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President U Htin Kyaw receives Lao People's Democratic Republic (LPDR) Prime Minister Mr. Thongloun Sisoulith. **PHOTO: MNA**

President U Htin Kyaw welcomes Lao PM Thongloun Sisoulith

Lao People's Democratic Republic (LPDR) Prime Minister Thongloun Sisoulith, who is in the country at the invitation of Myanmar President U Htin Kyaw, was welcomed at a ceremony

held at the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw, yesterday afternoon.

The Lao Prime Minister and his wife, Naly Sisoulith, arrived at the Presidential Palace

at 3 p.m. and was cordially greeted by the President and First Lady Daw Su Su Lwin.

Next, President U Htin Kyaw and Lao PM Sisoulith received the salute from the

Guard of Honour and introduced to each other the members of their respective delegations, who were present at the ceremony.

SEE PAGE-3

Union Minister inspects of issuing NVCs in Sittway

Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr. Win Myat Aye, chairman of the Implementation Committee on recommendations of Advisory Committee on Rakhine State, inspected the process of issuing national verification cards (NVCs) in Sittway, Rakhine State, yesterday morning.

The committee is adopting measures to expedite the citizenship scrutiny process in the Rakhine State. To inform the local people of the the benefits of holding an NVC, educational talks are being held in the region. NVC holders will have sound proof of identification in Rakhine.

The Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population will issue the NVCs, and those who already possess the cards can use it as an official fishing licence as well. Moreover, they can overcome the difficulties of procuring food, clothing and shelter by holding this card.

Dr. Win Myat Aye met with local people in Sittway two days ago and explained the government's preparations for repatriation of refugees to Rakhine State. The work of verifying identification and issuing NV Cards is a priority for the government. — Myanmar News Agency ■



'BEST BANK IN MYANMAR'

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2nd Pyidaungsu Hluttaw begins regular session

By Thuya Zaw,
Mi Mi Phyo

A first day meeting of the 2nd Pyidaungsu Hluttaw 7th regular session 1st day meeting was held yesterday afternoon in Pyidaungsu Hluttaw meeting hall.

At the meeting, Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win

Khaing Than said Hluttaw representatives had returned to their respective constituencies and had heard the voices of the constituents while the Hluttaw was in recess. Based on this, it is believed that the duty of legislative sector could be served to support and benefit the people and the country.

Government had amended the budget year from 1 April-31 March to 1 October -30 September and at the 2nd Pyidaungsu Hluttaw 7th regular session the National Planning Bill, Union Budget Bill and Union Tax Bill for the six-month interim period of the budget year from 2018 April to September will

be discussed and approved.

In addition to this, two bills sent with remark by the President, a matter of an international loan as well as to confirm and enact ongoing bills under consideration by the each Hluttaw are to be conducted. In addition to issuing 2017-2018 development fund re-

lated to Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and work orders for 325 townships, 99 townships are included in other projects and due to weather and ground situation, permission was granted to conduct the works up to 31 December 2017 as requested.

SEE PAGE-7

Pyithu Hluttaw to discuss 26 bills, 9 proposals, 172 questions in 7th session

Kyaw Thu Htet,
Hmway Kyu Zin (MNA)

The Second Pyithu Hluttaw began its seventh meeting in Nay Pyi Taw, putting the foreign visits of delegations of MPs, answering six questions and approving a bill on the first day of the meeting yesterday.

The seventh session of Pyithu Hluttaw will discuss 26 bills, nine proposals and 172 questions.

In his address, Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw U Win Myint stressed the important role of legislation sector in achieving success peace and national reconciliation process being implemented by the government.

"Hluttaw which reflects the voices of the people should be a legislative pillar which is reliable for the people," said U Win Myint, "representatives of the Hluttaw



Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw U Win Myint. **PHOTO: MNA**

are to work for strengthening democratic practices of the people". He also urged the MPs to take their duties and responsibilities vested by the people without bias.

During the meeting, U Nay Myo Htet of Kyauktada Township Constituency asked the Ministry of Electricity and Energy how it

has planned to supply power to the people sufficiently in 2018, 2019, 2020 and 2021 as the power consumption has upward up to 15 per cent to 20 per cent yearly.

In his reply to the question, Deputy Minister for Electricity and Energy Dr Tun Naing said power plant projects which are under construction are targeted

to be completed in coming four years. The four projects which are targeted to complete in 2018-2019 FY are 4 MW-Yazagyo Hydro Power Project, 40-MW Minbu Solar Power Plant, 118.9 MW-Thaton natural gas-fired power plant, 106 MW Thaketa natural gas-fired power plant and 225MW- Myingyan (Sembcorp) natural gas-fired power plant.

The projects which are targeted to complete in the 2019-2020 Fiscal year and in the 2021-2022 Fiscal Year are 51-MW Ahtet Kyaingtaung hydro power project, 280 MW-Ahtet Yeywa hydro power plant, 135 MW-Kyaukpyu natural gas-fired power plant, 356 MW-Ahlon natural gas-fired power plant, 615 MW natural gas-fired power plant in Kanpauk, 150-MW Ywama natural gas-fired power plant, 12 MW Puhtolon natural gas-fired

power plant, 20-MW Myanaung natural gas-fired power plant, 108 MW Thilawa power plant project and 1,390 MW natural gas-fired power plant project at Milaunggyaik in Ayeyawady Region. U Lin Lin Oo from Tanai Constituency urged the Union Government to supply power around the clock to Tanai in Kachin State through the national grid in the 2019-2020 Fiscal year. In his reply to the question, Deputy Minister Dr. Tun Naing said to supply the power to Tanai through the national grid, the ministry needs to install cables linking Karmai and Tanai and to establish a sub-power station in Tanai. The deputy minister said the cost for the infrastructure is estimated more than K12.3 billion, pledging to implement the project asking budget allowance from the government. ■

2nd Amyotha Hluttaw resumes regular session

Aye Aye Thant
(Myanmar News Agency)

THE seventh regular session of the second Amyotha Hluttaw held its first day meeting yesterday morning at Amyotha Hluttaw's meeting hall where Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than delivered a message of greeting.

Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than said the Hluttaw representatives now know their requirements and they are to raise questions, table motions, discuss and approve bills together with respective committee to fulfill these requirements and for the of the country and the people. In doing these, it is to be noted that they are to follow the law, rules, regulation and procedures.

Next, U Myint Naing of Rakhine State constituency 5 raised a question on plan to construct new 200x30x25 ft. two-storey reinforced concreted school

buildings in Kyauktaw Township in middle school level and 178



Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw Mahn Win Khaing Than. **PHOTO: MNA**

ship Wegyidaunt Village and Shwepyi Village basic education high schools during fiscal year 2018-2019. Union Minister for Education Dr. Myo Thein Gyi replied that Ks 1,881.3 million was allocated for school building constructions in 17 schools of Kyauktaw Township in fiscal year 2017-2018. Wegyidaunt Village basic education high school had a total of 4 buildings for 834 students, 160 students in primary level, 496 students

students in high school level. Shwepyi Village basic education high school had a total of 3 buildings for 1,296 students of which 305 students are in primary level, 610 students in the middle school level and 381 students in the high school level. Fund allocation for fiscal year 2018-2019 to construct 180x30 ft. reinforced concrete single-storey buildings in Kyauktaw Township Wegyidaunt Village basic education high school and Shwepyi Village

basic education high school were already included in the township priority list answered the Union Minister.

In response to a question raised by U Sai San Aung of Shan State constituency (12) on plan to raise the rural area education sector in Hopong Township of Wa Self-Administered Division, Shan State, Union Minister for Education Dr. Myo Thein Gyi said Ministry of Education had upgraded a total of 412 basic education schools that had reached the set numbers of students during academic year 2017-2018. 4,687 schools that did not reach the set numbers of students but were beyond the set distances were also upgraded bringing the total number of schools upgraded to 5,099. But the upgrades do not include Hopong Township.

However, Monghom (Wa) village sub basic education primary school and Monkom (Shan) village sub basic education primary school are accord-

ing to set criteria and upgrade as priority township will be made after assessment during fiscal year 2018-2019. There is a need for Hinna Village self-help primary school to be upgraded to a school level and only when this is done can the construction of new school building can be conducted for it. There are no schools under Ministry of Education or government-recognized school and thus new school building couldn't be constructed yet explained the Union Minister.

Hluttaw's decision was then taken on the matter of bill to amend the drugs and psychotropic substances law approved and sent by Amyotha Hluttaw which was sent back by Pyithu Hluttaw with amendments. Hluttaw decided to approve the amendment of Pyithu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker announced the approval. Second Amyotha Hluttaw 7th regular session 2nd day meeting will be held on 17 January it is learnt. ■

State Counsellor, Laotian PM witness signing of MoUs

State Counsellor and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and visiting Prime Minister of the Lao People's Democratic Republic Thongloun Sisoulith attended a bilateral meeting between the two countries at the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the meeting, both sides discussed cooperation and the promotion of bilateral relations, defence and security cooperation between the two countries, boosting trade, economic cooperation and investment, promoting tourism and transportation sectors, education sector, electric and energy sectors, peace, stability, and human-trafficking and drugs in the border regions.

At the meeting, the Laotian Prime Minister invited State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi to pay an official visit to Lao PDR in the near future.

