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# THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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Wednesday, 20 December 2017



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, left, inspects the model rural house which will be built and donated by the Daw Khin Kyi Foundation. **PHOTO: MNA**

## Myanmar, Bangladesh agree on terms of repatriation

MYANMAR and Bangladesh came to an agreement on terms of repatriation for those who fled Rakhine State four months ago and are currently in temporary Bangladeshi camps.

A Myanmar delegation led by U Myint Thu, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, travelled to Bangladesh on Monday and met with a Bangladesh delegation led by Mr. Md. Shahidul Haque, Foreign Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Bangladesh in Dhaka yesterday.

At the meeting, Myanmar and Bangladesh reached agreement on Terms of Reference of the Joint Working Group to oversee the repatriation process of displaced persons from Rakhine State. The agreement was signed by Permanent Secretary U Myint Thu and Bangladeshi Foreign Secretary Mr. Md. Shahidul Haque in the presence of Mr. Abul Hassan Mahmood Ali, Foreign Minister of Bangladesh.

**SEE PAGE-3**

## State Counsellor inspects model rural house and child care centre

STATE Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi inspected a model rural house that will be built and donated by the Daw Khin Kyi Foundation and a child day care centre opened by the Min-

istry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement yesterday afternoon.

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi arrived at the Ministry yesterday afternoon and inspected a

home similar to ones that will be built for Khondaing Village, Maungtaung Township. Union Minister Dr. Win Myat Aye, Deputy Minister U Soe Aung and Seven King Construction

Co. Managing Director U Myo Ko Ko explained details of the house and the suitability of the house to the region.

**SEE PAGE-3****NATIONAL**

Investigation into 10 bodies found at Indin Village in Maungtaung Township, Rakhine

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## BEST BANK IN MYANMAR

Awarded by FinanceAsia 2017





Union Minister for Ethnic Affairs Nai Thet Lwin holds talks with head of the China Tibet Research Centre and director of the Institute of Tibet cultural delegation yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

## Union Minister Nai Thet Lwin receives Tibet cultural delegation

UNION Minister for Ethnic Affairs Nai Thet Lwin received Mr. Zhaing Yun, head of the China Tibet Research Centre and director of the Institute of Tibet cultural delegation, at the Ministry's office yesterday morning.

During the meeting, they discussed raising the stand-

ard of socio-economic sectors, preserving the traditions and heritage of ethnic races, dissemination of the literature and languages of ethnic races, development of mutual benefits of the relations between Myanmar and the Tibet Autonomous Region, and cooperation in keeping with the interest of

the ethnic races of both countries, it was learnt.

The Union Minister expressed sincere thanks for the People Republic of China's stance on international affairs, and its efforts in supporting Myanmar's course toward national reconciliation and peace. —Myanmar News Agency ■



Union Minister U Thaung Tun shakes hands with Special Envoy for Asian Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the PRC Mr. Sun Guoxiang. **PHOTO: MNA**

## Union Minister U Thaung Tun receives Chinese Special Envoy for Asian Affairs

U Thaung Tun, Union Minister for Office of the Union Government, received Mr. Sun Guoxiang, Special Envoy for Asian Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China yesterday at 9 am at the Ministry of the Of-

fice of the Union Government (Office No. 18).

At the meeting, they exchanged views on bilateral cooperation and matters related to Rakhine State. —Myanmar News Agency ■

## Eight Myanmar marine workers receive compensation

EIGHT Myanmar marine workers who were promised jobs in Thailand but were instead trafficked to Benjina Island, Indonesia received US\$32,000 (Ks43.65 million) in compensation from an Indonesian company yesterday. The Compensation Work Committee led by Consular and Legal Affairs Department Director General U Myo Thant Pe, along with members of the committee who are officials from Ministry of Home Affairs Anti-Trafficking in Person Division and Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, handed over money to the eight workers in the Ministry office in Yangon yesterday.

"The eight Myanmar marine workers were trafficked to the island from Bangkok, Thailand. The Myanmar Embassy in Jakarta exposed this case of trafficking together with the Indonesian government departments and other entities. The eight were able to appear as witnesses in the case against the traffickers and afterwards the matter of compensation was followed up with the Indonesian Attorney General's office. As per the agreement of the office of the Indonesian Attorney General, the eight workers were

granted compensation of about US\$32,000. The compensations were accepted by the Myanmar Ambassador to Indonesia and are now being handed over to the eight marine workers, depending upon the time they worked there", said U Myo Thant Pe, the director general of the Consular and Legal Affairs Department. U Zaw Zaw Myat, one of the marine workers who received compensation, said, "I arrived in Indonesia in July 2013 from Thailand, where I initially worked, but I was trafficked to work on the fishing boats there. I received only small amounts of money. I was able to come back to Myanmar in June 2015. I received more than US\$4,900 as compensation now." Officials from the Ministry of Foreign Af-

fairs, Union Attorney General's Office, Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population and Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, together with Lembaga Perlindungan Saksi Dan Korban (LPSK) of Indonesia worked on the trafficking case. LPSK is a witness and victim protection agency of Indonesia.

The Indonesian government filed a criminal case against PT Benjina Pusaka Resources Company, and on 28 November were ordered to compensate the eight Myanmar marine workers. The \$32,000 was divided among the eight Myanmar workers depending on how long they worked and how much abuse they endured, officials said. —Min Thit (MNA)



Director General U Myo Thant Pe, eight marine workers and their families pose for a documentary photo. **PHOTO: ZAW MIN LATT**



UEHRD Vice Chairman Dr Win Myat Aye presents document of honour for donations to Union Minister U Kyaw Tin. **PHOTO: MNA**

## Donations for UEHRD projects

DONATIONS of goods and money were made to the projects of the Union Enterprise for Humanitarian Assistance, Resettlement and Development in Rakhine (UEHRD) by donors and members of the public from around the world.

Myanmar nationals and former Myanmar nationals in Switzerland donated US\$3,766, Myanmar nationals in South Africa donated US\$2,165, Dr. Win

Naing and wife Daw Wei Wei Aye from Singapore donated 300 Singapore dollars. The Union Minister for International Cooperation U Kyaw Tin handed over the donations to UEHRD Vice Chairman Dr. Win Myat Aye yesterday afternoon at the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement. The UEHRD Vice Chairman presented documents of honour; it is learnt. —Myanmar News Agency ■

### Correction

In a chart titled "2018 Matriculation Exam Timetable Released" on Page 2 of the 18 December, 2017 issue of the Global New Light of Myanmar, there was an editing error. In the next-to-last column of the chart under "Subjects", the column should say "Geography", not "Geology". The GNLM regrets the error. ■



## Daw Aung San Suu Kyi receives China's Special Envoy of Asian Affairs

DAW Aung San Suu Kyi, State Counsellor of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar received Mr. Sun Guoxiang, Special Envoy for Asian Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday at 10:00 am.

During the meeting, they discussed matters related to bilateral relations and cooperation, peace process and the situation in Rakhine State.—Myanmar News Agency ■



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi receives Mr. Sun Guoxiang, Chinese Special Envoy for Asian Affairs. **PHOTO: MNA**

## State Counsellor inspects model rural house and child care centre

**FROM PAGE-1**

The rural house will be built on a 40 ft. long, 60 ft. wide plot of land. The house will consist of an 18 ft. x 28 ft. zinc sheet roof, concrete slab walls and wooden floors.

The State Counsellor also visited the "Mother's Bosom" child day care centre operated by the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement and inspected the care being provided to children 3 years of age and younger. Union Minister Dr. Win Myat Aye and officials provided a briefing about



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi visits the "Mother's Bosom" child day care centre. **PHOTO: MNA**

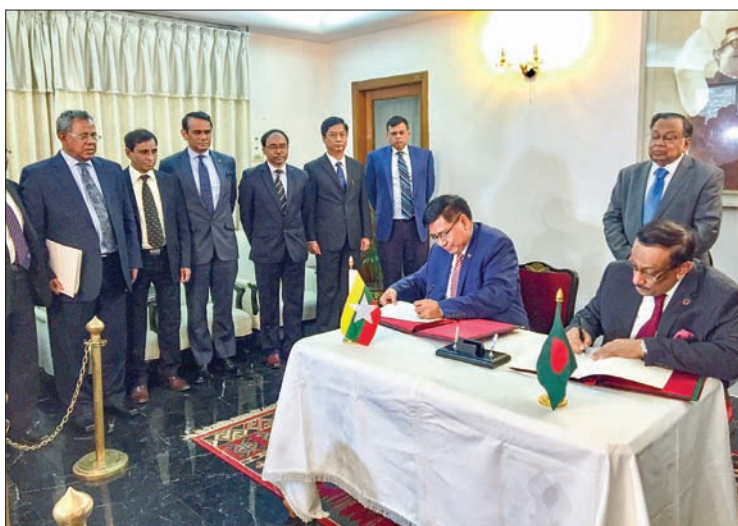
the operation of the centre. Afterwards, the State Counsellor went to the playground of the day care center and observed the children playing happily in the playground. The child day care centre is caring for

the children of public service personnel who are serving in the ministries and union level organizations in Nay Pyi Taw while they perform their duties during the day time.—Myanmar News Agency ■

## Myanmar, Bangladesh agree on terms of repatriation

**FROM PAGE-1**

The Joint Working Group between Myanmar and Bangladesh will be formed to take the necessary decisions, through a consultative and consensus building process, and realise them based on the Arrangement on Return of Displaced Persons from Rakhine State signed in Nay Pyi Taw on 23 November 2017. The work of the Joint Working Group will adhere to the general principles, policy aspects



Myanmar and Bangladesh sign for an agreement on the Terms of Reference of the Joint Working Group. **PHOTO: MNA**

and modalities as stated in the Arrangement.

