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Vice President U Myint Swe addresses the Myanmar National Committee on Child Labour Eradication in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Gov't describes efforts to eradicate child labour as national duty

Vice President U Myint Swe, in his capacity as Chairman of Myanmar National Committee on Child Labour Eradication, attended and addressed the first coordination meeting of the Myanmar National Committee on Child Labour Eradication. The meeting was held at the meeting hall of the Ministry for Labour, Immigration and Population, Nay Pyi Taw, yesterday morning.

In his address at the meeting, the Vice President said the

37 members of the Myanmar National Committee on Child Labour Eradication, led by vice president (1), had been formed through the President's office Notice No. 23/2018 on 5 February 2018 and was given eight assignments, which were to form work committees to implement the national-level programme for Myanmar child labour eradication project; preparing a policy for important works of the project, issuing of notifications,

regularly assessing the work of the committee, reviewing the work of the committee every six months and providing the necessary guidelines; managing of coordination between the relevant ministries, governments of states/regions and self-administered zones; cooperating with local and international organisations on child labour eradication; maintaining the donated cash and kind from international organisations, donors and local

organisations; and managing and reporting to the government annually on the implementation of project aims.

The global population of youth who can work is 18 per cent, that is some 1 billion, and the world's youth are seen to be facing the bad effects of differences in the economical, social, technological and cultural environment in the countries within a region and in the society.

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Rights commission urges precaution over sexual assault cases

The Myanmar National Human Rights Commission released a statement yesterday warning the public to exercise caution amidst the numerous cases of sexual assault that were reported recently.

The statement said that the number of reported sexual assault cases in the news and social media has increased from 1,100 in 2016 to 1,405 in 2017. Among the 1,100 cases in 2016, 671 were related to sexual assault on minors and 429 on adults, while in 2017, 897 cases were related to minors and 508 to adults. In most of these cases, additional felonies such as theft, murder and disposing of the corpse were also carried out.

The statement said these assaults infringed on women's and children's rights and threatened their safety.

The statement urges the public to take necessary safety precautions to prevent sexual assaults and cooperate in finding the perpetrators of such acts. In response to the public's request to catch the perpetrators, the rights commission also urges authorities to effectively administer justice in such cases.

—GNLM ■



'BEST BANK IN MYANMAR'

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Pyithu Hluttaw

Pyithu Hluttaw discusses roads, bridges construction

Kyaw Thu Htet
(MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY)

The seventh session of the second Pyithu Hluttaw held its 19th-day meeting yesterday morning, where six questions on roads and bridges were asked and answered, and the Hluttaw took a decision on a bill.

The questions on roads and bridges were answered by Deputy Minister for Construction U Kyaw Lin.

Replying to a question raised by U Khin Cho of Hlaing-bwe constituency on replacing the wood on wooden bridges and bailey bridges with rectangular steel tubes, U Kyaw Lin replied that the advantage of wood is that it is made of fiber and will not break suddenly, bending gradually, giving ample time for failure, while iron tubes break suddenly.

Hollow pipes and tubes are unable to withstand the load and are only used to give a good appearance, said the Deputy Minister.

Reinforced concrete and pre-stressed reinforced con-

crete bridges are being built, and depending on the vehicles passing over the bridges, hollow rectangular iron tubes will be used on some wooden bridges and bailey bridges, wherever possible, said the Deputy Minister.

Responding to a question on the plan to repair roads in Hlinethaya Township, put forth by U Win Min of Hlinethaya constituency, the deputy minister said the 5-mile and 4-furlong Yangon-Pathein road (Bayint Naung Bridge approach road), 3-mile and 2-furlong Yangon-Nyaungdon road (Aung Zeya Bridge approach road) and 4-mile and 6-furlong Anawrahta road (Shwepyitha Bridge approach road) were built by Oriental Highway Co. Ltd., under the build, operate, transfer (BOT) system and repair works were conducted by the company, according to the agreement, and transferred back.

The Yangon City Development Committee has been assigned to conduct maintenance work and is being instructed over the work, said the Deputy



Deputy Minister for Construction U Kyaw Lin. **PHOTO:MNA**

Minister.

U Khin Maung Soe of Wundwin constituency raised a question on the plan to repair the Thinbon creek high-water bypass on the Pintale-Meiktila road. The deputy minister said the repair work on the high-water bypass was conducted with the union fund in the 2014-2015 fiscal year by the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation, Department of Rural Development and the Mandalay region government fund in the 2016-2017 fiscal year. However, it was damaged again in the heavy rains in October 2017. To

repair the high-water bypass, a soil test and field visits were conducted on the change in water flow and a good model was designed. Depending on the availability of funds, it will be constructed before the 2020-2021 fiscal year, said the Deputy Minister.

U Aung Kyaw Zan of Pauktaw constituency demanded an investigation over and action against the entity responsible for the incomplete construction of the Thekon-Hsandawshin earth road on the seaside of Myayngukyun, Pauktaw Township.

The Deputy Minister replied that the 22-mile and 7-furlong Thekon-Hsandawshin earth road on the seaside of Myayngukyun, Pauktaw Township, was constructed in the 2015-2016 fiscal year period, with the union (maintenance) fund and the Rakhine State government fund by Than Nang Family Company and Yoma Myay Company.

Yoma Myay Company was unable to complete the works and was found to have broken

the rules and regulations of the tender agreement. The Rakhine State government and the Department of Rural Development that had earlier done work on the road section were asked to take effective action against the company, while the repair and construction works will be conducted after a site study is done, said the Deputy Minister.

In addition to these, questions by U Aung Soe of Yinmabin constituency on the plan to construct the Taungma-Yo Chaung reinforced bridge in Sinswe Village, Yinmabin Township, and U Phone Myint Aung of DaikU constituency on the plan to upgrade the remaining 6-mile section of the 8-mile village road, connecting Kadote Ywama Village and Bawni Village, DaikU Township, into a gravel road were answered by U Kyaw Lin.

Furthermore, a motion to submit an amendment, discussion and decision on a bill on explosive materials, tabled by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation, were conducted at the meeting. ■

Amyotha Hluttaw

Amyotha Hluttaw discusses school infrastructure

Aye Aye Thant
(MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY)

THE seventh session of the second Amyotha Hluttaw held its 19th-day meeting yesterday in the Amyotha Hluttaw meeting hall, where asterisk-marked questions were asked and answered, a bill tabled and a motion discussed.

Three asterisk-marked questions raised during the day's meeting were answered by Deputy Minister for Education U Win Maw Tun.

Replying to a question raised by U Shayrel Shu Maung of Kayah State constituency (2) on the plan to construct houses for staff, a hostel for students and a 1,660-foot-long concrete road, urgently required for Loikaw Technology University, the Deputy Minister said Loikaw Technology University had a main building, three six-room staff houses and two workshops.

The work of building a

hostel for students has been assigned to the Ministry of Construction at a cost of Ks572 million in the 2017-2018 fiscal year period. Funds for a staff house and the road are included in the 2018-2019 fiscal year budget and will be implemented as soon as the funds are available, said the Deputy Minister.

On a question posed by U Whey Tin of Chin constituency (11) on the plan to build a 120x30 feet reinforced two-storey building in Basic Education High School No(2), Yeikha Ward, Paletwa Town, Chin State, the Deputy Minister said the school had a 100x26 feet two-storey building, 120x30 feet single-storey building, 90x30 feet single-storey building and a 50x20 feet temporary building.

