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THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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Friday, 22 June 2018

State Counsellor attends event marking 70th anniversary of Myanmar-Thailand diplomatic relations



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi attended the Thai traditional Masked Dance Performance in celebration of the 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Myanmar and Thailand at the Myanmar International Convention Centre-II in Nay Pyi Taw.

The event was also attended by Speaker of the Pyithu Hluttaw U T Khun Myat, Union ministers, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Admiral Tin Aung San, deputy ministers, permanent secretaries, senior military officers, the Minister for Culture of Thailand Mr. Vira Rojpojanarat, and officials of the Thailand Embassy in Yangon.

Before attending the performance, State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi viewed wall paintings from Bagan's Maha Sima and photos exhibited by Thammasat University.

The performance was opened with speeches by ambassador of Thailand Mr. Jukr Boon-Long and Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture Thura U Aung Ko.

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State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, centre, above, enjoys the masked dance performance by Myanmar and Thai dance troupes, right, in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

PHOTO: MNA



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Union Minister for Office of the State Counsellor takes part in the 16th Oslo Forum in Norway

Union Minister for the Office of the State Counsellor H.E. U Kyaw Tint Swe took part in the 16th Oslo Forum held in Oslo, Norway from 19 to 20 June.

The Oslo Forum, co-hosted jointly by the Norwegian Min-

istry of Foreign Affairs and the Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue (CHD), was also attended by the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the Prime Minister of Somalia, the Secretary General of the Organization

for Security and Co-operation in Europe, the United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, as well as the Foreign Ministers of Algeria, Jordan, Oman, and Tanzania.

SEE PAGE-3

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw concludes its eighth regular session

AT the 11th-day meeting of the second Pyidaungsu Hluttaw's eighth regular session held yesterday morning, Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than explained the works conducted during the eighth regular session.

During the day's meeting, two bills were put on record, the discussion of the Hluttaw representatives on the National Education Policy Commission (NEPC) work report was responded and explained, and a report on the Revenue Appellate Tribunal Bill was read.

Two bills put on record

At first, the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw speaker announced the Hluttaw putting on record the fourth bill to amend the Anti-Corruption Law and the bill amending the Television and Video Law, considered as approved by the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw.

Hluttaw decides, approves Science, Technology and Innovation Bill

Next, the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker announced the approval of the Hluttaw on the Science, Technology and Innovation Bill, sent by the President with comments, after the Hluttaw decided on the bill by paragraph.



Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than. PHOTO: MNA

NEPC, MoE on NEPC work report discussion by Hluttaw representatives

Later, the NEPC and the Ministry of Education (MoE) responded to and explained the discussion held by the Hluttaw representatives on the NEPC work report for six months (2017 October to 2018 April).

NEPC Vice-Chairman U Nyi Hla Nge explained the commission collecting data/information, coordinating, discussing and deciding to establish the national education policy.

Union Minister for Education Dr. Myo Thein Gyi said the

education reform was implemented according to the National Education Law 2014 and the 2015 Law amending the National Education Law. The priority and strategic project works outlined in the National Education Strategic Plan (2016-2021) were also implemented.

During the three academic years of 2015-2016, 2016-2017 and 2017-2018, the number of students increased from over 8.6 million to 8.89 million and 9.17 million. Priority was given to difficult areas resulting in a significant increase in students in middle and high schools.

The ministry not only creat-

ed education opportunities but implemented them according to the National Education Strategic Plan. Only through discussions with teachers and learners can perform deep learning and quality education be implemented. Experts who can compete in the labour market can only be produced if vocational education and training are first class. The union minister explained that only through the united force of the parents, teachers, public, state/region governments and the Hluttaw representatives can quality education be implemented.

Following this, the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker announced the Hluttaw putting on record the NEPC six months work report no. 3, as well as the discussion of the Hluttaw representatives, the response and explanation by the NEPC and the Ministry of Education.

Hluttaw approves revenue appellate tribunal bill

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw joint bill committee member Daw Nwe Nwe Aung then read the report on additional findings and comments of the joint bill committee on the Revenue Appellate Tribunal Bill, sent by the union government. The

committee member said the joint bill committee report on the bill was submitted during the seventh-day meeting of the second Pyidaungsu Hluttaw's eighth regular session. At the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw meeting held on 12 June 2018, Pyidaungsu Hluttaw representatives U Khun Win Thaung, U Soe Thein @ U Maung Soe and U Myo Win discussed and submitted an amendment to the report. The committee conducted a hearing on 14 June 2018 about the suggestions made by the Hluttaw representatives, where the Hluttaw representatives accepted the additional amendment of the joint bill committee. The bill committee member explained that the additional amendment of the joint bill committee is being reported to the Hluttaw for approval.

A motion to approve the report by paragraph was made, and the Hluttaw decided and approved the report.

Deputy Minister for Planning and Finance U Maung Maung Win then tabled a motion to approve the entire bill.

The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker announced the Hluttaw approving the entire bill after the decision of the Hluttaw was obtained. **SEE PAGE-7**

Preparatory meeting for third 21st century Panglong conference successfully ends

THE preparatory talks for the third session of the Union Peace Conference-21st Century Panglong were held at the National Reconciliation and Peace Centre in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

Present at the meeting were secretaries of the Union Peace Dialogue Joint Committee U Khin Zaw Oo, U Hla Maung Shwe, U Zaw Htay, U Aung Soe, and Lt-Gen Tin Maung Win, joint committee members, representatives from the government, the Hluttaw, and Tatmadaw agencies, the group formed of people who deserve to attend this conference, ethnic delegates, and humanitarian agencies.

The meeting reviewed the sectors concerning the government, the Hluttaw, and the Tat-



The preparatory meeting for the Union Peace Conference-21st Century Panglong holds its meeting. PHOTO: MNA

madaw agencies discussed in the 19 and 20 June meetings.

U Khin Zaw Oo explained the discussion results on politics, U Hla Maung Shwe on economics,

U Zaw Htay on social affairs, and Dr. Wah Wah Maung on land and the natural environment.

Next, U Khin Zaw Oo said using the results from the previ-

ous discussions, the Mon national dialogues and the Civil Society Organisations (CSO) forums, the meeting has identified a single platform for the government,

the Hluttaw and the Tatmadaw agencies. He said the meeting was successful and suggested holding working committee meetings regularly every six months following the third session of the Union Peace Conference.

The meeting has reportedly compiled a list of sector-wise discussion points to be brought up during the third session of the Union Peace Conference.

U Jimmy, from the group formed of people who deserve to attend this conference, said the social affairs sector has listed 10 points for discussing policy. He said four points from the second union agreement are included in the social affairs sector, based on two reports from the national dialogues and CSOs. —Myo Myint ■

State Counsellor attends event marking 70th anniversary of Myanmar-Thailand diplomatic relations

FROM PAGE-1

Mr. Jukr Boon-Long expressed his delight for President U Win Myint's visit to Thailand at a time when the two countries were arranging to celebrate the 70th establishment of diplomatic relations.

An exhibition of artwork, a traditional dance performance, a Thai film festival and traditional Thai cuisine will be offered to mark the 70th diplomatic relations between the two neighbouring countries.

The Ambassador also expressed his delight for the State Counsellor's visit to Thailand after she took office.

He also highlighted the two

countries' similar culture in the Ramayana performance which was staged at the ceremony.

Afterwards, Union Minister Thura U Aung Ko said Thailand-Myanmar relations would be expanded and praised the 70th anniversary of establishment of relations between Myanmar and Thailand as a good opportunity to promote the cultural sector between the two countries.

"Commemorative ceremonies like this event between the two countries will foster the mutual understanding and friendship and will bring success to both countries in the future," said the Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture.



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi welcomed by Ambassador of Thailand Mr. Jukr Boon-Long at the event to mark 70th anniversary of Myanmar-Thailand diplomatic relations in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

Afterwards, the masked dance was performed by the dance troupe from Thailand, which was also joined by the Myanmar cultural troupe of the Fine Arts Department.

The performance feature beautiful scenes from the Rakakien, a Thai national epic adapt-

ed from the ancient Hindu epic Ramayana.

After the performance, Union Minister Thura U Aung Ko, Union Minister for International Cooperation U Kyaw Tin, Minister for Culture of Thailand Mr. Vira Rojpojchanarat and Ambassador of Thailand Mr. Jukr

Boon-Long presented bouquets to the dance troupes and posed for photos together with the artistes and audience.

The masked dance will be performed at the National Theatre in Mandalay on 23 June.—MNA ■

Union Minister for the Office of the State Counsellor takes part in the 16th Oslo Forum



Union Minister U Kyaw Tint Swe meets with Minister for Foreign Affairs of Norway H.E. Ms Eriksen Søreide in Oslo, Norway. **PHOTO: MNA**

FROM PAGE-1

The Union Minister was a panelist, together with the Foreign Minister of Norway in the panel entitled "Myanmar's path to peace and reconciliation."

During his stay in Oslo, the Union Minister held meetings with Minister for Foreign Affairs of Norway H.E. Ms Eriksen Søreide and Minister for International Development H.E. Mr. Nikolai Astrup. During the meetings, they exchanged

views on matters related to the promotion of bilateral relations and cooperation between the two countries, the peace process as well as socio-economic development in Rakhine State and Myanmar's preparation for repatriation process of displaced persons from Rakhine State. Union Minister also met the Executive Director of the Center for Humanitarian Dialogue, Dr. David Harland.—MNA ■

ICRC President to visit Myanmar next week

AN official visit to Myanmar from the President of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) will take place in the coming week, when he will observe the situation of humanitarian aid given in Rakhine State.