The Myanmar-Laos bilateral meeting was also attended by Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Kyaw Swe, Union Minister for Defence Lt-Gen Sein Win, Union Minister for Construction U Win Khaing, Union Minister for Education Dr. Myo Thein Gyi, Union Minister for Planning



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and Laotian Prime Minister Thongloun Sisoulith attend the signing ceremony of Memorandum of Understandings between Myanmar and Laos yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

and Finance U Kyaw Win, Union Minister for Hotels and Tourism U Ohn Maung, Union Minister for International Cooperation U Kyaw Tin, Deputy Minister U Min Thu, Deputy Minister U Aung Htoo, Myanmar Ambassador to Laos U Ko Ko Naing, Laotian Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Lying Sayasang and officials of the embassies.

The State Counsellor and

the Laotian Prime Minister Thongloun Sisoulith attended a signing ceremony of Memorandum of Understandings between Myanmar and Laos.

The two leaders witnessed the signing of MoUs in sectors of Electric Power, Science and Technology, and the Anti-Corruption sectors respectively.

The MoUs signed yesterday are as follows:

MoU on Electric Power Cooperation between the Ministry of Electricity and Energy of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and Ministry of Energy and Mines of the Government of the Lao People's Democratic Republic was signed by U Win Khaing, Union Minister for Construction and for Electricity and Energy and Mr. Khammany Inthilath, Minister of Energy and Mines;

MoU on Science and Technology Cooperation between the Ministry of Education of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and the Ministry of Science and Technology of the Lao People's Democratic Republic was signed by Professor Dr. Myo Thein Gyi, Union Minister for Education and Academician Professor H.E. Mr. Boviengkham Vongdala, Minister of Science and Technology;

MoU on Bilateral Cooperation between the Anti-Corruption Commission of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and the State Inspection and Anti-Corruption Authority of the Lao People's Democratic Republic was signed by U San Win, Secretary of the Anti-Corruption Commission and H.E. Mr. Vilayvanh Boutdakham, Vice Chairman of the State Inspection Authority and Deputy Head of Anti-Corruption Authority. MoUs were signed for Science, technological planning and development for human resource development, sustainable and biotechnology, renewable bioenergy, agricultural and scientific technology, genetic resources, ecosystem and biotechnology, Information Technology, aesthetics and science technology, it was learnt. —Myanmar News Agency ■

State Counsellor hosts dinner in honour of Laotian delegation

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi hosted a dinner in honour of a visiting delegation led by Lao People's Democratic Republic (LPDR) Prime Minister Mr. Thongloun Sisoulith, and his wife, Mrs. Naly Sisoulith, in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

It was also attended by Vice President U Henry Van Thio and wife Dr. Shwe Hlwan, Union Ministers, Deputy Ministers, and the Myanmar Ambassador to Laos while the Laotian delegation led by Thongloun Sisoulith, and his wife, Naly Sisoulith, were accompanied by the Laotian Ambassador.

Before the dinner, State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and Lao Prime Minister Mr. Thongloun Sisoulith extended greetings.

After the dinner, the dele-



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi extends greeting at the dinner in honour of visiting Laotian delegation. **PHOTO: MNA**

gation was entertained with a cultural performance by artistes of the Ministry of

Religious Affairs and Culture at the Presidential Palace. —Myanmar News Agency ■

President U Htin Kyaw welcomes Lao PM Thongloun Sisoulith

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After the welcome ceremony, the Lao Prime Minister signed the Presidential Palace guest book and took commemorative photographs with President U Htin Kyaw.

Later, the Myanmar President and Lao Prime Minister held a discussion in the Hall for Envoys of the Presidential Palace.

During the meeting, they discussed matters related to enhancing the Myanmar-Lao bilateral friendship and cooperation, regional and international peace and security, bilateral cooperation in Asean, supporting and assisting one another in regional and international organizations, the status of the bilateral economic relations and develop-

ments in the social sector.

Also present at the meeting were Union Ministers Lt-Gen Kyaw Swe, Lt-Gen Sein Win, U Win Khaing, Dr. Myo Thein Gyi, U Kyaw Win and U Kyaw Tin; Deputy Ministers U Min Thu and U Aung Htoo; Myanmar Ambassador to Laos U Ko Ko Naing; and other officials, while the delegation led by Lao PM Sisoulith was accompanied by Laotian Ambassador to Myanmar Lying Sayasang.

The visiting Prime Minister of Laos witnessed the signing of MoUs between Myanmar and Lao yesterday.

Mr. Thongloun Sisoulith became Prime Minister of the Lao People's Democratic Republic in 2016. — Myanmar News Agency ■

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Betel leaf cultivators earn handsome profits

LOCAL betel leaf cultivators from Thaton Township, Mon State, have earned handsome profits because of the high price for betel leaves this year.

"Betel leaves do not grow well in unstable weather conditions. So, we have to grow betel leaves in three farms to be able to produce them for the entire year. The cultivation of betel leaves is risky business, because every year does not give the same results. Last year, the price of betel leaves declined and several cultivators went abroad to work and pay off the debt they had incurred from cultivating betel leaves," said U Than Tun, a local betel leaf cultivator from Zayet Kyung Village.

The price of betel leaves is not stable in the early months, with the supply also declining, he added.

The lower region market depends on the Monywa betel leaf market. "If betel leaves from Monywa enter the mar-



Woman harvests betel leaves at betel farm. **PHOTO: THET OO (THATON)**

ket, our betel leaves will not get a good price," said Daw Hla Tin, a betel leaf merchant from Naung Bo Village.

There are some 500 betel leaf cultivators in Thaton Township. Betel leaves from Thaton Township are selling

at Myawady, Kawkareik, Mawlamyine, DaikU, Nyaunglebin and Loilkaw.

The price of betel leaves is normally some Ks2,000 per viss. This year, the price jumped to Ks8,000 per viss due to market conditions. The leaves are

plucked once a week.

The cultivation of betel leaves costs more than Ks3.5 million, including the cost of seeds, fertilisers and labourers, according to local cultivators from Thaton Township.—Thet Oo (Thaton) ■

Customs Department seizes over Ks3b in contraband

THE Customs Department seized contraband worth Ks3.266 billion in December 2017, according to a report in the Myawady Daily yesterday.

The seized goods entered the country via the airport, ports, special patrol gates and the Yaypu and Mayan Chaung checkpoints, as well as through checkpoints in other regions, from December 1 to 31.

The Customs Department

seized illegal goods worth Ks21.9 million in 10 cases from Yangon International Airport, and illegal goods worth Ks229.602 million in seven cases from Yangon jetty.

Mandalay Customs Department also seized illegal goods worth Ks92.059 million in 22 cases. Bago Region Customs Department seized illegal goods worth Ks47.644 million in five cases.

Illegal goods worth Ks1.084

billion were seized at Yaypu checkpoint in 172 cases, while Mayanchaung checkpoint authorities seized illegal goods worth Ks1.534 billion in 127 cases. Muse Township's Customs Department seized illegal goods worth Ks20.750 million in four cases. Lashio Township's Customs Department seized illegal goods worth Ks186.797 million in 11 cases. Hpa-an Township's Customs Department seized il-

legal goods worth Ks39.359 million in six cases, while Muse OSS's checkpoint seized illegal goods worth Ks9.878 million in two cases. In one of the cases, the checkpoint authorities stopped a FUSO 12-wheel vehicle and found 51 200-litre hydrochloric acid plastic tanks, worth Ks765 million, 17 miles and one furlong from the Kyauk Kyaw checkpoint on 27 December.—GNLM ■

Ceremonies of 66th Kayah State Day being commemorated

THE ceremony of the 66th Kayah State Day was commemorated at the Township stadium in Demawso, Kayah State at 7 am yesterday.

At the occasion departmental officers and local residents

participated and gave a salute to the national flag. Then the message sent by Chief Minister of Kayah State U L Phaung Sho was read by the township administrator.

Similarly, the Kayah State

Day Ceremony was held at the city hall of Mese Township, Bawlakhe District, Kayah State and the message sent by the Chief Minister of Kayah State was read by the township administrator. Afterwards, the

traditional dance of the Kayah ethnic groups was performed and the winners at the traditional rice pounding competition have received awards at the ceremony.—Myanmar Digital News ■

A fire breaks out at Pioneer Club in Mandalay

A fire broke out at the Pioneer Club which is situated at 35th street, between 53th x 54th streets in Maha Aungmyay Township in Mandalay Region at 9:40 am yesterday.

Vehicles from the Fire Service Department arrived

at the scene of the fire and extinguished it. Additional vehicles arrived ten minutes later to assist the fire fighters according to the initial report of the Fire Service Department.—Myanmar Digital News ■



Fire engines seen at the scene of the outbreak of fire. **PHOTO: MYANMAR DIGITAL NEWS**

Rice exports increase by \$480 million this FY



Workers carry rice bags at a jetty in Yangon. PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR

RICE exports, as of the first week of January in the current fiscal year (FY), reached more than 2.6 million metric tonnes, bringing in US\$480 million more this year compared with the same period last year, according to the commerce ministry.

This year's export volume is up by 1.6 million metric tonnes against last year, registering a record 50-year high.

Previously, some 72 per cent of rice and broken rice exports went to foreign trade partners via border checkpoints.

