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Monday, 15 January 2018



Vice President U Myint Swe and party together with Naga people beating a traditional drum at Naga New Year Festival. PHOTO: MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY

Nagas celebrate New Year

THE Naga people celebrated their New Year in their self-administered zone at the northern edge of the Sagaing Region in the north-west of Myanmar, in conjunction with the opening of a hydropower station yesterday, which was attended by Vice President U Myint Swe.

Sagaing Region Chief

Minister Dr Myint Naing, Commander of the North-West Command Maj-Gen Hpone Myat, Chairman U Kay Hsai of Naga Self-Administered Zone's leading body and patron U Ru San Kyuu of Naga literature and culture association (central), formally opened the festival in Nanyun.

Accompanied by local res-

idents, the Vice President and his party beat traditional Naga drum, after erecting the New Year banner mast and prayer poles. They then visited booths at the festival.

At the briefing hall of the Taihkam creek micro hydro-power project, the Vice President was briefed about project data and the work's progress,

which was presented by the chief minister and an official.

Managing Director of Electricity Supply Enterprise of the Ministry of Electricity and Energy U Saw Win Maung noted the power distribution capacity of the project. A local resident spoke words of thanks for providing electricity to Nanyun.

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Myanmar, Japan hold 2nd Sakura Festival

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'BANK OF THE YEAR IN MYANMAR 2017'

Awarded by The Banker

Message of Greetings sent by President U Htin Kyaw on the 66th Kayah State Day Celebrations Ceremony (15th January 2018)

Dear esteemed brothers and sisters residing in Kayah State,

I feel very honoured and happy to have this opportunity to send this Message of Greetings to the 66th Anniversary celebrations ceremony of the Kayah State Day which falls on 15th January 2018.

Today marks the Kayah State Day, a truly significant and auspicious day for all ethnic national brothers and sisters residing in the Kayah State.

I send my felicitations and good wishes for the well-being and auspiciousness of all Kayah nationals residing in the Kayah State, all Kayah nationals living all over the country and all Union ethnic nationals on this truly significant and auspicious Kayah State Day.

During the time when we established the States and Divisions after gaining our Independence, according to sub-section (1) of Section 180 of the 1947 Constitution, the Karenni

State was amalgamated into the Karen State and according to the Amendment Act, Section 8 of the 1951 Constitution (1951 Act Number 62), it was enacted that the word "Karenni State" should be substituted with "Kayah State" in all places where it occurs in the Union Constitution. The first Kayah State Day Ceremony was celebrated on 15 January 1952 and this year we are already in the 66th year.

If we look back into history, we may see that (9) Kayah ethnic groups and other ethnic groups have lived in the Kayah State from time immemorial in friendship and cordiality. After gaining Independence, because of mistrust and conflicts which lasted for many decades among the different ethnic brothers and sisters, Myanmar has lagged behind in politics, economic affairs and social affairs compared to other neighbouring countries.

It is for this reason that our Union Government is working hard to achieve national reconciliation and peace in the whole Union, something which has been hoped for and yearned by all Union nationals by convening Political dialogues and the Union Peace Conference - 21st Century Panglong.

As and when all ethnic nationals and ethnic armed groups living in the Kayah State participate and cooperate in the Peace Process, more new opportunities would open up for them and they would be able to enjoy the fruits of peace quickly.

The Lawpita Hydroelectric Power stations in Kayah State have existed for many years as very important electric power stations for the distribution of electricity in the country. At the same time, because Kayah State is endowed with many natural sceneries such as forests, mountains, deep ravines, and many streams and water-

falls including the Baluchaung waterfalls, irrigation canals and also blessed with beautiful pristine natural environments, it has the potential to be developed for eco-tourism.

Furthermore, we have built a bridge spanning the Thanlwin river (Pha Song) ; we have also established a border trading post in Maesei township and this township has been designated as a sister town of Mae Hong Song in Thailand and have been conducting practical meetings and also inviting foreign and local investments. For these reasons, not only more job opportunities for Kayah State ethnic nationals but also many new opportunities in other sectors will be created. It is ready to take off as a state with equal development within the state. Thus, at a time like this, peace is the number one priority for the Kayah State.

As we transform the Republic of the Union of Myan-

mar as a peaceful and unified Democratic Federal Republic, it is very important for all Union nationals to march in unity of spirit and equality.

I send this Message of Greetings as I urge all Kayah ethnic brothers and sisters to walk on the path to Peace with bravery and full foresight, increasing the momentum as you walk together hand in hand. You should all put forth concerted efforts for national reconciliation, Union peace and modernization; you should work hard for Kayah State to have a peaceful and beautiful future; and as you walk towards a new democratic country based on the firm foundations you have already achieved, to unitedly work together with all other Union ethnic national brothers and sisters.

Sd/-
(Htin Kyaw)
President

Repatriation camps will be ready on time, say officials

UNION MINISTER for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Win Myat Aye, who is also the chair of Union Enterprise for Humanitarian Assistance, Resettlement and Development in Rakhine State-UEHRD, accompanied by the Chief Minister of Rakhine State, addressed the coordination meeting to publicize the cash-aid program of expectant mothers and their under-two-year old babies in Sit-tway, yesterday morning.

The Union minister and party met Islamic people temporarily living at a relief camp near Kyeeaganbyin village in Maungta Township. The Union minister told them that he and the party had come there to coordinate the rebuilding of homes for them since, despite their homes having been destroyed by fire during terrorist attacks, they had not fled to the other country. Resettlement will be carried out within the legal framework. Village-type homes will be rebuilt in the areas



Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye explains the resettlement program at Kyeeaganbyin Village in Maungta Township. **PHOTO: MNA**

nearest to the places where they earn their livings. The project is to be carried out soon.

Chief Minister U Nyi Pu explained the resettlement program, noting that the deputy minister will coordinate with

administrators to implement it. The Union minister and party also inspected Hla Po Khaung camp, which will be a temporary medium camp for people who are to be accepted systematically by repatriation camps.

The 124-acre Hla Po Khaung will accommodate about 30,000 people in its 625 buildings. Forty buildings will be completed by 25 January and 100 by 31 January. Each building can accommodate 80 persons. The Union minis-

ter and party also inspected Belgium-made plastic tents for emergency use during the project period.

At the Ngakhuya repatriation camp they inspected the systematic repatriation plans. They assisted in the work of erecting buildings in time to house the staff working at the camp, and installing generators and power lines for two repatriation camps and a medium camp.

On arrival at Ohhtain village, where Hindu returnees will be housed, they observed construction and progress in building homes.

They also coordinated with UEHRD to set up covered rain tents to accommodate returnees at any time. Myanmar has already made preparations to be prepared to start the repatriation of persons who fled to the other country by 23 January, under the bilateral agreement reached with Bangladesh. —Myanmar News Agency ■



State-level officials from Myanmar and honoured Japanese guests pose for documentary photo at the second Sakura Festival Myanmar in Nay Pyi Taw on 14 January. **PHOTO: MNA**

Myanmar, Japan hold 2nd Sakura Festival

STATE-LEVEL Myanmar officials and honoured Japanese guests attended the second Sakura Festival Myanmar at Myanmar International Convention Centre-1 (MICC-1) in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Speaking at the event, Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw U Win Myint said, "Cherry is a flower conveying the fine characteristics of Japan, which it represents," and added, "It is an honour for Japan that the cherry blossom season annually hosts thousands of global tourists."

He thanked the Japanese for their assistance in helping the cherry season thrive in Myanmar, as the Sakura festival is part of the endeavours to promote tourism in the country. The festival is where the soul of Japan and Myanmar converges, he said, praying for long-lasting friendship between Myanmar and Japan.

Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw Mahn Win Khaing Than also addressed the festival, which was held with the aim of cherishing peace among future generations through people-to-people friendship between Myanmar and Japan, promoting the tourism industry and turning Myanmar into a new global tourist hotspot.

Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than said cherry was among the many seasonal and regional flowers of Myanmar, whose people

loved flowers. Sakura helps beautify the area and conserve the natural environment. The beautiful Sakura blooms may attract more Japanese visitors, investment and economic cooperation with Myanmar, he added.

At a time when Myanmar is promoting itself as an emerging destination, the festival and the beauty of Sakura will provide the country with greater attractiveness and a better reputation. Beautiful cherries will always stand as proof of the ever-improving Japan-Myanmar friendship, understanding and cooperation.

Also, Chairman of Japan-Myanmar Parliamentary Friendship Association (JMPFA) Ichiro Aisawa read out a message by Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe.

Speakers U Win Myint and Mahn Win Khaing Than, Deputy Speaker U Aye Tha Aung, union ministers, the Union Attorney-General and the chairman of JMPFA planted cherries at the MICC-1 and Royal Myanmar Golf Club, followed by a luncheon in honour of the festival. Some 200 cherries were planted. The first Sakura festival saw the planting of some 100 saplings last year in Nay Pyi Taw, where 1,000 Sakura trees will be planted this year. Chin State will also grow 1,000 cherries, in places such as Haka and Thantalan townships.

The cherry trees may

attract more tourists, including the Japanese, as they represent strong bonds of mutual love and

friendship.