The total teaching area is spread over 10,240 square feet, with the total number of students being 813. The teaching area is not sufficient. However, the budget for 26 schools in the



Deputy Minister for Education U Win Maw Tun. **PHOTO:MNA**

2018-2019 fiscal year does not include this school, and the new building will be earmarked for the 2019-2020 fiscal year, said the Deputy Minister.

Concerning the question posed by U Bwe Khane of Chin State constituency (3) on the plan to construct a 120x20x12 feet two-storey school building for Basic Education Post Primary School of Ward 2, Thant-

lang Town, the Deputy Minister replied that the teaching area of Ward 2 Basic Education Post Primary School was sufficient, having an area of 4,320 square feet for 293 students. As the capital fund for the 2018-2019 budget year includes funds earmarked for six basic education schools in Thantlang Town, a new building for Ward 2 Basic Education Post Primary School will be considered in the 2019-2020 period, explained the Deputy Minister.

Next, the Amyotha Hluttaw bill committee secretary Dr. Myat Nyana Soe tabled a bill to amend the Peaceful Assembly and Peaceful Procession Law for discussion in the Hluttaw. The motion was supported by Daw Nwe Nwe Aung of Mon State constituency (2).

The Hluttaw made a decision to discuss the bill.

As the Hluttaw decided and agreed to discuss the bill, Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win

Khaing Than announced the Hluttaw's agreement to discuss the bill, and it was transferred to the bill committee.

Later, a motion urging the government to give priority to the least developed states and regions and to implement the One Village One Product (OVOP) rural development strategy with the relevant ministerial departments, including a budget for it, and tabled by Daw Htu May of Rakhine State constituency (11), was discussed by U Pe Chit of Yangon Region constituency (9), Dr. Khun Win Thaung of Kachin State constituency (11), Dr. Tin Tin Win of Bago region constituency (5), Daw Hla Htay, also known as Daw Ohn Kyi, of Mandalay Region constituency (4) and Dr. Kyaw Ngwe of Magway Region constituency (10).

The 20th-day meeting of the seventh session of the second Amyotha Hluttaw will be held on 20 February. ■

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Office of the President

Message of Greetings sent by U Htin Kyaw, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar,
to the 70th Anniversary of Chin National Day Celebrations
20 February 2018

Dear esteemed Chin national brothers and sisters,

On this auspicious day, the 20th February 2018, which is the 70th Anniversary of Chin National Day, I wish to send my Message of Greetings to all Chin nationals who are living in Chin State, other parts of Myanmar and abroad, to be blessed with good fortune and auspiciousness.

I have noted that Chin nationals are related to Tibeto-Burmans who themselves have descended from the Mongolian race; they entered Myanmar from Tibet, spread and lived here. Now Chin nationals are living not only in Chin State but also in Sagaing Region, Magway Region, Bago Region and Rakhine State.

In the past, Chin nationals have strived to liberate themselves from the British colonialists by sacrificing many lives, blood, sweat, homes and possessions. In addition, they worked to acquire from the British government their rights and settlement of their grievances. I remember that these demands originated in embryonic form on 20th February 1928, the day the Chin Hills Union Organization was founded.

After independence, on

20th February 1948, a people's conference was held in Falam Township, where a decision was made to change from an administrative system ruled by Chieftains to a democratic administrative system. Also on 9th October 1950, at the 7th Chin Traditional Council meeting held in Yangon, motions were tabled to designate a Chin National Day. Based on these motions, the votes of all these delegates were taken and a people's conference was held in Falam. Thus 20th February, the date on which this people's conference was held was chosen to be designated as "Chin National Day". Chin National Day which has been designated since 1948 is now in the 70th year. This Chin National Day is an auspicious day in the sense that this day brings together all the Chin tribes which have the same language, culture, history and traditions.

Chin national leaders such as Boh Khaing Baik and Boh Khaing Kam who led the Chin nationals as they fought together hand in hand with other Union ethnic nationals during our revolutionary struggle, are leaders, Chin nationals can be proud of. Furthermore, Chin national representatives such as U Hlur Hmone, U Htaung Zar Khoke and U Ki Yo Manh who

bravely signed the Panglong Agreement, for the future of our Union on 12 February 1947, for achieving independence without discrimination between the central plains and the hilly regions. This is an attestation of the foresight and vision of Chin nationals.

Chin State is a place where we may find the Western Yomas stretching from north to south, the Kaladan river which flows into the Bay of Bengal, the Khaw-nu-soum mountain teeming with rare plants and where rare animals make their habitat, Kennedy Peak, a well-known battlefield of the Second World War, the beautiful Reed Lake, the Manipur river which flows down profusely, the Bwenu river, the Bontalar waterfalls, and rich in natural and mineral resources above and below the earth's surface.

Our government has been working for the ethnic nationals living in the Chin State, which was the original homeland of Chin nationals, for their future social-economic development. In working like this we are making sure that there is equitable development between towns and villages and also between townships. In order to do this, we have been opening new Basic Education schools,

upgrading schools, repairing new education buildings and building new ones, and appointing new teachers; in the health care area we have been opening new hospitals and health clinics, and appointing new doctors as needed.

In the Chin State, because of its geophysical nature, the existence of high mountains and mountain ridges makes it difficult to travel. Thus although we have to face many difficulties, nevertheless we are making concerted efforts to provide electricity to all places in the Chin State from the Main Electrical grid. In addition to improve road transport networks, long-distance roads linking with the central plains and new roads within the State are being built.

To provide access to the sea from the Chin State, we initiated work on the Kaladan River Basin development and built the Paletwa Port; we built the first airport of Chin State at Falam, and we are working on urban development projects in Haka, Falam and Paletwa. As a result we may see that there are visible and significant developments in each sector.

During 2017, we have granted permission to upgrade Matupi township to district level

and to upgrade Makwi Eainu village and Hnar Harain village to township level. In undertaking regional development works, it is important for the ethnic nationals to join hands with the Union government and the State government.

One Chin armed organization has already signed the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA) and is now walking the path of seeking solutions through negotiations together with the Union Government, State government, Hluttaw, the Tatmadaw, other Ethnic Armed Organizations (EAO's), and political parties.

In conclusion, as I send this Message of Greetings, let me solemnly urge all Chin nationals to work with firm Union spirit, without ever letting go of your joined hands. We are working towards amendment of the Constitution for building a future Democratic Federal Republic which is strong and durable, and which assures equality and self-determination. This is the aspiration of all ethnic nationals and Union citizens.

Sd/-
(Htin Kyaw)
President

MSMEs exhibitions to be held in regions, states

TO assess the quality of products of micro, small and medium enterprises nationwide, region and state governments are urged to exhibit local products of micro, small and medium enterprises-MSMEs products in respective regions.

"Following the exhibitions in nine regions and states, Nay Pyi Taw will host the national level exhibition," said Vice President U Myint Swe, at the meeting No. 1/2018 of the Small and Medium Enterprises Development Committee in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

The first MSMEs regional competition will be held in Mandalay Region from 23 to 25 February.

To gain balanced growth, MSMEs are required to cooper-

ate more with each other at regional and national level, he said.

The Vice President also urged the local authorities and small and medium enterprises to formulate detailed schedules for target line, action line and timeline for promoting their products.

In accordance with the ASEAN Strategic Action Plan for SME Development ASEAN SAP SMED 2016-2025 plan, Myanmar is also working for growth of the country's SMEs.