Rice trade through the sea route has now picked up. This FY, 60 per cent of the rice exports were shipped via sea, whereas 40 per cent of the rice trade was carried out through the border gates.

Last year, only 29 countries bought rice

from Myanmar, while this year, Myanmar's rice has been shipped to some 48 countries through the sea route.

The Myanmar Rice Federation is targeting bolstering the volume of rice exports by 2020. —Mon Mon ■

Mung bean, red gram prices fall in domestic market

THE sliding prices of mung beans and pigeon peas (red gram) in the domestic market have crushed farmers' hopes of obtaining high prices for their pulses, according to a report in Myanmar Alinn yesterday.

The prices of pulses tend to rise in December.

Currently, India is self-sufficient in pulses, with fresh supplies continually entering its market. Therefore, the price of mung beans is likely to remain stable, Agriwatch has stated.

The price of mung beans dropped by

Ks50,000 per tonne within a week at the Yangon Commodity Depot, while the price of pigeon peas fell by Ks30,000 per tonne at the Yangon market compared to last week's price. The price of green grams is also on the lower side.

Following the restriction on pea imports into India, prices of domestic pulses plummeted, as Myanmar's market is heavily reliant on the Indian market. Some 1.5 million tonnes of pulses are exported to India every year. —Wunt Yee Mon (AMIA)■

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Vice President U Myint Swe attends 2018 Naga Traditional New Year ceremony

VICE President U Myint Swe, who was in Naga Self-administered Zone, Sagaing Region, attended the 2018 Naga Traditional New Year Festival held in traditional field, Yawtkawt Ward, Nanyun Town, yesterday morning.

The ceremony was attended by Sagaing Region Chief Minister Dr Myint Naing; Commander of the North-West Command Maj-Gen Phone Myat; Naga Self-Administered Zone Leading Body Chairman U Kay Hsai and other members of the body; representatives of Pyithu Hluttaw, Amyotha Hluttaw and Region Hluttaw; departmental heads of Union ministries; leaders of ethnic Naga tribes; members of Naga Township's literature and cultural associations; local elders; invited guests and officials.

First, Vice President U Myint Swe was presented a traditional Naga headdress by Chairman U Kay Hsai.

U Yawn Yang chaired the

ceremony while U Aung Win, U Ant Taw, U Sin Yone and U Pa Soe Gyi were other members present on the occasion.

According to the schedule, the ceremony was opened by saluting the national flag, followed by a new year's message from the chairman.

Next, the vice president delivered a 2018 Naga Traditional New Year's greeting and mentioned that he was honoured and happy to attend the ceremony as a government representative. At the Naga Traditional New Year ceremony, ethnic Naga nationals living in the Naga region, as well as in other parts of Myanmar, greet each other with good wishes.

"To implement the policies of the government such as national reconciliation, internal peace, establishment of a democratic federal union and improvement in the social living standards of the majority of the people, raising the social living



Vice President U Myint Swe delivers the speech at the 2018 Naga Traditional New Year Festival in Nanyun. **PHOTO: MNA**

standards of the ethnic national brothers and sisters in regions such as the Naga Self-administered Zone is important and plays a major role.

"For the union to develop in a balanced way, peace needs to prevail throughout the whole country. The government is conducting national reconciliation, peace and stability processes throughout the whole union by holding the Union Peace Conference – 21st Century Panglong," stated the vice president.

"Further, ethnic nationals and people need to strive together and perform their duties, without differentiating between hills, plains, states and regions, for the establishment of a democratic federal union.

"To ensure the development of the Naga Self-administered Zone, a hill region, ethnic brothers and sisters must work together with the government, the Sagaing Region government and the Naga Self-Administered Zone Leading Body. Each person must have a sense of dutifulness and perform their duties with goodwill. The same should be done

in the administrative, education and health sectors. Departmental officials who have come to serve from far-off places must work together with goodwill for the development of their ethnic national brothers and sisters.

"The Naga capital of Lahe and Khamti Town are now linked by the Sinthe-Lahe Road, which is accessible in all weather conditions, while the Lahe-Nanyun Road has been upgraded, and the efforts of the respective departments must be recognised. Efforts will be made for all-round development in the education and health sectors and for the ease of transport in the Naga region in the road and communications sector," he added.

"It is an auspicious time for ethnic Naga nationals, and we pray that the wishes of Naga ethnic nationals and ethnic nationals of the union are fulfilled, and pray for their physical and mental health," said the vice president. Region Chief Minister Dr Myint Naing and Naga literature and cultural association (central) chairman U Aung Htut then delivered their new year greetings.

Later, Vice President U Myint Swe and Sagaing Region Chief Minister Dr Myint Naing were presented with commemorative gifts by Naga Self-Administered Zone Leading Body Chairman U Kay Hsai.

The vice president, Region Chief Minister and officials then provided support materials meant for regional development.

The vice president was entertained by a Naga traditional dance troupe and then took commemorative group photographs with the officials.

In the afternoon, the vice president and his delegation visited the Nanyun Baptist Church to meet with Christian religious leaders. The vice president and the region chief minister also donated money to Christian religious schools.

In the evening, the vice president and his delegation attended the traditional camp fire event held in commemoration of the 2018 Naga Traditional New Year ceremony and witnessed the traditional dances and performances by the tribes. — Myanmar News Agency ■



Chairman U Kay Hsai presents a traditional Naga spear to Vice President U Myint Swe during the 2018 Naga Traditional New Year Festival. **PHOTO: MNA**



Vice President U Myint Swe arrives at the 2018 Naga Traditional New Year Festival in Nanyun. **PHOTO: MNA**

Foreign Heads of State send felicitations to President U Htin Kyaw

The following are messages of felicitations from Foreign Heads of State / Government sent to President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Htin Kyaw, on the occasion of the 70th Anniversary Independence Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

**From Mr. Shavkat Mirziyoyev,
President of the Republic of Uzbekistan,
Excellency,**

Please kindly accept my sincere congratulations on the occasion of the national holiday of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar – Independence Day.

I have the honour to express my confidence that by our joint efforts friendly relations between Uzbekistan and Myanmar will continue to develop.

Let me avail this opportunity to wish You good health and great success, and for the people of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar – well-being and prosperity.

**From Mr. Raimonds Vejonis
President of the Republic of Latvia
Your Excellency,**

On the occasion of the Independence Day of the

Republic of the Union of Myanmar, I am pleased to convey my sincerest congratulations and best wishes for further prosperity, peace, and well-being of your country and its people.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my confidence that the relations between Latvia, and Myanmar will continue to develop and strengthen for the mutual benefit of our people.

Please accept, Your Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Foreign Head of State send felicitations to State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi

The following is message of felicitations from Foreign Head of State / Government sent to State Counsellor and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, on the occasion of the 70th Anniversary Independence Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

**From Mr. Edgars Rinkevics
Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Latvia
Excellency,**

On the occasion of the Independence Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, allow me to offer you my most sincere and cordial con-

gratulations along with the wishes for peace and prosperity to the people of Myanmar.

It is my firm conviction that the established cooperation between our countries will grow increasingly stronger, thus enhancing mutual understanding and friendship.

Please accept, Your Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

2nd Pyidaungsu Hluttaw begins regular session

FROM PAGE-2

Hluttaw representatives are advised to coordinate and work together in order to avoid unnecessary disagreement by basing on the experience of the works conducted during the two-year period of the second Hluttaw term.

Moreover, all are urged to work together and manage by stages for the success of the works benefiting the people, complete the work in time, avoid audit objection and return the excess fund for works that could not be done

Hluttaw representatives will face more works during this Hluttaw session and all need to value and systematically use the time with good effort, work and will.

As people's representative using the power granted by the people for the country, it is important to follow related laws, rules, regulations and procedures.

Next, the matter of loan from Austria's Unicredit Bank sent by the President was explained by Deputy Minister for Construction U Kyaw Lin. The Deputy Minister said the Euro 5.0 million soft loan from Austria's Unicredit Bank when obtained will be used for Kinchaung Bridge construction project on the Zinchaung-Kinmyauk-Laytaung

road in Rakhine State, Kyaukphyu District, Yanbye Township.

The 1,256 ft. long Kinchaung Bridge is close to the sea and by constructing it under the European technology, the quality will be better while it can better withstand the weather and natural surrounding (seawater effect). Myanmar engineer will also be able to study the modern bridge building technology. Once the bridge is completed, it will shorten the travel time between Kyaukpyu and Yanbye towns. Due to better road communication, there'll be additional benefits of increasing the local and foreign investments that will develop the social-economic situation of the people in the region. As the construction of Kinchaung Bridge will benefit the country's social, economy, education, health, transport and all other sectors, Pyidaungsu Hluttaw is requested to permit the no-interest Euro 5.0 million soft loan from Austria government.

Union Minister for Planning and Finance U Kyaw Win explained further about the loan and said the grace period is 8 years and repayment period is 17 years, making a total loan period of 25 years. It is an interest-free loan with a management fee of 0.65 per cent of the loan amounting to Euro 32,500,



Pyidaungsu Hluttaw is being convened in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA

advance insurance premium Euro 37,125, bank charges of Euro 1,440 adding up to a total one-time payment of Euro 71,065. Remaining insurance fee of 0.9 per cent of the loan are to be paid yearly and if the loan is forfeited, a yearly forfeiture fee of 0.65 per cent of the loan need to be paid for the year it is forfeited. Under the assistance program of the Austria government, 15 per cent of the loan (Euro 0.75 million) is not required to be repaid and only the remaining 85 per cent (Euro 4.25 million) need to be paid back.

