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Oral examinations were taken by 210 venerable Sanghas and 170 venerable Sanghas sat for written examinations at the 70th Tipitakadhara Tipitaka Kovida Selection Examination yesterday in Yangon. The testing ensures propagation of Buddhist teachings. **PHOTO: MNA**

70th Tipitakadhara Tipitaka Kovida Selection Exam opens

An opening ceremony for the 70th Tipitakadhara Tipitaka Kovida Selection Examination was held yesterday morning in Vizaya Mingala Dhamma Thabin, Kaba Aye Hill, Yangon.

First, Ovadacariya (patron)

chairman of Tipitakadhara Tipitaka Kovida selection group, Hlinethaya Township Sasana Gonyi monastery Sayadaw Abhidhaja Maharattha Guru Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Pyinyatethara Bhivamsa gave the

five precepts to the audience and then the audience listened to the sermons and recitation of paritta by the sayadaws and sanghas.

Next, State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Chairman

Mandalay Township, Bhamo monastery Sayadaw Abhidhaja Maharattha Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotika Dr. Bhaddanta Kumara Bhivamsa delivered a message.

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200,000 children vaccinated against Japanese encephalitis in Rakhine State

MORE than 200,000 children between the ages of nine months and 5 years in 17 townships in Rakhine State received inoculations against Japanese encephalitis during the vaccination campaign which started on 11 December.

More than 40,000 children in border areas and far-flung areas of Rakhine State were also immunised from the debilitating mosquito-borne disease.

The vaccination campaign began on 11 December and ran through 20 December.

According to the Rakhine State Health Department, more than 48,100 children from Sitway District, more than 65,900 from Mrauk-U District, 57,900 from Maungtaw District, 39,300 from Kyaukpyu District and 23,000 from Thandwe District have been vaccinated by the department's mobile medical teams.

The ministry targets a total of 14 million children to get vaccinated during the campaign.

The Japanese Encephalitis virus is maintained in a cycle involving mosquitoes and vertebrate hosts, mainly pigs and wading birds. Humans can be infected when bitten by an infected mosquito.

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YOUR HEALTH IS OUR SPECIALITY

Dr. Baddhanta Kumarabhivamsa delivers admonition at Opening of 70th Tipitaka Kovida Selection Exam

Following is the full text of the admonition of Sayadaw Dr. Baddhanta Kumarabhivamsa.

Dr. Baddhanta
Kumarabhivamsa

On behalf of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee, I would hereby like to address the admonitory note to the candidates who are going to sit for the 70th Tipitaka Kovida Selection Examination, the Reverend Sayadaws from the Institutes of Buddhist Studies in Regions and States who are accompanying the candidates to provide necessary assistance in taking exam, and devout Buddhist laypersons headed by the Union Government.

According to the Buddhist Canon, during the period of the Buddha Sasana/Era provided that Vinaya/codes for monks to abide by survive the disappearance of Sutta/stories or parables and Abhidhamma/deep and sober teaching of Buddha, the period of Buddha's Era will

remain intact. This is the Life of the Sasana.

Vinaya/codes for monks to abide by are in reality the admonitions of our Lord Buddha. Sasana has such codes for monks to follow. Similarly, in human society as well there are the fundamental Five Precepts for human beings to keep, that is, ethics. Had a monk or a lay person kept the rules and regulations, Sasana/Buddha's Teachings will remain in him.

According to the belief conceived in their minds that Vinaya is the Life of Buddhist's Teaching and their by-rote-learning, we are well convinced that the candidates are extremely eager to be good at Buddhist Literature. Accordingly, texts for the exams are prescribed for the candidates to easily pass the exam.

The candidates are going to perform the tasks of religious duties in the near future. Being the

actual religious guardians of the Buddha Sasana, we firmly believe that you can do well in the exam.

Keeping in your mind that you are the guardians protecting the Buddha Sasana, you are required to take the exams, written and oral, with great rejoicing.

The audience present at the ceremony as well, led by the Union Government, should be pleased and happy to have an access to the ceremony, being those who have been destined to do such a meritorious deeds.

Just because you met with the Buddha Sasana, you—Sangha and Donors have already had the meritorious benefits. Due to the wholesome deeds, may all the candidates do well in the exam, may Myanmar be peaceful and prosperous and all Union citizens gain good merits and ultimately reach Nibanna.—Myanmar News Agency ■

(Unofficial Translation)



Bhaddanta Dr. Baddhanta Kumarabhivamsa. PHOTO: MNA

Implementation committee meets on recommendations of Rakhine Advisory Commission

THE committee charged with implementing the recommendations of the Advisory Commission on Rakhine State held a coordination meeting yesterday at the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement in Nay Pyi Taw.

Dr. Win Myat Aye, Chairman of the Implementation Committee on recommendations of the Advisory Commission on Rakhine State and Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement said this is the sixth time the committee has conducted a coordination meeting on its work.

Recommendations of the Advisory Commission were made primarily for Rakhine State development and raising the socio-economic conditions of the people of the state.

“Making these works a success is striving toward development and it is not the development of Rakhine State only, but the whole country. The recommendations cover 18 sectors and each sector is not a single ministry work, but a multi-ministries work involving three, four ministries and thus involves much



Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye and Rakhine State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu attend the implementation committee meeting on recommendations of Rakhine Advisory Commission in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA

coordination in the implementation works. Coordination is of major importance. The recommendations are to be reviewed periodically and priority given on works that can be rapidly conducted. According to the duties assigned to the committee, it has to report and inform the people once every four months and committee member ministries need to provide short and precise reports”, he said.

To increase the implemen-

tation works of the committee, an advisory group was formed based on local and foreign experience.

The committee plan to meet with advisory groups in the last week of January. In yesterday's meeting, ministries need to coordinate their implementation works and openly discuss, strength, weaknesses and findings, said the Union Minister.

Committee Joint Chairman and Rakhine State Chief Minister

said when relevant ministries implement the recommendations, it needs to be based on the reality and situation on the ground and in coordination and working together with the (Rakhine) State Government. Preparation for repatriation is being done by cooperation, he said.

“Relevant ministries and the State Government will work together so that news media can acquire the correct information about Rakhine State and relay

it widely and quickly”, the joint chairman said.

The meeting was attended by: Committee Joint Chairman and Rakhine State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu; Committee Vice Chairman and Deputy Minister for State Counsellor's Office; Committee Secretary Deputy Minister for Border Affairs; committee joint secretary Deputy Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement; and committee members who are officials from ministries. Meeting attendees discussed the status of works done and works not yet completed.

In his concluding speech, the Union Minister asked all to ensure that the news about the works done is widely made known and to work together and in unity with civil service societies in the region. Once there is rule of law, works in the recommendations can be implemented rapidly and people are to be organised patiently so that they have wide-ranging views and have a high-level of understanding, he said. —Myanmar News Agency ■

Union Minister U Kyaw Tin receives UNICEF Representative to Myanmar Ms. June Kunugi



Union Minister U Kyaw Tin meets UNICEF Representative to Myanmar Ms. June Kunugi in Nay Pyi Taw on 26 December. **PHOTO: MNA**

Union Minister for International Cooperation U Kyaw Tin received UNICEF Representative to Myanmar Ms. June Kunugi on 26 December 2017, at 3:00 pm, at

the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw.

During the meeting, they exchanged views on matters pertaining to the current coop-

eration between Myanmar and UNICEF and the implementation of Myanmar-UNICEF Country Programme (2018-2022).— Myanmar News Agency ■

70th Tipitakadhara Tipitaka Kovida Selection Exam . . .

FROM PAGE-1

The message of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Chairman is shown separately.

Afterwards, Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture Thura U Aung Ko made a supplication about religious matters.

In his address, the Union Minister said Pariyatti Sasana (learning canonical texts) is like a main root of the trunk of the Sasana and for the trunk to prosper and have a long life, the roots need to be strong so various religious examinations including Tipitakadhara Tipitaka Kovida Selection Examination were held for the Pariyatti Sasana to thrive. It can be seen that Pariyatti monasteries play an important role in this by teaching the young monks about the spirit and essence of the Sasana so that they can in turn take on the responsibility of maintaining the Sasana.

Only when true Pariyatti Sasana thrive can the Paripatti sasana (the practice) thrive resulting in a Pativedha sasana (realizing of the truth). As long as these three sasanas exist, (Buddha) teachings will remain so sayadaws and sanghas of the past have maintained it by their teachings and practices while past governments and peoples provided support with the four

main items of soon (food), robes (monk robes), monastery and medicines. The present government is also following the traditions of the past governments by encouraging and supporting the Sasana.

The 70th Tipitakadhara Tipitaka Kovida Selection Examination is the reciting and writing of the entire Tipitaka consisting of Vinaya Pitaka (collection of texts concerning the rules of conduct governing the daily affairs of the sangha), Sutta Pitaka (collection of suttas, or discourses, attributed to the Buddha) and Abhidhamma Pitaka (collection of texts underlying doctrinal principles presented in the Sutta Pitaka) so it is the examination to protect the Sasana.