He said the committee has to work hard with the central committee's guidelines for sustainable development of the 99 per cent of the SMEs across the country. He said a holistic way of viewing is needed when addressing the challenges and



Vice President U Myint Swe delivers the speech at the Small and Medium Enterprises Development Committee meeting in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

obstacles SMEs in Myanmar are facing so that solutions may be found. The Vice President said an announcement was sent on 19 January to the Nay Pyi Taw Council, the various regions and states, and self-administered Division and zones to send feedback on forming their own local SME Development Agency. These local agencies are urged to be formed

with 7 to 11 members.

National Socialization Seminar aiming to develop micro, small and medium enterprises will be held in Myanmar at the end of 2018. Besides, Myanmar will host the sixth ASEAN MSMEs committee meeting and related meetings in October 2018. The meeting No. 1/2018 of the Small and Medium Enterprises

Development Committee was attended by Union Minister for Industry U Khin Maung Cho, Union Minister for Planning and Finance U Kyaw Win, Union Minister for Commerce Dr. Than Myint, Chairman of Nay Pyi Taw Council Dr. Myo Aung, region and state chief ministers and deputy ministers economists. —Myanmar News Agency ■

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The many faces of bottle gourds

A LADY with a black high top knot wearing yellow flowers is smiling. It is just a palm sized dried bottle gourd from Shan State. But, a very creative artist created a beautiful smiling face of a lady from the bottle gourd.

"The form of the bottle gourd makes it easy to create a lady's face on the high top knot. That's why I decided to paint women's faces on them," Myanmar female artist Thiri Nandar Shwe War Bone said.

She has been painting on dried bottle gourd since 2016.

"I saw dried gourd at the Shwe Sar Yan pagoda festival for the first time. Then, I sprayed lacquer on them and decorated them with flowers. I saw some paintings on dried coconut or bamboo; that's why I decided to paint faces on dried bottle gourd," she explained.

She bought the gourds at the pagoda festival. A dried bottle gourd is priced from Ks.2000 to 5000 depending on the size and quality. It takes four days to turn out a bottle gourd painted with a beautiful face. She cleans the gourds and makes them dry before



Bottle gourds painted in the Myanmar traditional style displayed at the market. **PHOTO: MYANMAR DIGITAL NEWS**

she sandpapers them. Afterwards, she leaves them in the sun for a day before she paints them yellow. Then she lets the paint dry for a day. After that, she sketches a face on the surface of the gourd with a pencil. Then she uses two coats of black paint for the hair and two coats of beige paint for the face. She never uses a hair dryer to make them dry.

Myanmar souvenir shops

buy the artwork and they resell them between Ks.40, 000 and 70,000. But she sells her artwork to local people from Ks.13, 000 to 30,000.

The bottle gourds painted in the Myanmar traditional style are bought from traders in Japan and China. Local traders from Yangon and Hpakan also placed orders for the handicrafts in Myanmar cultural style. Sometimes, Japa-

nese and Chinese traders order custom made handicrafts created in their respective cultural styles to sell in their own countries.

She plans to paint faces of national ethnics in Myanmar also, she added.

Thiri Nandar Shwe War Bone, who is the daughter of the artist Daw Khin Myo Myint Shwe, has received awards for her work of art. —Myanmar Digital News ■

Pilot project to offer loans to women farmers in dry region

WOMEN agriculturists in Pakokku Township, Magway Region, will be offered loans through a one-year pilot project, according to a report in Myawaday Daily. The programme will be implemented by Kanbawza Bank, a leading private commercial bank, and Action Aid, an international development organisation. The new scheme was officially introduced to the

public on 15 February. Daw Nang Lang Kham, deputy executive director of the KBZ Bank, said that the new plan aimed to develop the socio-economic status of the people through banking. Under the plan, some 120 low-income women farmers will be eligible for loans if they can prove land ownership.

According to the plan, each woman can receive loans be-

tween Ks1 million and Ks1.5 million at an interest rate of 13 per cent, according to the interest rate set by the Central Bank of Myanmar.

Borrowers will have to repay the loans within a year.

Ma Thanda Win, a woman farmer from Pakokku, said, "We previously took loans from private borrowers at an interest rate of 6 per cent. Thanks to this

programme, obtaining loans will be easier."

The pilot plan is underway with the disbursement of loans between Ks80 million and Ks100 million to five villages in Pakokku Township, approximately Ks17.5 million for each. More loans will be offered to other farmers if the current project results in successful outcomes. —GNLM ■

Forest fire destroys poultry farms worth Ks6 million

A FIRE broke out in a forest in Hpa-an Township, Kayin State, on Saturday afternoon, destroying poultry farms worth more than Ks6 million, the police reported.

The forest fire occurred at some 2.30 pm on 17 February in the forest, close to Tawonta Village in Kawhtamalein Village-tract. The blaze engulfed nearby poultry farms owned by three villagers—Daw Win

Thu, U Win Naing Tun and U Mya Aye.

Some 31 pigs, including 24 piglets, were killed in the fire. However, no persons were reportedly injured. The total loss due to the fire is estimated at Ks6.75 million, including pigs worth some Ks4.5 million.

With the assistance of residents, firefighters controlled the blaze by 5.30 p.m. on Saturday. —Min Thu (Hpa-an) ■



Poultry farms destroyed by fire in Hpa-an Township, Kayin State. **PHOTO: MIN THU (HPA-AN)**



Workers sort fish at Nyaung Tan Jetty in Yangon. PHOTO: GNLM/PHOE KHWAR.

Prawn exports to US fetch \$2 million a year

MYANMAR'S prawn exports to the United States (US) earned the country US\$2 million a year, Dr Thaung Myat, a fishery exporter, told Myanma Alinn.

In the fishery sector, fish and prawns are the main export items to the US. Rice, various types of pulses, forest products, fish, prawns and finished industrial goods from Myanmar are also sent to the US market.

Myanmar's prawns are shipped to the US — which has strict import regulations to ensure food safety — as well as Australia and Taiwan, among others. Local consumption of

prawns has also grown in Myanmar, besides the increasing demand from foreign countries.

Myanmar needs to prepare a good packaging system and implement safety measures to meet the stringent import criteria. If products in the US and the European Union market are found to have a high content of pesticides and are packaged poorly, they are sent back to the home country.

Besides this, prawns caught through improper methods, which may harm water resources, are also prohibited from being imported to the US. In 2016, the US had

rejected some 27 batches of Myanmar's fishery products imported by 13 companies.

Fishery products, including prawn, crab, squid, eel, shrimp, dried shrimp and dried fish, among others were exported to Thailand through the Kawthoung and Myeik border trade gates and to China through Muse.

The value of Myanmar's fishery exports to foreign buyers from 1 April to 9 February in the current fiscal year reached \$582 million, which registered an increase of \$105 million compared with last FY.

—GNLM ■

Arrival of foreign travellers to Chaungtha Beach declines this year

INTERNATIONAL tourist arrivals to Chaungtha Beach, a popular resort which is a five-hour drive from the commercial capital of Yangon, significantly declined this year, according to a Saturday report in the Myawady Daily.

The beach is suffering from man-made pollution, such as debris and trash, which destroys the quality of the water near the beach. Tourism authorities say that this may be the key reason why tourist arrivals have declined in the area.