The speakers of the two houses, other high level officials and distin-

guished Japanese guests also attended a pre-festival dinner at Horizon Lake View Resort Hotel

in Nay Pyi Taw on the evening of January 13. — Myanmar News Agency ■



Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Win Myint plants a cherry in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**



Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than watering cherry plant. **PHOTO: MNA**



Japanese Ambassador to Myanmar watering the cherry plant in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**



Union Minister U Ohn Maung and Mr. Ichiro Aisawa planting a cherry. **PHOTO: MNA**

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MRF to help businessmen in rice sector obtain govt loans

May Thet Hnin

THE Myanmar Rice Federation (MRF) will help businessmen with small and medium rice enterprises obtain government loans, said U Ye Min Aung, secretary of MRF.

"The plan will offer loans from Ks20-30 million up to Ks200-300 million, depending on the business size. MRF will also plan for the SMEs to cluster together, if it is difficult for individual businesses to survive," he said.

MRF is cooperating with the ministry of planning and finance to provide loans in March or April.

MRF has requested the government to provide Ks65 billion for small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in the rice sector during the next fiscal year. To participate in the government's loan plans, prioritised businesses will be selected on the basis of their contribution to promoting exports and import substitutions, as well as value-added manufacturing.

"Those who have a rec-

Workers loading sacks of rice into a lorry. **PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR**

ommendation, or even those who do not have one, are invited to apply for this plan. We will focus mainly on the business status, potential income and profit-making," said U Ye Min Aung.

Businessmen engaged in pedigree crop production, grain dryer installations, warehouse construction, expansion of export businesses, upgrading of rice mills and rice bran oil mills, feed processing factories, valued-add-

ed products, such as rice vermicelli, rice noodle and rice powder production businesses, and rice husk electric power production, among others, are entitled to apply to receive funding through the loan plan. Small and medium businesses that wish to obtain a loan can contact MRF. Additionally, those who are not engaged in any business, but plan to do so in the future, can also contact MRF. The Myanma Eco-

nomie Bank has also committed to provide a loan of Ks300 billion to the agriculture sector, during a regular meeting between the vice president and businessmen in October.

Rice exports, as of early January this fiscal year, reached more than 2.6 million metric tonnes, registering a 50-year record high in export volume. MRF intends to bolster rice exports by 2020. ■

Gemological Institute of Myanmar, gems laboratory, opened yesterday

May Thet Hnin

TO improve the quality of gems and jewellery education and enhance Myanmar's gems sector, the Gemological Institute of Myanmar (GIM), along with a gems laboratory, was opened at Junction City Tower yesterday.

Union Minister for Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation U Ohn Win and Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein expressed their congratulations during the opening ceremony of the institute.

GIM's faculty consists of retired professors, local and foreign gem experts and executive members of Myanmar's Gems and Jewellery Entrepreneurs Association. GIM was opened, along with the gems lab and a gems research centre.

This institute aims to pro-

duce gem and jewellery experts proficient in global standards, conduct research regarding gem and jewellery education, and help support the development of sectors related to the gem industry.

GIM will offer courses in gem education, jewellery design, gem and jewellery management and gem photography. GIM's curricula are better than those of American-based GIA and Britain-based FGA diploma courses.

GIM will open one-month courses on 'Introduction to Jewellery', 'Introduction to Diamonds' and 'Introduction to coloured stones' on 14 February. Those who pass these courses can continue to attend diploma courses, said U Waila Win, CEO of GIM.

The gem laboratory will provide testing services for

gems and jewellery, as well as grading services to determine prices, he added. Previously, the Gem Lab Certificate had to be obtained abroad, limiting businesses and endangering the security of those carrying gems to seek certificates abroad.

Now, the GIM lab will provide certificates for gems and jewellery, he added. This lab will help identify real and fake gems and jewellery items, detect colour-enhanced and synthetic gems, determine the origins of rubies, sapphires and emeralds, and identify CVD or HPHT synthetic diamonds.

The gem research centre will also disseminate information about gems and jewellery to the public, and conduct research activities on gems and jewellery and the places where these gems and jewellery are mined, said U Waila Win.

The GIM's research activities will require global recognition, and for this, seminars must be conducted, said Dr Yin Yin New from GIM.

"The future generation is important to the gems sector, compared to advanced technology. The faculty, as well as the young people, need life-long learning," she pointed out.

Union Minister U Ohn Win said the government had encouraged the opening of the gem lab. A gem institute and the advanced gem lab will ensure customers can determine if their gems and jewellery are real or fake, he noted.

Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein encouraged GIM to have a globally-recognised lab. Efforts were started to open the GIM lab and research centre three years ago. ■



Employees work at the production line of a large garment factory in Hlinethaya Township. PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR

Export income from garment sector reaches \$1.86 billion this FY

EXPORTS from garment factories that operate under the Cut-Make-Pack (CMP) system earned some US\$1.86 billion, as of the first week of January this fiscal year (FY), with the amount increasing by more than \$560 million, compared to last FY, according to the commerce ministry.

The garment sector is one of the prioritised sectors that drives increasing exports. Garment exports are primarily made to Japan and European markets. Additionally, garments

are exported to markets in South Korea, China and America.

The majority of Myanmar's garment factories operate under the CMP system, while those engaged in this industry are striving to transform CMP into the free on board (FoB) system.

The 2016-2017 FY saw estimated earnings of some \$2 billion from garment exports, according to the commerce ministry. In the export sector, natural gas and agricultural products individually accounted for 25 per

cent, while CMP garments accounted for 16 per cent, minerals for eight per cent, fisheries for five per cent and forest, animal products and other products for 21 per cent.

There are more than 400 garment factories in Myanmar, with a labour force of greater than 300,000 workers. Myanmar's inexpensive labour attracts investments from foreign manufacturers to the country, which sometimes leads to a conflict over wages between workers and employers. — Ko Khant

Myanmar sees slight decrease in value of forest product exports

THE exports of forest products were valued at more than US\$171 million during the current financial year, recording a slight decrease of \$9.6 million in comparison with the same period in the last fiscal year (FY), according to the commerce ministry.

As of 5 January this year, the country exported a wide variety of forest products, in-

cluding bamboo and other non-wood products, which reached \$171.987 million in value, including \$11.755 million from the public sector and \$160 million from the private sector.

Over the first 280 days of this FY, bilateral exports between Myanmar and other countries topped \$10.731 billion, including \$7.132 billion from the private sector.

Myanmar mainly conducts overseas trade through its sea routes. The country usually exports agricultural commodities, manufactured goods, animal products, minerals, marine products, forest products and other commodities. It primarily imports three groups of commodities — capital goods, consumer products and intermediate goods. —Shwe Khine

Consumer good imports by private traders up by over \$450 million

THE imports of consumer goods by private traders this year increased by more than US\$450 million, compared with the same period last year, the commerce ministry reported.

At this time last year, the private sector imported consumer products valued at \$2.822 billion.

Various types of consum-

er products, including clothing and food valued at \$3.378 billion, were imported to the country from overseas trade partners in the past nine months of this fiscal year.

As of the first week of this month, private importers bought \$3.278 billion worth of commodities, while imports of similar goods by the govern-

ment reached \$99 million, which saw an increase of \$51 million over last year.

The total value of imports into the country, as of January 5 this year, was \$13.941 billion, including \$13.203 billion brought in through private importers, which saw an increase in value of \$1.737 billion against last year's total of \$11.465. —GNLM

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

တနင်္ဂနွေနေ့တိုင်း **"Sunday Special"** အချပ်ပို (၈) မျက်နှာပါဝင်သော The Global New Light of Myanmar နေ့စဉ်ထုတ် သတင်းစာကို အောက်ပါမြို့များတွင် ဖတ်ရှုနိုင်ပါပြီ

Three dead, one hurt in IED explosion in Maungdaw Tsp

"Sunday Special" အချပ်ပို (၈) မျက်နှာ ပါဝင်သည်

နေပြည်တော်
မြန်မာ့ရေးရာဇာတ်မြုံ့ချက် (၇) နေပြည်တော်၊ သတင်းနှင့်စာနယ်ဇင်းလုပ်ငန်း (ရုံးချုပ်)၊ စီမံရေးရာဌာန၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၈၇ ၄၁၁၁၈

နေပြည်တော်
နေပြည်တော်သတင်းစာတိုက် (တပ်ကုန်း)၊ ဝေယျာသီရိမြို့နယ်၊ ခရိုင်လမ်းခွဲ၊ နေပြည်တော်၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၈၇ ၃၆၁၄၈၊ ၀၈၇ ၃၆၁၂၉

ရန်ကုန်
The Global New Light of Myanmar သတင်းစာတိုက်၊ အမှတ် ၁၅၀၊ ငါးထပ်ကြီးဘုရားလမ်း၊ ဝဟန်းမြို့နယ်၊ ရန်ကုန်မြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၁၀ ၆၀၄၅၃၂၊ ၀၉၅ ၄၄၄၂၄၁၁၄

မန္တလေး
လမ်း (၂၀ x ၂၁) ကြား၊ (၈၂ x ၈၃) လမ်းကြား၊ မုလ်ခွေ ရောင်ရမ်းမန္တလေးမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၂၃၂၇၂၉၊ ၀၂၃၂၇၅၁

တောင်ကြီး
ရုံးကြီးလမ်း၊ သစ်တောရပ်ကွက်၊ တောင်ကြီးမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၈၁၂၁၁၆၄၊ ၀၉၅၂၁၄၃၅၇