Whether an international loan is a concessional loan or non-concessional loan is determined by the grant element. According to World Bank, if the grant element is above 35 per cent, it is a concessional loan and if it is below 35 per cent, it

is a non-concessional loan. The loan from Austria to buy the steel frames for Kinchaung Bridge has a grant element of 43.93 per cent and thus it is a concessional loan explained the Union Minister U Kyaw Win.

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker then announced for Hluttaw representatives who want to discuss the matter to enroll their names.

The Union Minister stated that the National Planning Bill for the six month period of 2018 April to September was drawn up in accordance with the economic policy of the union, policies of the union ministries, state/region governments and United Nations sustainable development goals.

Proposals for projects were based on implementation of past year projects, priority sector, re-

gion and subjects, immediate requirements and availability of fund. Feasibility, benefit to the people and the economy, support toward regional development and environmental impact were also assessed.

The bill was drawn up in coordination for effectiveness and to benefit sector wise and region wise during the transition six month period.

The aims of planning for the six-month period will focus on the projects which are urgently needed to be implemented for the people and for the projects which are considered essential for the National Planning of the 2018-2019 Fiscal Year.

In the annex of 2018 April to September six month national planning bill, the expectation of the union, aim and processes to implement each of the 12 policies, union ministries' policy, aim, implementation process and priority works according to each union ministry were included.

In the 2018 April to September six month national planning bill, a total investment of more than Ks 2,988 billion investment is earmarked in the state-owned sector including states/regions, said U Kyaw Win.

2nd Pyidaungsu Hluttaw 7th regular session 2nd day meeting will be held today. ■

Beneficial aid provided by good friends

At the joint press conference between the State Counsellor and the Foreign Minister of Japan held at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw on 12th January 2018, the Japanese Foreign Minister clarified Japan's assistance programs aimed at raising the living standards of the Myanmar people.

The program for providing development assistance to Myanmar is, in fact, the consequence of the official State Visit of President U Htin Kyaw in December in 2017, in which the Japanese Prime Minister gave his solemn pledge that Japan would help Myanmar in building Myanmar into a democratic nation.

It is learnt that the Japanese Government had made a policy decision to provide Myanmar with Japanese Yen 800 billion worth of development assistance within a period of 5 years under the Japan-Myanmar cooperation program which had been agreed by both countries since two years ago. The program is aimed at making democracy deep-rooted in Myanmar, developing Myanmar's economy and bringing about national reconciliation in the country.

This is only a part of the transportation sector programs of the friendly development assistance provided by Japan. Many other programs are not discussed here.

Concerning economic development out of the development assistance program, the Japanese Government has chosen to help in three sectors—Yangon Urbanization Project, National transportation and Electricity generation. The objectives of Japan's assistance program for Myanmar based upon the said three sectors must be said to be noble deeds. This program aims to raise the living standard of the Myanmar people before 2020.

Under the program, new railway coaches with running capacity of 100 kilometer per hour will run between Yangon-Taungoo prior to September 2020, it was learnt. It was also decided that extension of running up to Mandalay would be made in 2023. When the program is completed, travelling hours can be reduced respectively, taking only 3 ½ hours for a 7 hour journey between Yangon-Taungoo and only 8 hours between Yangon-Mandalay.

With effective transportation between Yangon-Mandalay just in a short period of time, travelling and trade flows between the two economic hubs of the nation will be easy and convenient more than ever. This will definitely support the socio-economic development of the people with the aid of improved rail transportation. Under the renovation program of the Yangon Circular Railway, 18 new coaches will be added before September 2020. By 2022 daily routes of the circular railways will be raised up to 180 from 120 present routes. Thus, it is expected to reduce traffic jam problems currently being faced by the Yangon citizens. And, social lives of people in the urban area will be raised up as the development of the immediate vicinity of the circular railway will be implemented.

This is only a part of the transportation sector programs of the friendly development assistance provided by Japan. Many other programs are not discussed here. With due respect for the meritorious deeds of the donor country, we should all work hard in the different sectors we are assigned in, with discipline and a deep understanding of the historic significance of all these programs in our transition to a developed and prosperous democratic republic.

Every Individual Can Enjoy Human Rights, And The Disabled Can Do Likewise

By Dr Khine Khine Win

ALMOST everywhere across the world there are the disabled people, who were regarded to have been subjected to different evil fates—something or other. They are also called the world's largest minority. According to the UN records, the disabled persons amounted to over one billion. It was said that they are being segregated in different ways, suffering from myriads of difficulties, natural disasters and poverty. Among them, more than 80 per cent of the disabled populace is living in the developing countries, it was said. Studies pointed out that the disabled ones occupied over 4.6 percent of the entire national populace of Myanmar.

In the human-right point of view, the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities—CRPD was promulgated under the order A/RES/61/106 by the UN General Assembly on 13th December 2006.

In the Convention, the points for the global countries to implement the tasks of making the disabled persons enjoy their inborn rights, dignities and people's respects towards them, removing people's discrimination and acquiring equal rights like the abled bodies were included.

Myanmar signed the Convention as a member country

on 7th December 2011. Such a signing is meant for the solemn pledge to the international communities that Myanmar will protect inborn rights of the disabled persons living in the country and implement the prescriptions as included in the Convention, so as to protect these rights.

After signing the Convention, supplementary efforts were successfully implemented. On 5th June 2015 Law on the Rights of the Disabled Persons was promulgated under the notification no 30 of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw.

Secondly, Myanmar Federation of Persons with Disabilities managed to be formed. As the third initiative, the National Committee on Rights of Per-

sons with Disabilities led by the Vice-President.

The National Committee established has 9 objectives and 25 obligations to be implemented. Such an establishment of the National Committee can be said to be an encouragement for the persons with disabilities as well as a ray of hope for them to enjoy rights without any discriminations.

Little was known about the persons with disabilities as for the most of the people across the world, as to how many disabled persons are living in the quarters, in their societies and in the country they live and as to what kinds of difficulties they are suffering. Some may have known

these facts, but they sure lack knowledge how to help them. Accordingly, the United Nations Organization designated 3rd December as the International Day of Persons with Disabilities. On this day, ceremonies and talk shows marking the international day of persons with disabilities are annually held in many parts of the country under the sponsorship of the governmental organizations and non-governmental organizations with a view for the entire global populace to be well convinced of rights of the disabled persons. By taking active participation of the disabled ones themselves in these events people will come to recognize and pay respect to the persons

with disabilities and their dignities.

In several decades ago, people used to regard the disabled ones to be victims of different evil fates, feeling great pity towards them whereas some generally neglected them without having pity and understanding towards them. What the worst is that there were discriminations even in some families. However, in today's world the knowledge on democracy is more rapidly around the world, thus tidy filtration of the doctrines on democratic rights in the minds of the people. For this, we must change or get rid of old habits and doctrines conceived in us for many years.

Every individual can enjoy human rights and they have their respective dignities, as can the persons with disabilities because the latter ones as well belong to human societies.

Every individual including the disabled ones has their inborn dignities. For this, they have rights for an access to academic learning, rights to cast votes, rights to be elected, freedom of expression, freedom of collection of news and information and etc., like the abled bodies.

Being citizens living in the country, they have all the citizen rights. Kinds of the rights they get must be the human rights they deserve as human beings, absolutely not the kind given out of pity. To fulfill these needs it

is incumbent upon the State in which they are residing.

As for the rules and laws promulgated, they need to be effective ones.

Each and every one of us is responsible for them not to be segregated on the wrong pretext of disabilities.

In case discriminations were allowed, they might be deprived of their inborn rights, reputations and potential developments.

Forbidding their progress will be a hindrance for them as well as a great burden for their families.

Persons with disabilities as well have their respective own abilities, likely to become beneficial ones for the families and for the nation.

As for the Government of the State, it is required to make concerted effort for eradication of hindrances and kinds of discrimination.

Last but not least, we would like to urge our people to cooperate in eradicating the practices of discrimination in recognition of reputation of the disabled persons after keeping in our minds that persons with disabilities have similar rights and reputations like all of us, as there are still behaviors of segregation in many spheres across the nation.

Translated by
Khin Maung Oo



Each and every one of us is responsible for them not to be segregated on the wrong pretext of disabilities. In case discriminations were allowed, they might be deprived of their inborn rights, reputations and potential developments. Forbidding their progress will be a hindrance for them as well as a great burden for their families.

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Office of the President
Order 5/2018

14th Waning of Pyatho, 1379 ME
15 January, 2018

Union Minister transferred

In accordance with the provisions stated in article 232 of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and section 12 of the Union Government Law, U Win Khaing, Union Minister for Construction, and for Electricity and Energy has been transferred as Union Minister for Electricity and Energy.

Sd/
Htin Kyaw
President
Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Office of the President
Order 6/2018

14th Waning of Pyatho, 1379 ME
15 January, 2018

Appointment of Deputy Minister

In accordance with the provisions stated in article 234 section (a) (d) of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and section 16 (b) sub-section (9) of the Union Government Law, U Aung Hla Tun has been appointed as Deputy Minister for Information.