According to statistics issued by the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism, Chaungtha Beach hosted only 200 foreigners last month, which saw a 90 per cent rise in the number of tourist arrivals over 2015. The area received approximately about 4,000 foreigners monthly in 2015. This number decreased to over 3,200 per month in 2016 and 2,500 per month in 2017. According to those in the tourism field, foreign travellers prefer Ngwehsaung Beach, the long sandy beach in Ayeyawady Delta,

over Chaungtha Beach.

Visitors arrivals to Chaungtha Beach during last year's Thingyan Water Festival decreased due to natural disasters.

According to official statistics, about 80,000 holiday-makers paid a visit to the beach during Thingyan Festival in 2016. It decreased to 30,000 the following year.

Efforts are being made to keep the beach clean and attractive by the ministry, in collaboration with partner organisations.—GNLM ■

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

တနင်္ဂနွေနေ့တိုင်း: **"Sunday Special"** အချုပ်ပိုင် (၈)
မျက်နှာပေါင်သော The Global New Light of Myanmar
နေ့စဉ်ထုတ် သတင်းစာကိုအောက်ပါမြို့များတွင်ဖုန်းနံပါတ်ဖြင့်

Three dead, one hurt in IED explosion in Maungdaw Tsp

"Sunday Special"
အချုပ်ပိုင် (၈) မျက်နှာ
ပေါင်သော

နေပြည်တော်
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ရန်ကုန်
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လမ်း (၂၀ x ၂၀) ကြား၊ (၁၂ x ၁၂) လမ်းကြား၊ မုလ်ခွေ
ရောင်ရမ်း၊ မန္တလေးမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၂၃၂၇၂၉၊ ၀၂၃၂၇၅၀

ဘေးကြီး
ရုံးကြီးလမ်း၊ သစ်တောရပ်ကွက်၊ တောင်ကြီးမြို့၊
ဖုန်း - ၀၈၁၂၁၁၆၄၊ ၀၉၅၂၁၄၄၅၇

မကွေး
နတ်မောက်လမ်း၊ တပ်မ (၈၈) တပ်နယ်ဈေးအနီး၊
မကွေးမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၆၃၂၃၇၁၂

တချင်းတုံ
မြို့ပေါ် (၃-၈) အမှတ် (၁) လမ်းသွယ်၊ မြို့ပတ်လမ်း၊
ကျိုင်းတုံမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၈၄၂၂၄၉၂

ကလေး
အောင်ဇေယျာရပ်ကွက်၊ မြို့နယ်အားကစားကွင်းအနီး၊
ကလေးမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၇၃၂၂၁၃၃

မြင်ကြီးနား
အမှတ် (၄၁)၊ ရေရပ်ကွက်၊ အောင်ဆန်းလမ်း၊
မြင်ကြီးနားမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၇၄၂၂၄၆၂

စစ်တွေ
ရထားတံလမ်းနှင့် တက္ကသိုလ်ရိပ်သာလမ်း၊
မီးစက်ကြီးအနီး၊ မန့်ကျင်မြိုင်ရပ်ကွက်၊ စစ်တွေမြို့၊
ဖုန်း - ၀၄၃၂၃၀၆၈

လားရှိုး
ဟူးမွန်ကျေးရွာတိုင်း၊ ဟူးမွန်ဆည်ဘယ်ဘက်ခြမ်း၊
(၁၂) ရပ်ကွက်၊ မန့်ကျင်ဘုရားရွာ၊ အဝေရာလမ်း၊
လားရှိုးမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၈၂၂၄၀၆၇

ဇြိတ်
မေတ္တာလမ်း၊ ရှမ်းချောင်းရပ်၊ ကလွင်ကျေးရွာအုပ်စု၊
ဇြိတ်မြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၅၉၄၂၁၀၃

မော်လမြိုင်
ကြာအင်းကျေးရွာ၊ မော်လမြိုင်မြို့၊
ဖုန်း - ၀၅၇၂၇၂၅၊ ၀၅၇၂၇၂၆

မုံရွာ
နန္ဒဝန်ရပ်ကွက်၊ ဆက်သွယ်ရေးတံတိုင်းအနီး၊
မုံရွာမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၇၁၂၆၅၃၅၊ ၀၇၁၂၆၅၃၃

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Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Joint Bill Committee holds coordination meeting

THE Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Joint Bill Committee held a coordination meeting on the 2018 Union Tax Bill yesterday afternoon in the second-floor meeting hall of building D of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw.

The coordination meeting was attended by the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker; Joint

Bill Committee and Public Account Joint Committee Chairman U Aye Tha Aung; the Joint Bill Committee and Public Account Joint Committee deputy chairmen, secretaries, joint secretaries and committee members; Legal Affairs and Special Cases Assessment Commission members; and officials from the Min-

istry of Transport and Communications, Ministry of Electricity and Energy, Ministry of Industry, Ministry of Commerce, Ministry of Planning and Finance, Union Attorney General Office, Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry and the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw office. — Myanmar News Agency ■

Union Supreme Court sits to pass judgment, hear (certiorari) civil cases

Chief Justice of the Union U Htun Htun Oo, along with Supreme Court judges U Mya Thein and U Myint Aung of the Special Appellate Bench, sat at the Union Supreme Court room number 1 yesterday morning and passed judgment on five (certiorari) civil cases and heard seven other (certiorari) civil cases. — Myanmar News Agency ■

“Burmese Photographers” now available in Myanmar language

Austrian born Lukas Birk, a photographer, has published a book, “Burmese Photographers”, featuring the works of generations of Myanmar photographers. The books are available in the Myanmar language in bookshops and libraries across Myanmar.

Birk, 35, spent five years searching for and collecting more than 10,000 photos by Myanmar photographers from earlier generations.

Now, with the help of the Goethe Institut, he has published these into a book that includes over 300 photographs from the ones he collected; these were originally taken by photographers such as Hasi Yone, U Kywet, Tayzar Aung, U San Aung and many others. In addition, the book will also contain essays by Nathalie

Johnston, founder and director of Myanm/art, and Christophe Loviny, a journalist who has worked in Burma and Asia for more than 40 years.

When asked about the publication, Birk said he got the idea when he noticed the lack of any documentation of photographers in Myanmar. “I wanted the people of Myanmar to know that these photographs and their history are something to be preserved,” said Birk.

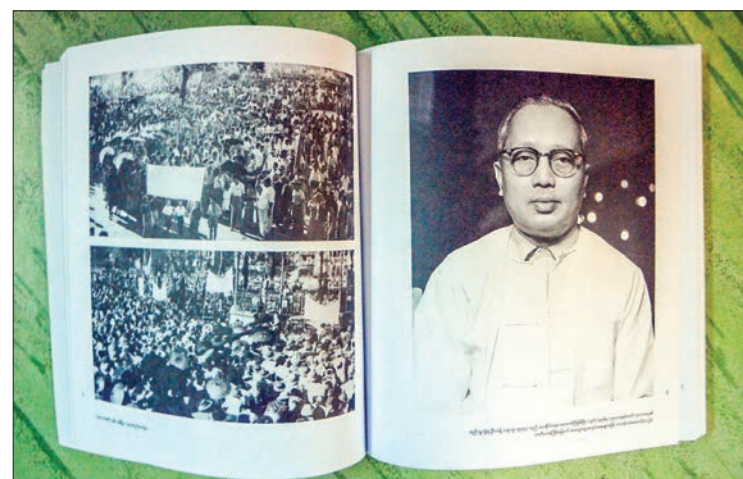
Because there were not many private collectors for these old photographs, Birk did not have any major challenges in acquiring them. “After one or two years I had made a lot of contacts and got to know so much about the history of photography here,” he said.