မကွေး
နတ်မောက်လမ်း၊ တပ်မ (၈၈) တပ်နယ်ချေးအနီး၊ မကွေးမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၈၃၂၇၇၁၂

တနင်္သာရီ
မြို့ဝင် (၃-၈)၊ အမှတ် (၁) လမ်းသွယ်၊ မြို့နယ်လမ်း၊ ကျိုင်းတုံမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၈၄၂၂၄၉၂

ကလေး
အောင်ဇေယျာရပ်ကွက်၊ မြို့နယ်အားကစားကွင်းအနီး၊ ကလေးမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၇၃၂၂၁၃၃

မြင်ကြီးနား
အမှတ် (၄၁)၊ ရောင်ရမ်းကွက်၊ အောင်ဆန်းလမ်း၊ မြင်ကြီးနားမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၇၄၂၂၄၂၂

စစ်တွေ
ရဲဘော်တပ်လမ်းနှင့် တက္ကသိုလ်ရိပ်သာလမ်း၊ မီးစက်ကြီးအနီး၊ မန်းကျည်းမြိုင်ရပ်ကွက်၊ စစ်တွေမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၄၃၂၃၀၆၈

လားရှိုး
ဟူးမွန်ကျေးရွာကပ်၊ ဟူးမွန်ဆည်ဘယ်ဘက်ခြမ်း (၁၂) ရပ်ကွက်၊ မန်ဆူဘုရားရှေ့၊ အဝေရာလမ်းမ၊ လားရှိုးမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၈၂၂၄၀၆၇

ခြင်
မေတ္တာလမ်း၊ ရှမ်းချောင်းရပ်၊ ကလေးကျေးရွာအုပ်စု၊ ခြင်မြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၅၉၄၂၁၈၃

မော်လမြိုင်
ကြာအင်းကျေးရွာ၊ မော်လမြိုင်မြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၅၇၇၂၅၂၊ ၀၅၇၇၂၅၂၆

ပုဇွန်
နန္ဒဝန်ရပ်ကွက်၊ ဆက်သွယ်ရေးတပ်မတော်အနီး၊ ပုဇွန်မြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၇၁၂၆၇၃၅၊ ၀၇၁၂၆၇၃၃

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Nagas celebrate New Year



Vice President U Myint Swe viewing Naga traditional utensils at the New Year Festival. **PHOTO: MNA**



Vice President U Myint Swe presenting offertories to a Sayadaw. **PHOTO: MNA**



The opening ceremony of Naga New Year Festival in progress. **PHOTO: MNA**

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After inspecting the different sections of the hydropower station, the Vice President and his party attended the opening ceremony. The officials then formally opened the station.

Next, the chief minister unveiled the stone plaque and the Vice President, the commander and his party sprinkled it with scented water.

The Vice President then pulled the operation gear and

toured the station. The power station is built at Taihkam creek, three miles south of Nanyun, and its two turbines can generate 1,000 kilowatts.

The Vice President and his party then flew to Panhsaung by helicopter and observed the border development projects there.

They also visited patients at a people's hospital and offered them cash assistance.

Back in Nanyun, they met Naga leaders, members of the central Naga culture committee,

members of the Naga literature and culture committees of townships in the zone, and town elders at the general administration department office.

Speaking on the occasion, the Vice President said, under the Constitution there are six self-administered areas in Myanmar, formed by various ethnic groups. "As the Naga self-administered zone is rich in natural resources, they must be tapped effectively for regional development. According to history, there are

four major tribes and more than 100 sub-tribes of Naga. There are committees to preserve the Naga culture and literature. All-inclusive efforts are required for regional development. Peace and stability is the key for regional development.

Only peace and stability can ensure national development. Development in Naga region is proof of its peace and stability. All natives must take part in the endeavours for regional peace, stability and progress. The State

is making the utmost efforts to narrow the gap between the regions and state," he said.

The chief minister also explained about regional development plans, while U Kay Hsai elaborated on the requirements to complete the work. The vice president and his party promised to look into the requirements.

They also paid their respects to members of the Sangha, led by missionary monk Bhaddanta Tejinda, in Nanyun. — Myanmar News Agency ■



Vice President U Myint Swe and party inspect Taihkan hydropower station after attending the Naga New Year Festival in Nanyun in Sagaing Region in the north-west of Myanmar. **PHOTO: MNA**



Vice President U Myint Swe and party erecting a new year banner mast. **PHOTO: MNA**

Ecotourism of Hkakabo Razi region gaining momentum



Ministry of Planning and Finance, Forestry Department hold a meeting with UNESCO on administrative planning of the nature tourism of Hkakabo Razi region, Kachin State. **PHOTO: MNA**

MINISTRY of Planning and Finance, Forestry Department and UNESCO jointly launched a meeting on administrative planning of the nature tourism of Hkakabo Razi region, Kachin State yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

Forestry Department Deputy Director-General U Kyaw Kyaw Lwin attended and delivered the opening speech at the meeting.

The Hkakabo Razi region hosts a large array of rare creatures, exotic and beautiful landscape, forests, mountains high and low, natural plants and unique flora and fauna species.

Ethnic groups such as Rawan, Lisu, Jiein Phaw, Tibet along with their traditions, costumes and cultures are recordable in list of world heritage. So efforts should be made for the region to enter into the World's Heritage list, said the Deputy Director-General and explained the importance of ecotourism of the region, the opportunities ecotourism will create for the local ethnics and then invited suggestions from the advisors from WCS.

Officials from Forestry Department, Kachin State Hluttaw representatives, departmental

officials and representatives from ICIMOD and WCS attended the ceremony.

The existence of rare mega mammals including Asian elephants and Indian rhinos, beautiful scenery, multiple ethnic groups with their attractive cultures and costumes serve as the foundation for the development of Myanmar's Tourism. The region has 21 legally recognized ecotourism sites of which 19 are preserved natural sites and two are elephant camps. Work is under way to further promote ecotourism of the area.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Volunteers undergo training for humanitarian services

THE fourth group of volunteers began training yesterday morning to provide humanitarian services in Rakhine State in Yangon.

The training, along with a follow-up field tour by the Union Enterprise for Humanitarian Assistance, Resettlement and Development (UEHRD) in Rakhine State, will provide the volunteers with adequate experience, said Dr Daw San San Aye, Director General of Social Welfare Department, in her opening address.

The three-day course, from January 14 to 16, will provide instructions on basic legal procedures, in connection with the humanitarian services, preparations for the field tour, social harmony, conflict management, peace building and reconciliation.

Dr Daw San San Aye thanked the volunteers for their services in the interest of



Trainees of fourth volunteers group pose for documentary photo. **PHOTO: MNA**

the nation, after explaining the three points of UEHRD, which involve ensuring the effectiveness of humanitarian services, coordination in rehabilitation and resettlement, and lasting regional progress and peace.

Volunteers will also learn about data compilation, documentation, reporting and conflict

management in the areas where they are providing humanitarian services and aid.

The first course was held in Yangon from November 5 to 24, 2017, the second from November 24 to December 13, 2017, and the third from December 16, 2017, to January 4, 2018.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Curriculum Vitaé of H.E. Mr. Thongloun Sisoulith Prime Minister of the Lao People's Democratic Republic

H.E. Mr. Thongloun Sisoulith was born on 10 November 1945. He began his studies at the Pedagogy College of Neo Lao Hak Sat in Houaphanh Province in Laos in 1962, and later obtained a Master degree in Linguistics and Literature from Gerzen Pedagogy Institute in Saint Petersburg, and a Doctorate (Ph.D) degree in History of International Relations from the Academy of Social Science in Moscow.

Mr. Thongloun Sisoulith started his career at the Educational Department of the Neo Lao Hak Sat (Lao National Patriotic Front) in Houaphanh Province, Laos, as Senior Officer in 1967. From 1969 to 1986, Mr. Thongloun Sisoulith worked under various capacities at the Office of the Representative of Lao National Patriotic Front in Hanoi, Professor at the Vientiane University, Secretary to the Minister of Education and as the Director of External Relations Division, Director of Public Research Department at the Prime Minister's Office.

From 1987 to 1992, he worked as the Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs and from 1993 to 1996 as the Minister



of Labour and Social Welfare. From 1997 to 2001, he worked as a Member of the Standing Committee of the Lao National Assembly and Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee. Between 2001 and 2006, Mr. Thongloun Sisoulith worked as the Deputy Prime Minister and President of the Committee for Planning and Investment, President of Investment Management Committee, President of the Lao National Committee for Energy, Member of the Lao National Assembly. He was later appointed as Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs.

Mr. Thongloun Sisoulith became Prime Minister of the Lao People's Democratic Republic in 2016.

He is married to Mrs. Naly Sisoulith, and they have three children.

Curriculum Vitaé of Mrs. Naly Sisoulith Spouse of the Prime Minister of the Lao People's Democratic Republic

Mrs. Naly Sisoulith was born on 10 October 1950 in Xieng Khouang Province in the Lao People's Democratic Republic. She obtained a Bachelor degree in Linguistics and Literature from Pedagogy University of Lao PDR.

Mrs. Naly Sisoulith worked as a teacher at the Pedagogy College before 1975, and later worked as Professor at the Pedagogy University in Vientiane from 1975 to 1978. Between 1978 and 1992, she worked at the Department of Teachers' Training and at Central Lao



Women Federation as Senior Officer.