Myanmar Delegation comprises officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry

of the Office of the State Counsellor, the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population and the Union Attorney General's Office.—Myanmar News Agency ■

## Coordination meeting on implementation of Permanent Residency held

THE Central Committee for Implementation of Permanent Residency (PR) coordination meeting 2/2017 was held yesterday afternoon in the meeting hall of the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population in Nay Pyi Taw.

The Chairman of the Central Committee for Implementation of Permanent Residency Union Minister U Thein Swe explained the forming of the committee and the work committees, announcement of the rules, the amendment required for the rules, the status of applying for PR not only in the country but also in Myanmar embassies, the number of applications made, rejected and granted since the program was started, the issuance of PR cards to those who are permitted and the status of assessments submitted by work committees that will be re-assessed by the central committee.

An official from the Central Committee for Implementation of Permanent Residency explained about the forming of the central committee, duties, the marking scheme and the application status.

Of the permanent residency permitted to former Myanmar nationals, four had applied to become Myanmar citizens again and confirmation was obtained to take back the PR cards. The status of extending the validity of the PR annually and appli-

cation to change personal information was also explained and discussed. Union Minister U Thein Swe then commented on the points discussed and concluded the meeting after giving a closing remark.

The PR system in Myanmar was started in 29 January 2015 under four categories for experts, investors, former My-



Union Minister U Thein Swe. **PHOTO: MNA**

anmar nationals and foreigners who are related to nationals. As of the end November 2017, there were 429 applications and five central committee meetings were held to conduct personal interviews and assessments of 352 applicants, out of which 338 were issued with PR cards. The remaining 14 hadn't collected their PR cards yet. Of the applicants, eight were rejected and 12 remained to be assessed and interviewed. In the present meeting, 2 investors, 35 former Myanmar nationals, nine related foreigners and 11 of their family members totaling 57 underwent assessment, it is learnt.—Myanmar News Agency ■



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

## CBT in Thandaunggyi has become popular this year

MORE local visitors flock to Thandaunggyi this year as Community Based Tourism is developing in the township and return of the peace to the area eased travel restrictions.

Visitors to Thandaunggyi daily increased due to consequences of peace process in the State. Upon travel permit from the regional government and related organizations, local visitors and tourists can observe indigenous culture and tradition and give a tour to coffee plantation and other crop farms, hot spring, waterfall, Naw Bu Baw Hill station, etc.

Thandaunggyi is one of the less well known of the hill stations established during British colonial rule. The place was listed on Myanmar's tourist attractions during a declaration of Visit Myanmar Year in 1996. Number of visitors to Thandaung-



Photo shows Naw Bu Baw prayer mountain of Thandaung Gyi in Kayin State. **PHOTO: SUPPLIED**

gyi increased from three digits to five digits in 2012. CBT was implemented in Thandaunggyi in December 2014.

Thandaunggyi Tourism Development Working Group and local stakeholders managed to develop socio-economy of the local residents, creating job op-

portunities and providing facilities to the travelers.

With rich nature attractions and indigenous culture, Kayin State attracted over 187,660 tourists and over 505,260 local visitors as of September this year.

Inflow of day trippers to Kayin State increased this year.

In the peak season, many tourists visit Hpa-An, the capital of Kayin State. Mount Zwegabin, Kyauk Kalap, Paddamya Cave, Saddan Cave, Kawt Gun Cave, Bayit Nyi Naung Cave, Hot Spring are also famous tourist spots in the State.—Min Thu/Tun Tun Htway ■

## Upgraded aquarium museum in Nay Pyi Taw zoological garden to be reopened

THE aquarium museum in the Nay Pyi Taw Zoological Garden that was opened on 14 October 2010 was meant to protect endangered species of fish and allow observation of these fish as well as traditional fish and aquarium fish which were im-

ported from abroad.

At the time of opening the museum, around 3,000 species of fish were on display in the aquarium, including 26 foreign species and 18 local species.

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental

Conservation has now upgraded the aquarium museum in Nay Pyi Taw Zoological Garden and will reopen the facility on 23 December. The upgraded museum will display 1,881 fishes, including 45 foreign species and 11 local species. On the day of the

reopening ceremony, authorities from the museum will provide fish spa service to everyone at no charge. This can stimulate acupuncture points and promote healing to regulate the nervous system, relax the body and release fatigue.—GNLM ■

## Two-year survey shows pollution worst in lower Bago River

A two-year water quality examination along the Bago River has shown that water pollution of the lower reaches of the natural waterway have reached its worst level, according to a report in the Myawady Daily yesterday.

The survey shows that although the water quality of the upper reaches are still good, the pollution is much worse at the lower reaches. Throwing garbage into the river, erecting of toilets along river banks and the flow of fertilizer and pesti-

cide have negatively affected the quality of the river water, according to Watershed Management Department.

The Norway-aided water quality examination project selected Bago River and Inlay Lake from the many bodies of

water in the country for its pilot programme.

After receiving the results of the water quality examination, coordinated conservation efforts will be conducted by regions and states along the river.—GNLM ■

## Upgraded road to Alaungdaw Kathapa to open in January

A repaired and upgraded road to the shrine of Alaungdaw Kathapa used for pilgrimages will be opened in January 2018, in time for the pilgrimage season, according to a report in the Myawady Daily yesterday.

The road to Alaungdaw

Kathapa was damaged due to heavy rain this season. Repairs to the road were delayed also because of continued heavy rain.

But work is near completion and the road will be reopened for the pilgrimage

season from January to April.

Worshippers making pilgrimages in cars to Alaungdaw Kathapa will be allowed to visit from 5am to 5pm. Cars will be required to stop at the parking lot at the foot of hill. More visitors are expected this

year because the authority has implemented ecotourism businesses near the villages.

Currently, the authorities are upgrading the road to ensure safe and convenient transportation for the pilgrims.—GNLM ■



## 861 jade lots sold on day 8 of Jade and Gems Emporium

ON the eighth day of the 2017 Mid-Year Myanmar Jade and Gems Emporium held yesterday morning at Mani Yandana Jade Hall in Nay Pyi Taw, 861 jade lots were sold to gem merchants, it is learnt.

A total of 1,150 jade lots were put up for sale under an open tender system and 861 lots were sold, fetching a total of about 38.23 million euros (Ks61.674 billion). On the eighth day of the emporium, a total of 4,429 local and international gem merchants visited the emporium.

To date, the gem emporium has sold 32 gem lots worth 767,000 euros and 3,520 jade lots worth 203.549 million euros (Ks327.93 billion) were sold under an open tender system, it is learnt.

The 2017 Mid-Year Myanmar Jade and Gems Emporium



Merchant evaluates jade stone at Myanmar Jade and Gems Emporium at the Mani Yandana Jade Hall in Nay Pyi Taw on 19 December. **PHOTO: MNA**

will be continued until 21 December. On 20 December, jade lots No. 4601 to 5750 and on 21 December jade lot No. 5751 to 6685 will be sold. — Myanmar News Agency ■

## Magway Region to grow more onion in this winter

LOCAL farmers in Magway Region is planning to grow more onion in this winter, according to local onion growers from Magway Region.

“Magway Region has over 40,000 acres of onion plantations every year.

This year, onions were fetching a high price and so, the acreage of onions increased” said U Phyo Min, a local onion grower.

“The local farmer from Magway Region extended their onion cultivation to over 800 acres.

Onion prices have increased due to dwindling stocks. Therefore the local farmers are extending more onion plantation, said U Zaw Latt, the Win onion brokerage owner.

Last year, the price of onions has been decreased because many onion plantations were destroyed by flooding, according to local onion farmers.

Mostly of the onion species like Shwe Phalar, Baung Sat, Thapaiklone, Mindone are growing mainly in Mandalay, Magway, Nay Pyi Taw and Yangon regions and Shan State.

Myanmar exports onions to neighbouring China, India, Thailand, Indonesia, Malaysia and Pakistan.