The book is first published in the Myanmar language so

that the people of Myanmar will get the chance to view their history first, and it will later be translated into English, German and other languages. Photographers and enthusiasts can find out more about Birk’s photo collection at www.myanmarphotoarchive.com.

A photo exhibition, also called “Burmese Photographers”, is open in the east wing of the Secretariat and exhibits over 400 photos Birk has collected. The exhibition will go on from 18 February to 11 March and will also have the books available for purchase.

The book contains photos taken during political transitions in Myanmar, but the publisher’s objective is to preserve the works of Myanmar photographers as a historical document. —Zaw Gyi (Pa Ni Ta) ■



Photographs in “Burmese Photographers” published by Australian Photographer. **PHOTO: ZAW GYI**

Officials take measures to ensure smooth conduct of entrance exams in Maungtaw

Hein Htet Zaw,
Thura Zaw

STUDENTS across Myanmar will take the university entrance examinations at their respective centres in their regions from 7 March. The news team asked education officials and security personnel in Maungtaw District about the steps they have taken to ensure students can take the examinations without any complications.

U Khin Aung (Township Education Officer, Temporary Head of District Education)

There are three examination centres in Maungtaw Township this year. Two are in B.E.H.S No (1), which is for ethnic students,



Police Major Thant Zaw Oo.
PHOTO: RAMANYA

and one is in B.E.H.S No (2), which is for Bengali students. Some 878 students will take the examinations this year, but there may be more, because some apply directly to the examination board, so we do not have their records.



U Khin Aung. **PHOTO: RAMANYA**

Schools were closed following the 25 August attacks, but city schools were reopened 20 days later on 19 September, and additional time was given to recover the lost days.

We have tried to make sure

that students and their home-room teachers do not get appointed to the same examination centre, so Maungtaw and Buthidaung swapped half their faculty. This means that half the teachers waiting at examination centres will be from Buthidaung, and the other half will be from Maungtaw at each examination centre in both townships.

We have sent requests to the Border Security Police Force, District Police Force and Township Police Force for added security during the examination period.

Police Major Thant Zaw Oo (Head of Maungtaw Police Station)

We are deploying police officers from our station and of-

ficers from Taungpyo Police Station too. We will provide security details during the transport of the examination question papers and the answer papers, as well. We will request the community to be mindful of making too much noise during the examination period, and we will have police patrolling the neighbourhoods too.

We will be under close supervision of the Head District Police Force and we are also pairing with the Fire Service Department and other departments to take preventive measures for possible problems.

Maungtaw Township’s Education office said the township’s entrance examination success percentage was 16.12 in 2016, but fell to 9.9 last year. ■

60% of Yangon heritage buildings undergo vulnerability analysis

THE Myanmar Earthquake Committee is conducting a vulnerability analysis of 60 per cent of the buildings in Yangon for seismic hazards, U Saw Htwe Zaw, second chair of the committee, told Myawady Daily.

Yangon's heritage and ancient buildings are being assessed to check whether the buildings need maintenance. An initial project has been implemented in Tamway and Pazuntaung townships, according to a report in Myawady Daily yesterday. This project is being jointly undertaken by the Myanmar Earthquake Committee and the

United Nations Human Settlements Programme. The project involves prevention measures to reduce the risks from earthquakes. The authorities have developed and submitted a building code to the parliament, so that buildings across the state have equal capacity. Buildings constructed between 1980 and 2003 in Yangon lacked seismic hazard measurements, Daw Hnin Ei Win, Assistant Engineer from the Engineering Department, operating under the Yangon City Development Committee, said at the Earthquake Forum held at the MCC on 8 October 2016.—GNLM

10-year action plan for elephant conservation to be implemented

To prevent a decrease in the number of wildlife elephants and a reduction in their pasture lands, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation is planning to conduct a 10-year action plan (2018-2027) for elephant conservation, according to a report in Myawady Daily yesterday. The numbers of wild elephants in Myanmar have decreased due to fewer wild elephant corridors, a reduction in their pasture lands and human-elephant conflicts. Illegal hunting and wildlife trad-

ing are two of the reasons for the decline in the elephant numbers.

To prevent all these, the first elephant conservation action plan was set up based on scientific surveys. This is a 10-year action plan from 2018 to 2027.

The action plan includes four major tasks, such as protection of wild elephants and their pasture lands, solving human-elephant conflicts, prevention of and enforcing action against illegal trading of elephants and their body parts, as well as managing tamed elephants.—GNLM ■



An opening ceremony of Civil Service Training held in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA

Opening ceremony of Civil Service Training held

An opening ceremony of a Civil Service Training jointly organized by the Ministry of Information and Panna Institute, Konrad Adenauer Stiftung, was held at the Ministry of Information assembly hall in Nay Pyi Taw.

First, Ministry of Information Deputy Minister U Aung Hla Tun explained that the course was conducted to increase the quality of public servants, and is a very important course for the country.

This type of course was conducted a total of 31 times: five times in Yangon, 10 in Nay Pyi Taw, 16 times in Manda-

lay, Taunggyi, Bagan, Monywa, Magway, Bago, Hpa-An, Loikaw, Myitkyina, Dawei, Phakant and Sittway from 2013 to 2017, said the Deputy Minister.

For 2018, this joint course will begin in Nay Pyi Taw. It will be conducted in Taunggyi, Meiktila, Kengtung and Shwebo. It is important to participate and actively discuss matters in the course. Make the most use of the course and openly raise matters with teachers, added the Deputy Minister.

Next, course trainer Dr. Tin Maung Maung Than ex-

plained the reason for conducting the course and Konrad Adenauer Stiftung representative Daw Khin Thuzar Htun gave the vote of thanks.

Later, U Aung Hla Tun, departmental officials and course participants took a commemorative group photo. The course will be held for five days from 19 to 23 February and will include concepts related to public affairs, basic facts about the world economy and the Myanmar economy, project works and public affairs management, it is learnt.— Myanmar News Agency ■

Gov't describes efforts to eradicate child labour as national duty

FROM PAGE-1

There are some 152 million children between 5 and 17 years in the world, of which 7.4 per cent live in the Asia-Pacific region, and some 70.9 per cent work in the agricultural sector. Of these, some 73 million are working in dangerous places.

Some 85 per cent of the world's youth are in developing countries, and 60 per cent are in the Asian region. The youth and children's development sectors are important in determining the future of a country and are valuable resources for the country.

Youth and children who support the production resources are used in most of the developing countries, especially in a developing country like Myanmar, which is connected to poverty and can be seen employing child labour, the Vice President said.

It can be seen that a country's economic development, rise in social status and educational development is directly linked to child labour. Children and youth unable to complete their education enter the work force at a young age and are exploited in most developing countries, because of food insufficiency due to natural disasters from climate change, as well as the existence of poverty and migration due to some internal conflicts and socio-economic hardships.

Everyone knows that the government is reforming with increased momentum the development of the political, economical and social sector, while prioritising the achievement of countrywide peace.

Similar to other regional ASEAN countries, Myanmar ratified the International Labour Organisation (ILO) Convention

182 on the worst forms of child labour and can be seen cooperating with ILO and the UNICEF.