Sd/
Htin Kyaw
President
Republic of the Union of Myanmar

U Lwin Oo presents Credentials to President of Bangladesh

U Lwin Oo, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the People's Republic of Bangladesh, presented his Credentials to

His Excellency Mr. Md. Abdul Hamid, President of the People's Republic of Bangladesh on 9 January 2018, in Dhaka.— Myanmar News Agency ■

Union Supreme Court sits to pass judgment, hear cases

CHIEF Justice of the Union Supreme Court U Htun Htun Oo and other judges sat at Union Supreme Court, room number 1, yesterday morning

and passed judgment on five special civil appeal cases, as well as heard seven special civil appeal cases. — Myanmar News Agency ■

Lao PM, wife and delegation arrive in Nay Pyi Taw

AT the invitation of Myanmar President U Htin Kyaw and his wife Daw Su Su Lwin, a delegation led by Lao People's Democratic Republic (LPDR) Prime Minister Mr Thongloun Sisoulith and his wife Naly Sisoulith arrived in Nay Pyi Taw at 10:50 a.m. yesterday morning.

The Lao prime minister, his wife and the accompanying delegation were welcomed by Union Minister for International Cooperation U Kyaw Tin, Deputy Minister for Commerce U Aung Htoo, Myanmar's Ambassador to Laos U Ko Ko Naing, Laos' ambassador to Myanmar Lying Sayasang, their wives and other officials at the Nay Pyi Taw International Airport.—Myanmar News Agency ■



Lao Prime Minister and wife welcomed by Union Minister U Kyaw Tin and officials at Nay Pyi Taw International Airport. **PHOTO: MNA**

Over 17,000 Asian water birds found in Indawgyi Lake

ACCORDING to surveys conducted by three groups, 41 species of more than 17,000 Asian water birds are found in Indawgyi Lake per day.

Indawgyi Lake is one of the largest inland lakes in Southeast Asia. It is located in Mohnyin Township in the Kachin State of Myanmar.

The Asian water bird survey is conducted annually. According to this year's survey, being conducted from January 6 to 22, the survey team recorded 17,249 Asian water

birds, including 41 species, at Indawgyi Lake on 9 January, according to U Maung Win, an administrator at the Indawgyi Wildlife Sanctuary.

"The survey was conducted by three survey teams: the Indawgyi Wildlife Sanctuary, Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), Fauna and Flora International, Friends of Wild Life, the zoological department from the University of Mandalay, Monywa and Mohnyin, Mandalay Batton in Myanmar tour group and Inn Chit Thu (Lovers

of Indawgyi) Tourism Group.

"Next, the survey will be conducted at Inlay Lake Wetland Sanctuary, Moeyungyi Wetland Wildlife Sanctuary, Taungthaman Inn, Palake Inn and Pyu Inn. The survey recorded water birds, as well as some 109 species of the forest migratory birds," U Maung Win added.

WCS and the forest department will send the survey list of water birds conducted in Myanmar to Wet Land International.—Ni Toe (Mohnyin)■



Forty-one species of more than 17,000 Asian water birds are found in Indawgyi Lake per day. **PHOTO: NI TOE (MOHNYIN)**

LPDR Prime Minister's wife visits in Nay Pyi Taw

Lao People's Democratic Republic (LPDR) Prime Minister H.E. Mr. Thongloun Sisoulith's wife Mrs. Naly Sisoulith visited Uppatasanti Pagoda and Myanmar Gems Museum in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Arriving at Uppatasanti Pagoda at 3:30 pm, member of pagoda's board of trustees U Kyi Lwin explained about the pagoda to LPDR Prime Minister's wife Mrs. Naly Sisoulith. The wife of LPDR Prime

Minister paid homage to the pagoda and signed in the visitor book. After Mrs. Naly Sisoulith also donated the money to the fund of the pagoda and the pagoda's board of trustees presented the certificate of honour and gift to the wife of LPDR Prime Minister.

Following the visit to the pagoda, Mrs Naly Sisoulith visited Myanmar Gems Museum. —Myanmar News Agency ■



Lao Prime Minister's wife Mrs. Naly Sisoulith visits Myanmar Gems Museum in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

TMH Co to start stock trading on YSX with base price of Ks3,000

TMH Telecom Public Co. Ltd will start trading shares on the Yangon Stock Exchange (YSX) from 26 January at a floor price of Ks3,000, according to an announcement made by the YSX last Thursday.

However, the listing date may change according to instructions given by the Securities and Exchange Commission of Myanmar.

The base price of TMH is much lower than those of the four other listed companies. While the upper limit price is Ks3,500, the lower limit price is Ks2,500.

The YSX approved the listing of TMH on 1 December, 2017, after scrutinising its application documents and carrying out a deliberate listing examination, in accordance with Section 41 (c) of the Securities Exchange Law and Sec-

tion 7 and 8 of the Securities Listing Business Regulations.

Shares of four companies — First Myanmar Investment (FMI), Myanmar Thilawa SEZ Holdings (MTSH), Myanmar Citizens Bank (MCB) and First Private Bank (FPB) — are currently being traded on the YSX.

TMH offers technology services, fixed and mobile network engineering services, BTS and fiber installations, as well as maintenance and other services.

Some 20,968 shares were traded by the four listed companies yesterday, at an estimated value of Ks80 million. The share prices are lower than the base price, with the prices being Ks12,000 for FMI, Ks2,850 for MTSH, Ks8,000 for MCB and Ks26,500 for FPB at closing time. —Htet Myat ■

Opening of Myanmar Insurance Association office and signing MoUs with foreign insurance school

News - Myat Sandi
Photo - Zaw Min Latt

AN opening ceremony of Myanmar Insurance Association office was held yesterday morning in Strand Square, Strand Road, Yangon Region where Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein, Myanmar Insurance Business Supervisory Board member U Win Myint Han, Myanmar Insurance Association Chairman Dr. Sandi Oo and Deputy Chairman U Nyo Myint cut the ceremonial ribbon.

Next, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein

delivered a message and Myanmar Insurance Association chairman delivered words of thanks.

Afterwards, Myanmar Insurance Association and foreign insurance schools General Insurance Association of Japan (GIAJ), Insurance Institute of India (IIT), Malaysia Insurance Institute (MII), the Australian and New Zealand Institute of Insurance & Finance (ANZIIF) signed memorandum of understandings (MoUs).

Myanmar Insurance Association office is planning to open an insurance school in Yangon. The location is not set



Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein delivers the speech at the opening ceremony of Myanmar Insurance Association office in Yangon. **PHOTO: MNA**

yet but the syllabus is being drawn up with organisations with which MoUs were signed.

Myanmar Insurance Association was formed with state owned Myanmar Insurance and 11 private insurance companies and was permitted to be formed in 17 October 2017 and the office is now being opened. ■



Myanmar Insurance Association signs MoU with Malaysia Insurance Institute during the opening ceremony. **PHOTO: MNA**

Chicken meat, eggs distributed from Shan Yoma livestock breeding zone

SOME 450,000 chicken eggs are distributed daily to other states from Shan Yoma livestock breeding zone in Nyaung Shwe Township, Shan State. The Shan Yoma livestock breeding zone has bred some 800,000 chickens, according to the consumer affairs department.

“We have bred the egg-lay-

ing chickens, as well as broiler chickens, in our livestock breeding zone. Therefore, we can fulfil the consumption needs of the local people and distribute to other regions as well. To develop a breeding sector, the authorities should make arrangements to provide loans to small and medium enterprises, as well

as assistance for the sustainable development of livestock breeding zones,” said U Mya Than, director of the Shan State consumer affairs department.

The livestock breeding zone was constructed with 208 poultry farms on a 429.67-acre plot. The poultry farms in the southern part of Shan State produce

some 1.5 million chicken eggs per day.

“The entrepreneurs are also planning to set up another livestock breeding zone in Taunggyi. Currently, they are looking for a plot to set up the zone. Then, they will submit a proposal to the state government. We need their support

too,” said U Sai Wanna Tun, a Taunggyi broiler chicken breeding entrepreneur.

The livestock breeding zone has created jobs for more than 180 workers. The entrepreneurs are also planning to form a committee to conduct educational talks on the poultry farms.— Myat Thu (AMIA) ■

Public talk on Youth Sector All Round Development held in Yangon

A public talk titled “Youth Sector All Round Development” was held in Yangon United Football Club in Hline Township, Yangon Region yesterday afternoon and more than a thousand students and interested persons attended the talk.

(Yangon) Region Hluttaw representative Daw Khine Mar Htay, writer Ma Moe Myay, actress Academy Thet Mon Myint, singer Khine Mye Tha, singer Lil’Z, businessman U Nyein Chan (Zaw Group) and Zaw Zaw (Mandalay, library) spoke about literature, art and their life experience and answered to the questions raised by the audience.

Region Hluttaw representative Daw Khine Mar Htay said “I spoke under the title of youth and politics. Youth need to be interested in politics. They must not lose sight of politics. I spoke about all being connected to politics. It is good that these talks are being



Ko Zaw Zaw gives speech at public talk held in Yangon yesterday. **PHOTO: ZAW GYI (PANITA)**

held. Young people will learn a lot from these talks just like they read lots of books. They will have wider views and will become the gems that benefit the country.”