She is an Executive member of Leader's wife Federation and the Senior Women Officer in Lao PDR.

Auspicious signs of the sound of weaving

TOur great disappointment we heard the news that the Myanmar Weaving Industry has been facing the threatening challenges of Myanmar Longyi (a kind of Sarong) imported from the neighboring country. Here we need to deeply ponder as to why ready-to-wear longyis which came from miles far away from here could compete with Myanmar products in the Myanmar market. What it really needs is to upgrade the capacity of the Myanmar Weaving Industry.

With a view to developing the Myanmar Weaving Industry, a three year project named “Let Khat Than/Weaving Sound,” has been implemented by the Department of Light Industry, the British Council and Swiss Agency for Development Cooperation [SDC]. On the study of the objectives of the “Let Khat Than” project, it will be found that broader conclusions were made as to what should be implemented for strengthening the sector of weaving industries in Myanmar. Under the project, up-gradation will be made in accord with the requirements after reviewing the current curriculums and

syllabuses being taught at the weaving and other vocational training schools. Simultaneously, qualifications and skills of teaching staff from the said weaving and vocational training schools will be improved. The project will help not only in the sector of teaching during the schooling period but also in linking with entrepreneurs of textile industries for those who have completed their training courses in the weaving schools.

The British council will hold a workshop on weaving as an initiative of the “Let Khat Than” project. Together with the British Council, the workshop will be supported by Light Industry Department and Plymouth College of Arts [PCA] in Britain. It will be held at the Saunders Weaving School in Amarapura and Vocational Institute. The objectives of the workshop are innovation of new designs on textile and drawing up the syllabuses on teaching method. In shaping the objectives of the workshop as well, innovations of traditional designs in accord with the demands of the markets, including convincing those involved in Myanmar Weaving Industries of the nature of the western markets were included. Thus, we firmly believe that the capabilities of the Myanmar Weaving Industry will be effectively upgraded. ■

Invitation to young writers for Sunday section

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

Corruption Issue We All Must Eradicate In Cooperation

By Than Phyto Naing
[Kanyingyo]

SINCE after gaining Independence until now, bribery and corruption had deep-rooted in our Myanmar society as if a chronic disease. Though different governments ruled the country under different kinds of political systems for years, the problem cannot be solved out. Instead, it remained rooted, finding it difficult to be cured.

Rank second in south-east Asia in 2017

According to the statistics released by the global corruption watchdog on the annual report of South-East Asian nations in 2017 Vietnam ranked first in the worst-corrupted countries, followed by Myanmar the second. Compared to that of 2015 it can be said to have made infinitesimal progress because in that year Myanmar and Cambodia co-held the first post in the worst list. In addition, it is said that Myanmar was next to Somali in the worst list of the corruption out of 183 countries in 2010. According to the World Bank's studies, the present situations on corruption in Myanmar still remained too high compared to that of the global corruption. Its findings pointed out that over 50 percent of companies related to the governmental departments had to pay illegally for the acquisition of import licenses, with 30 or 40 percent of companies paying illegal payment as bribe for tax evasion and work permits. In the report it was also described that practices of bribery and corruption were coming to get involved not only in economic sector but also in judicial and legislative sectors.

Joined the international organizations

On 20th November 2012, Myanmar became a 137th member country in the UN Anti-Corruption Convention, signing the agreement of ethics to be followed, which were laid down by the Convention. Now, Myanmar is co-operating the activities by combining with other member



countries. And, Myanmar is a member country of Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative [EITI], signing the UN agreement on the corruption in December 2012. Myanmar became a 10th member country of SEA-PAC [South East Asia Parties Against Corruption].

A commission formed after promulgation of a law

On 7th August 2013, in the reign of the former government when multi-party democratic system commenced to have been introduced the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw promulgated the anti-corruption law as the law no- 23/2013, with anti-corruption commission formed in March 2014 to practically implement the prescriptions included in the law. The objectives of forming the commission are to perform the anti-corruption as the national obligation, to bring about the emergence of the clean government and the good governance, to upgrade dignity, responsibility and accountability in administration, not to harm

the state-owned properties and the citizens' benefits and to effectively arrest those who commit bribery and corruption. The commission's responsibilities include 15 points, mainly concerned with investigations of the cases and submissions of the investigation reports to the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and the President of the State.

Taking actions against corruptions

In accordance with the prescriptions of the law, the commission managed to take actions against 9 who committed the corruption and 125 servicemen who violated rules and regulations for the civil service personnel, recovering a total of K 20685000 of the national revenue until the end of the year 2015, according to the report of the commission to the Hluttaw. Now, the incumbent government took its office for one and half year period, but bribery and corruption cases are still being seen in some places. In the previous year one township ad-

ministrator and two other junior officers suspected to get involved in the corruption were sent to trials. Similarly, news and information of the arrests of one secretary of the regional government and other village administrators had been found in social media.

Corruption led a country to lagging behind in development

In fact, problems of corruption can harm the national development and citizens' rights and opportunities, simultaneously causing unnecessary complicated problems in the circles of regional, political, social and economic organizations. Bribery and corruption are everywhere across the world, more or less. But, it tends to spread on the large scale in the countries with the low per capita income. Therefore, Myanmar saw corruption in different types almost everywhere, hence the plunge into less developed country's status and the worst corruption violating country. Corruption is

the dishonest or illegal behaviors, especially of people in authority for personal benefits. In other word, it is the abuse of official status and ranks and positions for personal interests.

Gap in social class, inflation and high prices

On the other hand, the problems of bribery and corruption cause negative evil effects to the national economic development and services of public affairs as well as to the foreign investments directly. The more abundant national resources and profitable enterprises a country has, the greater corruption cases the country has.

Bribery and corruption can cause unbalanced state of earning income among the citizens, begetting a great gap between the rich and the poor. As the result of the higher inflation rates skyrocketing prices will occur.

In eradicating problems of corruptions, it is necessary for the government to collect the revenues and taxes without

letting any wastages occur, and thence to systematically manage in spending the national revenue for the public interest. Budget to be used for the public services are to be transparent. As for the government, it needs to publicize rules and regulations in inviting tenders as well, so that the public will have known about everything.

It is necessary for the international organizations watching Myanmar affairs and local media to get news and information accurately and transparently. Especially, it needs to get rightful and effective presentations of news and information as quickly as possible.

Public co-operation and advices needed

The public need to broadly study as to whether there are cases of bribery and corruption in governmental departments. Being well convinced of such cases vividly can speed up making reforms. It is incumbent not only upon the government alone but also upon the conscientious people to gain success in alleviating or eliminating corruption. As for the Anti-Corruption Commission, the Office of Union Auditor General and the Office of the Union Supreme Court, they need to firmly stand on their own stances without fear and dependence on other parties. In the anti-corruption system, it is of great importance to supervise over every sector assigned, to check on surprise and to counter-examine.

To sum it up, it is urgently needed for the State to supervise making potential influx of foreign investment enter the nation as promptly as possible, making public health care, education system reforms and economic policy reforms effective and deliveringsupports from the so-called NGOs, straight to the people. Now, people are greatly desirous of elimination of corruption, hence the need to take part in the all-inclusive campaign for getting rid of the disgusting corruption, as for the entire national populace. ■

Translated by
Khin Maung Oo

ADB Launches Instagram Photo Contest on Development Progress in the Mekong Subregion

THE Asian Development Bank (ADB) today launched a photo contest on Instagram to showcase the development progress in the Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS) and demonstrate how a focus on increased regional cooperation and integration can improve people's lives.

The online photo contest, which will be held using the hashtag #GMS25, is part of the 25th anniversary celebrations of the establishment of the GMS Program. GMS countries are Cambodia, the People's Republic of China (specifically Yunnan Province and Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region), Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar, Thailand, and Viet Nam.

“As we celebrate the 25th anniversary of the establishment of the GMS, we would like to take stock of the achievements of the regional cooperation and give a clear image of how it changed the lives of the people living along the Mekong for the better,” said Cuong Minh Nguyen, an ADB Principal Regional Cooperation Specialist and Unit Head of the GMS Program.

“We're hopeful that the photo contest will showcase this and provide encouragement for the future work of the GMS.”

The contest is open to nonprofessional photographers, of any age from ADB's member countries. Images must be original and taken personally by the photographer, not previously published, and showcase daily life in the Mekong subregion and how lives have changed in the last 25 years. Contestants can submit as many photos as they like.

To enter the contest, post the photograph on your Instagram account using the hashtag #GMS25 and tag @ADB_HQ. Photos can be posted between 8 January 2018 and 9 February 2018. Winners will be announced on 20 February 2018.

First prize winner will receive \$500, second prize winner will get \$200, and third prize winner will take home \$100. Winners will be judged on the merit of their content or on the number of Instagram likes. To see full rules, prizes, and to get information on the contest, go to this link.

Established in 1992 with support from ADB, the GMS Program helps the implementation of high priority subregional projects in transport, energy, telecommunications, environment, human resource development, tourism, trade, private sector investment, and agriculture.

As of 2016, ADB has approved \$7.3 billion in loans for 84 GMS investment projects, with GMS member countries and development partners providing \$4.9 billion and \$6.9 billion, respectively.

The Sixth GMS Summit of Leaders, with the theme, Leveraging on 25 Years of Cooperation, and Building a Sustainable, Integrated, and Prosperous GMS, will be held on 29-31 March 2018 in Viet Nam.