The visit by the head of the ICRC was learnt through a statement made by ICRC (Myanmar) Public Relations Officer Corinne Ambler during a press conference at the Orchid Hotel in downtown Yangon yesterday.

She said ICRC President Peter Maurer will visit Rakhine State as part of his official

visit to check on Myanmar Red Cross and International Red Cross activities including food administration and healthcare provided by mobile clinics. He will see what other aid is needed and what assistance can be provided for the rainy season, she added.

Maurer will also meet with national leaders in Nay Pyi Taw during his visit and will travel to IDP camps in Cox Bazar in Bangladesh after Myanmar.

ICRC (Myanmar) reports that the Red Cross has provided humanitarian assistance to over 180,000 people across 130

villages since the 25 August 2017 violent attacks in Maung-taw District in Rakhine State.

The ICRC has established permanent offices in Sittway, MraukU, and Maung-taw in Rakhine State, providing humanitarian assistance to victims of violent attacks and natural disasters since 2012.

The ICRC provides unbiased humanitarian assistance to victims of terrorist attacks or other causes, while taking a neutral stance, with 16,000 staff members in over 80 countries around the world.—Min Thit (MNA) ■



ICRC members visit to provide humanitarian assistance to victims of terrorist attacks and natural disasters in Rakhine State. **FILE PHOTO: ICRC**

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Squatters from Hlinethaya request forming of new committee to solve problems

By Nyein Nyein

Squatters who live in Hlinethaya Township have requested that a new committee be formed, which would involve civil society organisations, experts and squatters' heads to solve their problems, at a conference held at Orchid Hotel on 20 June.

"To solve the squatters' problems, the government must cooperate with this new committee rather than tackling them alone. Only the squatters will un-

derstand their own problems," said Ko Kae Zar, a negotiator from the Baydar social development society.

Moreover, the squatters have also requested that they should not be evicted, and if the government plans to move them out, the place should be close to their current location. The government should keep funds for the squatters and should provide garbage collection services in the squatter area.

Hluttaw representative of

Hlinethaya township Constituency-1 U Win Maung raised the question about where the squatters from Hlinethaya Township will be relocated during the second Yangon Region Hluttaw which was held on 31 May.

While responding to a question posed by the Hlinethaya Township constituency representative in the Hluttaw, Daw Nilar Kyaw, Yangon Region Minister for Electricity, Industry and Transport said the placement of squatters and upgrading of the

industries are important matters. Therefore, both will be done at the same time, but it has not been decided when they will be implemented.

Squatters from five wards in Hlinethaya Township conducted a media press conference, said Ko Zarni, a squatter who lives in Hlinethaya Township.

"The squatters' request will be submitted to the chief minister through the Hluttaw representative," said Ko Kae Zar. ■

Insein Prison's building for conjugal visit to be reconstructed

By Nyein Nyein

The building for conjugal visit in Insein Central Prison will be reconstructed in cooperation with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and prison authorities, according to the ICRC.

"The Correction Depart-

ment has their own engineers, and it is aware of the nature of the building of the prison. Therefore, we will take their expertise and ICRC's experiences in other countries. It means we are going to share technological knowledge," said an official from the ICRC engineering department.

The building for conjugal visit in Prison will be reconstructed to ensure it has good natural light and fresh air, as well as reduce the external sound level. A coffee shop and housing will be included. Moreover, a playground will also be included for children who would visit their family members at the prison.

Upon completion of the construction, the ICRC believes a good relationship can be maintained between prisoners and their families. The Insein prison building project is expected to be completed in 2019. The Insein Central Prison, which is the largest prison in Myanmar, has 12,000 prisoners. ■

Report records no objection to implementation of industrial zones outside 11 townships of Yangon Region

There was no objection to the implementation of industrial zones outside 11 townships of the Yangon Region during the second Yangon Region Hluttaw's eighth regular session meeting held on 20 June.

The Yangon Region government submitted a proposal on 5 June at the Hluttaw meeting, the matters of which the Hluttaw representatives discussed on 12, 13 and 15 June.

There are some 45 townships in the Yangon Region. The division measures 10,239 square kilometres in 44 townships, except Cocogyun Township. Among them, 33 townships in the Yangon city are administered by the Yangon City Development Committee (YCDC), which is 794 square kilometres wide. Most of the people are engaged in business, industrial activities and trading in 33 townships under the YCDC. Therefore, the industrial zones will be implemented in the areas outside the YCDC to prevent gaps in the development between YCDC-controlled areas and other areas, said the mayor.

By implementing the industrial zones in 11 townships, the



Following a survey in several areas including Hlinethaya Industrial Zone in Yangon's western outskirts, the authorities announced recently to establish industrial zones in 11 townships.. **PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR**

Yangon Region government can prevent development problems in its region, as well as create jobs for the local people and promote their lifestyle, he added.

By expanding the industrial zones in the 11 townships, foreign private investors will also have alternate investment opportunities to choose. Besides, local people also have a chance

to work closer to their home township.

The industrial zones will be in Kungyangon, Kawhmu, Twantay, Thanlyin, Kyauktan, Kayan, Thongwa, Taikkyi, Hmawbi, Hlegu and Htantabin townships, and they will be between 750 acres and 1,800 acres wide. Profits gained could be used for the development of

each township.

"When we start to implement the projects, we will make arrangements to access infrastructure, such as water and power supplies, as well as transport," said chief minister of the Yangon Region at the Yangon Investment Forum 2018, which was held on 9 May at Novotel hotel.—GNLM ■



Former Head Office of the Central Bank of Myanmar in Yangon. PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE

Dollar gains, CBM increases exchange rate

By May Thet Hnin

THE US Dollar exchange rate has been strengthening in recent days, while the Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) keeps raising its set exchange rate, accordingly.

Starting from last week, the USD exchange rate was on the rise. A US dollar to kyat interbank exchange rate in Myanmar's currency market hit the highest point of Ks1,374 yesterday. The rate is the highest so far this year.

The rate went up above Ks1,340 per dollar in May. It reached above Ks1,350 in mid-June, reaching a high of Ks1,365 per dollar on 16 June.

With the US dollar strengthening against the kyat in the lo-

cal currency market, the CBM raised the set exchange rates from 1,359 on 18 June to Ks1,365 on 19 June, and then, raised it to a new high of Ks1,371 on 21 June.

The US exchange rate in 2017 was on the rise compared with previous years, with the highest point being Ks1,380 per dollar. Starting from mid-January 2018, a US dollar to kyat interbank exchange rate in Myanmar's currency market dropped to Ks1,322. The exchange rate fluctuated around Ks1,327 from January to April. The highest rate was only Ks1,331 per dollar.

The increase in the dollar exchange rate might be attributed to the global political climate, said U Than Lwin, a senior consultant at Kanbawza bank.

"The US tariff hike on Chi-

na in escalating the trade war is also one of the contributing factors in the US dollar appreciation. The US dollar has not seen such a high demand in the local currency market. There is no significant trade in Myanmar. Myanmar's economic climate is slow. Therefore, the local market cannot be a contributing factor to the increase in the value of the exchange rate," he explained.

The exporters and importers want stability of the exchange rate due to its larger effects on international trade.

The inflation rate, interest rate, terms of trade, the country's current account and deficits, political climate and economic performance are the contributing factors to the decrease in the exchange rate. ■

Local, foreign entrepreneurs can apply for Myanmar Employer Awards

By May Thet Hnin

LOCAL and foreign entrepreneurs can apply for the Myanmar Employer Awards, which will be held on 30 November to identify good practices in Myanmar human resource (HR) management.

Entrepreneurs interested in participating in the event can apply for the relevant application form between 6 July and 23 August. At the ceremony, different kinds of awards will be presented to local and foreign companies in Myanmar, including the overall best of the best award, people's choice award, best use of internal marketing for company pride, best career advancement programme, best use of rewards and recognition, best learning and development programme, excellence in workplace environment, most effective recruitment strategy for talent attraction, most innovative use of technology in HR, best corporate social responsibility engagement, SME of the year, human resource rising star, honorary HR lifetime achievement, HR director of the year, and CEO of the year.

The Myanmar Employer Awards is organised by Job-Net.com.mm. Matt De Luca, its managing director of Job-net.com.mm, said the awards would recognise achievements and efforts made by employers to identify the best HR practices, including Myanmar employers' work environment and workplace culture.

The first Myanmar Em-

ployer Awards ceremony was held in 2017. Over 120 companies participated in the competition last year. This year, we expect that over 200 companies will participate in the competition, he said.

To plan the ceremony, the event organising committee met U Phyo Min Thein, Chief Minister of the Yangon Region government, on 19 June. The Chief Minister said, "We welcome the Myanmar Employer Awards that can support Myanmar's HR management development and private sector development."