The public talk was held jointly by Hluttaw representatives, township administrative department and township information and public relation de-

partment with an aim to increase the knowledge, reading rates and all round development of youth in Hline Township it is learnt.

Maung Thiha Naung from

Hline Township No. 1 Basic Education Middle School said “I learn a lot from this talk. I learn more about things that I already know as well as things that I didn’t know. The main thing I learnt from this talk is that I need to read more. Only through reading can there be change and development in everything.”

The day’s public talk was attended by Hluttaw representatives, departmental officials, officials from civil society organisations, students and interested persons totaling more than a thousand. Before the public talk starts performance were made by underage rape information group and singers from Ein Met Sone Ya (Where dreams met) program.

Such public talks were being held in townships of Yangon Region and were learnt to be filled with interested persons. — Zaw Gyi (Panita) ■

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Daw La Min May, H.G.P

For **NISSEI COMPANY, LTD.**,

C/o Kelvin Chia Yangon Ltd.,

Level 8A, Union Financial Centre (UFC),

Corner of Mahabandoola Road and Thein Phyu Road,

Botahtaung Township, Yangon,

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Dated 16th January 2018

lmm@kcyangon.com

Invitation For Open Tender No.1/2018

- (1) Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation, No(1)Mining Enterprise Invites to submit the Cathode Copper(3000) Tonnes Sale open tender quotation in the United State Dollars.

(a) Cathode Copper

- (1) (1)Lot (100) Tonnes each, 5 Lot Monywa, Minesite
(2) (1)Lot (200) Tonnes each, 5 Lot Monywa, Minesite
(3) (1)Lot (300) Tonnes each, 5 Lot Monywa, Minesite

- (b) Reserve price- The price of Cathode Copper is not less than the Copper price of London Metal Exchange on opening date. (Unknown price)

- (2) (Tender Closing Date and Time is 15th February, 2018 (15:00)hrs.
(3) Tender documents are available from the Procurement Department, No.(1) Mining Enterprise, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation, Office Building No.(19), Nay Pyi Taw and Details Can be asked to +95-(0)67-409012 and 409383 within the office hours.

Tender Committee,
No.(1) Mining Enterprise

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V MCC HA LONG VOY. NO. ()

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V MCC HA LONG VOY. NO. () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 15-1-2018 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.

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S MCC TRANSPORT
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Next week pilots will train in a mixed air force and air defence unit. **PHOTO: TASS**

Russian pilots to practice landing on highway during military drills

ROSTOV-ON-DON— The air task unit of the Fourth Air and Air Defence Forces Command has kicked off this year's first training missions at the Kuban and Rostov regional airports during which pilots will

train to land on a Rostov Region highway, Southern Military District Spokesman Vadim Astafyev told TASS on Friday.

"Next week, pilots will train in a mixed air force and air defense unit. One

of the elements of the exercise will be landing aircraft on a Rostov Region highway," he explained.

Astafyev also said that for three days 40 crews of the Su-30SM and Su-27 fighter aircraft

and Su-34 bombers of the mixed air force and air defense unit would practice covering bombers during bomb dropping (exercises) and fighter aircraft would perform aerobatic maneuvers.—Tass

Berlin and Paris step up push for euro zone reform deal

BERLIN/PARIS— Emboldened by a preliminary coalition deal between Chancellor Angela Merkel and the Social Democrats (SPD), Germany and France will try to inject new momentum into their stalled EU reform efforts this week when their finance ministers meet in Paris.

Peter Altmaier, one of Merkel's closest party allies, will pay a visit to his French counterpart Bruno Le Maire on Thursday, a day after leading French and German economists unveil new recommendations for a reform of the euro zone.

The meeting is a sign that Berlin is prepared to negotiate with Paris in parallel to Merkel's coalition talks with the SPD,

which could begin later this month if members of the centre-left party give a green light at a party congress next Sunday.

"We have an acting government which can act and must continue to work," Achim Post, deputy leader for the SPD in parliament, told Reuters. He said the coalition blueprint clinched on Friday would pave the way for a "paradigm shift" on Europe away from austerity and towards more investment and jobs. The 28-page document was also welcomed by French President Emmanuel Macron, whose plans for an ambitious reform of the EU, including an overhaul of euro zone governance, were dealt a blow by an inconclusive German election in Sep-

tember and the political limbo that followed.

The draft, which could form the basis for Merkel's third "grand coalition" government since taking power in 2005, raises the prospect of an "investment budget" for the single currency bloc, a nod to Macron's call for a budget to help the euro zone cope with external economic shocks. It also calls for the ESM bailout mechanism to be turned into a full-blown European Monetary Fund under parliamentary control and anchored in EU law. In a sign of lingering divisions between Berlin and Paris, Macron on Friday questioned the logic of such a fund and stressed the need to complete the EU's "banking union", a vital

project designed to sever the link between troubled banks and sovereign lenders. Berlin has been reluctant to move to the final stage by establishing a common deposit insurance scheme. As Merkel was celebrating her deal with the SPD on Friday, Paris was rolling out the red carpet for Mario Centeno, the new president of the Eurogroup forum of euro zone finance ministers, in a signal to other countries that Macron means business. "It's not insignificant and certainly not innocent in terms of the message," a French finance ministry source said of the visit by Centeno, who met with Macron, Le Maire and Prime Minister Edouard Philippe.—Reuters

management@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

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Scores injured as Indonesia stock exchange building lobby floor collapses

JAKARTA — A mezzanine floor overlooking the main lobby of the Indonesian Stock Exchange building collapsed on Monday, injuring scores of people, many of them students, under slabs of concrete and other debris, officials and witnesses said.

The high-rise building, constructed in the late 1990s, is part of a two-tower complex also housing offices of the World Bank and the International Finance Corporation. It was the target of a car bombing by Islamist militants in September 2000.

Police ruled out a bomb as a cause of Monday's collapse. They said at least 77 people had been injured. No deaths had



Workers and security examine the damage after a mezzanine floor collapsed at the Indonesia Stock Exchange building in Jakarta, Indonesia on 15 January, 2018. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

been reported, said Triana Tambunan, business development manager at MRCC Siloam hospital, one of the hospitals near the stock exchange. "Up to now we've registered 30

people," Tambunan told reporters.

"The bone fractures may be serious. We need to carry out further evaluations," she said, adding there were at least three

suspected fractures.

Safety standards are often loosely enforced in Indonesia. Last year, a fire that ripped through a fireworks factory on the outskirts of Jakarta killed

around 50 people in one of the country's worst industrial accidents. A police investigation found multiple safety violations.

Police cordoned off the complex as people fled the building, and the injured, including visiting university students, were taken away by stretcher.

Stock exchange president director Tito Sulistio said their treatment would be paid for by the exchange. Images aired on television and circulated on social media showed a concrete and metal structure that had collapsed around a Starbucks cafe near the entrance to the lobby of the building with blue-tinted windows. "The second floor of the building has col-

lapsed," said Vindy, a personal assistant to Sulistio, who was in the building at the time. "Slabs of concrete started to fall, there was lots of dust. Water pipes had burst," said Megha Kapoor, who works in the building and was in the lobby at the time. "I heard a loud cracking sound. I saw a lady unconscious stuck under a slab of concrete," she said, adding that the collapsed level was just above the reception desk.

Finance Minister Sri Mulyani Indrawati said she hoped the collapse would not affect investor confidence in the tropical Southeast Asian archipelago. The exchange resumed business in the afternoon as per schedule.—Reuters

Malaysia-Singapore ties tested by high-speed rail contract

KUALA LUMPUR/SINGAPORE — The leaders of Malaysia and Singapore are expected to discuss plans for a high-speed rail project linking their countries during summit talks on Tuesday, as a deadline to award the multi-billion dollar project nears.

The high-speed rail valued by analysts at about \$17 billion is the biggest project undertaken by the Southeast Asian neighbours in recent years, and will test a relationship that has been frosty since the end of the colonial era in the 1960s.

It also could expose broader tensions over China's growing influence in the region, as the two leaders must choose between competing bids from Chinese and Japanese rivals, as well as European and South Korean firms.

A joint tender for the company that would build, operate and finance the trains and the rail assets closes on 29 June, and a decision is expected by the end of the year. "It (the preferred bidder) could be a source of difference," said Associate Professor Ja Ian Chong of the Depart-

ment of Political Science at National University of Singapore.

"But the issue is whether this difference is something where a compromise can be found and I think that's very hard to tell at this point."

Given his close ties to Beijing, rejecting a Chinese bid would be tough for Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak, who will hold talks with his Singaporean counterpart, Lee Hsien Loong, in Singapore on Tuesday. Beijing has pumped billions into Malaysia over the last two years, as Najib looked to tackle massive government debt and appease voters ahead of national elections this year.

Najib's government handed a \$13 billion rail project to China last year that links peninsular Malaysia's east and west.

Singapore, on the other hand, has had difficulties recently in its relationship with China over Taiwan and the disputed South China Sea islands.