From the time Tipitakadhara Tipitaka Kovida Selection Examinations were first held in Buddhist era 1310 to the 69th time, only 14 venerable monks had passed oral/written Tipitakadhara Tipitaka Kovida while only 7 venerable monks were able to recite it in its entirety. This shows that this is the most difficult examination not only in Myanmar but the entire world. Despite this examination being such a daunting one, it is heartening to see that many venerable monks were attempting without reduction in number as time goes by. This

brings forth an enormous joy for the Sasana.

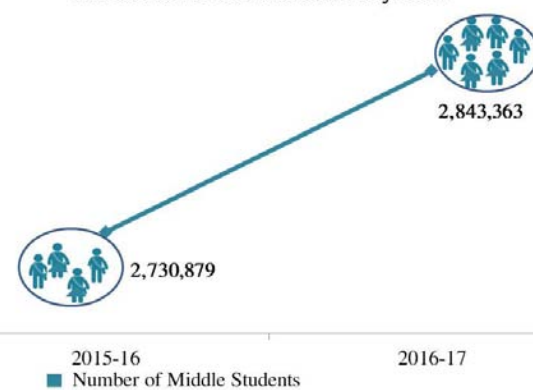
Buddhist Myanmar people's culture was raised and developed through the teachings of Buddha and there is nothing in the society that diverts or stays apart from Buddhist culture. Thus, Sayadaws and Sanghas who are learned in Pariyatti Sasana are begged to guide and protect their followers and the new generation of youths, said the Union Minister.

Donors then presented donations that were accepted by Union Minister Thura U Aung Ko and Department of Religious Affairs Director-General U Myint Oo who in return presented certificates of honor to the donors.

After listening to the sermon of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka, Yangon Region, Thanlyin Minkyaung Pahtamapyan monastery Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Sandima Bhivamsa, the devotees shared the merits of their good deeds.

The 70th Tipitakadhara Tipitaka Kovida Selection Examination will be held from 26 December 2017 to 27 January 2018 for 33 days. 210 venerable Sanghas are sitting for oral examinations while 170 venerable Sanghas are sitting for written examinations.— Myanmar News Agency ■

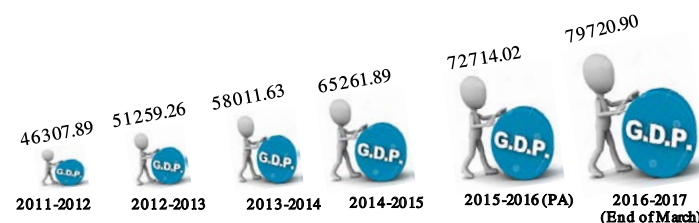
Number of Middle Students in Myanmar



Source: Ministry of Education
Information Unit: Central Statistical Organization

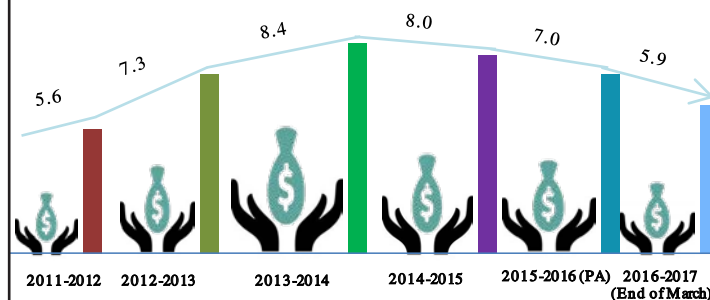
GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT (GDP) AT CURRENT PRICES

(Billions of Kyat)



Source: Planning Department
Information Unit: Central Statistical Organization

ANNUAL GROWTH RATES OF GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT

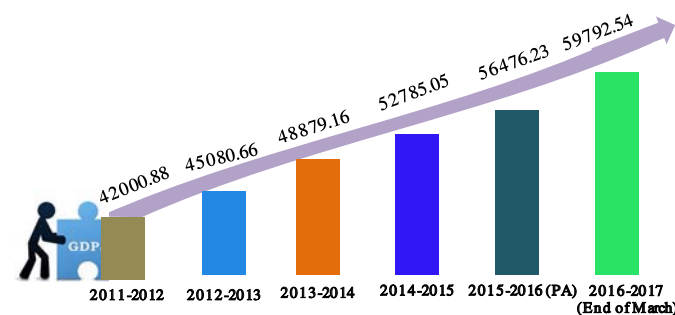


Source: Planning Department
Information Unit: Central Statistical Organization

GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT (GDP) AT CONSTANT PRICES

(Base Year =2010-2011)

(Billions of Kyat)



Source: Planning Department
Information Unit: Central Statistical Organization

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Mung bean price bounces back above Ks600,000 a ton within four months

PRICE of mung bean RC climbed above Ks621,000 per ton on 23rd December after four-month drop to Ks425,000 since 16th October, according to Monday's report of the Mirror.

This day, pigeon pea (red gram) RC price increased up to Ks431,000 a ton. With the prices of beans and pulses turning to upward trend, Yangon market has also become alive with regular sales.

Following India's restriction on pulses importation in August, mung bean and pigeon peas prices plummeted down, prompting Yangon depot to suspend pulses trade. Yangon commodity depot set the price at Ks600,000 for mung bean RC when the market was reopened. However, pulses prices were on the downward trend and mung bean this year was recorded the lowest price of Ks425,000 per ton on 16th Oc-



Myanmar pulses are kept on display for sale in a shop at a market. **PHOTO: ZAW MIN LATT**

tober. Meanwhile, the pigeon pea (red gram) RC plunged a ten-year low of Ks306,000 a ton on 25th October.

Prior to this restriction announcement, a ton of mung bean fetched up to Ks650,000 while mung bean price was Ks800,000

per ton. In an attempt to control the pea prices, the merchants were united to form a committee and launched investment fund of Ks50 billion to purchase the pulses. Myanmar Pulses, Beans and Sesame Seeds Merchants Association purchased the mung bean at Ks500,000 a ton and pigeon pea at Ks400,000 per ton. Nevertheless, Yangon market was seen trading the pulses at the lower price than the set floor price in October and November.

Indo merchants are placing pulses order from Myanmar as India's restriction on pulses importation is likely to ease in March, 2018. As a result of this, Myanmar's pulses market shook a bit and the prices of mung bean and pigeon peas increase more than the set basis price. At present, newly harvested pigeon peas are entering the market and mung beans are also started to be cultivated in the delta regions, said merchants. — GNLM ■

Japan merchants to purchase elephant-foot yams from Chin State

JAPANESE business partners will soon buy marketable elephant-foot yams from Myanmar.

Elephant-foot yams, also known as Amorphophallus Complanatus, are found in Chin State, and local growers are now extending their cultivation. Coffee, tea leaves, and elephant-foot yams are the main crops for Chin State. After two

to three years cultivation, elephant-foot yams are ready to be unearthed and harvested.

The yams are found across Chin State, but Mindat and Kanpetlet townships produce the highest quality fruit, it is said. Fresh yams fetch Ks5,000 per viss (1.6 kg), whereas sun-dried elephant-foot yams fetch Ks7,000-8,000 per viss. These white yams are sent to Man-

dalay and Muse. India, South Korea, China, the Philippines, Indonesia and Japan regularly purchase elephant-foot yam powder. Therefore, value-added powder is produced by the locals from Mindat Township. A businessman who can manage from cultivation to production can earn Ks8 to 20 million per harvest.

Elephant-foot yams grow

naturally in Chin State, but are now cultivated systematically, as they have become a cash crop with foreign demand. Local agriculture companies conduct intensive courses for white yam cultivation.

Elephant-foot yams are used in manufacturing pharmaceuticals, cosmetics, paper, glue, cotton, printing, and food-stuff. — Chin Dwin Thar ■

Kawthoung border trade income increase against last FY

BORDER trade income at Kawthoung gate between Thailand and Myanmar from 1st April to 15th December in current FY was worth US\$45.9 million more than the similar period of last FY, according to statistics of Commerce Ministry.

As of 15th December, export income via Kawthoung was over \$78.8 million, whereas imports fetched \$44.6 million, totalling over \$123 million. Kawthoung border trade amounted to only \$77.5 million

in the similar period of last FY.

Capital goods such as machinery and raw industrial goods such as cement and fertilizer are primarily imported into the country. Myanmar's main export item to Thailand via Kawthoung checkpoint is fishery products.

Similarly, Myawady, which performs the largest border trade with Thailand, showed a decrease of \$28.6 million compared to the same period of last FY.

Thai-Myanmar land

points of entry are Tachilek, Myawady, Kawthoung, Myeik, Hteekhee, Mawtaung, and Maese. Border trade of those gates this FY totaled nearly \$950 million.

Importers have to go to Nay Pyi Taw in order to seek import permits for raw industrial goods, consuming time and money. Therefore, merchants wish to request the related ministry to open a branch office in Kawthoung.

"Infrastructure, like electricity, plays a vital role in en-

hancing trade. Currently, we have to pay Ks280 per unit. Additionally, freight are carried to and from Ranoung with ships. This makes Kawthoung trade lag behind Myawady gate. If there is a Kawthoung-Ranoung cross-border bridge, it will facilitate trade flow", said U Khin Maung Gyi.