The Myanmar Employer Awards will be held with the aim of creating awareness among local and international employers, government bodies and the community as a whole about the importance of people management through effective HR practices in recruiting; developing and retaining employees to drive business profitability and the growth of Myanmar; to encourage employers to continuously engage in creative and proactive efforts to improve their people management practices; to facilitate the transfer of valuable knowledge pertinent to effective HR practices and initiatives across industries and organisations; to establish new standards and the overall competence of the HR community; to establish a benchmark of excellence in HR practices in Myanmar; and to act as a job search guide for all jobseekers currently in pursuit of employment opportunities. ■

Ministry of Planning and Finance releases latest notification on withholding tax

By Nyein Nyein

THE Ministry of Planning and Finance recently released the latest notification (47/2018) on withholding tax on payments.

Residents will be exempted from paying withholding taxes on interest on loans, while non-resident foreigners have to pay 15 per cent.

For resident citizens and

resident foreigners, 10 per cent of the withholding tax applies to royalties for the use of licences, trademarks and patents, while non-resident foreigners are required to pay 15 per cent.

Resident citizens and foreigners are liable for 2 per cent withholding tax on payments by the state-owned organisations and enterprises for purchasing goods and supplying

services within the country under a contract or competitive bidding system or agreement. Non-resident aliens must pay 2.5 per cent.

Non-residents are subjected to 2.5 per cent withholding tax when cooperative enterprises, partnerships, joint ventures, companies with the government, registered associations or organisations, co-

operatives, foreign companies and foreign-owned enterprises purchase the goods and provide services within the country under a contract. Meanwhile, residents are exempted from paying withholding tax for those processes.

This notification will be effective from 1 July, and it will replace the old notification (51/2017). ■

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MoE holds workshop to review performance of NESP

THE Ministry of Education conducted an Annual Performance Review (APR) workshop on the National Education Strategic Plan (NESP) for the 2017-2018 fiscal year at Mingala Thiri Hotel, Nay Pyi Taw, on Wednesday.

In his opening address, Union Minister for Education Dr. Myo Thein Gyi said the Ministry of Education had designated nine sectors in the NESP (2016-2021) with an aim towards creating education opportunities and providing students quality education, as well as set up 12 priority works to implement the reform. According to the NESP, emphasis is placed on no discrimination at all levels of education while creating opportunities, and ensuring that no one is left behind, that there are no dropouts and gender equality. The teaching and learning processes that enable the students to become good human beings, as well as cooperative, dutiful, responsible and innovative, will



Union Minister Dr Myo Thein Gyi delivers the opening speech at the Annual Performance Review (APR) workshop on the NESP Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

be implemented to strengthen the quality education reform. Besides basic education, the systematic development of technology, vocational education and training works, higher education works, out of school and lifelong education works are being conducted, said the

union minister.

Implementing NESP is not like other projects. In NESP, yearly targets are set and the yearly implementation by each department is reviewed and reported. Through the review, not only are the results known but the basis of the performance

and capacity building required are also known.

Today's workshop is to review the second year performance of NESP and suggestions obtained from it will be submitted to the 8th Education & TVET Sector Coordination Group (8th ETVSCG) meeting,

and more recommendations to implement the aims of the NESP will be obtained, said the union minister.

Next, Dr. Sai Kyaw Naing Oo of the study and assessment group (research) explained the aims and targeted outcomes of the workshop, and the various work groups in attendance held group-wise discussions.

The workshop was attended by chairman and representatives of the Amyotha Hluttaw education promotion committee, National Education Policy Commission, national curriculum committee and national quality assurance and assessment committee, professors, committee chairman, directors-general, officials from the Ministry of Education, representatives of international development partner organisations and civil society organisations, and invited guests. The workshop will be held until 22 June.—GNLM ■

Rakhine State Chief Minister delivers rice to flood victims in Taungup



Rakhine State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu presents aids to flood-affected people at Bushwemaw village in Taungup Township. **PHOTO: MNA**

RAKHINE State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu attended a ceremony in Taungup Township Lamumaw Village-tract, Bushwemaw Village monastery in Lamumaw Village-tract, Taungup township, on 20 June, to present rice bags donated by the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, the Rakhine State government and Daw Khin Kyi foundation for the flood-affected people.

At the ceremony, the Chief Minister first explained about the donation. The Chief Minister then presented a month's supply of rice bags donated by the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement; State Minister for Development Af-

fairs U Win Myint presented 43 rice bags donated by the state government; and state Hluttaw representative U Min Aung presented 700 rice bags donated by Daw Khin Kyi foundation to the villagers.

Next, the Chief Minister and delegation inspected Kyaw Kaing and Nghetpyawlaw villages inundated owing to heavy rains, as well as the river bank erosion at Bushwemaw village.

From there, the Chief Minister and delegation went to Lamumaw Village station hospital to inspect patients who were relocated owing to water intrusion, to encourage the patients and to provide the necessary help.—Tin Tun (IPRD) ■

Anti-Corruption Commission, UNODC jointly conduct "Risk Assessment in Public Procurement" workshop

MYANMAR'S Anti-Corruption Commission and the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) held a workshop titled "Risk Assessment in Public Procurement" in the commission's office building in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

Present at the discussion were Anti-Corruption Chair U Aung Kyi, Commission Secretary U San Win and commission members, and UNODC experts Mr. Constantine Miltchev Palicarsky and Ms. Cornelia Anna Kortl.

In his opening speech, U Aung Kyi said public procurement takes up a huge share of public expenditures and is the most corruption-prone area as department heads can have close relations with business owners. According to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) 2013 report, 20 to 25 per cent of funds spent on public procurement were lost due to corruption in countries around the world, said U Aung Kyi. He added that losses caused by corruption in Myanmar may exceed this average percentage.

Preventing losses of public funds triggered by violations of



Anti-Corruption Commission Chairman U Aung Kyi addresses the workshop on "Risk Assessment in Public Procurement" in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

rules and regulations will soon become a duty of the Anti-Corruption Commission, said U Aung Kyi. He said the commission held this workshop with the assistance of the UNODC to provide the necessary technical assistance. However, the commission alone is unable to implement such an important task without honesty and responsibility from government officials, who lead the public procurement. The discussions held in the workshop about monitoring, analysing and providing technical assistance for investigation will amount to reducing and preventing pos-

sible corrupt practices in the public procurement processes, he added.

Mr. Constantine Miltchev Palicarsky from the UNODC then delivered an opening speech and the workshop began.

The UNODC experts explained methods to assess the risks of corruption in the public procurement process. The workshop participants included six commission members and 25 government officials from the Anti-Corruption Commission. The last day of the workshop will be held today.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw concludes its eighth regular session

FROM PAGE-2

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker on works conducted during eighth regular session

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than explained the works conducted during the second Pyidaungsu Hluttaw's eighth regular session. The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker said 11 days of meetings were held during this session, where six laws were approved and four bills were sent to the President

to sign.

In addition to this, a discussion and confirmation on two international agreements sent by the President and the matter of loan from the Central Bank of Myanmar were conducted. In the soon to be called ninth regular session, the annual budget and the tax bill for the 2018-2019 fiscal year will be discussed and approved, as well as other Hluttaw duties performed.

Instructions were issued to

report to the Central Committee for Development Programme by 30 April 2018 on the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw development fund for the 2017-2018 FY and the completion status of constituency-wise region development works. Of the 325 townships, three remain to submit this, and these have to be reported, as soon as possible. If there are extra funds for the works that are not conducted due to various reasons, it is to be returned via the Myanma Eco-

nomic Bank branches, said the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker.

Moreover, all need to study and assess the priority works by the constituency for the forthcoming fiscal years. The township-wise development works are to be completed within the fiscal year; and payments, as well as other supporting evidence, are to be systematically maintained and readied for scrutiny, added the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker.

While the Hluttaw meetings are adjourned, all need to listen to the true voices of the people in their respective constituencies and are urged to cooperate and do their best according to the law, said the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker.

Finally, the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker announced the successful completion of the second Pyidaungsu Hluttaw's eighth regular session.—Aung Ye Thwin, Aye Aye Thant ■

Union Minister U Thein Swe receives Indian Ambassador to Myanmar

UNION Minister for Labour, Immigration and Population U Thein Swe received Indian Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Vikram Misri on Tuesday at the ministry's hall in Nay Pyi Taw.

During the meeting, matters relating to the implementation of the agreement between Myanmar and India on border crossing signed on 11 May such as upgrading the Tamu-Moreh

and Rikhawdar-Zokhawthar gates, construction of buildings in international border gates, work requirements, cooperation plan between the two immigrations to smooth the border entry/exit process, works conducted for officials to conveniently cross the Paletwa-Zoripui gate and assist in the registration works and other border crossing related works were discussed.—Myanmar News Agency ■



Union Minister U Thein Swe holds talks with Indian Ambassador Mr. Vikram Misri in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY**

Pearls fetch over 2.5 mln euros at 55th Myanma Gems Emporium

THREE-HUNDRED forty-one lots of pearls fetched over 2.5 million euros yesterday at the 55th Myanma Gems Emporium in Nay Pyi Taw.

All 360 pear lots exhibited yesterday with basic price of 500 euros and above for each lot were bought by traders.

A pearl lot with 524 pearls weighing 433.85 momme fetched the highest price of 32,999 euros and a pearl lot with 67 pearls weighing 30.30 momme fetched the lowest price of 788 euros at yesterday's sales, according to Daw Mya Mya Win, Assistant General Manager of the Myanma Pearl Enterprise.