In fiscal 2017-2018, Myanmar has exported 16615.53 tons of the onion with five months, a decrease of over 30,000 tons from the same period of last year.— Zar Lin Thu (AMIA) ■

## River View Tower

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❖ Royal Myanmar Education Center (RMEC)  
❖ Dulwiche International Collage

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❖ Shwe Pu Zun Cafe  
❖ Capital Hypermarket  
❖ City Mart

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❖ Shwe Baho Hospital  
❖ Aung Hospital

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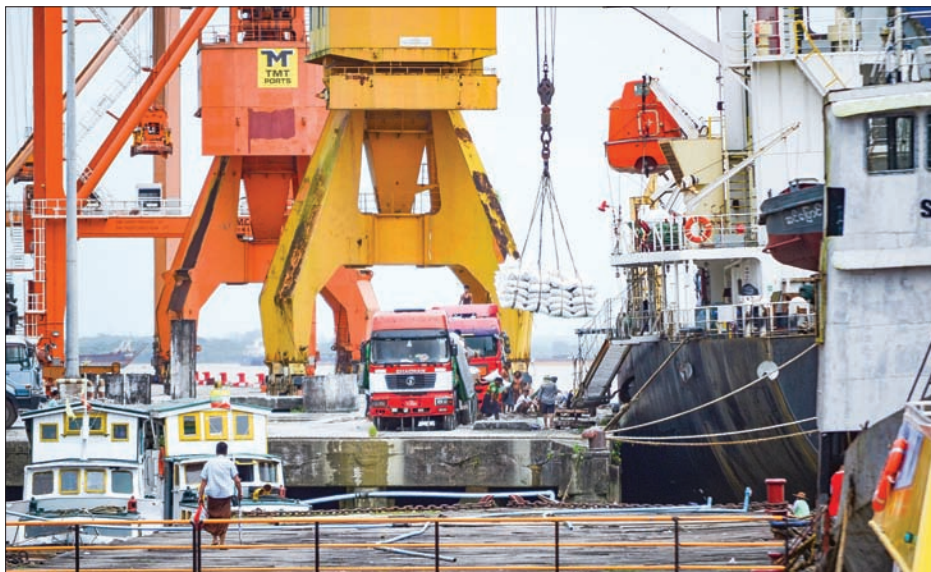


# More than 8,000 tonnes of fertilizers imported by sea

DOMESTIC importers bought more than 8,000 tonnes of fertilizer from foreign trade partners by sea between 26 November and 2 December, according to the Commerce Ministry.

When compared with the previous week before 26 November, the import volume of fertilizers decreased by over 14,420 tonnes. The country imported a total of 23,070 tonnes of fertilizers between 19 and 25 November.

During the aforesaid week, the country imported 2,000 tonnes of fertilizer from Germany, over 1,000 tonnes from Iran, 476 tonnes from South Korea, 98 tonnes from Norway, 1,050 tonnes from Pakistan, 3,490 tonnes from



Myanmar imported more than 23,090 tonnes of fertilizer between 19 and 20 Nov. by sea. **PHOTO: PHOE KHWAH**

Russia and 515 tonnes from Thailand. Myanmar usually imports compound fertilizer, nitrogen, foliar and urea from Europe, East and West Asia, and

Southeast Asia.

Demand for fertilizer has been on the rise in the country. One agriculturalists said that farmers should not rely too much

on chemical fertilizers, but instead systematically use natural fertilizer on their farms, to improve the health of farmland and consumers.—Chaw Su ■

# Border imports of motorbikes from neighbours decreased

MYANMAR imported a total of 7,359 motorbikes worth US\$3.396 million from China, India and Thailand via border trade camps in the last week of November, according to border trade authorities.

The current imports show a significant decline in the number of motorbikes against the previous week's total of 16,004. Border merchants say that motorbike imports from Muse and Myawady gates considerably decreased in the week between 25 November and 1 December. However, the imports of similar products from Kawthaung and Tamu

borders increased than that of previous week ending 24 November.

According to official figures, the country imported \$2.227 million worth of a different variety of 6,616 motorcycles from Muse, \$0.017 million worth of 10 motorbikes from Kawthaung, \$0.029 million worth of 24 motorbikes from Tamu and \$1.123 million worth of 209 motorbikes from Myawady trade zone in late November.

Myanmar predominantly conducts motorcycle imports from China, India and Thailand.—Swe Nyein ■

# Union Minister for Planning and Finance meets with Mandarinian entrepreneurs

IN order to discuss the matters of promoting export and import-substitution businesses, U Kyaw Win, Union Minister for Planning and Finance, met with entrepreneurs engaged in livestock, factories, vegetables and flower planting, transportation and food, cosmetics and medicine

at the Mandalay Region Chambers of Commerce and Industry in the morning of last Monday.

Mandalay Region Planning and Finance Minister U Myat Thu, director-general of the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA) U Aung Naing Oo,

and officials attended the meeting. Union Minister addressed the exploitation of natural resources and explained activities concerning export promotion, import substitution and development of small and medium enterprises.

Afterwards, he accepted reports submitted by

businessmen and officials from the respective departments. In the afternoon, he visited the Mandalay Myotha Industrial Park Project in Nganzun Township, Mandalay Region operating under the approval of the Myanmar Investment Commission (MIC).

This project was im-

plemented on 11,404 acres of land by six foreign enterprises and includes a golf yard, factories, warehouses, banks, a hospital, a school, market and residential buildings.

Much more foreign direct investments could be made into the park.—Myanmar News Agency ■

# High supply on pomelo causes price fall

The prices of pomelo have declined due to high supply and torrential rain in Mon state, according to a report in the Myawady Daily.

“This year, the rain is heavier than last year. Therefore, the local farmers pick up the fruits before the right time and sent to the market. There is not demand for the pomelo because we don't get the quality fruits,” said U Myint Thein, the chairman of the pomelo group. Although, pomelo from Mon state have good test and produce very well, the Myanmar pomelo cannot enter international market because of the lack of technical.

Currently, the pomelos from Mon state are selling mainly in Yangon and Mandalay regions. But, we are discussing to export pomelo to China legally next year. Pomelos are cultivated mainly in Mon State. It also grow in Yangon, Mandalay and Bago regions and, Kachin and Kayin states, it is learnt.—GNLM

## Yangon Metropolitan Development Public Co.,Ltd. Yangon Regional Government Expression of Interest

### Global Competition for submission of Master Plan and Detail Design of the Integrated Logistics Park and IWT Jetty

Interested Parties are invited for the submission of proposals which are to be selected in a design Global Competition format for the Overall Master Plan and Detailed Design of the Integrated Logistics Park and IWT Jetty which is under the management of the Yangon Regional Government located in Hlaing Thayar Township, Alae Village, Field plot no. (300/B), Kone Ywar Field, near Ngwe Pin Le Industrial Zone and Alae Village with which has a land area of approximately (200) acres. Interested Parties/Companies who are to draw up Master Plan and Detail Designs may purchase proposal forms at 50,000 Kyats each (Fifty Thousand Kyats only) are invited to submit the “Price Proposal” as per below.

- (1) Price Proposal form, rules and guidelines for proposal release date (22.12.2017)
- (2) Price Proposal submission date (1.1.2018)
- (3) Proposals to be submitted at:

Yangon Metropolitan Development  
Public Co.,Ltd. Office: Room (222),  
Yangon Regional Government Office

Yangon Metropolitan Development Public Co.,Ltd.  
Yangon Regional Government  
Ph no. 09-5015150

Email [thurane.aung@gmail.com](mailto:thurane.aung@gmail.com)  
(Any Queries will be answered within office hours)

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Dated 20<sup>th</sup> December 2017

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## Ginger to be cultivated in Rakhine State

THE local government is planning to cultivate ginger in Rakhine State as a pilot project with the cooperation of local entrepreneurs, according to the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI).

To be able to cultivate ginger in Rakhine State, the UMFCCI and Rakhine State Chambers of Commerce and Industry (RSCCI) will provide 1,000 viss of ginger seeds while the Myanmar Fruit, Flower and Vegetable Producers and Exporters Association (MFVP) will provide technical assistance. The groups are planning to cultivable several acres of ginger in four townships — Kyaukpyu, Ponnagyun, Buthidaung and Maung-taw — as a pilot project in Rakhine State with the investment of the Public Development Committee

in Kyauktaw Township and the Cooperative Society in Rakhine State. If the project is successful, they will extend the ginger cultivation project across Rakhine State, said U Aung Aung, the secretary of RSCCI. “Myanmar exports the ginger to Bangladesh and earns around US\$3 million annually. Currently, ginger is cultivated mainly in the southern part of Shan State. If our cultivation in Rakhine State is successful, we can export the ginger to Bang-

ladesh directly, which can reduce the transport fees”, he added. “Rakhine State has a favourable climate and environment for growing ginger. We have already had a ginger market in America, the Netherlands and Germany. But we could even fulfill demand from Bangladesh,” said U Kyaw Thu, the secretary of MFVP. An acre of ginger costs between Ks1 million to Ks15 million. An acre of ginger produces approximately 8,000 viss.—MNA ■



Rakhine government and UMFCCI members held a meeting to cultivate ginger in Rakhine State. **PHOTO: MNA**



Deputy Minister for Construction U Kyaw Lin and officials view the road construction site in Maungtaw, Rakhine State. **PHOTO: NAY WIN TUN**

## Deputy Minister U Kyaw Lin inspects house and roads construction

THE Deputy Minister for Construction U Kyaw Lin inspected the construction of houses and roads in Maungtaw, yesterday.

They inspected the paving of earthen Kyein Chaung-Goat Pi Road, which is 15 miles long. This road construction was constructed by No. 17 Special team, Road Department.

Then they went to the construction site of modular houses conducted by No. 14 Special Team, Road Department. The construction started in early December and is estimated to be completed by the end of January. The project involves 17 modular houses, each 90 feet long and 18 feet wide. The construction team has

already built three of these houses, it was learnt.

In the afternoon, the minister and party went to the Saing Din Bridge construction site, which is situated on Buthedaung-Kyauktaw Road, and Yathedaung Bridge construction, which is on the Yathedaung-Ponnagyun Road.—Myint Maung, Zayar ■

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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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Consignees of cargo carried on MV SINAR BANDA VOY. NO ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 20.12.2017 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.