China Railway Corporation would lead a consortium of Chinese companies bidding for the massive

project, one diplomatic source in Kuala Lumpur told Reuters. For Japan, JR East would head a consortium that includes Sumitomo Corporation, Hitachi Ltd, Mitsubishi Heavy Industries and NEC Corp, the source said.

South Korea's consortium would include Hyundai Rotem Co and Hyundai Engineering and Construction, another source familiar with the bidding said. China's key competitive advantage is its lower construction cost, said Corrine Png, the CEO of transport research firm Crucial Perspective.

Japan, on the other hand, has a long record of building and operating high-speed rail and wants to counter Chinese influence in Southeast Asia, which has been backed by mega-projects under Beijing's Belt and Road Initiative.

About 90 per cent of the rail network is in Malaysia, and Najib's government has agreed to pay for its share of the line itself. Yet to be decided, however, are other costs like building and maintaining the rolling stock.—Reuters

MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS MYANMA RAILWAYS

Extension of Tender Closing Date

Myanma Railways Extends the Tender Closing Date as follows:

Sr No	Tender No	Description	Initial Closing Date & Time	Extension Closing Date & Time
1	16/MR/INDIA (E) 2017-2018	Track Recording Car EM 80 and Small Track Maintenance Machineries	20.2.2018 (14:30) Hr	22.3.2018 (14:30) Hr

Managing Director, Myanmar Railways
Ministry of Transport and Communications, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar

SHRI KALI TEMPLE

No. 295, Konzaydan St, Pabedan Tsp, Yangon

9-DAY MAHA CHANDI PATHH FESTIVAL

Dear Devotees,

9- day Maha Chandi Pathh Festival with divine fire and incantation of spiritual prayers will be held at Shri Kali Temple by the priests of high esteem from India in collaboration with the chief priest and priests of Shri Kali Temple, Myanmar and the priests from Rameshwar Sanskrit Maha Vidyalaya, Nong Hkio from (19-1-2018) Friday to (27-1-2018) Saturday.

All the devotees with family and friends are cordially invited to attend the festival and obtain

Yours in Goddess Service,
Board of Trustees

“Jumanji: Welcome to the Jungle” remains atop North American box office

LOS ANGELES — Sony’s action adventure comedy film “Jumanji: Welcome to the Jungle” remained atop North American box office, dominating the Martin Luther King holiday weekend with an estimated 27.03 million US dollars through Sunday.

It is “a solid Martin Luther King Weekend that should generate around 152 million dollars for the 3-day and a projected 4-day total of 187 to 190 million dollars,” wrote movie analyst Paul Dergarabedian at comScore in an email to Xinhua.

“Jumanji: Welcome to the Jungle” has brought in a massive 283.17 million dollars in total in North American theatres to date since opening on 20 December, according to the studio figures collected by comScore.

Directed by Jake Kasdan and stars Dwayne Johnson, Jack Black, Kevin Hart and Karen Gillan, the sequel to 1995’s “Jumanji” follows four teenagers who are

transported into the video game world of Jumanji and must work together to beat the game in order to return to the real world.

20th Century Fox’s “The Post” came in second with an estimated 18.6 million dollars in its fourth weekend but the first wide expansion weekend. The film premiered at the Newseum in Washington, DC on 14 December, 2017, and began a limited release on 22 December, before a wide release on 12 January.

Steven Spielberg directs Meryl Streep and Tom Hanks in “The Post,” a political thriller film about the unlikely partnership between The Washington Post’s Katharine Graham, the first female publisher of a major American newspaper, and editor Ben Bradlee, as they race to catch up with The New York Times to expose a massive cover-up of government secrets that spanned three decades and four US presidents. The two must overcome



Fans wait for a red carpet event promoting actor Dwayne Johnson’s new film “Jumanji: Welcome to the Jungle” in Beijing, China on 4 January, 2018. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

their differences as they risk their careers — and their very freedom — to help bring long-buried truths to light.

The film received highly positive reviews with a strong “A” rating from moviegoers on CinemaScore. It was chosen by the National Board of Review as the best film of 2017, and was named

as one of the top 10 films of the year the American Film Institute.

Lionsgate’s “The Commuter” opened in third place with an estimated 13.45 million dollars. The action thriller film follows an insurance salesman who is unwittingly recruited into a murder conspiracy after meeting a mysterious woman while on his

daily train commute. Universal’s supernatural horror film “Insidious: The Last Key” landed in fourth place with an estimated 12.13 million dollars in its second weekend. 20th Century Fox’s musical biopic “The Greatest Showman” finished fifth with an estimated 11.8 million dollars in its fourth weekend. —Xinhua ■

Mick Jagger’s surprise India visit

NEW DELHI — Mick Jagger is in India and the veteran rock star says he is enjoying the “vibrant sights and sounds” of the country.

The 74-year-old singer-songwriter announced his visit on Instagram.

“Enjoying the vibrant sights and sounds of India!”

wrote Jagger alongside his photograph. The “Dancing in the street” hitmaker can be seen wearing a black suit with and shades and standing in the premises luxury hotel, probably in Rajasthan.

The purpose and duration of Jagger’s visit are yet to be known. —PTI ■



Mick Jagger performs onstage during the Rolling Stones final concert of their 50 and Counting Tour in Newark, New Jersey. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

Male models say top fashion photographers harassed them — New York Times

NEW YORK — Male models and assistants who worked with high-powered fashion photographers Bruce Weber and Mario Testino say they were subjected by them to molestation, sexual advances and unnecessary nudity, The New York Times reported on Saturday.

In patterns that went on for years, the young men, including some who were given anonymity, said the photographers put them in uncomfortable sexual situations that they felt pressured to accept out of fear of upending their careers, The Times said.

Lawyers for both photographers denied the allegations and said that the pair was surprised and dismayed by them. Neither Weber, Testino nor their accusers could immediately be reached for further comment.

“We never had sex or anything, but a lot of things happened. A lot of touching. A lot of molestation,” the Times quoted model Robyn Sinclair as saying of Weber. Sinclair was among 15 current and former male models whom the newspaper said described harassment by Weber,



Bruce Weber, winner of the Isabella Blow Award for Fashion Creator poses for photographers at the Fashion Awards 2016 in London, Britain on 5 December, 2016. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

71, whose fashion clients have included Calvin Klein and Abercrombie & Fitch.

Through his lawyers, Weber denied the accusations in a statement to The Times, saying: “I’m completely shocked and saddened by the outrageous claims being made against me, which I absolutely deny.”

Testino’s law firm, Lavery & Singer, challenged the credibility of his accusers and said it had spoken to former employees of Testino who said they were shocked by the allegations and could not confirm any of them, The Times said. Allegations

against Testino, 63, who has worked for fashion brands including Michael Kors, Burberry and Dolce & Gabbana, were made by 13 male assistants and models in accounts going back to the mid-1990s, the newspaper said.

Multiple accusations of sexual misconduct against male actors, filmmakers and agents have roiled Hollywood since October 2017. The scandal has also engulfed men in US politics, business and the workplace, inspiring a widespread #MeToo social movement by victims of sexual harassment or abuse.

Following The Times’ report, Conde Nast artistic director Anna Wintour said the magazine company had suspended any future work with the two photographers, whom she described as personal friends. “I believe strongly in the value of remorse and forgiveness, but I take the allegations very seriously, and we at Conde Nast have decided to put our working relationship with both photographers on hold for the foreseeable future,” Wintour, who is also editor in chief of Vogue magazine, said in a statement. — Reuters ■

Bike tour held to develop CBT in Gaw Yin Gyi Island

A BIKE tour from Ngwe Saung to Gaw Yin Gyi Island, which was jointly arranged by the Hotel and Tourism Department (Pathein office) and Another Development, kicked off with 37 local bicyclists on the morning of 13 January.

This bike tour is being organised to develop community-based tourism (CBT) in the Gaw Yin Gyi Island area.

Along the route, locals welcomed the bicyclists and offered them water and coconut juice. The bicyclists stopped for lunch at Thityaung Village. Next, they reached the Michaungkaung vil-

lage, where they held discussions on CBT with the residents. The bicyclists continued their ride and ended their tour at 6 pm in Nanththapu Village in the Gaw Yin Gyi Island area.

Before beginning the bike tour, U Zaw Lin Tun, deputy director from the Pathein office, explained the tourism development activities to the participants. In the evening, officials from the Pathein office of the Hotel and Tourism Department discussed the residents of Nanththapu Village the activities involved in executing CBT. —Ko Thant ■



Bike tour from Ngwe Saung to Gaw Yin Gyi Island takes place to develop CBT in Gaw Yin Gyi Island area. PHOTO: SUPPLIED

YCDC celebrates 16th anniversary of City FM

YANGON City Development Committee celebrated 16th anniversary of its City FM on 14th January at the Myanmar Convention Centre in Yangon.

Yangon Mayor U Maung Maung Soe and wife Daw Khin Mya Mya Aung attended the ceremony and presented gifts to business persons for putting advertisements in the City FM channels.

Hlaing Music Production and TZM Music Production won the best seller awards for 2017 and vocalist Hlwan Paing won the best seller award for his songs for 2017.