All are urged to actively coordinate and discuss the setup for future works of the project to eradicate child labour in Myanmar, said the Vice President.

Next, Vice Chairman of Myanmar National Committee on Child Labour Eradication and Union Minister for Labour, Immigration and Population U Thein Swe gave a preliminary explanation about the project to eradicate child labour in Myanmar.

The committee secretary, joint secretary and meeting attendees then explained matters related to the eradication of child labour.

In his concluding speech at the meeting, the Vice President said eight work committees and a secretariat were formed to implement the agreed work pro-

cesses at today's meeting, and the states/regions governments must form child labour eradicating committees systematically.

The national committee's secretariat is urged to submit at the next meeting the child labour eradication work programme (draft) so that it can be approved. "The project to eradicate child labour in Myanmar involves everybody, and all are urged to cooperate and implement it as a national duty," said the Vice President and concluded the meeting.

Also present at the meeting were Union Ministers Lt-Gen Kyaw Swe, Lt-Gen Ye Aung, Dr. Pe Myint, Dr. Aung Thu, U Thein Swe, U Khin Maung Cho, Dr. Than Myint, Dr. Myo Thein Gyi, Dr. Myint Htwe, U Han Zaw, Dr. Win Myat Aye and U Kyaw Tin; Union Attorney-General U Tun Tun Oo; Nay Pyi Taw Council

Chairman Dr. Myo Aung; Chief Ministers of states/regions Dr. Khet Aung, Daw Nang Khin Htwe Myint, Dr. Myint Naing, Dr. Lei Lei Maw, U Win Thein, Dr. Aung Moe Nyo, Dr. Zaw Myint Maung, U Nyi Pu, U Phyo Min Thein, Dr. Lin Htut and U Hla Moe Aung; Deputy Minister U Set Aung; states/regions ministers; committee members Yangon Mayor U Maung Maung Soe and Mandalay Mayor Dr. Ye Lwin; Confederation of Trade Unions Myanmar President U Maung Maung; Myanmar Farmers Agriculture and Foodstuff Workers Union Chairman U Kyi Thu; and officials and representatives of the Myanmar Industry and Service Workers' Union, Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry and the Myanmar Red Cross Society.—Myanmar News Agency ■

We must balance risks, rewards of hydropower

THE energy sector plays an important role in the development of a nation's economy.

Power supply is always the main concern of most foreign investors.

Currently, some 35 per cent of Myanmar's total population lacks access to electricity. The consumption rate of electricity in Myanmar is increasing by at least 15 per cent each year, and it is estimated that Myanmar will consume more than 4,530 megawatts of electricity in the 2020-2021 period. The annual total electricity production in Myanmar is 3,189 megawatts, while it still needs 1,342 megawatts more.

Therefore, we need to boost the power supply sector to carry out development work, reduce poverty and boost the country's economy.

The Myanmar Hydropower Strategic Environmental Assessment was signed by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation and the Ministry of Electricity and Energy on 22 September 2015, with the support of the International Finance Corporation, to plan a balanced development of hydropower nationally by considering the potential, cumulative impact of multiple projects on significant environmental and social values early in the planning process.

In Myanmar, the electricity sector is considered an important infrastructural challenge in the country, which must be overcome to improve the lives of the people and attract foreign investments.

In some places, electricity is not available. If the problems of electricity and roads in these places are solved on a self-help basis, economic development can be implemented. Efficient transport and electricity systems are needed to draw foreign investors to the country.

transport and electricity systems are needed to draw foreign investors to the country.

The government is striving to give the public better access to transport and electricity.

Myanmar's goal is to achieve universal access to electricity by 2030.

For many countries, hydropower is a primary source of electricity, and it factors prominently in their development plans.

The world is poised to approximately double its hydropower capacity by 2040, building as many hydropower dams in the next 25 years as were built in the previous century.

Hydropower dams are major investments. They can give significant rewards — electricity to growing economies and alleviate poverty—but they also run great risks. ■

Rising rape cases threatening young girls

By Maung Thauing Win
(Former Diplomat)

THE writer of this article has read some news items on rape cases on the social media networks on 15 February 2018 citing news release from the Ministry of Home Affairs which clarified the statistics of sex assaults from 2016 to 2017; the root causes of the abuses; and the behaviors to be avoided.

The statistics have indicated that the rising cases of rape assaults are threatening to the young women, especially the children.

More rape cases reported

During 2016 in the regions and the states of Myanmar, there were (671) rape assaults on under (16) years girls, while 2017 recorded (897) rape cases, with the increase number of (226). In the year 2016, the number of rape cases hit (429) on women above (16) years, and the year 2017 edge over with (508) sex assaults, hitting (79) more abuses of tragedy.

Counting the numbers, the regions and the states have witnessed (1100) sex abuses in 2016 and (1405) rapes in 2017, surpassing (305) physical assaults. These are the real alarming and frightening statistics and information to the public.

Root causes

The main reasons in the sex assaults on immature girls are interpreted as that of the wrong assumption of acquiring extreme sensual pleasure to intercourse with underage young girl; that of over drunkenness; that of sex assault on one owns daughter after drug abuse; that of sex abuse on young girls targeted as the victims who are in disadvantages as weaker sex; that of wrong enjoyment of pornographic pictures and sex movies; that of sex abuse to minor girls who are not under the care of parents by seducing with cash, snacks and gifts; and that of lack of knowledge on the

part of the young girls.

The rape cases against the above (16) years girls were occurred and the main reasons are construed as that of the women engaging in alcoholic drinking; that of consuming sex stimulant drugs; that of easy access of the sex movies over the Internet through the hand phones; that of wrong replication and mimic to careless parents on love making manners at home; and that of staying with the broken family households.

Push factors and wrong signals

The main reason on the rape cases is found to be the absence of common human sense and sensibility. The push factors and the wrong signals that cause rape assaults are that of lack in basic education; that of the deficiency in general knowledge; that of absence in religious teaching; that of drinking alcohol; that of using drugs; that of profuse enjoyment of phonographic video, sex literature and sexual category photos. These are the factors that push towards sex assaults.

In Myanmar, at a time when the cell phone SIM cards are easily available in the market, the Facebook culture has started to take stride, resulted with the increase of crime; especially the rise of rape cases on the underage girls; the violence against women; and the drugs trafficking. In other words, it could be said that some persons are misusing and exploiting the social media networks.

The other factor is the deep poverty that envelops the society. The youth of today have been deprived of education. There are many dropouts in the middle schools. Young children have to take up jobs at tea stalls and restaurants. The young kids have to engage in livelihoods as hawkers of cigarettes and betel leaves rolls at the bus stops, the traffic lights, the railways stations, the highway bus terminals. They have met and dealt with

all sorts of people, and learned assortment of tricks. Finally, the young kids turned into juvenile delinquency.

Especially, there are many young people in the villages who have never attended school. If a person knows at least to read, he might be reading by himself, and would never bother to his environment and give trouble.

Assortment of crimes

A lot of undesired events regarding the young ones appeared in the social media networks which are alarmingly disgusting. News of tragedy where seen such as that a young guy drinking alcohol with his elderly friend and then raped the daughter; that a young girl was raped and strangled to death; that of

Worst news happened to be the rape and kill of small children.