Myanmar held annual pearl sales six times in Hong Kong and pearls produced by pearl farms in Taninthayi Region have found a strong market there, added Daw Mya Mya Win.

The second day of the 55th Myanma Gems Emporium was continued in Mani Yadana Jade Hall, Nay Pyi Taw yesterday

where 360 pearl lots, 336 gem lots and 6,795 jade lots totaling 7,490 lots were on display.

Over 4,000 local and international gem merchants attended the second day of the emporium.

U Than Zaw Oo of the exhibition department said the event was held to gather local gem merchants, especially buyers and sellers, in a single place. At this emporium, over 500 companies and license holders exhibited jade lots. At the moment there are over 1,200 registered local gem merchants, both buyers and sellers, in the country.

There are over 3,000 foreign gem merchants. Yesterday, about 2,500 entered the emporium and inspected the jade lots.

The benefits for both buyers and sellers is the possibility to see at one place up to 6,000 jade and gem lots.

Normally it would be diffi-



Jade merchants viewing pieces of jade at the Myanma Gems Emporium in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

cult to round up 4 to 5 gem merchants to inspect 4, 5 or 10 lots, said U Than Zaw Oo.

In normal sales outside, there are limitations to declaring the sale price and paying tax. At

the exhibition, full tax according to set rates goes into the state coffer and the seller received the remaining sales amount, added U Than Zaw Oo.

The third day of the 55th My-

anma Gems Emporium will continue in Mani Yadana Jade Hall today, where jade and gem lots will be inspected and sold under an open tender system.—Kyaw Thu Htet (MNA) ■

Stop hate narratives, focus on how to resolve the long-standing issues in Rakhine State

WHEN we think about the long-standing Rakhine issue, we should go back a couple of centuries. The Union Government has explained repeatedly to international communities that a government cannot solve a centuries-old problem in a few months. It is a complicated problem that cannot be resolved overnight.

To solve this complicated issue, we should not rush. It is risky for anyone to go headlong into a problem without considering all the various aspects involved. We need time and space to solve such things.

The State Counsellor explained to the United Nations Secretary General's Special Envoy Ms. Christine Schraner on Wednesday that the confidence building between the communi-

ties requires patience and time, and the United Nations needs to support those efforts.

Everyone concerned must be positive and committed to the process of reestablishing trust and confidence.

Fear and hate were rooted in Rakhine, a region where there is very little prosperity and very little security. Therefore, the Union Government's new administration has carried out efforts for the rule of law and development in Rakhine State since it took office.

The government is also looking for long-term solutions to the Rakhine problem.

The mistrust between the two communities has existed for a long time. The incidents in 2012 deteriorated the situation,

and the terrorist attacks by the ARSA terrorists in 2016 and 2017 further worsened the problem.

People do not dare to commute in Rakhine State due to the lack of security, not because of the lack of freedom of movement.

This is one of the reasons the Government has been focusing on rule of law and development in Rakhine State.

The hate narratives from outside the country have driven the two communities in Rakhine State further apart. Today is the time for international communities to focus on how to resolve the issue with a forward-looking approach. ■

Invitation to young writers for Sunday section

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

Upper Namhtwam hydropower project to benefit Putao residents

By Pyin Du War

Putao

Putao, the northernmost town in Kachin State, is renowned for its green rainforests, icy mountains and crystal white waters, but not for its access to electricity because of its remote location and distance from the power grid.

But that will soon change with an ambitious hydropower project that will provide much-needed electricity.

The consumption rate of electricity in Myanmar is increasing by at least 15 per cent each year, and it is estimated that Myanmar will consume about 4,531 megawatts of electricity by 2020-2021. Currently, the annual total electricity production is 3,189 megawatts, with 1,342 megawatt still needed.

That's why arrangements are being made to produce 439 megawatts from three power plants for the year 2018, 750 megawatts from four power plants for the year 2019, 260 megawatts from three power plants for the year 2020, 971 megawatts from five power plants for the year 2021, and 891 megawatts from five power plants for the year 2022. These power plants can produce 15 per cent from hydro power production, 18 per cent from



power plants based on Heavy Fuel Oil (HFO), 30 per cent from power plants using Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG), and 5 per cent from solar power plants.

Power generation in Kachin State

Kachin state has become the major electricity-produc-

ing region in Myanmar, and in Putao Township, which is remote and far away from the national grid, a 3.2MW upper Namhtwam hydroelectric plant is under construction. Posco Daewoo is investigating the possibility of setting up a 5MW Solar Power Plant on Manaung Island. In other states and regions, a mini-grid

is constructed and power distributed through 32 mini hydroelectric plant projects and a solar power plan.

Upper Namhtwam hydro-power project

The Namhtwam hydro-power project is located on the Namhtwam Creek seven miles southwest of Putao. Putao and

Machanbaw townships are difficult to reach by road, and there was only a small hydropower station built in 1987 which can generate 200 KW of power. The Upper Namhtwan hydropower project was built for electrifying Putao and Machanbaw Townships in Kachin State, and will initially deliver 800 KW to its targeted areas, according to the Department of Electric Power under the Ministry of Electricity and Energy.

The facility will have the capacity of generating 3.2 MW when finished, and will be able to light four quarters and other villages in Putao and Machanbaw Townships. Seventy per cent of the construction process for the project is finished, and almost 100 per cent of Voestalpine machineries ordered from Austria have arrived.

The Department of Electric Power said that it planned to implement the hydropower project because 200 KW is only enough to electrify a single ward. Therefore, this upgrade

project was necessary. Surveys were conducted in Putao region from March to June in 2014 by the department's engineers.

Authorities have made efforts to work on the water control gate and machineries. Four generators, each of which has the capacity of generating 800 KW, will be installed, and will be able to generate 3.2 MW in total. This hydropower project will generate electricity using water flow, and will include one concrete spillway at 141 feet in length, and 41 feet wide. It will have one concrete tunnel inlet at 7,546 feet long, 12.6 feet wide and 10 feet high. The upstream reservoir is 98.6 feet long, 29 feet wide and 50 feet high. It has a 132 foot long, 5 foot wide steel pressure shaft. There is also one power station that is 132 feet wide, 29 feet wide, and 50 feet high. The Ministry of Electricity and Energy aims to produce more electricity and distribute sufficient electric supply to local residents in the region.

Putao is a picturesque town situated in a valley between snow-capped mountains 1,429 ft above sea level and 210 miles north of Myitkyina, the capital of Kachin state, which is rich in exotic nature and culture. Putao has a monsoon-influenced humid subtropical climate with very high amount of precipitation throughout the rainy season.

Many orchid lovers are attracted by the so-called "Black Orchid" that can be found in the mountains east and west of Putao.

It is one of the destinations where tourist can observe the natural and cultural heritage of northern Myanmar. The climate, environment, culture and topography make Putao a popular destination in Myanmar tourism. For adventurers and nature lovers, trekking and hiking around Putao is paradise. ■

Translated by Win Ko Ko Aung

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Office of the President
Order 30/2018

9th Waxing of First Waso, 1380 ME
21 June, 2018

Appointment of Shan State Security and Border Affairs Minister

In accordance with the provisions stated in article 262, Sub-Section (a) 2 Sub-section (b) (e) (f) and article 264, Sub-section (c) of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and section 19 (c), section 82 (c) of Union Government Law and Section 8 (a), Sub-section 2 (b) (f) (g), Section 56 (a) of Region or State Government Law, Colonel Naing Win Aung, Shan State Security and Border Affairs Minister, has been returned to unit to perform the original military duties and replaced with Col Hla Oo, the Office of the Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) who has been appointed as Shan State Minister of the Security and Border Affairs.

Sd/ Win Myint
President

Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Office of the President
Notification 48/2018

9th Waxing of First Waso, 1380 ME
21 June, 2018

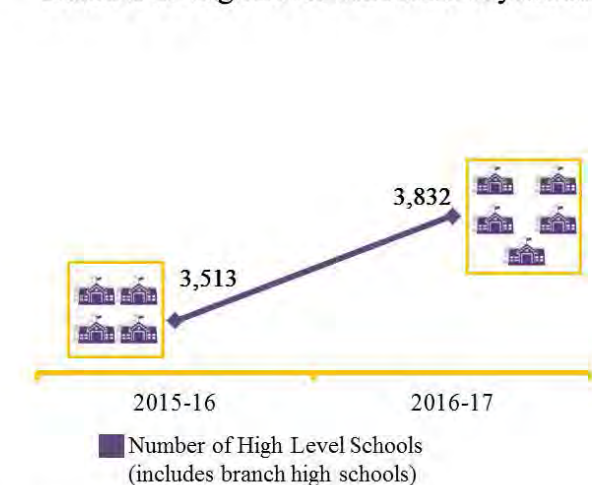
Myanmar Companies Act enacted

Myanmar Companies Act takes effect in accordance with the Myanmar Companies Act 1, section (b) on 1 August 2018, 5th Waning of Second Waso, 1380 ME.

Sd/ Win Myint
President

Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Number of High Level Schools in Myanmar



Source: Ministry of Education
Information Unit: Central Statistical Organization

Supermarkets must help end 'brutal conditions' for farmers

PARIS— Supermarkets in the West are using their purchasing power to force suppliers to cut their prices, contributing to exploitation and even forced labour of millions of farmers worldwide, a global charity said Thursday.

