (Schwann) wasn't on set."

"We had great highlight-reel, coming-of-age, rom-com s**t together, and then we also had like, batten down the hatches, he's coming," Bush said.—PTI ■

‘Fallen Kingdom’ caps 25 years of ‘Jurassic’ thrills

LOS ANGELES — “God creates dinosaurs, God destroys dinosaurs, God creates Man, Man kills God, Man brings back dinosaurs,” Jeff Goldblum deadpanned in “Jurassic Park,” released 25 years ago this week.

It was a pithy summary of Steven Spielberg’s landmark monster movie and the series it launched that left audiences gasping in wonder as they handed over a dino-sized \$3.8 billion for tickets over four films.

“Jurassic World: Fallen Kingdom” — the fifth episode — comes to the US having already opened in 48 territories, shooting to the top spot in each, breaking several records and grossing \$151 million.

“It’s wonderful that it’s still popular and not yet extinct,” Spielberg, an executive producer on “Fallen Kingdom,” said at its Los Angeles premiere on Tuesday.

He praised the imagination and creativity of Michael Crichton, the late author of the novels, and revealed that he thought of the “Jurassic” series as part of his family. “It’s kind of like being a birth parent, and you give your kid up for adoption but you’re really proud of the adoptive parents for doing a great job with your original idea,” he said.

China will be running for

its life from T. rex this weekend, where experts are predicting a \$100 million-plus debut, followed by Latin America and North America on 22 June.

Mass extinction

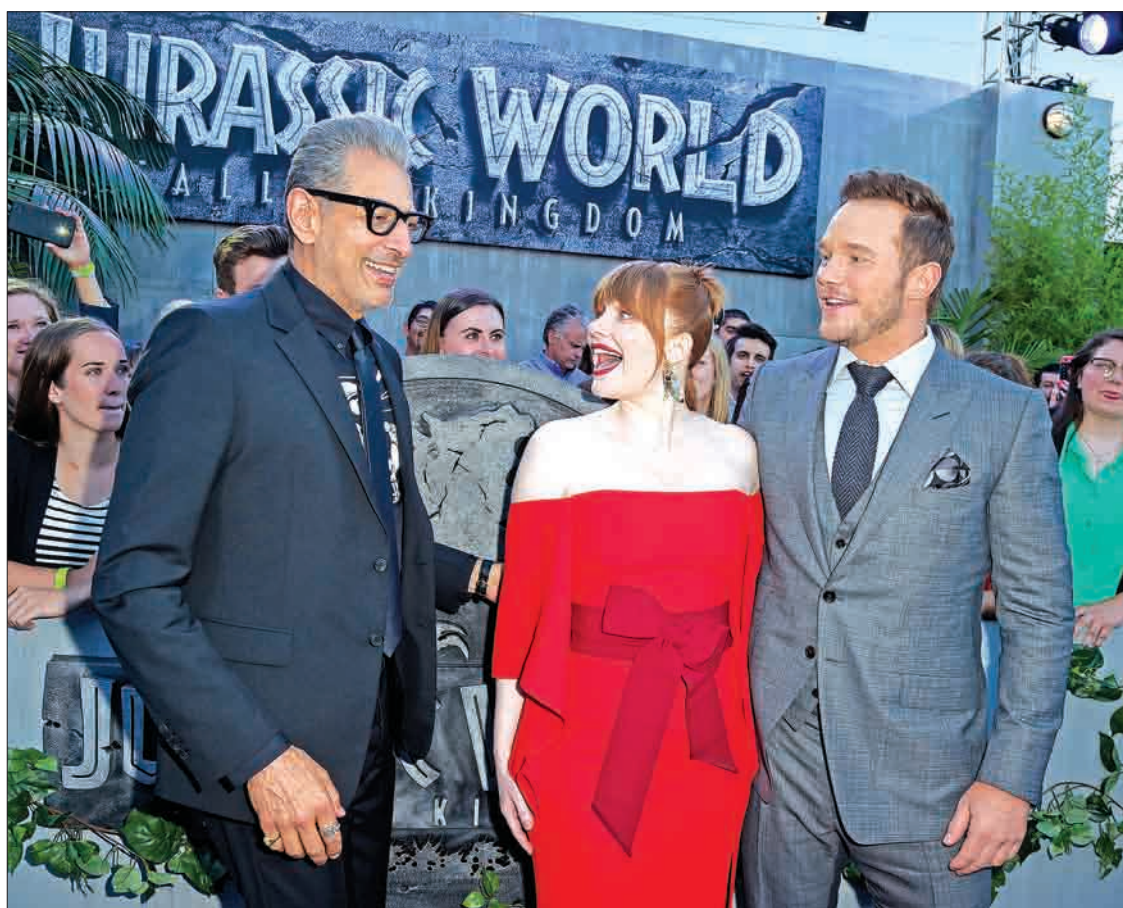
“Jurassic World” (2015) remains among the all-time top five grossing movies, despite competition in the intervening years from four “Star Wars” episodes and eight releases in Disney’s Marvel comic book stable.