Currently, goods are transported to and from Ranoung with ships that can load 1,000 tons, taking about 20 days for shipping, said merchants from Kawthoung. —GNLM ■

16th China-Myanmar Border Trade Fair held in Shweli

THE opening ceremony of 16th China-Myanmar Border Trade Fair 2017 was held yesterday at Shweli (Ruili) Town in Yunnan Province, China.

Deputy Minister for Commerce U Aung Htoo attended and delivered an opening speech about promotion of bilateral friendship, economic cooperation and alliances in the commerce sector for sustainable development.

In addition to the border trade fair, a Joint Border Trade Cooperation and Coordination Committee (JBTCCC) will be held with representatives from the two countries who will discuss and negotiate about trade development. Myanmar-China border trade for FY 2016-2017 increased by US\$ 1 billion, and total trade for this FY including trading by sea hit US\$10.81 billion. The 105th-Mile Trade Zone in Muse plays an important role for Myanmar-China border trade and is also a strategic trade zone among the South-east Asian and South Asian countries.

With the aims of bilateral trade development and promoting economic cooperation, the trade fair was held with the theme, "Opening doors, investing,



An opening ceremony of 16th China-Myanmar Border Trade Fair 2017 held in Yunnan Province, China on 26 December. **PHOTO: MNA**

cooperation and sharing benefits."

Since 2001, the China-Myanmar Trade Fair has been held annually. Myanmar exhibits 54 stalls from 39 companies and China showcases around 150 booths at this year's China-Myanmar Border Trade Fair.

Kachin State Minister for Planning

and Commerce U Wai Lin, Myanmar Consul-General U Soe Paing, Directors-General, Myanmar business persons from Myanmar side and government officials from Yunnan Province and business persons from China attended the opening ceremony. — Myanmar News Agency ■

Gas turbine for 225-megawatt project experimentally being generated

TWO 71.5-megawatt gas turbine engines for the Myingyan Combined-Cycle Gas Turbine Power Plant project to produce 225 MWs are being experimentally generated, with power distribution from those engines slated for January 2018.

The project includes two 71.5-megawatt engines and one 82-megawatt Stream Turbine. The Shwe offshore gas field will provide natural gas for this project. Power produced by that plant will be transmitted through 230 kilovolt transmission network of the Myingyan substation.

Deputy Minister Dr Tun Naing for the Electricity and Energy Ministry, permanent secretary U Tin Maung Oo of the same ministry, officials from Mandalay Electricity Supply Corporation and the Electricity Supply Enterprise visited and inspected the construction sites of the Myingyan project on 24th December. — Myanmar News Agency ■

Congratulations!

CONGRATULATIONS for the opening of Kan Thar Yar International Specialist Hospital on 26th December 2017 that will offer the people complete one-stop service with specialty facilities for cardiac and kidney problems, with no need to go abroad for medical treatment.

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Nurse vaccinating child to prevent Japanese encephalitis in Rakhine. **PHOTO: WIN MIN SOE/IPRD**

200,000 children vaccinated against Japanese encephalitis in Rakhine

FROM PAGE-1

Some infected patients will develop neurological symptoms including tremors, seizures (especially among children), as well as mental status changes and movement disorders.

Japanese Encephalitis can be fatal in 20 to 30 per cent of

cases and most of survivors continue to have neurologic, cognitive or psychiatric symptoms.

The ministry said the vaccine could not be administered to children suffering from chronic disease, as well as to those who have allergic reac-

tion to any of the component of the vaccine, such as gelatin, gentamycin, sucrose, human serum albumin and carbamide.

Children who are suffering from tuberculosis, or have low immune system or taking antibiotics, could not be vaccinated.—Win Min Soe/IPRD ■

Three types of registration conducted in Maungtaw

THREE types of registration are currently being conducted by the department of Immigration in Maungtaw, according to a department official.

“This process is carried out every year around December 16, and it was formerly known as Drawing, Registration and Approval. As for our department, we have already inspected up to 383 household so far”, he added.

The registration process includes three types; to scrutinise the household lists, to take a family photograph, and to register the housing complex.

“Prior to this process, we had to go on field trips to these areas, which included drawing maps of the villages, and recording the housing complex for inspection”, an official said.

“We have already conducted this process in Shwe Zar Middle Village and Gaung Nyar Village, and now we are doing it in Kappa Kaung Village. All these villages belong to Shwe Zar-tract 12 vil-



Immigration officials conducting registration in Maungtaw. **PHOTO: MNA**

lages, and we are going to register the rest of the areas near Maungtaw”, said U Zaw Moe Naing, an immigration officer.

In the final stage, the officials concerned scrutinise the household list with the old one, and take a photograph for record keeping. By doing this, we can easily determine the numbers of newborn babies and

deceased persons, and the list of displaced people who fled to other country. It aims to scrutinise the growth and decline of the population in this region. Currently, the inspection process is being carried out at the Immigration branch offices in Maungtaw and Butheedaung townships only.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Curfew extended in Maungtaw for two months

LOCAL authorities has extended the curfew order in Maungtaw District for another two months for the “security, stability and the rule of law in the district”, according to the Maungtaw District General Administration Department.

The General Administration Department announced the order on Monday to extend the current curfew, which prohibits

assembly of five persons or more and prohibits going outside between 6 pm and 6 am.

The order took effect on 25th December. The original curfew was imposed shortly after Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA) terrorists conducted coordinated attacks on police outposts in wards and villages in Maungtaw District on 25th August. — Myanmar News Agency

Illegal pharmaceutical products seized in Maungtaw

Illegal pharmaceutical products on a boat from which several people jumped in order to escape were seized in Maungtaw Township, Rakhine State on Saturday night. At about 9:20 pm on Saturday, police saw a boat in the Magee Chaung Creek in Maungtaw Township and attempted to question the occupants, but the five people on board dove into the creek and fled in the direction of Pan Taw Pyin Village.

The police discovered 131,000 tablets, 8,000 pills, 4,000 capsules, 900 2ml-bottles of Pharmaceutical products, one bag, nine men's shirts, five men's nether garment, four pairs of trousers, 20 women's shirts, 20

women's undergarments, two taqiyah caps and one mobile phone on board.

At about the same time, police saw Zar Phaw Armat, 45, of Maung Ni Village, talking on the phone and walking in the dark near the border fence of Ma Gee Chaung Creek. He was detained for interrogation. The seized drugs and clothing were found to be owned by Ho Be of Ka Nyin Tan Village. Ho Be remains under investigation, police said. Police filed a case regarding the drugs and clothing. Authorities are investigating the suspect Zar Phaw Armat at Ma Gee Chaung police station. —Myanmar News Agency ■



Six kilos of marijuana found in Maungtaw. **PHOTO: INFORMATION COMMITTEE**

Six kilos of marijuana seized in Maungtaw

POLICE discovered about 6.25 kilos of marijuana in a basket left by an unidentified person who fled the scene in Kan Bae Village in Maungtaw Township on Monday evening.

While conducting security measures on the evening of 25th December, police spotted the

suspect on a farm in Kan Bae Village. The basket was left by the suspect, who ran away when the police tried to question him.

Police have opened a case at the Pinyinphu Police Station and are further investigating the matter. —Myanmar News Agency ■

11 power plant projects under way in Yangon

YANGON Region Government plans to develop 11 power plant projects which can generate 4740 megawatt from 2018 to 2014, according to a report in the Myawady Daily on 25 December.

These projects are 300-MW East Dagon power supply project (2021-2040), 1470-MW Tawantay-Dala power supply project (2018-2040), 430-MW Thanlyin Myothit project (2031-2040), 560-MW Htantapin Myothit project, 140-MW Hmawby Myothit project and 160-MW Hlegu Myothit project.

As well as, 330-MW Dala Jetty and onshore power supply project (2020-2030), 100-MW Green Industrial Zone power supply project (2026-2030), 160-MW Jetty and Inland Power Supply Project (2021-2035), 880-MW South Yangon Special Economic Zone power supply project (2021-2035) and 210-MW aviation Industrial power supply project (2026-2030).

And, Insein Railway Station power supply project (2021-2025), advanced housing power supply project (2018-2025) and south Yangon Airport power supply project. —GNLM ■

Two administrators in Ye Tsp face corruption charges

Two administrators in Ye Township, Mon State, are facing lawsuits for alleged involvement in illegally turning farmland into plots for housing.

Following the complaint lodged against U Tun Kyi, former administrator of Kyonnye Village-tract, and U Naung Naung Lin, administrator of Khawar Town, to the anti-corruption commission in Nay Pyi Taw, the commission investigated the case and found that the two administrators allegedly as-

sisted in arranging 15 60ftx40ft plots in a farmland into housing and allegedly taking Ks1.1 million as a bribe out of the Ks20 million earned from selling the plots. Files were opened against them at Khawar Police Station yesterday and action has been taken against U Naung Naung Lin under the Section 57 of the Anti-Corruption Law-2013 and U Tun Kyi under Section 57/63 of the same law, according to the anti-corruption commission.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Vice Senior General Soe Win receives H.E Admiral Sun Jianguo

VICE Senior General Soe Win, Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) received H.E Admiral Sun Jianguo, chairman of China Institute for International Strategic Studies (CIISS) yesterday afternoon at Bayint Naung Hall

in Nay Pyi Taw.