"Millions of women and men who produce our food are trapped in poverty and face brutal working conditions, despite billion-dollar profits in the food industry," Oxfam International said as it released a report titled "Ripe for Change".

"From forced labour aboard fishing vessels in southeast Asia, to poverty wages on Indian tea plantations and hunger faced by workers on South African grape farms, human and labour rights abuses are all too common in food supply chains," the report said.

In surveys conducted in five countries last year, Oxfam said it documented what it called "unfair trading practices" by supermarket giants such as setting prices below the cost of sustainable production.

They were also unwilling



Indian tea farmers, many of them women, are scraping a living, Oxfam says. **PHOTO: AFP**

to raise prices in order to take into account increases in the minimum wage, it said.

Such practices left the workers at the bottom of the supply chain to pay the heaviest price.

In Thailand, more than 90 per cent of workers at seafood processing plants said they had gone without enough food the previous month, Oxfam said.

Around 80 per cent of those workers were women, it added.

In Italy, where many farm workers are migrants, 75 per cent of women working on fruit and vegetable farms said they or a family member had to miss meals because they could not afford to buy enough food.

'Cruel paradox'

"It is one of the cruellest

paradoxes of our time that the people producing our food and their families are often going without enough to eat themselves," Oxfam said.

The charity criticised major European and US supermarkets for failing to ensure that food producers were treated with dignity.—**AFP** ■

WORLD BRIEFS

Half of visiting nurses suffer some form of harassment

TOKYO — Around half of respondents in a survey of visiting nurses said they have suffered some form of harassment when going to patients' homes, a private survey showed Thursday. The number of nurses visiting patients at their homes has been on the rise amid the growing number of elderly people who prefer to receive nursing services at their homes. But the nurses often have to go alone to the care users' homes. — Kyodo ■

Woman suspected of killing brother, disguising death as suicide

OSAKA— A 44-year-old woman in western Japan has been arrested on suspicion of murdering her brother in March, as police, initially treating his death as suicide, now believe she spiked his drink with sleeping drugs and forged a suicide note.

Akemi Adachi, a company executive, was arrested Wednesday on suspicion of killing 40-year-old Masamitsu at their parents' house in Sakai, Osaka Prefecture on 27 March, an allegation she denies, police said. Masamitsu was found lying on the floor of a toilet where charcoal had been burnt to produce carbon monoxide. —Kyodo ■

Cambodia-China trade volume jumps to 5.8 bln USD last year

PHNOM PENH — Trade volume between Cambodia and China was valued at 5.8 billion US dollars in 2017, up 22 per cent from 4.76 billion dollars in a year earlier, Cambodian Minister of Commerce Pan Sorasak said on Thursday.

"The Cambodia-China trade volume has increased rapidly, an average of 26 per cent a year, in the last decade," the minister said during the inauguration ceremony of the Chengdu Bayi Sino-Cambodia Trade City, about 25 km west of central Phnom Penh.—Xinhua ■

Antarctic researchers mark winter solstice with icy plunge

SYDNEY— Scientists based in Antarctica welcomed the winter solstice by plunging into icy waters Thursday as part of a "mad tradition" heralding the return of brighter days after weeks of darkness.

In temperatures of -22 degrees Celsius (-7.6 degrees Fahrenheit), staff at Australia's Casey research station marked midwinter's day by cutting a small pool in the thick ice before stripping off and jumping in.

Casey station leader Rebecca Jeffcoat said midwinter day — the shortest of the year — was the most anticipated occasion on the Antarctic calendar and has been celebrated from the time of the early explorers.

"Swimming in Antarctica's below freezing waters is something of a mad tradition, but our hardy expeditioners look forward to it, with 21 of the 26 people on



This handout photo taken on 19 June 2018 and released by the Australian Antarctic Division (AAD) on 21 June shows a swimming hole being prepared at the Casey research station as Antarctic researchers welcome the solstice by plunging into icy waters. **PHOTO: AFP**

station brave enough to take an icy dip this year," she said.

"Midwinter day is really important in Antarctica because it marks the halfway point of our year here on the ice and it means the sun will spend slightly longer

in the sky each day."

Celebrations took place at all three of Australia's Antarctic research stations and its sub-Antarctic Macquarie Island base, with feasting, an exchange of handmade gifts, and messages

from home read out.

Jeffcoat, who is experiencing her first Antarctic winter, said the continent was extraordinary.

"The environment is spectacular and harsh, and we experience the most incredible range of conditions, from below freezing blizzards to auroras, or the midwinter twilight as the sun skims the horizon," she said.

"It is challenging being so far from family and friends, but we have built a really close knit community of friends on station that we'll likely have for the rest of our lives as we've shared this great experience together."

Australia currently has 75 researchers living and working on the frozen continent as part of the Australian Antarctic Program, with most of them on 12-month postings.—**AFP** ■

Pope Francis seeks 'unity' with non-Catholics in Geneva

GENEVA (SWITZERLAND) — Pope Francis vowed Thursday to seek deeper "unity" between the Catholic Church and other Christian faiths as he arrived in Geneva, a centre of Protestantism, amid Christianity's waning influence in Europe.

Francis touched down in Geneva, the home of French Protestant reformist Jean Calvin, shortly after 10:00 am (0800 GMT), and was met by Swiss President Alain Berset and other government ministers.

"This is a trip towards unity," the pontiff told reporters on the plane before landing. He came at the invitation of the World Council of Churches (WCC), which was created in 1948 and groups 350 Protestant, Orthodox and Anglican churches from more than 100 countries around the world, with around half a billion believers among them. During

his visit he will take part in an "ecumenical prayer" for the organisation's 70th anniversary, highlighting his commitment to unity between various Christian denominations. He will also celebrate Mass in front of tens of thousands of Catholics at the city's Palexpo convention centre.

The Catholic Church is not part of the WCC but Francis is keen to close the gap between its 1.3 billion-strong faithful and the Churches under the WCC umbrella, in particular given the regularity of deadly attacks on Christians.

In December nine people were shot dead by a gunman who opened fire at a Coptic Christian church in Cairo in an attack claimed by the Islamic State group (IS). In April, Egypt sentenced 36 people to death for their role in a string of bomb attacks on Coptic churches in Cairo, Alexandria and the Nile



Pope Francis, seen here arriving in Geneva Thursday, has faced criticism for making ecumenism and interreligious dialogue — most notably with Muslims — one of the priorities of his pontificate. **PHOTO: AFP**

Delta city of Tanta between 2016 and 2017 that killed at least 80 people. The pontiff has at times faced criticism for making ecumenism and interreligious dialogue — most notably with Muslims — one of the priorities of his pontificate. He has frequently referred to

"ecumenism of blood", exploring the indiscriminate murder of Catholics, Orthodox and Protestant Christians. "If the enemy unites us in death, who are we to be divided in life?" Francis asked in 2015. In October Francis took part in the event celebrating the 500th

anniversary of the Protestant Reformation started by Martin Luther, which led to bloody conflicts between Catholics and Protestants across Europe. The proximity of the pope to a very modern Lutheran Church (led by a married woman and with two openly ho-

mosexual bishops) and the Russian Orthodox Church has however raised eyebrows in conservative circles of the Catholic Church.

In February 2016, the pope and Patriarch Kirill of Moscow, the head of the Russia Orthodox Church made a historic step towards Christian unity following the first-ever meeting between the leaders of the two largest single Christian denominations — held in Cuba — since their split in 1054, known as the "Great Schism".

The pair signed the Havana Declaration, which called for an end to Islamist abuses against Christians in the Middle East. But the agreement with the Moscow Church, which leads more than 130 million of the world's 250 million Orthodox Christians, had been criticised by Greek-Catholic Ukrainians who felt betrayed by the pope. —AFP ■



Gate of the Juei Elementary School. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**

Students return to school in quake-hit Osaka as anxieties continue

OSAKA — The school attended by a 9-year-old girl who died after a powerful earthquake in Osaka this week reopened Thursday, as grief and anxieties persist among students and local residents.

"I am really saddened," Yoshimi Tanaka, principal of the school in the city of Takatsuki, Osaka Prefecture, said in an assembly with students. "I cannot forget her — she was always surrounded by friends and looked happy."