The latest foray among the Cretaceous critters of Isla Nublar — T. rex and the velociraptor are far too young to be considered Jurassic-period animals — involves the high-octane action that audiences have come to expect, including all manner of terrifying theropods and oversized marine predators.

“We’re really thrilled. It’s been received really well critically and commercially around the world so far,” Chris Pratt, who plays swashbuckling raptor wrangler Owen Grady, said on the red carpet in LA.

“If the rest of the world is any indication, I think people are really loving it and are really going to go out and see it, which is fantastic. It means we can probably do another one.”

Directed by J.A. Bayona (“A Monster Calls”) and co-written by



Actors Jeff Goldblum, Bryce Dallas Howard and Chris Pratt arrive at the premiere of “Jurassic World: Fallen Kingdom” at the Walt Disney Concert Hall in Los Angeles. **PHOTO: AFP**

Colin Trevorrow, who helmed “Jurassic World,” the movie opens three years after the theme park was abandoned, with the dinosaurs roaming freely.

Isla Nublar’s long-dormant volcano has awoken and is spewing lava, threatening another mass extinction.

Goldblum briefly reprises his role as Ian Malcolm, the grumpy but perspicacious chaos mathematician from the first and second films, to make his case for letting the big, scary lizards die off.

Stiletto backlash

But Claire Dearing (Bryce

Dallas Howard) has been transformed from the frosty, corporate stuffed suit introduced in the last movie into a bleeding heart animal rights activist — and she has other ideas.

Howard’s stilettos sparked a backlash to “Jurassic World,” mainly because it was seen as absurd, if not a little sexist, to have the female lead continually running for her life in vertiginous heels.

In a move interpreted as the franchise thumbing its nose at the critics, Howard is still wearing six-inch pumps as she drives to old flame Owen’s lakeside cabin to talk him into joining her on a

mission to round-up and rescue the dinosaurs. “We hope to just honor the legacy that Michael Crichton and Steven Spielberg began with ‘Jurassic Park’ 25 years ago. The fact that people liked ‘Jurassic World’ and also that we got to do another movie, that’s incredible,” Howard said.

“My son is 11 and when I saw ‘Jurassic Park’ for the first time I was 12. That means so much to me that he’s going to go to the theater and watch this movie opening weekend with his friends.” A sixth film, tentatively titled “Jurassic World 3,” is scheduled for release on 11 June 2021.— AFP ■

Hawking’s voice to be beamed into space during memorial

LONDON — A message from late British astrophysics giant Stephen Hawking will be beamed towards the nearest black hole as his remains are laid to rest in London’s Westminster Abbey on Friday.

As the ashes of the British theoretical physicist are interred, a specially-written composition featuring his famous synthesised voice will be beamed into space by the European Space Agency.

“This is a beautiful and symbolic gesture that creates a link between our father’s presence on this planet, his wish to go into space and his explorations of the universe in his mind,” said his daughter Lucy Hawking.