During the meeting, matters relating to regional security, preventing terrorist attacks through information exchanges, Rakhine State peace and stability, bilateral cooperation and friendship were discussed.—Myanmar News Agency ■



Vice Senior General Soe Win holds talks with Admiral Sun Jianguo. **PHOTO: MNA**



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, Union Minister Dr Myint Htwe and officials observe Kan Thar Yar International Hospital in Yangon. **PHOTO: MNA**

Senior General at opening ceremony of Kan Thar Yar International Hospital

Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing attended the opening ceremony of Myanmar Economic Corporation's Kan Thar Yar International Specialist Hospital yesterday morning at the hospital on Pyay Road, 6 ½ mile, Yangon.

Union Minister for Health

and Sports Dr. Myint Htwe, Myanmar Economic Corporation Chairman Quartermaster General Lt-Gen Nyo Saw and Yangon City Development Committee Chairman Yangon Mayor U Maung Maung Soe opened the event by cutting a ceremonial ribbon. The Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services then unveiled

the signboard of Kan Thar Yar International Specialist Hospital by pressing a button. Kan Thar Yar International Specialist Hospital will provide one-stop treatment for heart and kidney diseases for nationals without requiring them to go overseas for treatment, health officials said.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Maungtaw Myoma Market reopens

By Myint Maung, Zeyar

MAUNGTAW Myoma Market, closed for the past four months as a security precaution, was reopened yesterday morning by market officials, security personnel and shop owners.

The market, Maungtaw's main shopping area, is now equipped with security cameras, officials said.

"Because of the terrorist attack on 25 August, our market had been closed for security reasons.

As the security situation has improved, we are reopening the market," said Maungtaw Township municipal executive officer U Oo Shwe Maung.

The 453 shops in the market will be open from 8am to 6pm. About two third of the shops are expected to reopen. Clothing and household goods are sold said U Oo Shwe Maung.

"The market has been closed since 25 August, 2017. Sixteen CCTV cameras have been installed for security reasons. However, monitors have not installed so the market is now being



Officials inspect Maungtaw Myoma Municipal Market yesterday. **PHOTO: NAY WIN TUN**

opened with security personnel", said deputy executive officer Daw Ohnma Saw.

The reopening of the market was a long-awaited event for one merchant.

"I'm a pensioner. I've been selling in this market for 10 years, and we were looking forward to reopening the market.

I can earn extra money by selling in the market, so it is a

"mingalar" (auspiciousness) for me that the market is reopening. Gradually, it will become busy and business is expected to become better", said U Aung Kyaw Zaw, a bookshop owner in the market.

Maungtaw Myoma Municipal Market was opened in 1998, with clothing, food and household goods from Sittway and Buthidaung. ■

70th Anniversary of the Myanmar Independence Day

4TH January 2018 sees the 70th anniversary our Independence Day when Myanmar regained its independence and national sovereignty. Looking back into the past events of our relentless struggle to liberate ourselves from British colonial rule, we can say that our struggle for independence was fraught with dangers and hardships. It required selfless leadership, vision and a willingness to meet all kinds of challenges.

The AFPFL [Anti-Fascist People's Freedom League] led by Bogoyoke Aung San decided to achieve Independence in negotiation with the British Imperialists to rehabilitate the country which was totally scourged by the wars, as soon as possible. The then BCP [Burma Communist Party] declared that any type of Independence which would be gained through negotiations would never be genuine. This resulted in a confrontation between Bogoyoke Aung San who had decided to act in a pragmatic manner based upon the actual situation of the country and the BCP based on political doctrines only. These different views culminated in a civil war in the country right after Myanmar gained her Independence. Though it is now almost 70 years, armed conflicts are still going on in certain parts of the country. Some of our brothers and sisters belonging to different ethnic races are still suffering from the scourges of the civil war.

Though further negotiations need to be held to discuss the details as to how the Democratic Federal Republic is to be founded, the political objectives have already been laid down to build up a Democratic Federal Republic.

This is certainly a positive development in the history of Myanmar. All the political groups are in agreement for establishing a free market system and building up a democratic society. All the political groups including the Tatmadaw have already agreed to the establishment of a Democratic Federal Republic for fulfilling the actual needs of the Union where all the national races live together in peace, harmony and equality. Though further negotiations need to be held to discuss the details as to how the Democratic Federal Republic is to be founded, the political objectives have already been laid down to build up a Democratic Federal Republic.

The present government elected by the overwhelming majority of the people will take the responsibility of celebrating the 70th anniversary of the National Independence Day for the second time during the period of 56 years. This highlights the democratic movement and firm determination of the entire people. Accordingly, the 70th anniversary of the Independence Day should be regarded as a wake-up call for all Union citizens to value our hard won freedom and for all ethnic races to be united as we continue our march towards our goal of a Democratic Federal Republic.

By Maung Maung Kyaw

A^F^T^E^R the British occupation of the entire Myanmar, they had to rule the country, nearly in a state of chaos, for nearly one decade. As the Myanmar saying goes, "A rabbit runs southwards while the dog hunts northward," Myanmar royal forces, their allegiance forces and patriotic Myanmar heroes staged attacks against the British forces with their weapons they had, here and there, especially in ambushes. In these attacks, British soldiers lost their lives, with many of Myanmar patriots sacrificing lots of their lives.

The ones who bully others will think that it is very nice for them to do so, as well as being well convinced that they can be harmed if the other side defends as much as he can. In fact, imperialism not only causes hatred towards the imperialists among the defeated people but also can bring about benefits and loss & wealth and sufferings to themselves as well.

Just at the time when Myanmar fell to the defeat of the British forces, Myanmar patriots fought against the British vigorously and bravely, out of the desire to liberate themselves from the British rule. But, the time, nearly ten year went past they were completely exhausted and the country became war-torn, thus giving up their rebellion. While living under the British colonial rule for many years, Myanmar tried their best to revitalize their strength and forces to fight against them.

Existence under the colonial rule

At the time when the British administration began to settle down, the British built bridges and roads so as to be able to exploit Myanmar natural resources as much as possible. When Myanmar got employed as petty officers and laborers with considerable amounts of income and became satisfied with their present situations, beginning to forget the nationalism. In fact, they were not



U Ba Pe.



U Maung Gyi.



U Ba Yin.

enjoying the crème de la crème, just biting the bones, that is, just consuming the leftover. And they were usually employed as the clerical jobs.

Youths became active again!

Under the colonial rule, English is the official language. In the period when ones who had known English were given favor, Myanmar youths learned English and modern sciences. While learning English, Myanmar youths became knowledgeable. While reading political literatures, their hopes for the nation became brightened. Nationalism awakened again, after the patriotism ceased to exist.

From religious affairs to political activities

General speaking, religion is exercised in accord with the patience keeping the four cardinal virtues in the mind, so the religion can be regarded to have not connected with the strong-minded patriotism. But, when originally religious-minded Myanmar had yielded to defeats they took shelter at religious centers or monastery retreat. Thus, they happened to gather at monasteries and discuss religious matters, and thence to chat about politics and nationalism finally.

Beginning of the nationalist movement

After plunging under the co-

lonial rule, the first-ever founded religious association was Buddha Sasana Noggaha Association in Mandalay established in 1897. The association set up the National School, producing national leaders. In 1906, YMBA, Young Men's Buddhist Association was founded with broader objectives. In founding the association, young adult college students such as U Ba Pe, U Maung Gyi and Dr Ba Yin helped. These college students used to read, write, discuss and make arguments, but they could not manage to operate nationalist movements yet.

Emergence of nationalist movement

On 4th July 1911, U Ba Pe and U Hla Pe, founders of YMBA issued "Thuriya" newspaper, just at the time when a newspaper was urgently needed. In 1915, it became a successful daily. It produced brilliant prolific writings for the nationalism. It managed to illustrate the British Imperialists with comics in satire and pejorative senses. The comic illustrating foot wearing in the campus of the pagoda was greatly attractive to the public. In it, it was illustrated that members of pagoda trusteeship carried the European couple on their backs around the pagoda. In Myanmar where foot wearing is strictly prohibited in religious campuses, such an illustration described that pagoda trusteeship mem-

bers managed to solve the problem in such a way. The problem of foot wearing was headed for the nationalist movement.

Youths of YMBA held mass meetings, taking responsibilities bravely for potential dangers. They paid great respect to the elders. They came to actively take part in town's and political affairs. After the end of the First World War, the imperialists tried to please Myanmar with Home Rule. The words seemed to be sweet to the ears of Myanmar where nationalism began to awaken. For fear that Myanmar was left in the new administration, YMBA and other associations went to India to demand for what they wanted. When it failed, they proceeded to England. Myanmar people saw them off and prayed for good luck. Myanmar greatly wanted to be liberated. Though the country did not reach the goal yet, the path to walk came into view.