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

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Consignees of cargo carried on MV MCC MERGUI VOY. NO ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 19.12.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P/M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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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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## Need to lift the major economic driving force

**I**N the national economic sphere, heavy industries occupy only one percent, with 99 percent occupied by SMEs, it was learnt. So, the SMEs are the major economic forces for national economic development and for improving economic capability.

It is explicitly described in the 12 points of the national economic policy that it needs to support SMEs which help the creation of job opportunities and economic development. The National-Level Central Committee had been formed to effectively support the SMEs in accord with SMEs development policies.

As SMEs have covered nearly the whole national economic sphere, concerted effort must be exerted to give necessary assistance to them so that one day some of them can grow bigger to transform themselves into becoming light industries and eventually become heavy industries. In the past, the SMEs managed to survive in their own way, that is, without any intervention the government.

Firstly, the capital resource is very important as the practical approach for SMEs' development, hence the need to systematically disburse the capital needed for the enterprise.

After promulgation of the SMEs Law in 2015, the Union Government has been helping these SMEs.

As SMEs are spreading across the nation, the momentum of the development of SMEs during the period of two years must be said to be still slow. To correct this situation, the Union Government, after studying the actual situation of the SMEs carefully, provided practical ways and means to upgrade SMEs.

It is firmly believed that long-lasting sustainable development will be achieved only if practical approaches can be found in performing the tasks of SMEs development. In this regard, systematic exploitation of our financial resources, human resources, institutional resources and natural resources will be critically important.

In a market economy, sustainable economic development can be achieved by managing to gain reasonable profits for some time, instead of gaining profits to the utmost. In strengthening the economic system, broad expansion of the market as much as possible with reasonable profits is more important than gaining too much profit.

Firstly, the capital resource is very important as the practical approach for SMEs' development, hence the need to systematically disburse the capital needed for the enterprise. According to the findings, there are more than 200,000 SMEs and domestic light industries across the nation, to lend money for their capital needs. Out of them, only a small number of SMEs received capital money at high interest rates, it was learnt. First of all, efforts must be made to increase financial resources from home and abroad so that the initial requirements can be fulfilled. Domestic output will surely increase by providing capital to over 200,000 businessmen at low interest rate and helping in the acquisition of technical assistance and better markets with the cooperation of other friendly countries.

We firmly believe that the development of SMEs will be successfully implemented by helping in the critical areas of capital formation, management training, technical know-how and good markets. ■

## Migrants As Well Belong to Our Human Society

By Maung Thaung Win  
[Ex-Diplomat]

**F**OOD, clothing and shelter are the most fundamental needs of human beings. Some people were born in peaceful and prosperous countries, with some born in warring nations and some in highly developed countries where they can get what they want. Some people were brought up in desert-covered countries where purified drinking water was not available adequately. Some luckily came into existences as human beings in the countries in which well-qualified governments govern their countries by taking responsibilities for giving unfortunally born in less-qualified dictator-governing countries. This can be said to be effects of Karma, according to Buddhism.

### Survival of the fittest

According to the saying, "Survival of the fittest," every human being has to struggle for their survival. Much as a mortal makes concerted effort for his survival in a warring country void of basic amenities—food, shelter and clothing, they will find it difficult even in getting a meager amount of meal daily. Accordingly, they decided to abandon their native lands, finding for greener pastures. At the risks of their lives they had to migrate. Such kinds of people moving from one place to another are called migrant workers.

### International Migrants Day

December 18 is the International Migrants Day. United Nations General Assembly laid down a charter to give protection for migrants and their families, on December 18, 1999. The charter came into action on 4th December 2000. With a view to sharing information of giving protection for migrants and acquisition of human rights for them, the United Nations Organization urged governments and NGOs to hold ceremonies of the International Migrants Day annually across the world.

### Sorrowful events met

Due to abject poverty, climate changes, increasing rate of bribery and corruption, burning civil wars and poor management of governing bodies, a whole slew of people including men, women, children and the aged were dis-



Myanmar migrant workers cross the border between Thailand and Myanmar by boat near the Thai port city of Ranong on 3 July. PHOTO: REUTERS

placed to other regions seeming to be fit for their survival, deciding to settle down there. On account of such exodus of migrants, some border areas in some countries are becoming overcrowded with homeless peoples. While going about in such a way, many people lost their lives, especially while crossing seas by boats. Migrants

from Libya are facing with risks of loss of lives more than others else. Some died from exploitation of traffickers in persons, in the sea. Family splits and other sorrowful events happened.

### Still under worries

Amounts of migrants are increasing annually. In 2000, there

were only 175 million migrants in the world, with in 2017 increasing up to 250 million. Out of them, nearly 90 million migrants went to Asia Continent. Currently, they are spreading across the world, it was said. Thus, global leaders are under worries concerning migrations.

Global countries are gaining

economic benefits from these migrants. Though the countries that receive these migrants are facing with benefits and losses in the short run, they will gain much benefit in the long run. They will experience shortage of skilled workers currently, but they must pay less, resulting in increase of their income. Migrants remit over US \$ 530 billion annually to their native lands, of them to developing countries US \$ 400 billion, according to the World Bank.

### Involvement of terrorists in migrants

With the inclusion of terrorists among the migrants arriving from the Middle East, terrorist attacks are increasing in EU countries, especially in Britain and France. So, they made restrictions over migrants. As a result, innocent migrants had to lose their lives at seas. What a loss of invaluable lives!

### Loss of lives

In 2017 alone, the amounts of lost lives in the Mediterranean Sea due to boat accidents amounted to over 2000 lives, with over 6000 drowned in 2016. It was a dreadful figure to the world.

There may be innocent children among victims. This was actually attributed to deeds of the greediest human traffickers, hence the need to take severely action against them.

### Migrants as well belong to our human society

In actuality, anyone regardless of race, religion, color or status is a human being. Just because of poverty and living under poor regime they had to migrate, as against their wish. So, instead of letting these people lose their lives at seas, arrangements for the systematic acceptance of the migrants after careful scrutiny should be made.

In brief, the United Nations Organization laid down the charter for protection of migrants and their families on 18th December 1999. In honor of the day the charter was approved, annually ceremonies of International Migrants Day are held across the world. With a view to giving protection for migrants, global leaders celebrate it. Whatever it is it would be better and pleasant for us to have sympathy and consideration over invaluable human beings. ■  
*Translated by Khin Maung Oo*

## New UN DESA report finds numbers of migrants continue to rise

THERE are now an estimated 258 million people living in a country other than their country of birth — an increase of 49% since 2000 — according to new figures released by UN DESA today, on International Migrants Day. The International Migration Report 2017 (Highlights), a biennial publication of the department, states that 3.4% of the world's inhabitants today are international migrants. This reflects a modest increase from a value of 2.8% in 2000. By contrast, the number of migrants as a fraction of the population residing in high-income countries rose from 9.6% in 2000 to 14% in 2017.

The report reviews the latest migration trends, assesses the demographic contribution of migration, examines the status of ratification of relevant conventions and summarizes recent developments on migration at the United Nations. The data presented in the report are based on national statistics, obtained from population censuses as well as population registers and nationally representative surveys.

International migration is a critical concern for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. On 19 September 2016, the General Assembly adopted the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants, in which UN Member States agreed to implement well-managed migration policies. They also committed to sharing more equitably the burden and responsibility for hosting and supporting the world's refugees, protecting the human rights of all migrants, and countering xenophobia and intolerance directed towards migrants. An international conference on migration will be convened in late 2018 for the purpose of adopting a Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration. "Reliable data and evidence are critical to combat misperceptions about migration and to inform migration policies", observed Mr. Liu Zhenmin, UN DESA's Under-Secretary-General. "These new estimates of numbers of international migrants around the world will provide an important baseline for Member States as they begin their negotiations on the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration."

The report shows that international migration makes an important contribution to population growth in many parts of the world and even reverses population decline in some countries or areas. Between 2000 and 2015, migration contributed 42% of the population growth in Northern America and 31% in Oceania. In Europe, the size of the total population would have declined during the period 2000-2015 in the absence of migration.

In 2017, around three quarters (74%) of all international migrants were of working age, or between 20 and 64 years of age, compared to 57% of the global population. Because international migrants comprise a larger proportion of working-age persons compared to the overall population, a net inflow of migrants lowers the dependency ratio, that is, the number of children and older persons compared to those of working age. In Africa, Asia, and Latin America and the Caribbean, the net impact of migration on population growth is negative in most countries but typically small compared to other population changes. In some small developing countries, however, the negative impact of outmigration on the size of the population can be substantial, especially among adults of working age. — United Nations ■

### 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](mailto: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



## Investigation carried out into 10 bodies found in Maungtaw

AN investigation into the discovery of 10 bodies found in Indin Village, Maungtaw Township began yesterday. Authorities and a medical team commenced a forensic investigation into the 10 bodies exhumed by security forces on 18 December.

The bodies were found in a mass grave after authorities acted on an anonymous tip-off, according to local police. The investigation is being conducted by a team comprised of the Medical Superintendent of Maungtaw Township Hospital, the Maungtaw Township Judge, officials from the Maungtaw District General Administration Department, and Indin police.

In a statement regarding the discovery of the mass grave, the Tatmadaw said action would be taken against those who were involved in the killings.