The summit will be attended by GMS leaders—who are expected to endorse the Ha Noi Action Plan 2018-2022—as well as other senior public officials, private sector representatives, development partners including ADB, and members of the media.

ADB, based in Manila, is dedicated to reducing poverty in Asia and the Pacific through inclusive economic growth, environmentally sustainable growth, and regional integration. Established in 1966, it is owned by 67 members—48 from the region.—ADB ■

Local people in Ye Township provided with free healthcare services

A 55-member team led by Dr. Tin Myo Win from the National Reconciliation and Peace Center provided free healthcare services to patients in Ye, Mon State yesterday.

Local people across the township are receiving various diseases at a public hospital. The specialists' team provided free healthcare services to around 1,500 local people in Thanbyuzayat and Bilin townships in 2017.

The team will give similar free healthcare to people in other regions and states as of January 2018.—Myanmar Digital News ■



Local people of Thanbyuzayat and Bilin townships receive free healthcare service. **PHOTO: MYANMAR DIGITAL NEWS**

Remote-controlled bomb discovered at 105th-mile Trade Zone

A remote-controlled bomb which may have been planted by unknown people was discovered under a truck near 105th-mile Trade Zone in Muse Township, Northern Shan State yesterday morning.

The improvised explosive device was found under a truck carrying bags of rice. The Muse-bound truck was driven by U Moe Win. Security personnel from No (415) Light Infantry Regiment under Infantry Division No (88), local police force, local anti-drug squad, local people's militia and firefighters rushed to the scene and checked the improvised explosive device.



Parts of the discovered remote-controlled bomb. **PHOTO: MYANMAR DIGITAL NEWS**

Security personnel from No (415) Light Infantry Regiment removed the remote-controlled bomb.—Thant Zin (Muse) ■

Latest earthquake news

THE Kaba-Aye Seismological Observatory Station recorded a 4.9- magnitude earthquake with its epicenter located about 390 miles south-west of the station at the Andaman Islands, Indian Region, outside Myanmar territory at (22) hrs (18) min (14) sec on 14 January.—MNA ■

19th Earthquake of 2018

THE latest of the 19 earthquakes that hit the country during the period from 1 to 14 January 2018 occurred yesterday morning, according to Department of Meteorology and Hydrology.

A slight earthquake of mag-

nitude (4.5) Richter Scale with its epicenter inside Myanmar (about (25) miles West-South-west of Phyu) about (105) miles North of Kaba-Aye seismological observatory was recorded at (05) hrs (59)min (49)sec M.S.T on 14th January, 2018. — MNA ■

Myanmar Daily Weather Report

BAY INFERENCE: Weather is partly cloudy over the Andaman Sea and South Bay and a few clouds elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL MORNING OF THE 15th JANUARY, 2018: Light rain are likely to be isolated in Upper Sagaing, Yangon and Ayeyarwady Regions, Kachin and Shan States. Degree of certainly is (60%). Weather will be partly cloudy in the remaining Regions and States.

STATE OF THE SEA: Seas will be moderate in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about (4 - 7) feet in off and along Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Slightly increase of night temperatures in Naypyitaw, Mandalay, Magway, Bago, Yangon and Ayeyarwady Regions.

FORECAST FOR NAYPYITAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 15th JANUARY, 2018: Partly cloudy.

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 15th JANUARY, 2018: Likelihood of isolated light rain. Degree of certainly is (60%).

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 15th JANUARY, 2018: Partly cloudy.—DMH

New Generation Leadership in Substance Use Prevention training opened

NEW Generation Leadership in Substance Use Prevention training was opened at the Sedona Hotel in Yangon yesterday morning, which aims to raise awareness of the dangers of drugs and alcohol among the children.

Sixty participants who are volunteering in "Drug and Alcohol Facts Week 2018" campaign from 22-28 January, are attending the training.

This training was organized by Association for Healthy Adolescent Development (AHEAD), Teens and Dreams Network, and AMN Youth Network of Mandalay.

This campaign aims at raising awareness of the

dangers of alcohol and drug in Yangon, Mandalay, Mawlamyine and Taunggyi.

"They will organize a campaign in order to give awareness about drugs among the children in selected schools in Hlinethaya and North-Dagon in Yangon. The training has 3 objectives: 1.to understand the basics of drugs and basics prevention of drug use; 2. to identify the prevention measures they can contribute; and 3. to equip them the skills required to provide drug education to children.

All the trainees are university students between the ages of 16 and 22 who are committed to educate about drugs

for children.

Similarly, some youths attended the training for Drug and Alcohol Facts week in Mandalay, Taunggyi and Mawlamyine. In all townships, they intend to reach 80,000 children between 10 to 15 years old.

"Being a member of Teens and Drams, I am determined to tackle the use of drugs among the young people. I attended another a training which had lasted 12 days. As a result, I came to know more about anatomy and the danger of drugs. I had to study and talked with the children who live in Hlinethaya and visited Mental Health Hospital to understand about treatment

of addiction. Thanks to this training, I gained self-confidence and dare to speak in front of the public", said Ma Aye Eaindray Maung, an IR student at Yangon University.

Maung Kaung Zarni Naing, a student of Yangon Technological University said, "I attend this training to fight against the use of drugs, which can be harmful to our societies. I also joined similar training last year.

I think I can help my country in one way or another. As for me, I will refrain from using drugs and, am trying to raise awareness of the danger of drugs among our society.—Ye Khaung Nyunt ■

Yoma Yangon International Marathon 2018 on 21 January

THE sixth edition of Myanmar's largest participatory running event, the 2018 Yoma Yangon International Marathon (YYIM 2018), takes place on Sunday, 21 January from 5am to 10.30am at Thuwanna National Indoor Stadium.

It will be the biggest YYIM event held with more than 9,000 runners participating and the organisers invite you to be a part of it!

YYIM 2018 is jointly organised by Yoma Strategic Holdings Ltd. ("Yoma Strategic"), together with First Myanmar Investment Co., Ltd. (FMI) and Yangon City Development Committee (YCDC). —GNLM ■

Rice prices rise in domestic market this harvest season



Harvested monsoon rice lying near a paddy field in Shwebo District. **PHOTO: TAUNG NI TIN WIN**

ALTHOUGH farmers had a good yield from the monsoon paddy in the Shwebo District, rice prices have been on the rise in the domestic market, growers said.

Commenting on the price increase, U Than Tun, a rice farmer from Kanthit Village in KhinU Township, said, "Some hundred baskets of Shwebo

Pawsan rice, a popular type, is currently sold for some Ks1.2 million in the market. The same volume of Pawsan rice was sold for Ks850,000 last year."

There are more than 500,000 acres of monsoon paddy plantations in Shwebo District in Sagaing region, with the popular Pawsan rice being

cultivated in over half of the plantations.

"Currently, a bag of Shwebo Pawsan rice that was harvested in the previous season is being sold for Ks35,000, while the newly harvested Pawsan rice is sold at Ks60,000 per bag in the market," said U Than Shwe, a rice miller in Tintal Village.—Taung Ni Tin Win

Construction of Hpa-an home for the aged 90 percent complete

CONSTRUCTION work on a new home for the aged is 90 per cent complete, said U Zaw Min, Deputy Director of the Department of Social Welfare.

The new home for the aged is being constructed in Nyeinchan Thayar Village in Hpa-an, Kayin State.

It is being built using Ks. 180 million fund contributed by the Kayin State government

and donors under the supervision of the local government.

"Construction of three hostels and one dining hall has completed.

Now, we are constructing a religious edifice. Upon completion, we will accept help-less elderly people across the country regardless of race and religion," he added.

The new home is sched-

uled to accommodate around 50 senior citizens. Kayin State is estimated to have more than 900 elderly people.

Those wishing to donate cash to the home can contact the Department of Social Welfare.

The newly-constructed home for the aged is first of its kind in Kayin State.—Min Yarzar (Myitkyina)



Photo shows one of the buildings of the Hpa-an home for the aged. **PHOTO: MIN YARZAR (MYITKYINA)**

CRIME

Police continue investigation of possible suicide at bank

POLICE continue to investigate the possible suicide of 25-year-old Myo Hein Thu, who was found hanging on Saturday evening at his workplace in Theingon Ward, Thaton Township, Mon State, at 7.30 p.m.

Myo Hein Thu, who is believed to have committed suicide, was a security guard at Kanbawza Bank, according to the township police.

Based on information provided by Phyto Wai Linn, a senior assistant at the bank, the police immediately started an investi-

gation at the bank after arriving on the scene. According to investigators, the body of the man was found hanging from a piece of cloth, which was tied to a window located in the north end of the staff dining room in Kanbawza Bank, near traffic lights on Then-gone Ward.

The man's body was taken to Thaton District general hospital for a post-mortem examination.

The police said investigations are ongoing to determine the cause of his death.—Khun (Winpa)

Raw jade stones seized in Hpakant

THE police arrested a 52-year-old man on Saturday for attempting to illegally transport raw jade stones through the Nangtain-based check point in Kathmaw Village-tract in Hpakant, Mognyin District, Kayin State, according to a police report.

About 4.30 p.m, the police intercepted a truck driven by

Khin Maung Than, which was travelling towards Myitkyina from Hpakant. The police discovered a cache of raw jade stones weighing 130 kilograms hidden in the rear of the vehicle.