Some students shed tears during the meeting

at Juei Elementary School where Rina Miyake used to study, according to city officials. The school needed more time for safety checks before classes resumed, unlike most elementary schools in the city, which had reopened on Wednesday. "We can't rule out the possibility of human error (that led to the girl's death)," Takatsuki Mayor Takeshi Hamada said after placing flowers in front of the city-run school early in the morning. "I feel sorry for the victim." —Kyodo News

Invitation for Bids

Date 22 June 2018
Loan No and Title 3477-MYA; Irrigated Agriculture Inclusive Development Project (IAIDP)
Contract No and Title IAIDP/Package 01; Rehabilitation of the Chaung Magyi Irrigation System
Deadline for Submission of Bids 7 August 2018 / 10:00 AM (Myanmar Standard Time)

1. The Republic of the Union of Myanmar has received financing from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) toward the cost of IAIDP. Part of this financing will be used for payments under the contract indicated above. Bidding is open to Bidders from eligible source countries of the ADB.
2. The **Irrigation and Water Utilization Management Department (IWUMD)**, "the Employer" invites sealed bids from eligible Bidders for the **Rehabilitation of the Chaung Magyi Irrigation System** ("the Works"). The Works mainly include site investigations; remodeling of two main canals, distributary canals and minor canals; lining of canals; raising & strengthening of canal embankments; construction of drop and check-drop structures, head regulators, check structures, cross drainage culverts, reinforced concrete bridges, pipe outlets; replacement of flumes; rehab of bridges; & dismantle existing structures.
3. **International competitive bidding (ICB)** will be conducted in accordance with ADB's [Single-Stage: Two-Envelope](#) bidding procedure and is open to all Bidders from eligible countries as described in the Bidding Document (BD). Bidder/s must satisfy evaluation & qualification criteria in section 3 of the BD, including the following:
Participation in at least two contracts that have been successfully or substantially completed within the last five years and that are similar to the proposed works, where the value of the Bidder's participation exceed US\$ 4m (four million). The similarity of the Bidder's participation shall be based on the physical size, nature of works, complexity, methods, technology or other characteristics as described in Section 6, Employer's Requirements. (*For the complete eligibility and qualification requirements, Bidders must refer to BD*).
4. For further information and to obtain a soft copy of the Bidding Document free of charge, bidders should submit their requests to any two of the following Contacts persons:
 - 1 U Tint Lwin, Director of Procurement- IWUMD, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation (MOALI), Building No. 43, (IWUMD), Naypyitaw, Myanmar, Telephone: Facsimile number: 095-67-410102, 410509, E-mail address: utwin4.irr@gmail.com
 - 2 U Khin Zaw, Project Director, IAIDP, Telephone: 09 2201984, E mail: ukhinzaw1984@gmail.com
 - 3 U Maung Zaw, Project Manager, PMU, Telephone: 09 5143953, E mail: maungzawkpg@gmail.com
 - 4 U Saw Win, National Procurement Specialist, Telephone: 09 256504116, E mail: sawwin2912@gmail.com.
5. A Pre-Bid Meeting will take place on 17 July 2018, 10:00AM (Myanmar time), at Conference Room of Deputy Director-General (Lower Myanmar), Bldg No.15, IWUMD Compound, MOALI, Naypyitaw, Myanmar
6. Site visits will be allowed during the period 9 to 13 July 2018 (when IWUMD staff may be present at the site), but any other time may be accepted. If a Bidder plans to visit the Site, an access permit shall be secured from the Employer. To secure a permit, the Bidder should send a request to U Khin Zaw < Project Director (No.2 above) with contact address indicated above together with the following: (a) Copy of passport of Bidder's representative, (b) his/her position in the company, and (c) planned date & time of site visit.
The Bidder should send the request for an access permit together with the abovementioned documents, at least one week before the proposed site visit. Maximum of three representatives from each Bidder will be allowed to visit the site.
7. For those attending the Pre-Bid Meeting, the bidder or its authorized representative should have his/her memory stick or USB for the soft copy of the Bidding Document. No liability will be accepted for any potential bidder's non-receipt or loss of the document.
8. Bids should be delivered / submitted to: U Tint Lwin, Director of Procurement at the address given above in Paragraph 4(1), **on or before the deadline of 7 August 2018, 10:00 AM (Myanmar local time)**, together with a Bid Security as described in the BD. Bids will be **opened immediately** after bid submission deadline (at same address) in presence of Bidders' representatives choosing to attend. Late bids will be rejected.
9. When comparing Bids, ADB's Domestic Preference Scheme will not be applied in accordance with the provisions stipulated in the Bidding Document.
10. If interested bidders can see and search in ADB website and IWUMD website.

Trump orders halt to family separations

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump ordered an end to the separation of migrant children from their parents on the US border Wednesday, reversing a tough policy under heavy pressure from his fellow Republicans, Democrats and the international community.

The spectacular about-face comes after more than 2,300 children were stripped from their parents and adult relatives after illegally crossing the border since 5 May and placed in tent camps and other facilities, with no way to contact their relatives.

Despite the order, there was no plan in place to reunite the thousands of children already separated from their families, according to multiple US media reports citing officials from the Health and Human Services Department (HHS).



US President Donald Trump — flanked by Homeland Security Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen (L) and Vice President Mike Pence — signs an executive order to end family separations at the border. **PHOTO: AFP**

ment (HHS).

Those youngsters would remain separated while their parents were under federal custody during immigration proceedings, according to The New York Times, before officials

backed off those comments late Wednesday.

“It is still very early and we are awaiting further guidance on the matter,” said Brian Marriott, senior director of communications at HHS’s Admin-

istration of Children and Families.

“Reunification is always the ultimate goal,” he said.

Pictures and accounts of the separations sparked outrage and a rebellion

among Republicans in Trump’s own party, as well as international accusation that the US was committing human rights violations.

“What we have done today is we are keeping families together,” Trump said as he signed the executive order. “I didn’t like the sight or the feeling of families being separated.”

At a later campaign-style rally of supporters in the northern state of Minnesota, he reiterated that the change does not mean a softening at the border.

“We will keep families together, but the border is going to be just as tough,” he said.

Trump then accused rival Democrats of putting “illegal immigrants before they put American citizens.”

For weeks, Trump had

insisted he was bound by law to split the children from their parents and that only Congress could resolve the problem — before he radically shifted gears.

His daughter and advisor Ivanka had reportedly urged her father to end the separations, while First Lady Melania Trump made a rare political plea, saying the country needs to govern “with heart.”

“We want security for our country,” the president said Wednesday. “And we will have that — at the same time, we have compassion.”

The order says the Department of Homeland Security — and not the Justice and Health and Human Services Departments, as under previous policy — would have continuing responsibility for the families.—AFP ■

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V HIJAU SAMUDRA VOY.NO. (1087S/N)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V HIJAU SAMUDRA VOY.NO. (1087S/N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 22-6-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of HPT where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S NEW GOLDEN SEA LINES**
Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V KOTA HADIAH VOY.NO. (KHAD0099N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V KOTA HADIAH VOY.NO. (KHAD0099N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 22-6-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MITT where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S ADVANCE CONTAINER LINES**
Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V EVER ALLY VOY.NO. (0246-565W/E)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V EVER ALLY VOY.NO. (0246-565W/E) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 22-6-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S EVERGREEN SHIPPING LINE**
Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V FORMOSA CONTAINER NO-5
VOY.NO. (043N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V FORMOSA CONTAINER NO-5 VOY.NO. (043N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 22-6-2018 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 NEW GOLDEN SEA SHIPPING LINE**
Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V PATHEIN STAR VOY.NO. (022N/S)

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Easy as A, B, Xi: China gives economic lessons to North Korea

BEIJING — Chinese President Xi Jinping has coached his North Korean counterpart Kim Jong Un on high-stakes diplomacy. Now he seems poised to give the young autocrat another lesson: how to reform a state-controlled economy while keeping an iron grip on power.

Beijing has long pushed for Pyongyang to adopt similar measures to those that fuelled China's dizzying ascent from a communist backwater to one of the world's largest trading powers.

But while the highly secretive, nuclear-armed North has been quietly carrying out economic reforms for some time, officially it still promotes the merits of its system and denounces the evils of capitalism.

In recent months, as relations between China and North Korea have experienced a renaissance,



Relations between China and North Korea have experienced a renaissance in recent months. **PHOTO: AFP**

Kim has transformed from a recalcitrant and standoffish troublemaker to Xi's eager pupil.

The shift followed a decision by Beijing to back UN sanctions banning imports of coal, iron ore and seafood from its unruly neighbour, after years of hushed diplomacy failed to convince the North to

stop its nuclear and missile tests.

It didn't take long for Kim to change his tune: he made his first visit as leader to his country's sole major ally in March, quickly followed by two more trips, during which he toured Chinese tech and science hubs.

Kim, who is in his

mid-30s, seemed eager to learn: Chinese state media has been filled with images of the attentive leader taking copious notes during his meetings with Xi.

"We are happy to see that the DPRK (North Korea) made a major decision to shift the focus to economic construction," Xi told Kim in their most

recent meeting Tuesday, according to state news agency Xinhua.

"China is ready to share its experience" with Pyongyang, Xi said the next day.

China as a model

China's "reform and opening" under Deng Xiaoping in the 1980s started an economic boom that has made it the world's second-largest economy and a crucial driver of global growth.

Despite pressure from Beijing to follow its example, in public Kim had appeared resistant, in 2016 decrying "the filthy wind of bourgeois liberty and 'reform' and 'openness' blowing in our neighbourhood".

But in practice he has brought in limited changes, from allowing private traders to operate in informal markets to giving state-owned enterprises some freedoms to operate,

and turning a blind eye to private company operations.

Having completed the development of his atomic arsenal, Kim announced in April that his priority was now "socialist economic construction".

A delegation from his ruling Workers' Party of Korea visited Beijing in May to learn about economic reforms.

At a historic summit with US President Donald Trump in Singapore last week, Kim expressed his commitment to the denuclearisation of the Korean peninsula — and Washington is offering him sanctions relief if he gives up his weapons. The summit also saw Kim take the opportunity to explore the affluent city-state, with images of his visit to an expensive hotel, casino and other tourist sites widely distributed by North Korean media.—AFP ■

Announcement for re-registration of all registered companies and entities

The Myanmar Companies Online (MyCO) registry system will commence service on 1st August 2018 with the enforcement of the Myanmar Companies law 2017. All registered Companies and other entities under the Myanmar Companies Act 1914 and Special Company Act 1950 will be required to re-register on (MyCO) registry starting from 1st August 2018 to 31st January 2019 during the 6 months re-registration period. Re-registration can be completed electronically online or in person at the offices of the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration, using the prescribed forms for re-registration without any fees.