In conducting law en-

forcement measures to restore rule of law following the 25 August terrorist attacks by the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA) extremist terrorists in the area, security forces were ordered to follow rules of engagement, said the statement. "An investigation is being carried out to uncover the truth behind the grave," according to the statement released by the Office of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services.

In the terrorist attack, ARSA terrorists holding arms committed besieging and threatening villagers from ethnic villages, members of Myanmar Police Force, departmental personnel and members of the Sangha by chanting and raided the villages and police outposts where least police members were assigned one after another by fleshing torches at night. —Myanmar News Agency ■

## NCA signatories committed to achieving results at Union Peace Conference – 21<sup>st</sup> Century Panglong

Eight signatories to the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement agreed on five points at their five-day meeting in Chiang Mai, Thailand, in preparation for coming to the third session of the Union Peace Conference-21<sup>st</sup> Century Panglong.

"To achieve total peace in the country, we, eight ethnic armed groups, are determined to work hard and together to achieve good results at the Union Peace Conference," said Pado Saw Kwe Htoo Win, following the meeting of the Peace Process Steering Team (PPST) of eight ethnic armed groups and their work committees.

The meeting ended on Monday. During the five-day meeting, they discussed five sectors of political, security, social, economic, land and environment issues that will be submitted to the 3<sup>rd</sup> session of the Union Peace Conference – 21<sup>st</sup> Century Panglong.

"From the discussions in this meeting, relevant work committees are submitting sector-wise reports to the PPST meeting. These will be discussed and con-



Saw Mutu Sae Poe (Left) and Yawd Serk (Right) participate in the meeting of signatories to NCA in Chiang Mai. **PHOTO: AUNG AUNG (CHIANG MAI)**

firmed and then will be re-submitted to national-level political dialogue, where their thoughts and ideas will be combined", said Pado Saw Kwe Htoo Win.

"Decisions include 20 approvals, and four were documented. A decision also includes conducting more meetings to achieve success in political discussions. For success in establishing peace, there should be no obstructions or interferences when the signed organisations are conducting national-level discussions, region

and ethnic national-wise, which will be conducted by responsible leaders of the relevant groups", said Pado Saw Kwe Htoo Win.

The five agreements of the meeting include holding public consultations by respective ethnic armed organisations to seek suggestions from the public.

They also agreed to follow the decisions of the Union Peace Dialogue Joint Committee (UPD-JC) to make political dialogue and public consultations a success.—Ye Gaung Nyunt ■

## Road link between Sittway, Maungtaw to benefit local people

The Department of Bridges under the Ministry of Construction is building several bridges that will help regional development in Rakhine State.

Following is the interview with Deputy Administrator for Construction and officials visiting in Rakhine State.

**U Kyaw Lin, Deputy Minister for Construction**

Roads and bridges are being built in order to develop Buthidaung, Yathedaung and Maungtaw regions. First of all, the ministry issued designs and QC (quality control) to construct an 18-foot-wide concrete road conducted by Asia World Co., Ltd under the Union Enterprise for Humanitarian Assistance, Resettlement and Development in Rakhine (UEHRD). It is about 50 miles from Ahngu Maw to Maungtaw, and it can promote the development of the region. We are now paving two roads through Yoma. They are Kyauk Pnnu-Zayti Pyin Road and Kyein Chaung-Goat Pi Road. The main thing is that we are in urgent need of paving the motorway from Buthidaung

and Maungtaw regions, and from Sittway to Maungtaw. That's why we are paving the roads, which are about 95 miles long, towards Sittway, Punnagyun, Yathedaung, Buthidaung and Maungtaw, respectively. We are currently building five bridges at the same time. It has been learnt that arrangements are being made to finish the bridges in March. We can drive from Sittway to Maungtaw in March, 2018.

**U Ohn Lwin, Director General, Department of Highways**

We are conducting to pave two roads among the four roads, and these roads can lead to Mt. May Yu. The first road is Zayti Pyin-Indin-Kyauk Pannu, which are 10 miles and 7 furlongs long. We are using 28 mechanism cars, and going to build 75 bridges on the roads.

The second road is Kyein Chaung-Goat Pi, which is 15 miles long. We will arrange to build another 52 bridges on it. The width of the road is 34 feet. According to the budget allotment, another concrete road, which is 18 feet

long, will be built. It can improve the transportation system between the eastern and western parts of Mt. May Yu.

**U Khin Thet, Director General, Department of Village Development**

Our department is upgrading Buthidaung-Maungtaw Road, which is 46 miles and 5 furlongs long. The concrete road is one mile and 2 furlongs, and the rest of the seven-mile-road is an earthen one. We are trying to pave the road so it can be used during all seasons, because the bridges are still under construction. We are going to build another 49 small bridges so that we can go from one place to another without any difficulty.

**U Shaw Lay, Director General, Department of Bridges**

Our department is conducting to build five bridges on Ponnagyun-Yathedaung-Buthidaung-Maungyaw roads.

The bridges are scheduled to be completed by 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2018.—MNA ■



U Kyaw Lin. **PHOTO: MNA**



U Ohn Lwin. **PHOTO: MNA**



U Khin Thet. **PHOTO: MNA**



U Shaw Lay. **PHOTO: MNA**



# Poland confers Honorary Doctorate on U Phyo Min Thein

The University of Information Technology and Management in Rzeszow, Poland, conferred an Honorary Doctorate in Business Administration on U Phyo Min Thein, Yangon Region Chief Minister, on Monday, acknowledging his efforts for reforms and improvement of Yangon.

Officials of the university conferred the doctorate on U Phyo Min Thein at his residence in Yangon.

"I hope this award becomes

a driving force for reforms in Myanmar," said U Phyo Min Thein.

"The University of Information Technology and Management in Rzeszow, Poland, is monitoring those who are taking part in reforms and business administration and evaluating those who are able to carry out those reforms," said U Phyo Min Thein.

The university also invited the Yangon Region Chief Minister to give a speech at the university.— Min Thit (MNA)



U Phyo Min Thein, Yangon Region Chief Minister, accepts the Honorary Doctorate in Business Administration conferred by the University of Information Technology and Management in Rzeszow, Poland. **PHOTO: MNA**

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Dated 20<sup>th</sup> December 2017 hh@kcyangon.com





The Royal Navy's aircraft carrier HMS Queen Elizabeth is docked the day it was commissioned by Britain's Queen Elizabeth in Portsmouth on 7 December, 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

## Britain's new 3 billion pound warship has a leak

LONDON — Britain's biggest ever warship, the new 3.1 billion pound (\$4.2 billion) aircraft carrier HMS Queen Elizabeth, has a leak and needs repairs, the Ministry of Defence (MoD) said on Tuesday.

The 65,000-tonne ship, hailed as Britain's most advanced military vessel and which was only officially commissioned by the queen two weeks ago, has an issue with a shaft seal which was identified during sea trials, the MoD said.

"This is scheduled for

repair while she is alongside at Portsmouth," a Royal Navy spokesman said. "It does not prevent her from sailing again and her sea trials program will not be affected."

The Sun newspaper reported that the 280-metre (920-foot) warship, the nation's future flagship vessel, was letting in 200 liters of water every hour and the fix would cost millions of pounds.

A defence source said the navy was aware the ship, which took eight years to build, had an is-

sue when it was handed over by manufacturers and the Sun said the builders would have to foot the repair bill.

The Aircraft Carrier Alliance — a consortium including British engineering companies BAE Systems and Babcock, and the UK division of France's Thales — built the Queen Elizabeth and its sister aircraft carrier, the HMS Prince of Wales, as part of a 6.2 billion pound project.

"It's normal practice for a volume of work and defect resolution to contin-

ue following vessel acceptance," BAE Systems said in a statement. "This will be completed prior to the nation's flagship re-commencing her programme at sea in 2018."

Chris Parry, a former senior Royal Navy officer, said all ships took on water.

"That's why you have pumps," he told Sky News. "When you get a brand new car not everything's perfect, you have to send it back to the garage to get a few things tweaked. This is exactly in that bracket." —Reuters ■

## Speeding train derails on new route in Washington state, killing three

DUPONT, Washington—An Amtrak train derailed on Monday as it took a corner on a new stretch of track in Washington state at more than twice the speed limit, sending passenger cars tumbling from a bridge and killing at least three people.

The train was on its inaugural run on a faster route from Seattle to Portland, Oregon, when 13 of its 14 cars jumped the tracks and tumbled onto a major highway near the town of DuPont.

In addition to the three fatalities, about 100 people were taken to nearby hospitals, of whom 10 had serious injuries, Washington State Patrol spokeswoman Brooke Bova told a news conference.

Seven motor vehicles were also involved in the accident, and fragments of the bridge were left scattered on the highway.

Some motorists were injured but none died, authorities said.

Amtrak said there were people 86 aboard the train, 80 of them passengers.

Officials with the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) said late on Monday that a data recorder recovered from a rear locomotive showed the train was traveling 80 miles (130 km) per hour in a 30 mile-per-hour zone when it jumped the track at a curve leading up to the bridge.

NTSB spokeswoman Bella Dinh-Zarr told reporters it was too early to tell if the train's speed contributed to the derailment. But the accident seems likely to intensify concerns about railroad company's safety record, which was already under scrutiny following a series of fatal incidents.