Alarm sounded for nationalist movement

At the YMBA conference held in Pyay in 1920, it decided to found GCBA [the General Council of Burmese Associations], assuming that nationalist movement should be launched, in addition to cultural affairs and movements. Alarm for the nationalist movement awakened the country, revitalizing patriotism and nationalism. Words of nationalism

were very popular with the people. In cities conference were held in turn, attended by audiences amounting to more than 100000 in each. "If you love your country, you wear home-made clothes, smoke local-made cigars," wordings were on tip of people's lips. Meanwhile, people were addicted to diseases—doubts on persons and money, vying with each other and such and such. As a result, nationalist forces were split, thus losing sight of objective and major enemy. What is worse, they fought with each other.

National education movement

Opening Yangon University for Myanmar youths to learn education by imitating Oxford and Cambridge in England was a seed for the emergence of Independent Myanmar: Yangon University Boycott which took place in later 1920 showed that anything could be overcome through collective forces. Yangon University Boycott was the triumph of the nationalist movement. 10th waning of Tazaungmone which started the boycott was designated as the National Day.

Translated by
Khin Maung Oo

POEM

What did our Bogoyoke do?

Mg Htein Linn, Bo Min Yaung's grandson,
Was born for Myanmar's freedom,

Ko Aung San, the leader of the students
Hell Hound put him into national movement

Thakin Aung San of Dobama Organization
A genuine patriotic politician,

Zaviour, Francis, the magistrate's warrant for arrest
Made Aung San's blood and sweat to invest,

General Aung San, the leader of thirty comrades
Founded BIA to reveal the Myanmar's courage,

Met Mountbatten and Lord Atlee
Demand for Myanmar to free,

The real architect of the Union
He was as brave as a lion,

Whilst working in his prime situation
The traitors made the Assassination

His noble task, we bow
To stand for the country, we vow.

UTA (Yangon University)

She

A frail body
frail like a leaf
that trembles in the
winter wind;
Inside
a heart stronger a thousand
times
than the glinting steel,
a heart brimming with love,
overflowing like a cascade

She loves these people,
She lives
for these people,
for these people are her
family.

Old and frail,
But keeps her steps steady,
her steps as light as a
feather,
even lighter than the
youthful steps,
for she has a big heart for
these people.



Zaw Tun

Nay Pyi Taw Hot Spring Resort crowded with visitors



Visitors sightseeing around Nay Pyi Taw Hot Spring Resort Camp, Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: TIN SOE LWIN**

THE Nay Pyi Taw Hot Spring Resort Camp was crowded with visitors during the holiday season.

The hot spring resort camp opened in 2010 with three regular bungalows, one special bungalow and one sauna. Recently added were two duplex sauna rooms added to two outside sauna ponds for males, two outside

sauna ponds for females, three recreation halls and separate dressing rooms for men and women. The hot spring is located along the Nay Pyi Taw-Pinlaung Highway near Taungkya village, Pinlaung Township, Taunggyi District in Shan State. From mile post number 24/4, the resort camp can be reached after taking a one-mile

and 6-furlongs long road. The resort is located 1,508 feet above sea level, making for stunning views of the natural beauty of the surrounding areas.

The entrance fee to the resort is Ks500 per person, Ks500 per motorbike and Ks2,000 per car. The hot spring charge is Ks20,000 for per night in a bungalow.—Tin Soe Lwin ■

Over 600 houses to be constructed by UEHRD in Rakhine State

OVER 600 houses will be constructed more by the Union Enterprise for Humanitarian Assistance, Resettlement and Development (UEHRD) for the implementation of rehabilitation in Rakhine State, according to a report in the Myawady Daily on Sunday.

“For the implementation of rehabilitation in Rakhine State, we have already received the permission to construct the houses in Taung Pyo Lat Wah and NgakuYa villages. Moreover, we also have permission to

construct about 625 houses in Hla Pho Khaung village for the around 30,000 household members,” said Professor Dr Aung Tun Thet, Chief Coordinator of UEHRD. Currently, 40 local companies have been invited for the tender to construct more houses in Hla Pho Khaung village. The project will be implemented very soon.

“We will implement the project as soon as possible. We will give priority to the local companies to construct those houses. If they cannot finish the project, we

will invite the companies from the middle part of Myanmar. Even those companies cannot handle the project, we will invite the companies from Yangon Region,” said U Kyauk Taung, patron of the construction group of UEHRD’s nine working committees. Currently, Taung Pyo Lat Wah and NgakuYa villages’ construction project are still under construction. So far, Taung Pyo Lat Wah village construction project has been completed 90 per cent and its will be completed very soon, it is learnt.—GNLM ■

11 power plant projects under way in Yangon

YANGON Region Government plans to develop 11 power plant projects which can generate 4740 megawatt from 2018 to 2014, according to a report in the Myawady Daily on 25 December.

These projects are 300-MW East Dagon power supply project (2021-2040), 1470-MW Tawantay-Dala power supply project (2018-2040), 430-MW Thanlyin Myothit project (2031-2040), 560-MW Htantapin Myothit project, 140-MW Hmawby

Myothit project and 160-MW Hlegu Myothit project.

As well as, 330-MW Dala Jetty and onshore power supply project (2020-2030), 100-MW Green Industrial Zone power supply project (2026-2030), 160-MW Jetty and Inland Power Supply Project (2021-2035), 880-MW South Yangon Special Economic Zone power supply project (2021-2035) and 210-MW aviation Industrial power supply project (2026-2030).

And, Insein Railway Station power supply project (2021-2025), advanced housing power supply project (2018-2025) and south Yangon Airport power supply project.

Myanmar generates electricity mainly from hydropower, natural gas and coal. It is expected that hydropower generation will account for 53 per cent and thermal power generating for 47 per cent this year.—GNLM ■

Nine Chinese nationals repatriated from Myanmar for illegal gold mining

NINE Chinese nationals were transferred to Lashio from Tachilek by air yesterday evening for repatriating from Myanmar.

Nine Chinese citizens namely Mr. Lin Qingxing, Mr. Yu Jianjun, Mr. Tan Shie, Mr. Deng Zhengxin, Mr. Liu Shengmin, Mr. Chen Aoshang, Mr. Hou Youxing, Mr. Xiao Hongliang and Mr. Zhou Gouliang were sent to Lashio Airport by local immigration officials led by U Aung Hlaing Win, a deputy staff officer from Mongphyat Office of the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and

Population. They were handed over to local Chinese authorities through Muse border gate under the supervision of an immigration office in Northern Shan State.

The deported Chinese nationals were arrested for illegal gold mining near a village in Tachilek Township, Eastern Shan State on 10 April 2017.

They were released from prison yesterday after they served six months imprisonments with hard labour under a verdict made by Tachilek Court.—Myanmar Digital News ■



Local immigration officials hand over nine Chinese nationals to Chinese authorities. **PHOTO: MYANMAR DIGITAL NEWS**

One man arrested for transporting guns on Mae Sai-Tachilek border

ONE man was arrested in Tachilek, Eastern Shan State for transporting two guns through Mae Sai Creek yesterday.

Local police force led by Police Inspector Ko Ko Oo seized two barreled-guns and a gun case from a man identified as Kya Yaw, son of U Yaw Tu of Ponseik Village in Keng Tung

Township who crossed illegally Mae Sai Creek while they were on patrol. The weapons possessor confessed that the guns were taken from an unknown man in Mae Sai, Thailand.

He has been charged with possession of two guns by Tachilek police station.—Myanmar Digital News ■



Kya Yaw detained due to transport guns on Mae Sai-Tachilek border. **PHOTO: MNA**

China, Pakistan to look at including Afghanistan in \$57 billion economic corridor

BELJING — China and Pakistan will look at extending their \$57 billion (42.63 billion pounds) China-Pakistan Economic Corridor to Afghanistan, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi said on Tuesday, part of China's ambitious Belt and Road plan linking China with Asia, Europe and beyond.

China has tried to position itself as a helpful party to promote talks between Pakistan and Afghanistan, both uneasy neighbours ever since Pakistan's independence in 1947.

Their ties have been poisoned in recent years by Afghan accusations that Pakistan is supporting Taliban insurgents fighting the US-backed Kabul in order to limit the influence of its old rival, India, in Afghanistan.

Pakistan denies that and says it wants to see a peaceful, stable Afghanistan.

Speaking after the



(L to R) Afghan Foreign Minister Salahuddin Rabbani, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi and Pakistani Foreign Minister Khawaja Asif attend a joint news conference after the 1st China-Afghanistan-Pakistan Foreign Ministers' Dialogue in Beijing, China on 26 December, 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

first trilateral meeting between the foreign ministers of China, Pakistan and Afghanistan, Wang said China hoped the economic corridor could benefit the whole region and act as an impetus for development.

Afghanistan has ur-

gent need to develop and improve people's lives and hopes it can join inter-connectivity initiatives, Wang told reporters, as he announced that Pakistan and Afghanistan had agreed to mend their strained relations. "So China and Paki-

stan are willing to look at with Afghanistan, on the basis of win-win, mutually beneficial principles, using an appropriate means to extend the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor to Afghanistan," he added.

How that could happen

needs the three countries to reach a gradual consensus, tackling easier, smaller projects first, Wang said, without giving details.