The Kaimaing police have filed charges against Khin Maung Than for violating the existing Myanmar Gemstones Law.—Win Naing (Kachinmye)



Man arrested for illegally transporting raw jade stones in Hpakant Township. **PHOTO: WIN NAING (KACHINMYE)**

Women arrested for drug trafficking in Mokaung, Kachin State

THE Namati Township police arrested three women in connection with a drug trafficking case in Mokaung Township in Kachin State on Saturday evening, the police reported.

The three women were identified as Daw Boukjar, Daw Mangnan and Daw Hsaipan.

After receiving a tip, members of the anti-drug squad conducted a surprise raid at a mustard plantation near the residence of one of the suspects, Daw Boukjar, where they found a cache of 760 yaba tablets.

The police also found

Ks80,000 in cash and 180 yaba pills being kept by the second suspect, Daw Mangnan. The police have confiscated the drugs, which have an estimated value of Ks4.7 million. The suspects admitted to police investigators that they had bought the illegal drugs with the intention of selling them.

The police have filed charges against the three suspects under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.

Further investigations are being made by the Namati police to arrest others involved in the case.—Win Naing (Kachinmye)

South Korea and North Korea to hold working-level talks on 15 January

SEOUL—North Korea and South Korea have agreed to hold working-level talks at the Tongil Pavilion on the North Korean side of the truce village of Panmunjom on 15 January, South Korea's unification ministry said in a statement on Saturday.

The delegation, to be led by an official from the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism, will be sent to hold talks on the prospects

of North Korea sending its performance art group to the Winter Olympics in South Korea, the unification ministry said in a statement. Inter-Korean talks are held alternately at the Peace House, which is on the South Korean side of Panmunjom in the demilitarized zone, and Tongil Pavilion in the North. The ministry said earlier on Saturday that North Korea had proposed holding talks on 15

January about the matter. "In addition, the ministry also requested for a quick response for South Korea's proposal on 12 January to have working-level talks about the North's participation in Pyongchang winter Olympics," added the ministry. Officials from North and South earlier this week said they had agreed to hold negotiations to resolve problems and avert accidental conflict, after their

first official dialogue in more than two years amid high tension over the North's weapons programme. South Korea had also said that it is seeking to form a combined women's hockey team with the North. The North Korea's International Olympics Committee (IOC) official said the committee is considering the proposal, while the two sides will also have talks hosted by IOC on 20 January. —Reuters ■



Head of the North Korean delegation, Ri Son Gwon shakes hands with South Korean counterpart Cho Myoung-gyon as they exchange documents after their meeting at the truce village of Panmunjom in the demilitarised zone separating the two Koreas, South Korea, on 9 January 2018. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

" WARNING NOT TO IMITATE "

Myat Noe Thu Construction Co., Ltd. situated at Room (508), No. (A-1), Shwe Gon Thu Housing, Lower Kyimyindine Road, Yangon Region, has registered the trade mark affixed hereunder as sole proprietorship of company under Deed No. (14429/17) and (14430/17) of Yangon Deeds Registration Office on (22 - 12 - 2017).




Deed No. (14430/17)

Deed No. (14429/17)

U Shaped Steel Girder of above Deed No. (14430/17) and **PSC e-Beam** of Deed No. (14429/17) are **U Shaped Steel Girder** and **PSC e-Beam** invented and manufactured by **Myat Noe Thu Construction Co., Ltd.** and **WK E&C Co., Ltd.** of Korea to use for construction of bridges.

Hence, above copy righted trademark, **U Shaped Steel Girder** and **PSC e-Beam**, shall not be used by any person the whole or any part thereof directly or indirectly with effect from date aforesaid trademark **U Shaped Steel Girder** and **PSC e-Beam** has been registered as sole proprietorship of **Myat Noe Thu Construction Co., Ltd.** If found, it is hereby notified that action will be taken according to existing law of Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Under instruction of **Myat Noe Thu Construction Co., Ltd.**

U Mya Aung (Aung Gyi)
Advocate (Sr. 3913)
No. (163), Level 4, 38th Street,
Kyauktada Township, Yangon.
09 5151246

Speedboat carrying 27 Chinese tourists explodes on southern Thailand's Andaman Sea

BANGKOK — A speedboat carrying 27 Chinese tourists and several Thai crews exploded on southern Thailand's Andaman Sea near Phi-Phi Islands on Sunday.

A Thai was killed and 16 others have been found injured, according to local media. The speedboat was on its way to Phi-Phi Islands and caught fire near the Viking Cave in the sea at about 1 pm local time

(0600 GMT) on Sunday. Five Chinese were seriously injured, according to the Consulate-General of China in Songkhla.

The consulate said all the Chinese tourists have been helped ashore while the rescue team is still searching for the others. All the injured were hospitalized. Local media said there was a fuel leak. The captain went to check the engine and it suddenly

exploded. The fire quickly spread, prompting all the passengers to scramble for swimming vests and jump into the sea.

Local media said there were five Thai passengers and 27 Chinese tourists, including three children on board. A seriously injured Thai crew was later pronounced dead from burns. The explosion is under investigation.—Xinhua ■

INVITATION FOR PRICE QUOTATIONS

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar has received financing from the International Development Association (IDA) towards the cost of the National Community Driven Development Project (NCDDP). The IDA N° of the financing agreement is N° H814MM. The Department of Rural Development (DRD) of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation, in its role as implementing agency of the NCDDP, intends to apply a portion of the proceeds of this financing towards eligible payments under the Purchase Order/Contract for the supply of G-110: Printed Rain Coats with Project Logo for Union and Sixteen (16) NCDD Project Townships. DRD now invites eligible suppliers to express their interest in supplying the following items:

Reference Number: G 110: Rain Coats with NCDD Project Logo

Reference No.	Lot N°	Item N°	Description	Quantity
G 110	1	1	Rain Coats with NCDD Project Logo	2436
Supply to (Project Sites)			Department of Rural Development, Office No.(14),Nay Pyi Taw and Sixteen (16) Township Offices through the country.	

Expressions of Interest must be submitted in a written form to the email address below and clearly indicate the reference number above. Please indicate your e-mail address as only electronic copies of the ITQ will be sent. Eligible suppliers having expressed interest will receive an INVITATION TO QUOTE (ITQ). Sealed Quotations will be submitted to the address below at the latest at the dead line of **Tuesday 30 January 2018 at 10:30am Myanmar time for G-110**, after which no Quotations will be accepted.

The goods will be contracted in contracts for G110. Suppliers will be selected following the Shopping Method as per the "Guidelines for Procurement of Goods, Works and non-Consulting Services under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits & Grants by World Bank Borrowers" dated January 2011.

Please submit your Expression of Interest for receiving the Invitation to Quote (ITQ) to: U Kyaw Soe, Deputy Director General, Department of Rural Development, Office No.(14), Nay Pyi Taw. ITQ will be publicly opened in the presence of the bidders' designated representatives and anyone who choose to attend at the address below on Tuesday 30th January 2018.

For detailed information please contact:

U Kyaw Swa Aung, Director, Procurement and Logistic Section,
Mobile phone 0943434333 or office phone 067409071

Email: unioncddprocurement@gmail.com.

Website: www.cdd.drdmyanmar.org.

TRADEMARK CAUTION

Pottle Productions, Inc., a company registered under the laws of California, the United States of America, which is located at 4024 Radford Avenue, Studio City, California 91604, the United States of America, is the sole owner of the following trademarks, and all other marks containing the term **NEXT TOP MODEL** in other jurisdictions throughout the world:

AMERICA'S NEXT TOP MODEL

Reg. No. 10321/2017

ASIA'S NEXT TOP MODEL

Reg. No. 10322/2017

In respect of **Class 41**: Entertainment services, namely, an ongoing reality based video series rendered through the media of television, cable, satellite, telephone and broadband systems, and via the Internet, portable and wireless communication devices; and providing non-downloadable reality based entertainment programming in the nature of a video series via video-on-demand services and providing information in the field of reality based entertainment rendered via the Internet, portable and wireless communication devices.

Pottle Productions, Inc. claims the trademark rights and other relevant intellectual property rights for the marks as mentioned above, and all other marks containing the term **NEXT TOP MODEL** in other jurisdictions throughout the world. Pottle Productions, Inc. reserves the rights to take legal measures against any infringer who violates its intellectual property or other legal rights in accordance with the concerned laws of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Daw May Thwe Hlaing, LL.B., LL.M., (H.G.P.)

For **Pottle Productions, Inc.**

Tilleke & Gibbins Myanmar Ltd. No. 1608, 16th Floor, Sakura Tower, 339 Bogyoke Aung San Road, Kyauktada Township, Yangon, Myanmar.

Email address: myanmar@tilleke.com

Dated: 15th January 2018.

Philippines raises volcano alert level as eruptions spew ash

MANILA — The Philippines raised the alert at its restive Mayon volcano by one notch early on Sunday, citing signs of rising magma that could lead to hazardous eruptions.

Residents were evacuated from two villages near the volcano, a tourist attraction in Albay province because of its near-perfect cone shape, following a “phreatic or steam-driven eruption” on Saturday, and there was a further eruption on Sunday.