Vocalist Yadana Maing and G-Gatt won the best award (woman and men) for highest demand for their songs from the City FM channel respectively. Vocalists including prominent singers Tin Zar maw, Pyu Pyu Kyaw Thein, Yadana Maing, G-Fatt, Hlwan Paing, Mi Sandi, Ni Ni Khin Zaw, Aung Htet and Htoo L Lin performed at the ceremony. —Saw Thein Win ■



Tin Zar Maw (Left) and Yadana Maing win the gold violin awards of City FM. PHOTO: SAW THEIN WIN



Yangon Mayor U Maung Maung Soe presents the golden violin award to Yadana Maing. PHOTO: MNA

Swedish man preserving art of Japanese sword-crafting

KUMAMOTO, (Japan) — A Swedish man has become an unlikely protector of ancient Japanese swords by learning the art of sword-crafting, overcoming numerous setbacks including the major earthquakes that rocked Kumamoto in 2016.

Hans Koga, 45, also known as Hansuke Koga, lives in Nagomi, Kumamoto Prefecture, and is one of the rare “koshirae” craftsmen specializing in meticulously repairing the exterior, including the handle and sheath, of Japanese swords.

The southwestern Japan prefecture is where Higo koshirae originated, a sword style established by Hosokawa Tadaoki (1563-1646), father of the first lord of Kumamoto.

By replacing old and damaged sword handle wrapping and other parts to make the sword last another hundred years with its original look, Koga told Kyodo News he is playing a “part in contributing to cultural history.”

“I am only interested in this culture. This is my work.”

As a child in Stockholm, Koga developed an interest in Japanese swords after he discovered Iaido, a Japanese martial art that involves drawing a sword, and began collecting them.

Koga came to Japan in 2012 after injuring his hand and leaving a career as a ship builder. He received training for craftwork associated with Japanese swords at a Tokyo studio, during which he became interested in Higo koshirae, a style that attracted him by its simplicity and functionality.

In the fall of 2015, Koga moved to Kumamoto, where after discovering there was no active Higo koshirae craftsmen, he asked a retired craftsman to train him.

Then a magnitude-6.5 earthquake hit the region on 14 April, 2016, and a M7.3 temblor two days later, subsequently killing over 200 people and leaving thousands more injured. Koga’s home, which he used as a studio, also collapsed in the disaster. —Kyodo News ■

Regional cooperation brings opportunities for Southeast Asian language learners

KUNMING — When Zhang Weiguo learned that he was admitted as a Burmese major at Yunnan Minzu University in 2009, he was deeply worried that he might not find a job after graduation.

Zhang, from southwest China’s Yunnan Province, was offered a national scholarship to study in Myanmar for roughly a year in 2012. The experience changed him. “At first I didn’t feel much about my major and thought it was just a minority language used by a small population. During my year in Myanmar, I made quite a lot of friends, and got to know the country and its people better,” Zhang said.

Even more surprising to him were the multiple job offers he received from a government department, a state-owned bank and a university when he graduated in 2013. After some thought, he chose to become one of the first Burmese teachers at Guangdong University of Foreign Studies.

Almost all of Zhang’s 28 classmates were able to find jobs related to their major. Zhang said thanks to promotion of the Lancang-Mekong Cooperation (LMC), demand for Southeast Asian languages talent has surged in re-

cent years. According to Chinese Premier Li Keqiang at the Second LMC Leaders’ Meeting held in Cambodia this week, China is now the largest trading partner of Cambodia, Myanmar, Thailand and Viet Nam, and the second-largest trading partner of Laos.

“Building mutual trust and understanding is the key to LMC, which requires more people who know not only the other country’s language, but their national conditions, culture and way of thinking as well,” said Zhao Shulan, a research fellow with the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies at the Yunnan Academy of Social Sciences.

Zhao said systematic language training is indispensable and the most efficient way to achieve the goal. In 2017, the trade volume between China and the five Mekong countries reached 220 billion US dollars, up 16 per cent from 2016. China’s total investment in the five countries has exceeded 42 billion US dollars, with a growth rate of more than 20 per cent in 2017. More people are running businesses and building careers in other countries in the region.

Yunnan, which borders My-

anmar, Laos and Viet Nam, has established an intercollegiate committee to promote the teaching and learning of Southeast Asian languages in the province. A dozen language majors have since been set up, covering as many as 15 different languages used in Southeast Asia. “Studying the Thai language has brought me opportunities to explore the country’s politics, economics and culture, and a promising career as well,” said Chen Xiaoyun, a faculty member in the Thai studies program at Yunnan Academy of Social Sciences.

To further cultural and educational exchanges between China and Southeast Asia, Premier Li said China will offer short-term training and in-service education for 2,000 people in Lancang-Mekong countries and 100 four-year scholarships for undergraduates in 2018. Zhang has applied for a master’s degree in Southeast Asian studies at the university where he teaches Burmese, the same program his students are enrolled in. “I will get my master’s degree this year together with my students, and I would like to continue doctoral studies in the area,” Zhang said. —Xinhua ■

Barcelona midfielder Turan joins Turkish leaders on loan

ANKARA — Turkish league leaders Istanbul Basaksehir have signed midfielder Arda Turan on a two-and-a-half season loan deal from Barcelona, the club announced in a news conference on Monday.

The Turkey international would be paid 2 million euros (\$2.45 million) plus a bonus for this season and 4 million euros next season, the club chairman Goksel Gumusdag announced.

"I am excited to be back to doing what I love most: playing football. I missed football so much," Turan said after not making a single appearance for Barcelona this season.

One point clear of city rivals Galatasaray, who Turan played for from 2005-11, after 17 games, the midfielder's arrival is expected to help push the club to a maiden Super Lig title.

Turan will find himself in a dressing room of a ambitious club with a growing pedigree as former Manchester City pair Emmanuel Adebayor and Gael Clichy are among the most high-profile members of the current squad.

"I think we are one of the most important candidates for the championship this season.

We will play each and every game like we are playing the most important final of our lives," he said.

The 30-year-old joined Barcelona from Atletico Madrid for 34 million euros plus add-ons in July 2015, winning six trophies but only making 55 appearances and scoring 15 goals at the Camp Nou.

Turan has two-and-a-half years left on his Barca contract but will see it out in Istanbul. However, Barcelona can still sell the player during that period if they accept an offer for him.

Spanish newspaper Sport last week estimated it cost Barca one million euros for each appearance made by Turan, taking into account an annual salary reported to be 8 million euros a year.

Turkey's fourth-most capped player with 100 appearances, Turan will also be hoping to return to his best form for the national side after reversing a decision to retire from international football in August. Turan quit in June but changed his mind a month later after positive talks with new head coach Mircea Lucescu.—Reuters ■



Yoshihito Nishioka of Japan plays a forehand during his first-round match against Philipp Kohlschreiber of Germany at the Australian Open in Melbourne on 15 January, 2018. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

Nishioka advances to 2nd round at Australian Open

MELBOURNE — Japan's Yoshihito Nishioka moved into the second round of the Australian Open after beating world No 29 German Philipp Kohlschreiber in five sets in the men's singles on Monday.

Nishioka, who underwent surgery last March to repair a torn knee ligament, won 6-3, 2-6, 6-0, 1-6, 6-2 in 2 hours, 39 minutes,

despite Kohlschreiber scoring more aces and winners

"Before I got injured I had played good tennis and beaten top opponents, and that experience was big for me," said Nishioka, currently ranked 168th in the world. "Because the wind was strong, I didn't want to take risks, so I chose tactics that would reduce mistakes."

The 22-year-old reached the second round of the tournament for the second straight year, and will challenge Italian Andreas Seppi on Wednesday.

On another court, 40th-ranked Yuichi Sugita of Japan also advanced over eighth seed Jack Sock of the United States, winning 6-1, 7-6(4), 5-7 6-3 in four sets.—Kyodo News ■

Giggs set to be named Wales manager — report

LONDON — Former Manchester United winger Ryan Giggs is poised to be named as Wales manager, the BBC reported on Sunday.

The Football Association of Wales is holding a news conference on Monday at which the 44-year-old Giggs is expected to be unveiled as the successor to Chris Coleman who quit the job in November to take charge of Sunderland.

Giggs won 64 caps between 1991 and 2007 but was unpopular with some Wales fans for missing many internationals,

especially friendlies.

He ended his glittering 23-year playing career in 2014 and managed Manchester United in a caretaker role for four games at the end of the 2013-14 season after David Moyes was sacked.

Giggs was Louis van Gaal's assistant at Old Trafford for the following two seasons before leaving United in 2016 after Jose Mourinho was appointed as manager.

Coleman led Wales to the Euro 2016 semi-finals but they failed to qualify for this year's World Cup.—Reuters ■

Former England and West Brom striker Regis dies, aged 59



Former West Bromwich Albion, Coventry City and England international striker Cyrille Regis. PHOTO: REUTERS

Cyrille Regis has died aged at the age of 59, the Professional Footballers' Association (PFA)

said on Monday.

"A true gentleman and legend, he will be deeply missed. Our sympathies to his family and friends," the PFA wrote in a tweet from its official account.

Regis scored 112 goals in 297 appearances for West Brom before joining Coventry in 1984, where he won the FA Cup three years later.

He would go on to play for Aston Villa, Wolverhampton Wanderers, Wycombe Wanderers and Chester City before hanging up his boots in 1996.

Regis, who was appointed an MBE in 2008, returned to West Brom as a coach before becoming a football agent.—Reuters ■