The wheelchair-bound pro-

fessor, who dedicated his life’s work to unravelling the mysteries of the universe and fought to overcome his disability, will be buried by the graves of fellow science greats Isaac Newton and Charles Darwin.

“The broadcast will be beamed towards the nearest black hole, 1A 0620-00, which lives in a binary system with a fairly ordinary orange dwarf star,” Hawking’s daughter said.

“It is a message of peace and hope, about unity and the need for us to live together in harmony on this planet.”

- Time-travellers welcome -
Hawking, who captured the imagination of millions around the world, died on 14 March at

the age of 76.

Propelled to stardom by his 1988 book “A Brief History of Time”, an unlikely worldwide bestseller, Hawking’s genius and wit won over fans from far beyond the rarefied world of astrophysics.

His death triggered a flood of tributes from Queen Elizabeth II to NASA, reflecting his impact as a scientist but also a beacon of hope for people affected by motor neurone disease.

The British government announced on Monday that exceptional students in mathematics and physics can compete for research fellowships in Hawking’s honour. Friday’s service attended by family, friends and colleagues

will celebrate not only his achievements as a scientist, but also his character and endurance living with a devastating illness. “We are so grateful to Westminster Abbey for offering us the privilege of a service of thanksgiving for the extraordinary life of our father and for giving him such a distinguished final resting place,” said his children Lucy, Robert and Tim.

Around 1,000 members of the public drawn from more than 100 countries were due to attend the service, following an online ballot in which 25,000 applied for tickets.

Applicants needed to give their birth date — but eagle-eyed fans spotted that it could be any day up to 31 December 2038,

opening the door to time-traveling guests from the future.

‘He inspired me’

Three young people who use electronic communication devices to speak, just as Hawking did, will also be among the guests.

“He has inspired me to be the best that I can be and not let anything, including my disability, hold me back,” said Jason Felce, 20, who controls his equipment with eye movement.

Drama student Rose Brown, 20, was hit by a drink-driver in 2009. “I am going to be an actress. Everybody who puts their mind to something gets to be it. Stephen Hawking proves this more than anyone,” she said.—AFP ■

We will try to win: Shan United head coach

Defending champions Shan United will play Magwe FC today in an MPT Myanmar National League 2018 match at Taunggyi Stadium.

After playing 14 matches, Shan United has been placed second in the tournament with nine wins, three draws and two losses, while the Magwe FC, comprised with local youth players, is ranked third with seven wins, four draws and three losses.

In his pre-match comments,

Shan United head coach Mr. Marjan Sekulovski said, "Magwe is a good team and disciplined in defence. They have many good players – some of them are national team players. We have to display a high level of performance, with full concentration and confidence. We need to be disciplined in defence, in attack and in our transition."

"All players must put in their best performance and display a

strong team spirit. We will try to win the game," added Sekulovski.

"As we are born in Taunggyi (in the Shan State), we love Shan United and its style of play. We will support our team in the match against Magwe at Taunggyi Stadium," said Zaw Lynn, a technological university student from Taunggyi.

The match will be broadcast live on MRTV at 3:30 pm today.—Lynn Thit (Tgi)

Nervy Argentina seek Messi magic against Iceland

MOSCOW — Lionel Messi's Argentina aim to put a shambolic World Cup build-up behind them and make a statement in their opening match against tournament debutants Iceland on Saturday.

The two-time champions arrived in Russia dogged by poor form, injuries and controversy. But Messi is a man on a mission as he chases his first World Cup winner's medal and will not tolerate complacency against the minnows at Moscow's Spartak stadium.

"Iceland showed they could compete with anyone at the last Euros," he said, referring to their giant-killing run at the 2016 European Championship in France.

Messi was devastated by Argentina's loss to Germany in the 2014 World Cup final, with

the agony compounded by back-to-back Copa America defeats to Chile in 2015 and 2016.