Pakistani Foreign Minister Khawaja Asif said his country and China were "iron brothers", but did not directly mention the prospect of Afghanistan joining the corridor. "The successful implementation of CPEC (China-Pakistan Economic Corridor) projects will serve as a model for enhancing connectivity and cooperation through similar projects with neighbouring countries, including Afghanistan, Iran and with central and west Asia," he said. India has looked askance at the project as parts of it run through Pakistan-administered Kashmir that India considers its own territory, though Wang said the plan had nothing to do with territorial disputes. China has sought to bring Kabul and Islamabad

together partly due to Chinese fears about the spread of Islamist militancy from Pakistan and Afghanistan to the unrest-prone far western Chinese region of Xinjiang. As such, China has pushed for Pakistan and Afghanistan to improve their own ties so they can better tackle the violence in their respective countries, and has also tried to broker peace talks with Afghan Taliban militants, to limited effect. A tentative talks process collapsed in 2015. Wang said China fully supported peace talks between the Afghan government and Taliban and would continue to provide "necessary facilitation".

The Belt and Road infrastructure drive aims to build a modern-day "Silk Road" connecting China to economies in South-east and Central Asia by land and the Middle East and Europe by sea.

— Reuters ■

Announcement of Myanmar Investment Commission Invitation to invest in Logistics Services

1. The Myanmar Investment Commission welcomes foreign investors and Myanmar citizen investors to invest in Logistics Services of the following investments at the major cities of logistics and trading hub;

- (a) Dry Port Services
- (b) Bonded Warehouses Services
- (c) High-way Bus and Freight Terminals
- (d) Warehouses and Wholesale Centers

2. It is hereby notified that interesting foreign investors or Myanmar citizen investors may contact to the Myanmar Investment Commission and the investors who already own the land may submit the proposals as soon as possible.

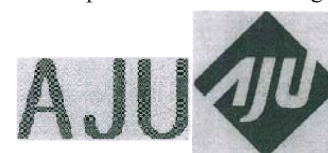
3. For detailed information please contact the following address:

Myanmar Investment Commission
No.1, Thitsar Street, Yankin Township, Yangon
Phone 951 657890

Investment Section 4
Phone 951 658130, 951 658142

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Russian Navy to receive large amphibious assault ship by yearend

MOSCOW — Russia's United Shipbuilding Corporation (USC) expects to deliver the large amphibious assault ship Ivan Gren and the third Project 11356 frigate Admiral Makarov to the Russian Navy by the yearend, USC Head Alexei Rakhmanov said on Monday.

"Considering that the Makarov is very much needed by the Navy, there is a hope that we'll raise the flag this year. I believe that we will deliver the Gren also this year. We have resolved the issues with its electromagnetic field and armament," he said.

According to the USC chief, there is "actually 100% readiness" for the delivery of the frigate Admiral Makarov and it is important to hand it over this year so that the frigate's crew can immediately start undergoing training



Admiral Makarov frigate. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

and begin testing all the systems and practicing combat missions.

Speaking about the large amphibious assault ship Ivan Gren, the USC

chief noted that the warship's project had been remade at least three times to comply with the Navy's requirements.

"The primary tech-

nical assignment and the current ship are completely two different vessels. The second warship of this series (the Pyotr Morgunov) will be final-

ized, considering the remarks made with regard to the Ivan Gren," the head of the United Shipbuilding Corporation said. The Project 11711 large amphibious

assault lead ship Ivan Gren was laid down at the Yantar Shipyard in Kaliningrad in December 2004 and put afloat in May 2012.

The ship started undergoing sea trials in June 2016. On order from Russia's Defence Ministry, the Yantar Shipyard will build another ship of this class, the Pyotr Morgunov, which is expected to be delivered to the Navy in 2018.

Project 11711 warships are designed to land marines on a coastal area seized by the enemy and transport military hardware and equipment. The warship can carry 13 tanks or 36 armored personnel carriers, and also up to 300 marines.

The amphibious assault ship Ivan Gren is armed with three 30mm six-barrel artillery systems and two Kamov Ka-29 transport and combat helicopters.—Reuters ■

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V NACC NAPOLI VOY. NO. (04)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V NACC NAPOLI VOY. NO. (04) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 27-12-2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T-4 where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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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 M.V MCC HA LONG VOY. NO. () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 25-12-2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T/M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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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.

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

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Saudi Arabia releases corruption detainees, others to stand trial: report

RIYADH — Saudi Arabia has released 23 of the 200-or-so powerful individuals detained since November on corruption charges after they reached deals with the government, Okaz newspaper reported on Tuesday.

The report did not name those involved in what appeared to be the first large-scale release since the royals, business people and government officials were detained in a crackdown spearheaded by Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman.

The suspects have been held at Riyadh’s luxurious Ritz Carlton hotel since early November and told to hand over assets and cash in exchange for their freedom. Okaz said more detainees would be

released in the coming days and trial proceedings would begin soon for those who continue to deny the charges against them.

Saudi authorities see the settlements not as blackmail but as an obligation to reimburse money taken illegally from the world’s top oil producer over several decades.

Video posted on social media showed a smiling Saoud al-Daweesh, the former chief executive of Saudi Telecom, telling well-wishers he had been treated decently.

“Private Affairs (a unit of the Royal Court) brought us a full lamb dish day and night. They treated us well and did a good job,” he said.

Saudi officials did not respond to requests for comment. —Reuters ■

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR
MINISTRY OF CONSTRUCTION
DEPARTMENT OF BRIDGE
Invitation for Bids

Date : 5th January, 2018
Loan Agreement No.: MY-P16
IFB No : Package 1: BRBP-P1
: Package 2: BRBP-P2
: Package 3: BRBP-P3

1. The Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar (GOM) has received a Loan from Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) toward the cost of the Procurement of Civil Works Contractor for Infrastructure Development Project of Bago River in Yangon City. It is intended that part of the proceeds of this Loan will be applied to eligible payments under the contract resulting from the bidding for which this bidding is conducted.

2. The Ministry of Construction (the Employer) intends to bid contractors and/or firms for the Bridge Construction Project on Bago River in Yangon City (Bago River Bridge Construction Project: Package 1, Package 2 and Package 3). The Project comprises of the following components:

Package 1

- Construction of bridges, its approach road and an on-ramp. Total length of the Project is 1,312m for main alignment.
- No. of lanes: four (4) lanes for main alignment, one (1) lane for on-ramp.
- Main alignment bridges consist of PC Box Girder, Steel Box Girder and Cable Stayed Bridge. Total length of main alignment bridges is 955m. The on-ramp bridge consists of PC girder. Total length of the on-ramp bridge is 115m.
- Approach road consists of embankment with soft soil treatment and drainage.
- Construction of pavement, lighting, lane marks, road safety facilities.

Package 2

- Construction of bridges, its approach road and Toll Gates. Total length of the Project is 1,363m for main alignment.
- No. of lanes: four (4) lanes for main alignment.
- Main alignment bridges consist of PC Box Girder and Steel Box Girder. Total length of main alignment bridges is 1,076m.
- Approach road consists of embankment with soft soil treatment and drainage.
- Construction of pavement, lighting, lane marks and road safety facilities.

Package 3

- Construction of flyovers, its approach road and two (2) intersections. Total length of the Project is 824.9m for main alignment.
- No. of lanes: two (2) lanes for main alignment.
- Main alignment bridges consist of PC-T Girder, Steel Plate Girder and Steel Box Girder. Total length of main alignment bridges is 602m.
- Approach road consists of embankment with soft soil treatment and drainage.
- Construction of pavement, lighting, lane marks and road safety facilities

3. Bid will be conducted through procedures in accordance with the applicable Guidelines for Procurement under Japanese ODA Loans (April 2012). The Eligible Nationality of the Applicants shall be Japan in the case of the prime contractor. In case where the prime contractor is a joint venture, such joint venture will be eligible provided that the nationality of the lead partner is Japan, that the nationality of the other partner is Japan and/or the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and that the total share of work of Japanese partner in the joint venture is more than fifty-percent (50%) of the contract amount.

4. Interested eligible Applicants may obtain further information from and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below, from **10.00am to 2.00pm**.

5. The complete set of the Bidding Documents for each package are available in CD-ROM and will be obtained by 1,000 USD per package by interested Applicant(s) from **5th January, 2018 to 5th February, 2018** on the submission of a written Application to the address below.

6. Pre-Bid meeting and Site Visit for Package 1, 2 and 3 will be held on below date and time:

		Package 1	Package 2	Package 3
Site Visit	Date	24 January 2018	25 January 2018	26 January 2018
	Time	09:30hrs	09:30hrs	09:30hrs
	Place	Bridge Special Unit 11, Thaketa Township, Yangon	Bridge Special Unit 11, Thaketa Township, Yangon	Bridge Special Unit 11, Thaketa Township, Yangon
Pre-Bid Meeting	Date	24 January 2018	25 January 2018	26 January 2018
	Time	14:00hrs	14:00hrs	14:00hrs
	Place	Bridge Special Unit 11, Thaketa Township, Yangon	Bridge Special Unit 11, Thaketa Township, Yangon	Bridge Special Unit 11, Thaketa Township, Yangon

7. Applications for bidding for Package 1, 2 and 3 should be submitted in sealed envelopes, delivered to the address below on **10.30am of 4th April, 2018** Myanmar local time and be clearly marked “Application to Bidding for Bago River Bridge Construction Project”.