—Reuters ■



Rescue personnel and equipment are seen working into darkness at the scene where an Amtrak passenger train derailed on a bridge over interstate highway I-5 in DuPont, Washington, US on 18 December, 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

### Yangon Metropolitan Development Public Co.,Ltd Yangon Regional Government Invitation for Tender

Interested Parties for the submission of proposals which are to be selected in a competition format are invited to participate for the renovation/ rehabilitation and ensuring the strength and reusability of the former office building of the Ministry of Hotel and Tourism (Tourist Burma) while maintaining the building's heritage and history. Overall Master Plan and Architectural Design for the development of the Mixed Used Project which will include Rental Housing, Residential and Commercial Building under the management of the Yangon Regional Government located in Kyauktada Township, Sule Pagoda Road, No. ( 77/91 ).

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| (1) Application form and rules for proposal release date | (20.12.2017)  |
| (2) Drawings, designs, models submission date            | (19.1.2018)   |
| (3) Proposals to be submitted at :                       | Yangon Metropolitan Development Public Co.,Ltd. Office: Room (222)<br>Yangon Regional Government Office |

Yangon Metropolitan Development Public Co.,Ltd.  
Yangon Region Government  
Ph no. 09-975545595  
[psoetun@gmail.com](mailto:psoetun@gmail.com)  
(Any Queries will be answered within office hours)

### Yangon Metropolitan Development Public Co., Ltd. Yangon Regional Government Invitation for submission of Master Plan and Architectural Design

Interested Parties are invited for the submission of proposals which are to be selected in a design competition format for the Overall Master Plan and Architectural Design for the development of the Mixed Used Development Project which will include Rental Housing, Residential and Commercial buildings under the management of the Yangon Regional Government located in Pazundaung Township, Ward No.(3) Pya Taw Thit Housing Estate, Land measurement Ward no.(71), Lower Pazundaung Road, Land Plot No.(5A,14A,32)with a land area of (4.362)acres.

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| (1) Application form and rules for proposal release date | (20.12.2017)  |
| (2) Drawings, designs, models submission date            | (5.2.2018)  |
| (3) Proposals to be submitted at:                        | Yangon Metropolitan Development Public Co.,Ltd.Office: Room (222),<br>Yangon Regional Government Office |

Yangon Metropolitan Development Public Co.,Ltd.  
Yangon Region Government  
Ph no.09-5015150, 09-5004944  
[Thurane.aung@gmail.com](mailto:Thurane.aung@gmail.com), [psoetun@gmail.com](mailto:psoetun@gmail.com)  
(Any Queries will be answered within office hours)



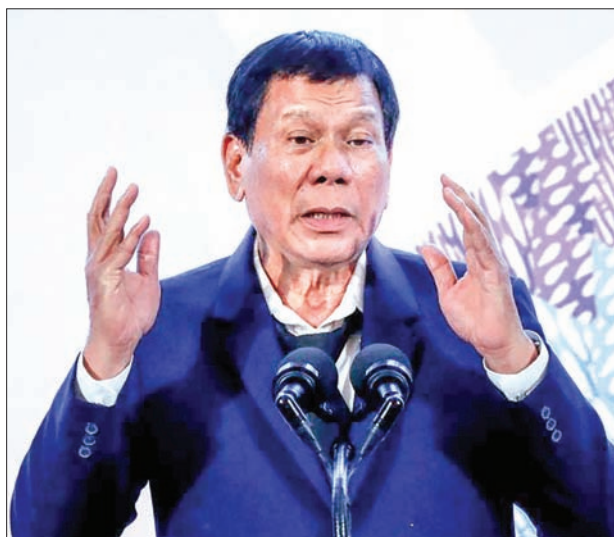
# Philippines withdraws bid for US grant, says unrelated to rights

MANILA — The Philippines said on Tuesday it has withdrawn an application for a second grant from a US aid agency, the Millennium Challenge Corp (MCC), after getting an initial five-year \$434 million grant in 2010 aimed at reducing poverty.

Such grants require counterpart funding from the Philippines for MCC-financed projects, but presidential spokesman Harry Roque said the government wanted to channel resources into rebuilding Marawi, a southern city devastated in fighting between the military and Islamist insurgents this year.

“It was deemed that for the time being, we will withdraw our application for the second cycle and we will focus instead on the rebuilding of Marawi,” Roque said.

“We have to re-allocate our resources and priority to the rebuilding of Marawi.”



Philippines' President Rodrigo Duterte Rodrigo Duterte. PHOTO: REUTERS

The issue of aid has been contentious in the Philippines of late, with President Rodrigo Duterte objecting to donors attaching conditions to their help, and especially to any expressions of concern about human rights.

Nearly 4,000 people have been killed by police since June last year. Police reject allegations they are

executing drug users and dealers and say killings were all in self-defence.

Several thousand other people have been killed in mysterious circumstances, with the police usually attributing those deaths to gang violence.

In August, the MCC upheld the eligibility of the Philippines to secure a fresh grant, after initial-

ly deferring a vote on its re-selection for help amid concern about the staggering death toll in Duterte's ferocious war on drugs.

The Southeast Asian country's graft-fighting efforts are also on the spotlight after it fell short of the “control of corruption” target on the MCC's scorecard.

But Roque was quick to point out that the decision to withdraw the application for another MCC grant had nothing to do with such issues.

He said the government would “probably” apply for another MCC grant in future. This year, his government rejected about 250 million euros (\$295 million) in European Union grants. Officials of the MCC, which describes itself on its website as an independent US foreign aid agency created by the US Congress in 2004, were not available for comment. —Reuters

# Thai PM says it will lift ban on politics, paving way for election

BANGKOK—Thai Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha said on Tuesday he would use a special order that gives the military sweeping powers to lift a ban on political activity that has been in place since a 2014 coup, paving the way for a 2018 general election.

Major political parties had urged the government for months to lift the ban to allow parties to prepare for the vote and the announcement won some applause from government critics.

Prayuth, who is also head of the junta, has said that Thailand will hold an election in November 2018 — news that was largely welcomed by investors in Southeast Asia's second-biggest economy. “The government will have to use Article 44 to solve this problem (political activity deadlock),” Prayuth told reporters, referring to a constitutional clause that grants

the military absolute powers. Prayuth did not say when the order would take effect.

According to the usual procedure, executive orders must be published in the Royal Gazette before they can become law.

Thanawut Wichaidit, spokesman for the red-shirt United Front of Democracy Against Dictatorship which opposes military rule and has made statements critical of the junta, said the announcement was “the first step for elections and democracy”.

“It's definitely a good thing,” he said, adding that the junta should also lift a ban on public gatherings. The military has been running Thailand since the May 2014 coup when it ousted the civilian government of Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra, ending years of political turmoil, including pro- and anti-government street protests.—Reuters

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For General Mills, Inc.,

C/o Kelvin Chia Yangan Ltd,

Level 8A, Union Financial Centre (UFC),

Corner of Mahabandoola Road & Thein Phyu Road,

Botahtaung Township, Yangon,

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Dated 20<sup>th</sup> December 2017

lmm@kcyangon.com

## MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS MYANMA RAILWAYS

### INVITATION TO OPEN TENDER

Opened Tender is invited by Myanmar Railways, Ministry of Transport and Communications, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar from reputed manufacturers or their bona fide agents from the Republic of India for the supply and delivery of the following:-

Sr No	Tender No	Description	Tender Issuing Date	Tender Closing Date and Time	Tender Document Fee(per set)
1	16/MR/INDIA (E)2017-2018	(1) <u>Track Recording Car EM 80</u> (1)No Recommended 10% Spare Parts for No.1 (1)Lot (2) <u>Small Track Maintenance Machineries</u> - Rail Drill Machine (70)Nos - Rail Cutting Machine (70)Nos - Hand Tie Tamper(4 Tamping tools and 2.3 KVA Generator) (60)Sets Recommended 10% Spare Parts for No.2 (1)Lot	20.12.2017	20.2.2018 (14:30)Hr	US\$ 100

Tender Documents are Only available at the Office of the Deputy General Manager (Supply), Supply Department, Myanmar Railways, Corner of 51<sup>st</sup> Street and Merchant Street, Botahtaung Township, Yangon, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar during office hours on payment of non refundable fee as stated above. Further enquiries about tender can be made to Deputy General Manager(Supply), Supply Department, Myanmar Railways by fax to (Fax No. 95-1-291994, 95-67-77016) or by phone to (95-1-291991, 95-1-291985) during office hours.

Bids are to reach th office of the Deputy General Manager (Supply), Supply Department, Myanmar Railways, Corner of 51<sup>st</sup> Street and Merchant Street, Botahtaung Township, Yangon, Myanmar on or before the Closing Date and Time.

All Bid not accompanied by earnest money (Bid Bond) will not (not) be considered. No Telegraphic/Telex/Fax/email proposal will be considered or accepted.

Myanmar Railways reserves the right to reject any or all tenders without furnishing reasons. Tender will be accepted only from Bidder who has purchased Tender Documents officially.

The above Goods are to be purchased by the proceeds of the loan from the Government of the Republic of India

Managing Director, Myanmar Railways

Ministry of Transport and Communications, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar

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# Luke Bryan's 'What Makes You Country' debuts at No 1

LOS ANGELES — Luke Bryan's "What Makes You Country" album debuted in the top spot this week on the Billboard 200 chart, giving the country singer his fourth No 1 album.