Despite his achievements with Barcelona, the five-time world player of the year is yet to win a major international tournament and time is running out as his 31st birthday looms.

He briefly retired from international football after the 2016 Copa America and has hinted he will do so permanently if the campaign in Russia ends in failure. The Group D clash pits an Argentine side that critics say is too focused on superstar Messi against a band of grafters who pride themselves on teamwork.

On paper, the South Americans should have little trouble disposing of Iceland, an island nation of 330,000 that is the smallest country to ever reach the finals.—AFP ■

Week 16 MNL matches begin today

THE Week 16 matches of the MPT Myanmar National League (MNL) will start today, including the match between defending champions Shan United and Magwe. Three matches will be played in Yangon and other cities. Defending champions Shan United will play Magwe FC at 3.30 pm at Taunggyi Stadium to-

day. The match will be broadcast live on For Sports and MRTV.

Also, Rakhine United will take on Yadanabon FC at Waitharli Stadium in Sittwe and GFA FC will lock horns with Myawady FC at 4:00 pm at Thuwunna Stadium in Yangon today.

On 17 May, Southern Myanmar will battle it out with Ayeyar-

wady United at Mawlamyaing Stadium, while Yangon United will play Zwegapin United at Thuwunna Stadium.

On the same day, Sagaing United will face Hantharwady United at Monywa Stadium. The match will be broadcast live on MRTV and For Sports.—Lynn Thit(Tgi) ■

Russia prove doubters wrong — for now

MOSCOW—Russia have proved the doubters wrong — for the moment. The World Cup hosts showed nerves of steel and ruthless finishing in thumping Saudi Arabia 5-0 in the tournament's opening match before an anxious crowd of nearly 80,000 in Moscow's Luzhniki Stadium on Thursday. The emphatic result transformed the men in red from villains to heroes and gave Russians a rare sporting reason to rejoice.

Everyone from senators and regional leaders to President Vladimir Putin himself congratulated coach Stanislav Cherchesov for Russia's biggest World Cup victory in post-Soviet history.

It came at Luzhniki Stadium —the crucible of both Russian and Soviet sport — with the weight of an expectant but sceptical nation on their shoulders.

"The head of state called me and congratulated me," Russia's moustachioed manager said

matter-of-factly after the match. Putin "told me to keep playing the way we were, to keep going." "Give me five!" Moscow's Sport Express newspaper exclaimed in a front-page headline. "Russia, we love you!"

It was not always like this for Cherchesov and his charges.

The team entered the tournament without tasting victory in more than eight months.

They had registered just one shot on target in their last two World Cup warmups.

Four of Russia's defenders and a starting forward had been ruled out for the tournament with injuries.

One Moscow news website dubbed the matchup between the 70th-ranked Russians and the 67th-ranked Saudis — the two worst teams in the tournament — as "Bad vs. Worse".

'We're not so bad'

Cherchesov kept fiddling around with formations and

few could tell which players he would start once British pop star Robbie Williams finished belting out his opening ceremony set.

It all worked out in the end. But it will all get that much harder from here on out.

"It could have easily been 1-1 if we were not careful," said Cherchesov.

"And our opponents will be getting stronger by the match."

Russia next play Egypt on 19 June in Saint Petersburg and finish off Group A against two-time World Cup winners Uruguay in Samara on 25 June.

They are still not guaranteed the top-two finish that would ensure they do not join South Africa as only the second World Cup host nation to fail to qualify from their group.

And the Egypt match got that much bigger with the return to fitness of Mohamed Salah ahead of the Pharaohs' own clash on Friday with Uruguay.—AFP ■

 FIFA WORLD CUP RUSSIA 2018		
16:30 MST (16.6.2018)		
France		Australia
19:30 MST (16.6.2018)		
Argentina		Iceland
22:30 MST (16.6.2018)		
Peru		Denmark
1:30 MST (17.6.2018)		
Croatia		Nigeria
World Cup 2018 Results		
Egypt	0 - 1	Uruguay
Morocco	0 - 1	Iran