Attention: U Shwe Lay, Director General, Department of Bridge, Ministry of Construction
Address: Director General’s Office, Department of Bridge, Ministry of Construction at Building No. 11, Ministry of Construction, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.
Phone No: +95-67-407514, +95-67-407069

8. Applications for bidding will be opened below schedule:
The opening of the Technical Bid shall take place at:

	Package 1	Package 2	Package 3
Date	4 th April 2018	4 th April 2018	4 th April 2018
Time	11:00hrs	11:30hrs	12:00hrs
Place	Director General’s Office mentioned above.		

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST
THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT
Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation
NATIONAL COMMUNITY DRIVEN DEVELOPMENT PROJECT
IDA Grant H814-MM
Assignment Title: Township Level Technical Assistance

Ref No.	Township Clusters (TC) by Region/State	Number and name of the townships per cluster, beginning in March 2018	Potential expansion into additional townships in subsequent years
C5.03	Rakhine	2 Townships: Ponnagyun and Gwa	to be defined
C5.05	Shan	1 Township: Mongkhet	to be defined
C5.08	Bago	1 Township: Thegon	to be defined

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar has received financing from the World Bank to implement the National Community Driven Development Project (NCDD) under the Department of Rural Development (DRD) of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation. The Government intends to apply part of the financing to hire consulting services for Township Technical Assistance (TTA) for new townships to be covered starting in year five of project implementation, e.g. around April 2018.

The TTA consulting services (the “Services”) include:

- Assisting township DRD offices in planning, implementing and monitoring project activities in the respective townships in line with the procedures contained in the Project Operations Manual and directions received from the DRD union office.
- Assisting villages and village tracts in (i) the preparation and annual revision of development plans; (ii) sub-project technical design, cost estimation, review and approval; (iii) sub-project implementation, including adherence to environmental and social safeguards outlined in the Project Operations Manual, procurement of labor and materials and supervision during implementation; and (iv) organization of annual social audits.
- Assisting village tract project support committees to manage project funds in a transparent and accountable manner.
- Where applicable, providing technical support as needed to existing project townships within the State/ Region.

The Services will be procured in three separate contracts, covering the geographic areas outlined above and are scheduled to start at the township level in April 2018, for two years. Depending on performance, project needs and the availability of funding as will be assessed at the end of these two years, the contract may be extended for another two years. Based on the same criteria, the contract may also be increased into additional townships of which the number remains to be determined.

The consultant teams will be based in the township(s) and include five full time experts: (i) team leader/training specialist, (ii) finance officer, (iii) procurement officer, (iv) monitoring and evaluation officer, (v) communication/social accountability/gender officer. Furthermore, there may be short-term inputs by a national CDD program advisor and by an international CDD expert to support the township team. In addition, the Consultant will also recruit locally community facilitators and technical facilitators to be based in the indicated township(s). This team shall be in place for a first contractual period of two years starting expectedly from March 2018 with the mission to support all aspects of the implementation of the NCDD Project and to upgrade the capacity of the local DRD offices in the townships concerned.

The Department of Rural Development now invites eligible consulting firms or NGOs (“Consultants”) to indicate their interest in providing these TTA services. Interested Consultants should provide information demonstrating that they have the required qualifications and relevant experience to perform the Services in one or more of the township clusters mentioned. Consultants may associate with other NGOs/firms in the form of a joint venture or a sub-consultancy to enhance their qualifications.

Expressions of Interest must be submitted in a written but preferably electronic form to the address below by **MONDAY 16 January 2018** and clearly indicate the township cluster(s) in which the Consultant is interested.

Following a review of Expressions of Interest, DRD will invite short-listed consultants to prepare full proposals. Consultants will be selected in accordance with the QBS method set out in the Consultant Guidelines. Contracts will be structured primarily as lump sum payments against agreed outputs. The short-listing criteria are:

- Past experience with community based development activities in similar conditions as in Myanmar, with prior experience in Myanmar desirable;
- Size of relevant assignment contracts over the past five years.

Further information and detailed sample terms of reference may be obtained from the NCDD Project webpage: <http://www.cdd.drdmyanmar.org> or the address below during office hours from 09h00 to 16h00, Monday through Friday, except public holidays.

Attn:

Mr.Kyaw Soe, Deputy Director General
NCDD Project Secretariat,
Department of Rural Development, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation,
Office No.14, Nay Pyi Taw.
Telephone Number: (+95-67) 409071
Fax Number: (+95-67) 409431
E-mail: unioncddprocurement@gmail.com

circulation@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

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Moving from acting into music is very hard: Seth MacFarlane

LONDON — Seth MacFarlane has said it was “very, very hard” for him to start his music career.

The actor-director had made the switch from the movie business into the music industry, and his fourth studio album “In Full Swing” received two nominations at the 60th Annual Grammy Awards for Best Traditional Pop Vocal Album and Best Arrangement, Instrumental and Vocals a Grammy Award

nomination. “There’s something about people’s appreciation of the music they like that’s particularly passionate.

“It’s like when people are obsessive about sports teams that they like. People are obsessive about musicians that they like. So if you come into that world from a different profession, its oftentimes greeted with folded arms and a scowl,” MacFarlane said, according to

Contactmusic.

The actor-singer cited the example of Will Smith, who ventured in acting after a successful music career.

“For that reason, you see a lot of people, like Will Smith, who’ve gone from music to acting and been very successful at it.”

“And the other way around, I can’t think of one person. I mean, it’s a very, very hard thing,” MacFarlane said. — PTI ■



Seth MacFarlane. PHOTO: REUTERS

‘Sound of Music’ actress Heather Menzies-Urich dies at 68



Cast members Heather Menzies-Urich (L), Kym Karath (C), and Debbie Turner pose during 50th anniversary screening of musical drama film “The Sound of Music” at the opening night gala of the 2015 TCM Classic Film Festival in Los Angeles, California, US on 26 March, 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

LOS ANGELES — Actress Heather Menzies-Urich, best known for portraying Louisa von Trapp in the 1965 film “The Sound of Music,” died Sunday night. She was 68.

Menzies-Urich, the widow of actor Robert Urich, had been recently diagnosed with cancer, according to her son Ryan Urich.

Urich said his mother died on Christmas Eve, surrounded by her children and family members. “She was an actress, a ballerina and loved living her life to the fullest,” Urich said.

“She was not in any pain but, nearly four weeks after her diagnosis of terminal brain cancer, she had enough and took her last breath on this earth

at 7:22 pm.”

Born in Toronto, Menzies-Urich’s first screen credit came in the TV series “The Farmer’s Daughter” in 1964. She was 15 when she was cast as the eldest of the seven von Trapp children in “The Sound of Music,” a box office smash that went on to win five Academy Awards, including Best Picture.

Her other feature films credits included “Hawaii,” “The Computer Wore Tennis Shoes,” “Piranha,” and “Endangered Species.” Her TV credits included “Dragnet,” “Bonanza,” “Marcus Welby MD,” “The Bob Newhart Show,” and starring as Jessica 6 in the TV series “Logan’s Run.” — Reuters ■

James Norton wants Daniel Craig to play Bond in

LONDON — Actor James Norton, who was one of the main contenders to take over the eponymous role of James Bond from Daniel Craig, has said it was “wonderful” for him to be a part of that discussion.

The 31-year-old actor completely, however, has not dismissed the idea of playing the suave secret agent.

“It’s lovely, wonderful and complimentary to be involved in that conversation but it’s just a rumour mill and that’s as far as it goes,” Norton told BBC.

The actor will next be seen

in BBC’s “McMafia” and Norton maintains that the series is not an audition for Bond.

“I did mention at the time that those scenes would possibly contribute to the (Bond) rumours but “McMafia” is its own beast.

“I hope Daniel Craig does five more movies and can keep the rumours on himself. I’m a big fan of his and ? selfishly ? I’d like him to carry on,” said Norton.

Craig had recently confirmed that he will return as James Bond in the 25th Bond movie. — PTI ■

Noel Gallagher does not need more “glory”

LONDON — Singer Noel Gallagher has said he does not aspire to be a “stadium rocker” anymore and is in no need for more “glory”.

The former Oasis guitarist said he has “conquered the world enough” and has proved his ability on stage over the years.

“I don’t need to be a stadium rocker anymore. I did it when I was in my twenties and thirties and forties, and I was good at it. I don’t particularly want to be a stadium rocker when I’m 50. I think it’s undignified,” Gallagher said, according to Contactmusic.

“I’ve conquered the world enough, I’ve got enough money.