According to Nielsen Music data released on Monday, Bryan sold more than 107,000 units of the album during a week in which Irish band U2 plummeted from last week's top spot to 13<sup>th</sup> place with "Songs Of Experience."

In a week of few new releases, chart favourites Taylor Swift and Ed Sheeran moved up to second and third places, respectively, on the Billboard 200. Swift's "Reputation," released in November, added another 99,000 in sales, while British singer Sheeran's March release "Divide" sold more than 69,000 copies for the week.

The Billboard 200 chart tallies units from album sales, song sales (10 songs equal one album) and streaming activity (1,500 streams equal one album).

Sheeran's love song "Perfect" again dominated the digital songs chart, which measures online single sales, thanks to a newly released collaboration

with Beyonce. "Perfect" sold another 97,000 units to keep the No 1 spot.

Among other new album releases, the "Double or Nothing" collaboration between rap-

pers Big Sean and Metro Boomin debuted at No 5, while the rap compilation album "Quality Control: Control the Streets, Vol 1," featuring various artists, arrived at No 6. — Reuters ■



Luke Bryan. PHOTO: REUTERS

# ESPN President Skipper resigns to deal with substance addiction

LOS ANGELES — Walt Disney Co's (DIS. N) John Skipper resigned on Monday as president of ESPN, the company's most important network, due to a problem with addiction.

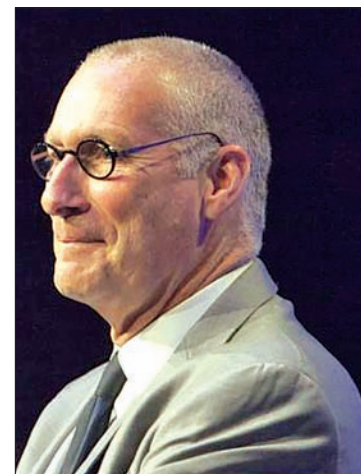
"I have struggled for many years with a substance addiction," Skipper, who was also Disney Media Networks co-chairman, said in a statement. "I have decided that the most important thing I can do right now is to take care of my problem." (espn/2kgmnCb)

George Bodenheimer will be the sports network's acting chairman for the next 90 days, ESPN said in a statement. He had been its president from 1998 to 2011 and executive chairman until May 2014.

An ESPN spokeswoman declined to comment on who may be considered as Skipper's successor.

Skipper's departure comes within a few days after Disney struck a deal to buy film, television and international businesses from Rupert Murdoch's Twenty-First Century Fox Inc (FOXA.O) for \$52.4 billion.

Skipper, who became ESPN president in 2012, has led the



John Skipper. PHOTO: REUTERS

network to a series of long-term distribution agreements with major rights holders, including the National Basketball Association and Major League Baseball.

But ESPN has also struggled with subscriber losses and ratings declines. Last month, it said it would lay off about 150 employees.

Disney Chief Executive Officer Bob Iger, who extended his stay at the company through 2021 to oversee integration of Fox's businesses, lauded Skipper's candor and backed his decision. Disney shares were down 0.2 per cent at \$111.09 on Monday afternoon. — Reuters ■

# Plummer brings on the charm in reshot 'All the Money in the World'

LOS ANGELES — When director Ridley Scott decided to remove Kevin Spacey from his film "All the Money in the World" and reshoot it with Christopher Plummer, he did not just pull off an extraordinary feat.

Plummer's performance as US oil billionaire J Paul Getty also subtly changed the tone of the movie about the sensational 1973 kidnapping of Getty's 16-year-old grandson.

"There is a coolness to Kevin. That's his style, even when he's being emotional," Scott said in an interview. "This man (Plummer) has enormous charm, and when you apply that charm to such, sometimes really hard, words, it makes it much more interesting," he said. Part biography and part thriller, "All the Money in the World" dramatizes the kidnapping in Italy of John Paul Getty III and his grandfather's refusal to pay a \$17 million ransom despite being the richest man in the world. In

a rare move, Scott announced in November that he would reshoot the finished film with Plummer after allegations of sexual misconduct against Spacey, saying he feared negative publicity would damage the film's prospects.

Spacey issued an apology for the first reported incident, involving actor Anthony Rapp. He has since been accused of misconduct by more than 30 men and dropped from the next season of Netflix TV series "House of Cards." Reuters has been unable to verify the allegations against Spacey. The Oscar-winning actor is seeking unspecified treatment, and a representative on Monday did not respond to a request for comment. The Sony Pictures movie, now starring Plummer along with original cast members Michelle Williams and Mark Wahlberg, will be released in Europe later this week and in the United States on 25 December.

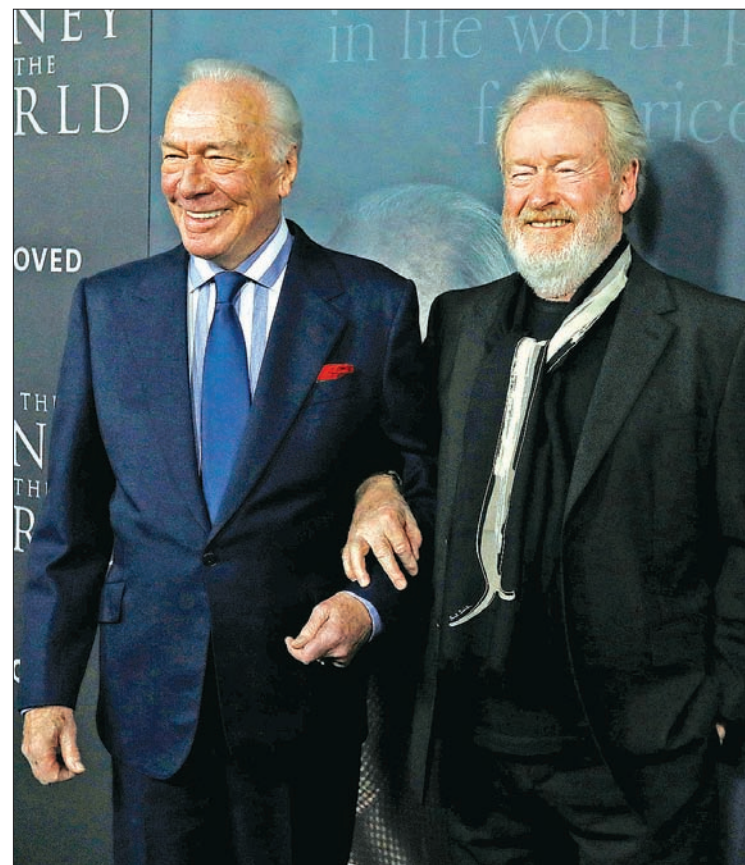
Plummer, 88, sought to bring

humanity to Getty, although he said he "made no pretense at research" for the role ahead of a nine-day reshoot in London and Rome in mid-November. He did not see Spacey's original scenes.

"I had to follow the writing, all in a very short space of time," Plummer said. "I saw him more vulnerable than the script suggested ... so he would have some dimension and some humanity."

Plummer, Scott and Williams were nominated last week for Golden Globe awards.

Scott said he was initially drawn to the project not so much because of the kidnapping by the 'Ndrangheta, the Calabrian mafia, who cut off their victim's ear, but because of the elder Getty. "He's an enigmatic character who isolated himself through wealth. When somebody becomes that wealthy, all the friends start evaporating, so he was an isolated individual," the British director said. Getty died in 1976. — Reuters ■



Director Ridley Scott (R) and cast member Christopher Plummer pose at the premiere for "All the Money in the World" in Beverly Hills, California, US on 18 December, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS



# Fifty Chinese couples marry in mass ceremony in Sri Lanka

COLOMBO — Fifty couples from China tied the knot in the Sri Lankan capital on Sunday in a mass wedding ceremony, conducted in the island's Buddhist traditions, as the island aims to woo more tourists.

The couples included newly-weds as well as already married couples aiming to re-dedicate their marriages, officials said.

Some were dressed in the traditional attire of Sri Lanka's mountainous central region while others wore Chinese or Western clothes at the main ceremony in the central Colombo area.

"There'll be many more couples who want to come here and celebrate true marriages from China and other parts of the world," Tourism Minister John Amararatunga told Reuters.

"It'll be an opening to say Sri Lanka is the best destination for foreigners." Chinese tourist arrivals in Sri Lanka have been rising

and now account for around 13 per cent of the two million tourists a year who visit the country, second only to the number of Indian visitors, official data show.

Tourism accounts for around 5 per cent of gross domestic product and arrivals this year have already reached about 2.3 million.

China is pouring hundreds of millions of dollars into Sri Lanka for major infrastructure projects and Colombo is one of the major partners in Beijing's "One Belt One Road" project.

"This is a beautiful country. We love the traditional ceremony," bridegroom Wei Ying Nang, 28, told Reuters after the wedding, standing beside his wife, who was dressed in a white wedding frock while he wore a suit.