Saturday’s eruption unleashed ash, rocks and sulfuric odor, and was followed by rumbling sounds and a faint glow in the crater, the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) said. Phivolcs raised the alert to level 2, which means that the current activity is “probably of magmatic origin, which could lead to more phreatic eruptions or eventually to hazardous magmatic eruptions.”

A second ash eruption was recorded before

noon on Sunday, but Phivolcs said in a subsequent bulletin that it was maintaining alert level 2.

Mayon’s most destructive eruption was in February 1841, when lava flows buried a town and killed 1,200 people. It last erupted in 2014, spewing lava and forcing thousands of people to evacuate.

“The public is strongly advised to be vigilant and desist from entering the six kilometer (3.7 mile) radius Permanent Danger Zone to minimize risks from sudden explosions, rockfall and landslides,” Phivolcs said. It advised people experiencing ashfall to cover their noses and mouths with a damp, clean cloth or dust mask. It also said aircraft must avoid flying close to the volcano’s summit. Those within the slope of the volcano, but outside the 6-km danger zone, were told to take precautionary measures against possible roof collapses due to accumulated ash and rainwater. —Reuters ■



A Pegasus Airlines aircraft is pictured after it skidded off the runway at Trabzon airport by the Black Sea in Trabzon, Turkey, on 14 January 2018. PHOTO: REUTERS

Plane skids off Turkish runway on Black Sea coast, passengers unhurt

ISTANBUL — A Pegasus Airlines flight skidded off the runway of a Turkish coastal airport and ended up halfway down a steep slope into the Black Sea,

but no passengers or crew were hurt, Turkish media reported on Sunday.

The incident happened on Saturday night at Trabzon airport in northeast

Turkey. Pictures from the site showed the plane’s nose close to the water’s edge. Pegasus Airlines said in a statement that the Boeing 737-800 aircraft,

flying from Ankara to Trabzon, “had a runway excursion incident” as it landed but the 162 passengers, two pilots and four cabin crew were unhurt. —Reuters ■

Strong earthquake in southern Peru leaves two dead, 17 missing

LIMA — A strong magnitude 7.1 earthquake struck the coast of southern Peru on Sunday morning, leaving two dead, 17 missing and several dozen injured, while causing homes and roads to collapse.

The quake hit offshore at 4:18 am local time (0918 GMT) at a depth of around 36 km (22.4 miles), the US Geological Survey (USGS) said. Its epicenter was in the Pacific Ocean 40 km from the town of

Acari.

Arequipa Governor Yamila Osorio said on Twitter that one 55-year old man died in the town of Yauca after being crushed by rock. Jorge Chavez, chief of Peru’s Civil De-

fense Institute (INDEC), told local radio station RPP that a second death was reported in the town of Bella Union.

INDECI said on Twitter that 65 people were injured. —Reuters ■

TRADEMARK CAUTION

Monster Energy Company, a company registered under the laws of Delaware, the United States of America, which is located at 1 Monster Way, Corona, California 92879, the United States of America, is the sole owner of the following trademark:

**REFRESHMENT
ENERGIZED!**
drinkmutantenergy.com

Reg. No. 12884/2017

In respect of **Class 32**: Non-alcoholic beverages, including carbonated drinks and energy drinks; syrups, concentrates, powders and preparations for making beverages, including carbonated drinks and energy drinks; beer.

Monster Energy Company claims the trademark rights and other relevant intellectual property rights for the mark as mentioned above. Monster Energy Company reserves the rights to take legal measures against any infringer who violates its intellectual property or other legal rights in accordance with the concerned laws of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Daw May Thwe Hlaing, LL.B., LL.M., (H.G.P.)

For **Monster Energy Company**

Tilleke & Gibbins Myanmar Ltd. No. 1608, 16th Floor, Sakura Tower, 339 Bogyoke Aung San Road, Kyauktada Township, Yangon, Myanmar.

Email address: myanmar@tilleke.com

Dated: 15th January 2018.

TRADEMARK CAUTION

CBS Broadcasting Inc., a company registered under the laws of New York, the United States of America, which is located at 51 West 52nd Street New York, New York 10019, the United States of America, is the sole owner of the following trademark:

CARPOOL KARAOKE

Reg. No. 10323/2017

In respect of **Class 41**: Entertainment services in the nature of a video series featuring entertainment in the nature of musical performances delivered by means of television, global computer network, Internet, portable and wireless communication devices, satellite and cable.

CBS Broadcasting Inc. claims the trademark right and other relevant intellectual property rights for the mark as mentioned above. **CBS Broadcasting Inc.** reserves the rights to take legal measures against any infringer who violates its intellectual property or other legal rights in accordance with the concerned laws of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Daw May Thwe Hlaing, LL.B., LL.M., (H.G.P.)

For **CBS Broadcasting Inc.**

Tilleke & Gibbins Myanmar Ltd. No. 1608, 16th Floor, Sakura Tower, 339 Bogyoke Aung San Road, Kyauktada Township, Yangon, Myanmar.

Email address: myanmar@tilleke.com

Dated: 15th January 2018.

TRADEMARK CAUTION

KT & G Corporation, a company incorporated in Republic of Korea and having its registered office at 71, Beotkkot-gil, Daedeok-gu, Daejeon, Republic of Korea is the owner and proprietor of the following Trademark:

BIT

Reg. No. 4/397/2012 (13 January 2012)

In respect of “Tobacco; Cigarettes; Cigars; Snuff; Cigarette papers; Tobacco pipes, not of precious metal; Cigarette filters; Cigarette cases, not of precious metal; Tobacco pouches; Cigarette lighters, not of precious metal; Matches; Tobacco pipe cleaners; Ashtrays for smokers, not of precious metal; Cigar cutters” in **International Class 34**. Fraudulent or unauthorised use, or actual or colourable imitation of the said mark shall be dealt with according to law.

Daw La Min May, H.G.P.

For **KT & G Corporation**,

C/o Kelvin Chia Yangon Ltd.,

Level 8A, Union Financial Centre (UFC),

Corner of Mahabandoola Road and Thein Phyu Road,

Botataung Township, Yangon.

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Dated 15th January 2018

imm@kcyangon.com

management@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

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Picture

Dancers perform folk dance during the Chinese Spring Festival Gala to celebrate Chinese Lunar New Year for overseas Chinese, in Heidelberg, Germany, on 13 January 2018. Chinese Lunar New Year falls on 16 February this year. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

Cinema brings nations together: Amitabh Bachchan

MUMBAI — Megastar Amitabh Bachchan says he feels proud of the fact that cinema has the power to bring nations together.

“French Ambassador invites me to Bonjour India a Ballet performance... American Con Gen invites me for tea to meet ex Ambassador... Ambassadors/ Con Gen of Japan, Australia, Israel and Pakistan visit and pay social calls. Honoured that Cinema brings nations together,” Bachchan tweeted.

The 75-year-old actor is currently busy filming his upcoming movie “Thugs of Hindostan”. The Yash Raj Films project, directed by Vijay Krishna Acharya, also stars Aamir Khan, Katrina Kaif and Fatima Sana Sheif.—PTI ■

Wahlberg donates USD 2mn to #TimesUp post pay disparity outcry

LOS ANGELES — Actor Mark Wahlberg and his agency William Morris Endeavor have agreed to donate USD 2 million in Michelle Williams’ name to the #TimesUp Fund after pay disparity between the duo’s reshoot fee on “All The Money In The World” led to public outcry.

The news comes after a report, originally published by The Washington Post, and later by USA Today, claimed Wahlberg earned USD 1.5 million, while Williams made less than USD 1,000. Offering his support to combat harassment and pay inequities in Hollywood, the 46-year-old actor issued a state-

ment saying, “Over the last few days my reshoot fee for ‘All the Money in the World’ has become an important topic of conversation. “I 100 per cent support the fight for fair pay and I’m donating the USD 1.5 million to the Time’s Up Legal Defense Fund in Michelle Williams’ name.”

WME donated additional USD 500,000 as well. “In recognition of the pay discrepancy on the ‘All the Money in the World’ reshoots, WME is donating an additional USD 500,000 to the Time’s Up Legal Defense Fund in Michelle Williams’ name, following our USD 1 million pledge to the organisation earlier this

month. “It’s crucial that this conversation continues within our community and we are committed to being part of the solution,” they said. Praising Wahlberg, Williams issued a statement saying she was happy that “the most powerful men in charge” listened and made an effort to bridge the pay gap.

“Today isn’t about me. My fellow actresses stood by me and stood up for me, my activist friends taught me to use my voice, and the most powerful men in charge, they listened and they acted. If we truly envision an equal world, it takes equal effort and sacrifice.—PTI ■



Ed Sheeran. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

Ed Sheeran and Dua Lipa dominate Brit Award nominations

LONDON — Ed Sheeran, Dua Lipa, Liam Payne and Stormzy are among the nominees for this year’s Brit Awards, Britain’s most prestigious pop music prizes.

Sheeran is in the running in four categories — British male solo artist, best video and single for “Shape of You”, and best album.

Singer Dua Lipa received the most nominations. Her single “New Rules” was a break out hit last year and she is nominated in five categories including best album, best female artist

and best single.

And former One Direction star Payne was nominated for best single and video for “Strip That Down”, which has now been a hit in Britain, Australia and United States.