Directorate of Investment and Company Administration.

Samal Yeslyamova: Cannes darling who ‘plays it like it is’

MOSCOW—Samal Yeslyamova almost burst into tears when she received a surprise award for best actress at the Cannes film festival last month.

“When they announced my name I nearly cried: ‘but what about our movie?’” Yeslyamova told AFP, saying the entire film crew deserved an award.

The 33-year-old Kazakh actress won international acclaim for her wrenching portrayal of a Central Asian single mother struggling for survival in Russia in Sergey Dvortsevov’s film “Ayka.”

While an illegal migrant, the young woman from Kyrgyzstan gives birth to a baby that she abandons at the maternity hospital. The idea for the film was based on tragic statistics from 2010 when 248 babies were abandoned by Kyrgyz mothers in Moscow’s maternity wards.

Dressed in a navy suit and wearing no makeup — just like her character — the actress sounded almost nostalgic as she recalled her gruelling on-set experience. Dvortsevov, who is known for his documentary style, insisted that she must be — and not simply look — exhausted — in front of the camera, the actress said, adding she would run before



Kazakh actress Samal Yeslyamova won international acclaim for her wrenching portrayal of a Central Asian single mother struggling for survival in Russia in Sergey Dvortsevov’s film “Ayka”. PHOTO: AFP

shoots to look haggard.

During shooting she would also get just five hours of sleep every night, she said.

“But others including the director slept even less — just two hours a night,” Yeslyamova said during an interview in Moscow at GITIS, one of Russia’s most prestigious drama schools where she studied.

‘Authenticity and pain’

Once separated from her infant, the film’s title character

Ayka suffers terribly, tortured with guilt for rejecting the baby and with her feelings of attachment to the child.

“The story about a bond between mother and child touches everyone because it could happen anywhere,” said Yeslyamova, who spent months observing the lives of young female immigrants in Moscow.

“We tried to play it like it is.”

For the entire duration of the 100-minute-long movie the

camera constantly follows her as she first abandons her child and then tries to survive in snowy, unwelcoming Moscow.

As she plucks chickens, shovels snow and tries to drain her sore breasts of milk in a grubby overcrowded apartment she is constantly hurting, tormented by guilt.

“Russian cinema has not seen such a degree of authenticity, repressed pain and energy for a long time — maybe never,” said respected news website Meduza.

Dvortsevov said in Cannes that the script was not set in stone but was a work-in-progress, with Yeslyamova’s character beginning to “live a life of her own”.

The actress is a proponent of the Stanislavsky school of acting, an approach developed by 20th century Russian theatre director Konstantin Stanislavsky who stressed the importance of emotional authenticity.

“She was a special student: modest but reliable and intense,” said Yevgeny Kamenkovich, a director who taught the actress at GITIS.

He said she “acted from experience because she cannot simply imitate.”

Another of Yeslyamova’s teachers was acclaimed Russian

filmmaker Andrey Zvyagintsev, director of “Leviathan” and “The Return”, who sat on the jury at Cannes this year.

“GITIS taught me to be free,” said Yeslyamova.

Hero in Kazakhstan

The actress said she flew back from Cannes to a hero’s welcome in her native Kazakhstan.

“It was really amazing,” she said.

“When I arrived, customs officers recognised me and smiled at me and a whole crowd of actors was waiting for me at arrivals with flowers, even though it was four in the morning,” she said with a shy smile. Yeslyamova — whose Cannes win is unprecedented for Kazakhstan — received keys to a new two-bedroom apartment, a reward that is usually reserved for Olympic champions. Like Yeslyamova, director Dvortsevov also comes from Kazakhstan.

The actress was born in a village and went to a local arts college in Petropavlovsk, a city on the Russian border.

When she was 19, she won a lead role in Dvortsevov’s first feature film “Tulpan” or Tulip, playing a mother of three children. The movie won the Un Certain Regard prize at Cannes in 2008.—AFP ■

Benedict Cumberbatch inspired Josh Brolin to take up ‘Infinity War’



American actor Josh Brolin. PHOTO: PTI

LOS ANGELES—Josh Brolin says he was initially sceptical about playing Thanos in “Avengers: Infinity War”, but when he saw Benedict Cumberbatch immerse himself in Smaug in “The Hobbit”, he was inspired to dig deep into his character.

The 50-year-old actor said the “Doctor Strange” star set high standards and he was

inspired to take the challenge head on. While researching for his role, Brolin stumbled across a YouTube video, which showed Cumberbatch playing out the part of the dragon Smaug in a behind the scenes footage from the Peter Jackson film series.

“He was in this (motion capture), and he’s crawling around like a snake, snapping his tongue out doing this incredible performance. I saw that and was like, all right, that’s the bar.

“This is not like bulls**t. This is something you have to sink your teeth into conviction, embarrassment, and all this kind of stuff,” Brolin told EW.

“Infinity War” released on 27 April and went on to become the fourth-highest grossing movie of all time, with close to USD 2 billion at global box-office.—PTI ■

‘Love Sonia’ to open London Indian Film Festival

LONDON —The annual London Indian Film Festival (LIFF) opens today with the red-carpet world premiere of Hollywood-cum-Bollywood starrer “Love Sonia”, a film by the Oscar-nominated producer of “Life Of Pi”, David Womark.

The tale of two sisters forced into Mumbai’s sex trade, which stars Demi Moore, Freida Pinto, Manoj Bajpayee and Rajkumar Rao, will open this year’s line-up for the festival, now in its ninth year.

“One great thing about being in the UK and especially London is that we are culturally intertwined to India and South Asia, not just through our shared history but our living, everyday experience where South Asian communities add so much to UK cultural life, of which cinema is an important aspect,” said LIFF Director Cary Rajinder Sawhney.

“The festival is a key mo-

ment in the UK arts calendar and we are thrilled to place a spotlight on South Asian culture through engaging and audacious films that explore universal and topical subject matters such as identity, women’s empowerment and construction of masculinity,” added Alka Bagri, Trustee of the Bagri Foundation, the title sponsor of the festival. The other strands of the festival are divided between Central Gala, Female Eye, Fathers & Sons and Extra-Ordinary Lives to cover films from across the sub-continent, to be screened in London, Birmingham and Manchester.

This year, there is also a special cinematic tribute to Bollywood star Sridevi, who died suddenly in February, with a screening of her 1987 box-office hit “Mr India”. Another tribute screening is UK-based filmmaker Sangeeta Dutta’s docu-feature “Bird of Dusk”, in memory of the

late Rituparno Ghosh.

“Rituparno was not only a major filmmaker and Bengal cultural icon, but he was also a personal friend and our work association dates back to ‘Chokher Bali’ in 2003. His prolific work as writer, director, fashion diva created a public construct along with the bold fight against gendered identity,” said Dutta, whose film will be screened in London and Birmingham during the week-long festival.

“I tried to search for the personal voice through his personal memoirs and archives. It is this conflicted personality of the feted icon and the lonely artist that fascinated me most,” she added.

The festival, dubbed as Europe’s largest South Asian film event, will close on 29 June with a screening of ‘Venus’ a feel-good comedy about the life of a Canadian Punjabi transgender person.—PTI ■

Political milestones for women after New Zealand PM gives birth

WELLINGTON—New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern has become only the second leader to give birth while in office, in another milestone for women in politics.

The 37-year-old took to Instagram to reveal the birth of her daughter Thursday, but has downplayed the significance of her pregnancy.

“Plenty of women have multitasked before me, and I want to acknowledge that,” she said in January.

Here are some of the other historic moments for women in government.

Women get the vote

New Zealand has a track record of being progressive on women’s issues — in 1893 it became the first country to give women the right to vote. Australia extended the franchise in 1902.

Major powers of the era followed later, with the United States granting women the vote nationally in 1920. Women in Britain had to wait until 1928.

Women in Saudi Arabia voted for the first time in 2015 at municipal elections.

Elected to parliament

Jeannette Rankin, a Repub-



Jacinda Ardern is only the second leader to give birth while in office. **PHOTO: AFP**

lican from Montana and leading activist, was the first woman to be elected to the US Congress, in 1916.

Despite being ahead of the

curve with universal suffrage, New Zealand didn’t get its first female MP until 1933, while Australia elected two women lawmakers to its national parliament in 1943.

The first woman elected to Britain’s House of Commons was Constance Markievicz in 1918, although as a member of the Irish republican party Sinn Féin, she did not take her seat.

First female prime minister

The first female prime minister was Sirima Bandaranaike, who was elected to lead Sri Lanka (then Ceylon) in 1960. She only came into politics after the assassination of her husband, then-premier Solomon Bandaranaike, but became a dominant figure, serving three terms as head of government.

Since then, several women have occupied the biggest job in their respective countries, including Margaret Thatcher of Britain, German Chancellor Angela Merkel, India’s Indira Gandhi, Brazil’s Dilma Rousseff and Thailand’s Yingluck Shinawatra.