In fact, I’ve got too much f**king money. Do you want some? I’ll send you some. How

much do you want? I don’t need any more glory,” he added. — PTI ■



Musician Noel Gallagher. PHOTO: REUTERS

Japan's Brother Industries banking on karaoke popularity in Thailand

BANGKOK — Japanese electronics and electrical equipment manufacturer Brother Industries Ltd is bringing its popular home karaoke system to Thailand for the first time during this merry-making season following its launch in six countries in the Asia-Pacific region and the United States.

Its local sales unit, Brother Commercial (Thailand) Ltd, has started selling the personal entertainment gear under the brand name of BMB to capitalize on the popularity of karaoke among Thais, particularly teenagers. It aims to sell 1,000 units in the first year of marketing

in the Southeast Asian country.

A karaoke system package includes an amplifier, microphone and speaker, with a basic set priced at 34,900 baht (\$1,067) and an advanced model at 44,900 baht. The BMB karaoke system is being promoted in Thailand in collaboration with Brother's group arm, BMB International Corp (Japan). BMB International President Hiroshi Nishikawa said at a recent product launching event in Bangkok that the Nagoya-based company expects home karaoke sales in Thailand to account for 15 to 20 per cent of its total overseas sales in 2020. Kyodo News—Kyodo News



Brother Industries Ltd starts selling its popular home karaoke system under BMB brand in Thailand for the first time. Hiroshi Nishikawa (R), president of BMB International Corp (Japan), its group arm, and Teerawut Supapunpinyo, director of sales and marketing at Brother Commercial (Thailand) Ltd, attend a launching event in Bangkok on 19 December, 2017. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

Ice and snow festival celebrated in Hulun Buir City, north China



in
Picture

Women of the Oroqen ethnic group dance during an ice and snow festival in Hulun Buir City, north China's Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region on 26 December, 2017. PHOTO: XINHUA

1. 5,000-year-old Neolithic relics unearthed in SW China

CHENGDU— A number of cultural relics dating back up to 5,000 years have been unearthed in southwest China's Sichuan Province.

The excavation started in October and led to 122 major discoveries including 15 structural remains, 93 ash pits and eight tombs, with a total coverage of 800 square metres, at the Guijiabao relic sites in Yanyuan County, the cultural relics and archeology research institute of Chengdu said.

Much exquisite stoneware and pottery was also unearthed.

"Some remains of grains such as corns, rice and wheat, as well as animals such as pigs, chickens and deer were also discovered, which means that ancient residents could have created both agricultural and fishing economies at the time," said Zhou Zhiqing, a researcher with the institute. (The Yanyuan basin is located at the eastern border of the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau and has

been an important part of the cultural corridor connecting northwest and southwest China.

Zhou said the new discovery had traced the history of the basin back to the Neolithic period. The relics has sophisticated cultural connotations, related to both the Neolithic culture of the northwest and the southwest, meaning the two regions had communication with each other as early as 5,000 years ago.—Xinhua ■

China's Tianjin Symphony Orchestra perform in Nepal to mark New Year

KATHMANDU — A special performance by China's Tianjin Symphony Orchestra was launched here on Sunday evening to celebrate the upcoming New Year 2018 and to enhance Sino-Nepal cultural exchanges.

The two-day concert, the first of its kind in the Himalayan country, has been organized by China Cultural Centre in Nepal.

The event held at the capital's Army Club drew an audience of about 300 people including government secretaries, officials, political leaders, former ministers and music enthusiasts from different walks of life.

Addressing the function,



Artists from China's Tianjin Symphony Orchestra show musical performance during New Year Concert in Kathmandu, capital of Nepal, on 24 December, 2017. The two-day event was organized by China Culture Center in Nepal and Tianjin Symphony Orchestra to enhance the cultural exchange between China and Nepal as well as to welcome the New Year 2018. PHOTO: XINHUA

Deputy Chief of Mission at the Chinese embassy in Nepal Yang Shichao noted that Tianjin Symphony Orchestra, founded in 1985, is one of the largest and popular symphony orchestras in China.

"Music is a bond to link civilizations and mind with body. We believe such events are helpful to boost people to people exchanges and cultural cooperation", Yang said. According to the organizer, Tianjin Symphony Orchestra has successfully performed nearly 1,000 large symphonic works within China and in various countries like the United States, Australia, Japan and Germany among others.—Xinhua ■



WBC flyweight champion Daigo Higa of Japan speaks at a press conference in Tokyo on 26 December, 2017. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**

Higa to hold world title fight in hometown Okinawa in February

TOKYO — WBC flyweight champion Daigo Higa will face Mexican challenger Moises Fuentes in his hometown of Okinawa in February, officials of his Shirai Gushiken Sports gym said on Tuesday.

Higa will be looking to equal a Japanese record of 15 consecutive knockouts held by Tsuyoshi Hamada when he meets the 10th-ranked Fuentes at Okinawa Prefectural Budokan on 4 February in his second title defence.

“I wanted to fight in Okinawa one day and the time has finally come. I’m filled with happiness,” the 22-year-old Higa said.

Higa is undefeated with a 14-0 record, all fights won by knockout. Fuentes (25-4-1, 14 KOs) is a former WBC youth champion. He is also the former WBO minimumweight world champion and former WBO interim light-flyweight champion.—Kyodo News ■

Ceremony for new season of women’s professional football league today

SUPERVISED by the Myanmar Football Federation and the Myanmar Women’s League Organizing Committee and sponsored by KBZ Bank, the KBZ Bank Women’s League 2017-2018 will begin at 3pm today at Aung San Stadium in Yangon.

Before the opening ceremony, singers Phyo Gyi, Ar T, Po Po, Jenny, Kar Kar and Famous Dancer troupe will entertain the audience. A total of eight teams -- Thitsar Arman FC, Myawaddy FC, Sport and Education FC, University FC, ISPE FC, YREO FC, Gandamar FC and Zwekapin FC partake at the League and Thitsar Arman FC and Myawaddy FC -- will play today in an opening ceremony match. The competition is divided into seven weeks, with all weeks involving four matches each. All the matches will be played at 3:30pm at Aung San Stadium from 27 De-

cember 2017 to February 2018.

The first-week matches will see Thitsar Arman FC versus Myawaddy FC, Sport and Education FC versus University FC, ISPE FC versus YREO FC and Gandamar FC and Zwekapin FC from 27 to 30 December, while the second week will see Sport and Education FC versus ISPE FC, Myawaddy FC versus YREO FC, University FC versus Zwekapin FC and Thitsar Arman FC versus Gandamar FC from 2 to 5 January 2018. The third-week matches will consist of Zwekapin FC versus Thitsar Arman FC, YREO FC versus University FC, ISPE FC versus Myawaddy FC, Gandamar FC versus Sport and Education FC from 9 to 12 January 2018, whereas the fourth-week matches are YREO FC versus Gandamar FC, University FC versus ISPE FC, Thitsar Arman FC versus Sport and Education FC and

Zwekapin FC versus Myawaddy FC from 16 to 19 January 2018.

The fifth-week matches will be Myawaddy FC versus Sport and Education FC, ISPE FC versus Thitsar Arman, Gandamar FC versus University FC and Zwekapin FC versus YREO FC from 23 to 26 January 2018. The sixth-week competitions are ISPE FC versus Gandamar FC, University FC versus Myawaddy, Thitsar Arman versus YREO FC and Sport and Education versus Zwekapin FC from 30 January to 2 February 2018. The seventh-week competitions will be YREO FC versus Sport and Education FC, University FC versus Thitsar Arman FC, Myawaddy FC versus Gandamar FC and Zwekapin versus ISPE FC from 6 to 9 February 2018. There will be no charge for admission to all 2017-2018 KBZ Bank Women’s League matches. —GNLM Sport

Middlesbrough sack manager Monk

LONDON — Middlesbrough have sacked manager Garry Monk following an inconsistent start to the season, the Championship (second tier) side have announced.

Former Swansea City boss Monk took charge at Mid-

dlesbrough in June, following the club’s relegation from the Premier League last season, and was fired after his team managed only 10 wins in 23 league games to sit ninth in the standings. “The club would like to thank Garry for all his hard work and dedication,

and wish him all the best for the future.” Middlesbrough said in a statement. (www.mfc.co.uk) “The club’s Academy manager Craig Liddle will take temporary charge of first team affairs during the interim period while a successor is appointed.” —Reuters ■

Advocaat to coach Sparta Rotterdam

AMSTERDAM — Dick Advocaat is making a sentimental return to his former club Sparta Rotterdam as they battle against relegation from the Dutch top flight.

Advocaat, who stepped down as Netherlands coach last month, signed a contract on Monday to take over until the end of the season at Sparta, who sit joint bottom of the standings.

The 70-year-old played at Sparta for two seasons in the 1980s and his return was demanded by supporters after the team suffered five succes-

sive losses.

Alex Pastoor was fired after a 7-0 defeat by local rivals and champions Feyenoord on 17 December.

Advocaat stepped down as Netherlands coach in November after the team’s failure to qualify for next year’s World Cup in Russia.

Advocaat has also managed the national teams of Russia, Belgium, Serbia, United Arab Emirates and South Korea as well as European clubs including Rangers, Sunderland, PSV Eindhoven and Fenerbahce. —Reuters



Netherlands coach Dick Advocaat. **PHOTO: REUTERS**