“The song’s done extremely well, I am extremely happy with the success so far.. We just reached a billion streams. I have never written down that number, I have never had the need,” Payne said backstage at an event to announce the nominees in London.—Reuters ■

Carice Van Houten to star in ‘The Glass Room’

LOS ANGELES — “Game of Thrones” star Carice Van Houten has joined the cast of “The Glass Room”.

The film is an adaptation of Simon Mawer’s 2009 novel on the love story between two women set in a house in Czechoslovakia, built by celebrity architect Ludwig Mies van der Rohe,

Variety reported.

“Spanning more than 80 years, the story in the vein of ‘The English Patient’ and ‘Carol’ reflects the most dramatic events of the 20th century,” according to a statement.

To be directed by Julius Sevcik, the film also features Hanna Alstrom, Karel Roden,

Alexandra Borbely, Roland Moller and Claes Bang, among others.

“The Glass Room” is produced by Rudolf Biermann along with Czech public broadcaster Ceska Televize, Slovak private channel TV JOJ, and equity investor Igor Rattaj’s company Investito.—PTI ■



10th Rakhine traditional carriage pulling ceremony will be held in Sittway. PHOTO: NAING ZAW

10th Rakhine traditional carriage pulling ceremony to be held in Sittway

THE 10th Rakhine State carriage pulling ceremony will be held at the Winkabar Ground in Sittway Town, Rakhine State, from January 27 to 31.

“Mi Zan Ward in Sittway Town held again the traditional carriage pulling ceremony, which has been nearly extinct for 40 years. Now, the carriage pulling ceremony is being held alternately by the wards in Sittway Town.

The 10th Rakhine State traditional carriage pulling ceremony will be organised by Ywar Gyi

(north) ward,” said U Kyaw Min, who is a member of the organising committee.

The ceremony is a traditional festival held by the Rakhine people, which is performed to boost the production of crops.

The Rakhine people usually hold the traditional carriage pulling ceremony in Tabodwe, falling on the 11th month of the Myanmar calendar (between January and February), when galaxies and stars appear in abundance.—Naing Zaw ■

21 trainees attend snacks, juice making course

OFFICIALS from the Mon State small-scale industries department organised a vocational training course to learn how to create value-added food items, which attracted 21 people.

The course began on Thursday morning at Nat Hmaw Village, Chaungson Township, Mon State, with an opening

speech by Daw Khin Maw Thet, Deputy Director-General of the state small-scale industries department. During the seven-day course, trainees will receive instructions on preparing cookies which contain pigeon peas, fried pea stick, natural juices, wines, jams or jellies.—Maung Shwe Win (Pyay) ■



Mon State conducts a vocational training for value-added food production. PHOTO: MAUNG SHWE WIN (PYAY)



Painting onlookers observe the pictures displayed at the gallery.

PHOTO: THIHA KO KO (MANDALAY)

Watercolour painting exhibition in Mandalay

An art exhibition by U Min Lwin, entitled Present-5 Painting Art Exhibition, was held on Saturday morning at the Mandalay Hill Art Gallery, Mandalay.

U Thit Sar Lwin Soe, Deputy Rector of National University of Arts and Culture, Mandalay,

along with U Zaw Win from Mandalay Watercolour Painting Society and students specialising in painting from National University of Arts and Culture, Mandalay, as well as teachers from the Mandalay painting and sculpture school, attended the

opening ceremony.

The Present-5 Painting Art Exhibition, which will be held from 13 to 18 January, will showcase 70 paintings by U Min Lwin. Those interested can study the paintings from 9am to 5pm.—Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay) ■

Kadu ethnic cultural festival to be held

THE Kadu people, who belong to the Barmar ethnic group, will hold a cultural festival in In-Pin Village, Nant-Thar Village-tract, Inndaw Township, for three days beginning January 25.

“We celebrate our Kadu ethnic cultural festival annually. Last year, the festival was celebrated in Banmauk Township, and this year it will be held in Inndaw Township. The festival aims to promote unity, conserve

the Kadu customs, promote the Kadu language and display its cultural heritage. Competitions in rice pounding with foot-operated wooden pounders, cross-bow matches and tugs-of-war, among others, will be held during the festival,” said Ethnic Kadu Chairman U Kan Aung. The festival will be held with Kadu ethnic people from various regions and states, as well as other ethnic groups.—Kyaw Thiha ■



Performers entertain audience at the Kadu ethnic cultural festival. PHOTO: KYAW THIHA

Yangon beat Hanthawady in MPT MNL 2018



Yangon's reliable striker Kosuke Yamazaki poises to shoot the ball at yesterday's match in Grand Royal Stadium in Bago. **PHOTO:MNL**

AS the fourth match of the MPT Myanmar National League 2018, Yangon United played against Hanthawady United at Grand Royal Stadium in Bago yesterday.

Yangon United made win at the match with the result of 2-1.

Yangon United lined up with shining keeper Kyaw Zin Htet, Pyae Phyo Zaw, David Htan, Suan Lam Mang, Kyi Lin, Maung Maung Lwin, Sekou Sylla, Kosuke Yamazaki, Min Kyaw Khant, Captain Yan Aung Kyaw, Kekere Moukailou.

Yangon United is headed by U Myo Min Tun.

Hanthawady United lined up

with Keeper Ko Ko Naing Captain Aung Zaw, Mark Sekaju, Aung Myo Thu Ra, Nyi Nyi Aung, Yan Naing Aung, Shwe Hlaing Win, Lar Din Maw Yar,

Yangon United played with best efforts from the kick-off.

Hanthawady defenders made a big error just before the the first half end. From the error, Yangon gained an icebreaker by its reliable player Kosuke Yamazaki upon one by one meet with Hanthawady's keeper and the goal leads Yangon 1-0.

Yangon United made substitution with changing in tactics with Emmanuel in the place of

Kosuke in the second half.

As some of the confusions occurred in the defence line of Hantahwady, Yangon got its second goal by Sylla at 63 minutes with his complete finishing.

Nevertheless, Hanthawady made a respond by Michael in a close range of the goal net just after the two minutes.

The game was just finished with the 2-1 result as both teams' players seem to be exhausted in the last minutes.

Yangon United will next play against Zwegapin United at their home stadium of Yangon on 20 January.—KyawZin Lin ■

City Stars FC changed its name to Royal Thanlyin FC in League II of MPT MNL 2018

CITY Stars FC, a football club member of the MPT Myanmar National League II 2018, has changed its name to Royal Thanlyin FC recently.

City Stars Football Club is a Myanmar football club, founded in 2015 in the MNL-2 League.

The team gained the agreement by officials from Myanmar National League to change its name to Thanlyin FC.

The new name for the team will be officially used starting from the MPT Myanmar National League II season.

The MNL-2 is the second-tier football league in Myanmar. The official name is MNL-2 League. The inaugural season began in 2013.

The MNL-2 was founded in 2013 as part of MFF's effort to extend competitiveness into the nation's football system.

The league is played in a league cup format.

The 2015 MNL-2 winner was Southern Myanmar and 1st runner-up was Horizon FC.

For the inaugural season in 2013, nine teams participated. Among them, Best United and Horizon FC were transformed from former Futsal clubs. Mawyawadi FC and Chin United were relegated from the MNL at the end of the 2012 season while Myawady FC were promoted from the Amateur League. Pong Gan FC is a new club, founded in 2014.—Kyaw Zin Lin ■

Nanda Lin Kyaw Chit joins Thailand premier league-1 side PT Prachuap



Myanmar football star Nanda Lin Kyaw Chit. **PHOTO:MDN**

MYANMAR footballer Nanda Lin Kyaw Chit became a third Myanmar player after Yadanarbon FC forward Aung Thu and Yangon United striker Kyaw Ko Ko who moved to Thailand's premier league.

According to the Myanmar Football Federation, Former Myanmar national team winger Nanda Lin Kyaw Chit played for Singapore's Balestier Khalsa

FC in 2017 season. He decided to join Thailand premier league-1 side PT Prachuap FC after his contract with S-league side expired. PT Prachuap FC promoted to Thailand premier league-1 this football season. PT Prachuap FC is scheduled to play an opening match against Police Tero in 2018 Thailand premier league.—Myanmar Digital News ■

Federer says he should not be favourite at 36

MELBOURNE — Roger Federer says a 36-year-old should not really be considered a favourite for the Australian Open, although when the man in question is himself, no one was taking him seriously.

The Swiss breezed through his media duties on Sunday with the same swagger he will take on court against Slovenia's Aljaz Bedene on Tuesday, when he kicks off the defence of the title he won against great rival Rafa Nadal last year.

That unforgettable triumph ended a five-year hiatus in Federer's grand slam collection and a few months later, he took his tally to a record-extending 19



Roger Federer of Switzerland reacts during a news conference before the Australian Open tennis tournament in Melbourne, Australia, on 14 January 2018. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

by winning Wimbledon.

Few would bet against him becoming only the fourth tennis player to reach 20 in two weeks time, although Federer was re-

luctant to accept the favourite's tag.

"With age, I feel like I play down my chances just because I don't think a 36-year-old should be a favourite of a tournament, it should not be the case," he told reporters.

"That's why I see things more relaxed, you know, at a later stage of my career."

Federer says the likes of six-times champion Novak Djokovic and Stan Wawrinka, both returning after lengthy injury breaks, could benefit from the same mindset he arrived with in Melbourne last year, when he was just back from a six-month hiatus. —Reuters ■