But yet again, New Zealand is a trailblazer in this respect — Ardern is the third woman to be the country’s prime minister, following in the footsteps of Helen Clark and Jenny Shipley.

Leaders who have had babies in office

Ardern is not the first female head of government to give

birth in office — that record was claimed by late Pakistani prime minister Benazir Bhutto when she had a baby girl in 1990.

On the campaign trail, Ardern, 37, had pushed back against questions about whether she intended to start a family, saying pregnancy should not affect a woman’s career opportunities.

Women in the majority

The number of women lawmakers has increased in recent years and currently stands at 23 per cent of all MPs worldwide — but female MPs make up over half of elected representatives in the lower houses of just two countries.

In Rwanda, 61 per cent of MPs are women, while in Bolivia the figure is 53 per cent, according to Swiss-based Inter-Parliamentary Union, an organisation that collects data from legislatures worldwide.

Children in parliament

Italy’s Licia Ronziulli was snapped with her six-week old child in the European parliament in 2010, and has regularly been accompanied by her little person since then — to the joy of photographers.—AFP ■

Fashion comes from within, says Japan’s style guru

TOKYO— If you ask Naoko Okusa how to dress your best, she will tell you to look inside yourself before you stare into your overcrowded closet or oversized mirror.

Arguably the most influential fashion stylist in Japan, Okusa, who has 136,000 followers on Instagram, offers tried-and-true tips for women who are stuck in a style rut.

She helps them discover — or rediscover — the joy of dressing up by helping them experiment different stylistic affiliations while staying true to their essence.

“The way you dress and the way you live are two sides of the same coin. They can’t be disconnected,” Okusa, 45, says.

“It’s not the amount of clothes you own. It’s how well you know yourself that allows you to wear what makes you feel and look like the best version of yourself,” she says.

Okusa says if you’re relying on designer tags to make your style and people see the Hermes Birkin bag holding you and not vice versa, it’s a sign that you have yet to learn the language

of fashion.

“I wouldn’t want to be remembered as ‘the lady with the Birkin bag’ because that means Birkin makes a bigger impression than you. A woman who chooses to splurge on designer handbags and be someone she is not should know that her self-esteem is superficial.”

What seems like a dream job happened by chance. After transitioning from the fashion magazine editor’s desk to the life of a freelancer, Okusa was doing everything herself.

“I was an editor, producer, creative director, stylist,” she says. Although she never called herself one, “people started referring to me as a stylist so I figured that must be my thing.”

Okusa knows fashion. She pursues it, and she breathes it. Not only does she hand-select clothing and accessories worn by models at photo shoots, she has exclusive contracts with retailers as their fashion consultant and is a best-selling author and speaker.

She’s not one to tell you to camouflage your body flaws with draped sleeves or flared pants.

Rather, she would remind you that a well-maintained physique is the foundation of dressing well and tell you to hit the gym.

“Fashion is about you, but dressing well equates to good manners. It’s about making others feel good too,” she says.

“You can’t deny that it’s also a way to appeal to the other sex, whether you’re a man or a woman. Say you’re going out with a banker, an advertising agent, a tech company president, a freelance artist — wouldn’t your clothes depend on who your date is?”

Okusa says she used to alter the way she dresses to please her boyfriends, but when she met her Venezuelan partner and current husband after a failed first marriage she found a sense of security that soon reflected in her clothing choices.

“I like stronger women more than fragile women, cool over cute, self-reliant over dependent, basics over trendy. That’s me, and he has no problem with that. Now I know what I want, in fashion and in life.”

There was an off-track phase



Japanese fashion stylist Naoko Okusa is interviewed in Tokyo on 13 June 2018. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**

post divorce, she says. At that time she needed to wear bright, vivid colors to make herself believe she was happy. She looks back on the few photos she has from those days and sees a lost girl trying hard to conceal her emotions.

Okusa says she has learned that “dressing your age” is not necessarily negative. She wants middle-aged women know that just because they are now choosing from a small selection of clothes doesn’t mean they are less attractive.

On the contrary, Okusa says, it means less stress, less distraction, less expense, and more peace.

“Age helped me declutter my wardrobe. Age helped me get rid of the things I don’t need. It made my fashion options narrower and deeper,” she says.

“Yes, you get that extra layer of fat and you start noticing gray hair. In my case, my dull complexion taught me to avoid pastel colors and light beige. But hey, a colorful closet doesn’t equal a colorful life.”—Kyodo News ■

Jedinak levels but Australia can only draw with Denmark

SAMARA (RUSSIA) — Australia captain Mile Jedinak hit a second-half VAR-assisted penalty to secure a 1-1 World Cup draw with Denmark on Thursday that left the Socceroos' last-16 hopes hanging by a thread.

Bert van Marwijk's men travelled to Samara needing a win after their unfortunate 2-1 defeat to France in their Group C opener.

Australia battled back impressively after Christian Eriksen's seventh-minute opener but were unable to find a way past Leicester City goalkeeper Kasper Schmeichel from open play despite dominating a pulsating second half.

The result leaves Denmark on four points and Australia with just a single point after two games apiece.

Tottenham midfielder Eriksen, identified as the dangerman by Australia in the run-up to the game, showed sublime technique to finish after Nicolai Jorgensen's neat lay-off in the area.

Australia's response was impressive but with just one point from two games the Socceroos'



Denmark midfielder Christian Eriksen (right) celebrates his goal against Australia. PHOTO: AFP

chances of advancing in Russia now appear slim.

Eriksen's early opener was a body blow for Australia but they were given a lifeline when an outswinging corner seemed destined for the head of Hertha Berlin winger Mathew Leckie but came off the arm of Yussuf

Poulsen.

The Leipzig front man had been Denmark's hero with the matchwinner against Peru but was adjudged to have handled the ball and the referee consulted the Video Assistant Referee system before pointing to the spot.

Jedinak, who had scored a

penalty against France, stepped up to fire easily past Schmeichel in the 38th minute.

Eriksen's free kick caused mayhem in the box just minutes later, with Mat Ryan collecting in relief after the ball came off the leg of Trent Sainsbury a yard from the goalline.

The Socceroos were quickly into their stride after the restart, only for Pione Sisto to curl just wide of Ryan's goal.

Yet Australia went on to dominate a second half that saw Aaron Mooy and late substitute Danel Arzani go agonisingly close. Van Marwijk, who replaced Ange Postecoglou at the helm of the Australian team in January, handed 19-year-old Arzani another chance to impress after a late cameo appearance against France.

With practically his first touch, the teenager set up Huddersfield Town midfielder Mooy for a drive that flashed just wide.

Andrew Nabbout's game ended prematurely when he fell and suffered what looked like a dislocated shoulder; the Urawa Reds front man replaced by Tomi Juric. Arzani did well to keep the ball in play and outfox Sisto to fire across the area but the chance went begging.

Just minutes before the final whistle the Iranian-born teenager produced an angled strike that forced a great block from Schmeichel.—AFP ■

Shan United still leads in MNL U-19

AFTER the week 14 matches of the 2018 Myanmar National League (U-19), the Shan United U-19 football team is still leading the table with a total of 35 points with just one loss, 2 draws and 11 wins of 14 matches played.

Following Shan United, Yadanabon is in the second place with a point less than Shan after 14 matches played with 11 wins,

1 draw and 2 losses.

Southern Myanmar stands in third place with 10 wins, 2 draws and 2 losses, while Myawady is in the fourth place with 9 wins, 1 draw and 4 losses.

The well-known Yangon United U-19 team stands in the fifth place with 27 points as a result of their 8 wins, 3 draws and 3 losses.

"My favorite team, Taunggyi-based Shan United U-19, is on the way to being champion of the MNL this year, and they're still leading the table. Its best competitor is Yadanabon U-19, as there is just a one point difference with Shan United", said Myo Thet Naing, a medical student and football fan in Yangon.—Lynn Thit (Tgi) ■

World Cup stirring Nordic rivalries and solidarity

GELENDZHIK (RUSSIA) — Sweden, Denmark, and Iceland — Nordic friends and rivals — are celebrating Midsummer in style, all unbeaten at the World Cup and eyeing progress to the knockout stages. Deep linguistic, cultural and social links mean players and fans of the teams keep a close eye on how their cousins are doing. Towering Sweden and FC Copenhagen goalkeeper Robin Olsen, whose parents are Danish, idolised

Denmark and Manchester United great Peter Schmeichel when growing up. "I have many friends there and follow their World Cup games but of course I hope us Swedes go further in Russia," he told AFP. Born and raised in Malmö, Olsen, tipped to move to a top league this summer, used to hold a Danish passport but declared for the "Blagult" in 2014.

"It was an easy decision to take, my heart told me to pick Sweden," he said.

Nordic rivalry

When the Danes face Sweden "the whole country stops to watch," Christian Baekgaard, a journalist with Copenhagen-based broadcaster TV2, told AFP at the Denmark training base in Anapa.

"We really want to beat them," he said while watching Sweden's World Cup opener against South Korea. "But when they play a match like this we support them".—AFP ■



**FIFA WORLD CUP
RUSSIA 2018**

18:30 MST (22.6.2018)		
Brazil		 Costa Rica
21:30 MST (22.6.2018)		
Nigeria		 Iceland
00:30 MST (23.6.2018)		
Serbia		 Switzerland

World Cup 2018 Results

Denmark	1 - 1	Australia
France	1 - 0	Peru