Moreover, rape cases on young children, sex abuse and violence against women are in the papers most frequently. In some rape cases, the young victims were under the age of five. In some of the bizarre cases, the predators raped and killed the victims. The cases were the most alarming and disturbing issues. The acts are inhumane and it could be assumed that the perpetrators are out of their mind. In most cases, the stronger and tougher males bullied the weaker females. Therefore, the women folk must be protected pragmatically in accordance with law. Especially, the cruel criminals must be taken action with severe heavy punishments.

If the criminals are not given severe punishments, then they would continue to commit violence acts at will in the society. Most importantly, actions and punishments are to be given on the criminals, otherwise they would be roaming on the streets ready to commit again.

the latest news of sadism was the brutal rape of two years child who later succumbed to death. All the parents encountered the mishaps with the broken hearts.

We have been reading with disgust on many criminal cases in the daily newspapers. Brutal news such as that of husband killing wife; that of wife killing husband; that of offspring killing parents; that of the parents torturing and killing the kids; that of killing among the brothers and sisters; that of burglary, theft, cheating, drug trafficking and log smuggling. Such news appeared daily in the papers.

Effective punishment needed

In the social media, many questions are being raised over the prevalence of security and rule of law. There are loud and clear demands appeared in the social media to entail effective and heavy punishment on the rapists. In the case of brutal rape incidents, just long term prison sentence is not quite sufficient and efficient, some viewed. Some inmates who could buy the comfort inside the penitentiary are enjoying as if the venue is their luxury resort.

Due to bribery and corrup-

tion of some dishonored officers and staff members, the judicial pillar is now in a weak and pathetic situation. In fact, the wicked criminals are ought to be punished with heavier punishments as exemplary cases.

If the criminals are not given severe punishments, then they would continue to commit violence acts at will in the society. Most importantly, actions and punishments are to be given on the criminals, otherwise they would be roaming on the streets ready to commit again.

Although the four cardinal virtues prevail in Myanmar, the tragic criminal news are abundant in the country, and that women and especially children are being violently bullied, raped and killed, and the writer as a parent felt extremely dreadful in broken hearts. As a result, people went down the street in demanding heavier punishment on the rapists. It should be implemented. We all have the responsibility to help protect and secure the lives of the women folk.

Responsibilities of the parents

The parents should never leave their daughters, especially young girls to be alone. The usual criminals are prowling nearby. Even some of the old age males are not to be relied upon with trust. All the stranger males are never to be trusted. The parents must never let their daughters to be with any male strangers. When going to school, tuition and other classes, the girl should be accompanied with other women companions. If possible, the parents should accompany the girl.

In some cases of rape against young girls, the responsibility and blame lies with the parents. For instance, some fathers send the daughters to buy cigarettes and alcohol at night time. Some parents left the girl alone at home. The rapist is waiting to get the prey. Whatever it may be young girl is never to be left alone as the situation might invite criminals.

Must keep in mind

At a time when the crime cases are on the rise on the women folk and young girls, the women in Myanmar must be attentive and careful in their every moment of activities. If the woman is going out on business matter at night time, a companion must be called in. The clothing must be decent and proper, not showy. Fashion clothing and trendy outfits showing too much of the body must be avoided as it could tend to invite criminals. Too much stylish outfits are not advisable to wear as the girls might be mistaken with the call girls or hookers.

Operations needed

At the moment, the strength and man power of the Myanmar Police Force and their police equipment are not adequate enough for the security and safety of the 53 million populations. Therefore, the welfare organizations, the social organizations and the people must come together for a good cooperation. If we have enough responsible citizens for the safety of the country, the crime cases especially the rape cases on young girls could be reduced to some extent.

In wrapping up the article, the distress news on the rape cases on young girls and the violence against women were reported in the papers in Myanmar. The parents are worried over the offspring girls. Especially, young girl should not be left alone at home. Moreover, the women folk are afraid to out at night time. The parents are worried when the girls are not back at home.

Some of the rapists not only assault on sex, but killed the victim later. These are the inhumane acts. The savage criminals are to be taken action with heavier punishment. Whatever, the situation maybe, the parents of the girls must take special care and give watchful eyes especially those who have young girls under their embrace. ■

Translated by UMT of Ahlon

Team from India to help Myanmar conserve dwindling tiger species

The team from India is presently collecting primary data to draw up a conservation plan with the eventual aim of creating a "protected area network." Spread across 20,000 sqkm, Myanmar has the largest tiger landscape in the world but its dwindling tiger population has been a concern.

A team from India is working on a conservation plan to preserve the last 30-odd Indochinese tigers in northern Myanmar's Htamanthi Wildlife Sanctuary. Identified as a distinct subspecies in 1968, these tigers have a smaller skull and body when compared to the Bengal and Siberian tigers and are distributed in Myanmar, Thailand and Laos.

Like all other tiger subspecies, this one too has been classified by the International Union for Conservation (IUCN) as 'endangered' but "its status is poorly known compared to other tiger subspecies" and "the extent of its recent decline is serious, approaching the threshold for Critically Endangered", says the IUCN website.

The team from India is presently collecting primary data to draw up a conservation plan with the eventual aim of creating a "protected area network". The team has members of the Global Tiger Forum (GTF), an international body that works for the conservation of tigers and which has the Dehradun-based Wildlife Institute of India (WII) as its India partner.

Spread across 20,000 sqkm, Myanmar has the largest tiger landscape in the world but its dwindling tiger population has been a concern.

GTF secretary general Rajesh Gopal, who earlier headed Project Tiger and the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA), said conserving tigers "ties in with the climate-change agenda of a country" since "carbon is locked into tiger reserves ensuring climate change adaptation" for the country. "Myanmar too has demonstrated this and they are keen to retrieve the tiger population and draw up a national-level action plan for tigers," he said.

In January this year, a team from Myanmar met WII scientists in Dehradun and visited the Rajaji Tiger Reserve "to learn from India on how to increase the tiger density in a given landscape", said Gopal.

The GTF will also help Malaysia do a country-wide estimation of its tiger population and Cambodia with its attempt to bring back its extinct tiger population. Vietnam, on the other hand, "will wait and watch" to see how Cambodia fares, he said.

India and Myanmar are also negotiating a memorandum of understanding (MoU) that will focus on the conservation of tigers, elephants and bio-diversity, specifically the problem of "illegal logging" in the area.

India has signed bilateral agreements or held joint consultations on conservation with other neighbouring countries such as Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh, Russia and China. The ongoing All India Tiger Estimation 2018 will see coordination with Nepal, Bhutan and Bangladesh to estimate the territorial spread of tigers within the subcontinent. WII scientists said a simultaneous estimation would help avoid double-counting. With Russia, however, this engagement is particularly active. "Each year, at least two rangers visit us from Russia for about a week on a 'Tiger Watch' exercise and they take part in patrolling," said GTF assistant secretary general S P Yadav, who was earlier with NTCA.

"There are 400 tigers in Russia but since the range is so vast, they are rarely spotted," he adds, "so they have to make a trip to India to see tigers." —Sowmiya Ashok / Indian Express ■

Merkel to tap rumoured successor for top party role

BERLIN — The popular female premier of tiny Saarland state is set to take over as secretary general of Angela Merkel's conservative party, sources said Monday, fuelling speculation the chancellor is lining up her potential successor.

Merkel is expected to tap Annegret Kramp-Karrenbauer to take the reins from close ally Peter Tauber, who at the weekend said he was stepping down for health reasons.