Alice Wu, dressed in a golden sari from Sri Lanka's mountainous region, said she was interested in the culture since she studied traditional Kandyan dancing in



Chinese wedding couples take part during a mass wedding ceremony for fifty Chinese couples in Colombo, Sri Lanka on 17 December, 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

Sri Lanka three years ago.  
Her husband, 25-year old

Henry Liu, wore a traditional red costume resembling the dress of the ancient kings of Sri Lanka. —Reuters ■

## Tokyo zoo celebrates panda cub Xiang Xiang's public debut

TOKYO — Tokyo's Ueno zoo on Monday held an event celebrating the impending public debut of giant panda cub Xiang Xiang, inviting some 130 guests, including the wife of the Chinese ambassador to Japan, to mark the occasion.

"I hope that Xiang Xiang will grow in good health and become an envoy of peace and friendship," said Wang Wan, the wife of Chinese Ambassador to Japan Cheng Yonghua. China began gifting pandas to Japan in 1972 when bilateral ties were restored after World War II.

"I also hope that children in areas affected by the (2011) Great East Japan Earthquake will have the opportunity to meet Xiang Xiang," she said.

After the ceremony, guests and some lucky children got the opportunity to see Xiang Xiang a day before her much-awaited public debut with mother Shin Shin. "It is my honour and joy to be able to share this occasion with the public for the first time in 29 years," Yutaka Fukuda, head of the Ueno Zoological Gardens, said after receiving a gift of a panda figurine from Wang.

The last time a giant panda born at the zoo went on show for the first time was in 1988 when a cub named Yu Yu was unveiled.

After seeing the cub on Mon-

day, Tokyo Gov. Yuriko Koike told the press, "She has a lot of energy. She showed us her cute bottom climbing in a tree and held bamboo in her mouth."

Xiang Xiang, fathered by Ri Ri and born approximately six months ago, has fattened up, going from her 147-gram birth weight to over 12 kilograms, according to the zoo.

The zoo conducted a lottery to allocate times for up to 2,000

daily visitors. The cub will be on display for two-and-a-half hours per day until 31 January, with the zoo restricting numbers in order to avoid overwhelming Xiang Xiang.

Due to the over 247,000 applications received, the zoo installed a live video feed from inside Xiang Xiang's enclosure so that those who missed out can still get a look at the zoo's newest star. —Kyodo News ■



Giant panda cub Xiang Xiang climbs a tree at Tokyo's Ueno zoo on 18 December, 2017, during a special preview ahead of her public debut the following day. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**

## Thangka collection on display in Israel

LANZHOU — A collection of thangkas, or traditional Tibetan Buddhist scroll paintings, has been put on display for the first time in Israel from Monday.

About 100 thangkas are displayed, in the city of Haifa, for three days to show the essence and style of Tibetan thangkas and culture.

"The collection on display is an encyclopedia of the thangka art form. It allows the Israeli public to appreciate the unique Chinese art form at close range,"

said Gesang Chi, manager of a Tibetan culture company in the Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture of Gannan in northwest China's Gansu Province, which owns the scrolls. The exhibition will also feature Tibetan songs and dances by artists from Gannan.

Thangka is a form of silk painting that dates back to the Tibetan Tubo Kingdom 1,200 years ago. It was listed as a UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity in 2009. —Xinhua ■

## Foreign visitors to USJ top 2 million for 1<sup>st</sup> time in 2017 Category

OSAKA — The number of foreign visitors to movie theme park Universal Studios Japan in Osaka topped 2 million on Tuesday for the first time in a calendar year, operator USJ Co said.

The number has doubled since 2014 when 1 million tourists flocked to the park's newly opened area based on the "Harry Potter" film series. Most foreign tourists who visit are from other parts of Asia, such as China, South Korea, Taiwan and Hong Kong, making the park which opened in 2001 a major draw for Osaka, USJ said.

The operator attributed the surge in visitors to the successful

opening in April of a new area which features the diminutive yellow Minion characters from the "Despicable Me" movie franchise. Other attractions such as rides and shops also proved popular among foreigners, it said.

On Tuesday, two Singaporean families were recognized as the 200-millionth foreign visitors to USJ and the park gifted them special passes that allowed priority access to attractions. "In addition to the rides, goods only sold in Japan and hospitality services are popular so we want to continue spreading our information abroad," said a USJ official. —Kyodo News ■



# Coordination meeting on youth football competitions held

By Kyaw Zin Tun

A COORDINATION meeting for the 2018 football events including the Grassroots Program, the Regional U-14 and the University Football Tournament was held yesterday afternoon at the Myanmar Football Federation (MFF) Meeting Room, Novotel Yangon Max in Kamayut Township, Yangon.

In the meeting, they discussed matters regarding the university-level football competition, the U-14 competition and the Grassroots Program. Myanmar National League and MPT jointly organise the Grassroots Program, Regional U-14 & University Football Tournament.

Present at the meeting were Director-General Dr Khaing Myae, Deputy Director-General U Kyaw San, Deputy Director-General U Tun Yi, Rector Dr Tin Maung Hla, Dep-

uty Director-General Daw Khin Mar Swe, Assistant Director U Aye Min, Marketing General Manager of MPT Joint Operation U Kyaw Thet, Senior Staff Level 3 MPT Joint Operation U Ye Aung Bo, sport head U Zaw Min, associate general secretary U Tin Myint Aung, Myanmar National League COO U Sue Aung, MFF Youth Development in charge U Win Thu Moe and related officials.

According to the discussions in the meeting, the MPT University Cup 2018 will be held from 1 to 12 February in Taunggyi, from 18 February to 2 March in Mawlamyine, from 17 February to 1 March in Patheingyi, from 20 June to 2 July in Mandalay and Yangon.

The MFF-MPT Grassroots Festival 2018 will also be held in Taunggyi, Mandalay, Monywa, Bago, Mawlamyine, Rakhine, Patheingyi and Yangon.

The MFF-MPT Grassroots Festival 2018 will take place from 11 to 13 June in Taunggyi, from 2 to 4 July in Mandalay, from 5 to 8 August in Monywa, from 12 to 14 August in Bago, from 1 to 3 September in Mawlamyine, 4 to 7 October in Rakhine, 24 to 26 October in Patheingyi and 5 to 7 November in Yangon.

The MPT Youth U-14 Tournament 2018 will take place from 14 to 29 June in Taunggyi, from 5 to 19 July in Mandalay, from 21 August to 4 September in Monywa, from 15 to 29 August in Bago, from 3 to 17 September in Mawlamyine, 8 to 22 October in Rakhine, 27 October to 10 November in Patheingyi and 8 to 22 November in Yangon. ■



# Ex-Australia coach Postecoglou takes over at J-League's Marinos

HONG KONG — Former Australia coach Ange Postecoglou has been appointed as the new head coach of Japan's Yokohama F Marinos, the J-League club announced on Tuesday.

Postecoglou resigned from his position at the helm of the Socceroos after guiding them through playoffs against Syria and Honduras to qualify for the finals of next year's World Cup in Russia. The 52-year-old replaces Erik Mombaerts, who will leave the club when his contract expires at the end of the month. "I am excited to be moving to Japan and returning to club football," Postecoglou said in a statement issued by the club.

"Coaching Yokohama F Marinos will be a great challenge and I am very much looking forward to working with the club's players, and young players in particular, to achieve success."

Postecoglou previously led Brisbane Roar to two A-League titles before being appointed the Socceroos coach in the

build-up to the 2014 World Cup after Germany's Holger Osieck was fired. Australia exited the competition in Brazil at the end of the group stage, but Postecoglou was credited with rejuvenating an aging squad and then steered the country to their first Asian Cup title in 2015 when they beat South Korea in the final.

"Ange Postecoglou is an excellent coach, with an attractive and entertaining style of football which will suit our approach," said Marinos President Koichiro Furukawa.

"At the Marinos, we are committed to developing players and Ange has a very strong record in doing this. We are confident that he is the perfect choice to take us forward." —Reuters ■

# MFF Futsal Open Cup 2018 to be held in March

THE MFF Futsal Open Cup 2018 will kick off on 1 March, 2018 in Yangon, supervised by Myanmar Football Federation (MFF).

Teams that want to participate in the competition can register at the MFF from 15

January to 15 February. The format for the competition will be determined after it is learnt how many teams will be participating.

The teams from other regions and states will be given

accommodations by the MFF.

Further inquiries about the MFF Futsal Open Cup 2018 can be made to MFF executive U Kyi Min Thein at 0973008786. — Kyaw Zin Tun ■

# Sigurdsson stunner for Everton sinks Swansea at Goodison

LONDON — Everton continued their revival under Sam Allardyce with a 3-1 win over bottom club Swansea City that moved them up to ninth place in the Premier League on Monday.

Everton had gone behind in the first half but recovered to take a 2-1 lead in the 64th minute when Gylfi Sigurdsson, a close-season signing from Swansea, beat goalkeeper Lukasz Fabianski with a perfectly struck shot into the far corner.

A 73rd minute Wayne Rooney penalty wrapped up the win after Martin Olsson was ruled to have brought down Jonjo Kenny.

Swansea, who lost striker Wilfried Bony to injury after four minutes and have now lost their last six away games, had taken a surprise lead in the 35th when Leroy Fer lost his marker and

netted a Tom Carroll corner from close range.

Everton got on level terms just before halftime when Wayne Rooney's penalty kick was pushed against

the post by Fabianski but Dominic Calvert-Lewin was on hand to drive in the rebound. — Reuters ■



Everton's Gylfi Sigurdsson.  
PHOTO: REUTERS