The announcement will be made at a meeting of top brass from Merkel's Christian Democratic Union (CDU) party later on Monday, sources close to the party told AFP.

The move would boost the national profile of Kramp-Karrenbauer, also known as AKK, whose star has been rising in recent months as she played a

key role in the tough coalition negotiations with the centre-left Social Democrats.

"And so Merkel and Kramp-Karrenbauer send the first clear signal in the debate about Merkel's succession in four years' time at the latest," the Sueddeutsche Zeitung wrote.

The daily said the two women had agreed "months ago" that AKK should take over from Tauber, who reportedly indicated even before September's general election that he wanted to step down over his struggles with an intestinal illness.

Kramp-Karrenbauer, dubbed the "Merkel of Saarland" by German media, is expected to be formally appointed to the top role at a CDU congress on 26 February.

The change-over comes as Merkel, in power for over 12



Annegret Kramp-Karrenbauer, dubbed the "Merkel of Saarland" by German media, is expected to be formally appointed to the top role next month. **PHOTO: AFP**

years, is under fire within her party over the concessions she made to seal another loveless "grand coalition" with the Social Democrats (SPD) — with

the loss of the powerful finance ministry portfolio a particularly bitter blow.

By appointing one of her closest confidantes to a top CDU

role, Merkel is also responding to critics who have been calling for fresh faces to reinvigorate the party after the disappointing September election.

The hard-fought coalition deal struck with Social Democrats must still be approved by the SPD's 460,000 members. The result of the postal ballot is expected on 4 March.

The outcome is considered wide open, as the SPD's youth and left wings are fiercely opposed to another term governing in Merkel's shadow.

Merkel herself has been badly weakened by her lengthy struggles to form a new government and media are openly speculating that she may not complete a full fourth term as chancellor even if the SPD rank-and-file give the thumbs up.—AFP ■

Oxfam aid worker 'paid for sex', others bullied witness: inquiry

LONDON — British aid charity Oxfam on Monday released its internal report into a scandal in Haiti that has shattered its reputation, revealing that a former top official admitted to paying for sex and three staff physically threatened a witness.

The 2011 report into aid workers deployed to Haiti following the devastating earthquake the previous year, revealed that seven staff were accused of using prostitutes at an Oxfam-funded residence. Country director Roland Van Hauwermeiren admitted paying for sex and was offered a "phased and dignified exit" of resignation if he cooperated with the inquiry. The report also said three Oxfam employees were involved in "physically threatening and intimidating" a witness who spoke to the investigators.

Four staff were fired for gross misconduct and three others, including Van Hauwermeiren, were allowed to quit.

Details of the Haiti scandal surfaced earlier this month and have engulfed Oxfam, drawing widespread condemnation and putting its funding at risk.

A senior executive has resigned and the British government has warned it must reform before bidding for any new taxpayer funds. Oxfam has denied trying to cover up the allegations but admitted it could have been



Save the Children is also facing problems after claims a staff member drunkenly harassed a female colleague in 2015. **PHOTO: AFP**

more open at the time, saying it was publishing the report "in recognition of the breach of trust that has been caused".

It said it would give a copy to the Haitian government, which has expressed outrage and launched its own inquiry, at a meeting later on Monday.

- 'Loving relationship' -

All names in the report have been redacted apart from that of Van Hauwermeiren, a 68-year-old Belgian who last week released a letter defending himself after the scandal broke.

In it, he claimed he had not visited any brothels, nightclubs or bars in Haiti, despite offers from men and women "who tried to get into my house with all sorts of excuses to demand money, work, or to offer sexual services".

He said he told Oxfam he had "intimate relations" three times

at his house with "an honourable, mature woman, who was not an earthquake victim nor a prostitute. And I did not give her any money". In an interview with The Times, however, a young Haitian mother claimed she had a relationship with Van Hauwermeiren when she was 16 — legally underage in Haiti. Now 23, Mikelange Gabou said he initially helped her with nappies and other things for her baby, and that they later had a "loving relationship" and he would sometimes give her money.

There were other women he invited to his hilltop house, she said. "So it might be that he had sex with them and promised to find them a job, or sometimes he gave money or didn't give them money."

- Aid sector under scrutiny -

Oxfam last week unveiled an action plan to tackle sexual

harassment and abuse, including creating a new vetting system for staff, and has urged victims to come forward with any new allegations.

Chief executive Mark Goldring on Friday hit out over criticism of the charity, saying it was "out of proportion" to what had happened. But the entire aid sector is facing renewed scrutiny, including how they communicate with each other. A woman who worked alongside Van Hauwermeiren in Liberia said she made a complaint about him in 2004 — many years before the Haiti scandal. One recommendation in the 2011 report was for better mechanisms to share information with other regions and agencies about behavioural issues. Goldring has been called to explain the scandal to British MPs in London on Tuesday alongside senior managers from fellow charity Save the Children. Save the Children is facing its own problems after claims this weekend that one staff member drunkenly harassed a female colleague in 2015, holding her by the throat. Brendan Cox, the widower of murdered British MP Jo Cox, resigned shortly afterwards. In a statement, he admitted making errors while working at the charity, saying: "I made mistakes and behaved in a way that caused some women hurt and offence".—AFP ■

Israeli warplanes hit Gaza after new rocket attack

GAZA CITY (Palestinian Territories) — Israeli warplanes hit Hamas targets in the Gaza Strip early on Monday after a rocket fired by Palestinians slammed into southern Israel, the army said.

It did not elaborate on the targets but Palestinian security sources said several missiles were fired at farmland east of Rafah in the south of the coastal enclave. Israeli "fighter jets targeted underground infrastructure in the southern Gaza Strip, in response to the projectile that was launched at Israel earlier," an army statement said.

No casualties were reported in either incident. The strikes followed fierce exchanges over the weekend in which Israeli ground forces killed two Palestinian teenagers in the enclave in cross-border fire.

Warplanes also pounded 18 Hamas facilities in two waves of air strikes, according to the Israeli military. —AFP ■

Lavrov: Russia won't accept statements on destroying Israel or on fighting Iran

MOSCOW — Russia condemns Tehran's remarks that Israel should be wiped off the map and also believes that solving any regional problems should not be viewed through the prism of a conflict with Iran, Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said on Monday. Tensions between Israel and Iran are escalating and there are historical reasons for that, Lavrov said at the opening of the Valdai International Discussion Club's conference "Russia in the Middle East: Playing on All Fields." "We have stated many times that we won't accept the statements that Israel, as



Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov. PHOTO: TASS

a Zionist state, should be destroyed and wiped off the map. I believe this is an absolutely wrong way to advance one's own interests," Lavrov stressed. "By the same token, we oppose attempts to view any regional problem through the prism of fight-

ing Iran," he noted. This is happening in Syria, Yemen and even the latest developments around the Palestinian issue, including Washington's announcement of its decision to recognize Jerusalem as the Israeli capital, are largely motivated by this anti-Ira-

nian stance," Lavrov emphasized. On 6 December, 2017, US President Donald Trump stated that time had come to officially recognize Jerusalem as the capital of Israel and ordered the Department of State to start preparations for moving the US embassy there from Tel Aviv.

The status of Jerusalem is one of the most sensitive issues in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Israel insists that Jerusalem is its "eternal and indivisible" capital, whereas the Palestinians seek to make the city's eastern part the capital of their future state.—Tass ■

Fire guts textile market in Haitian capital

Port-au-Prince — A fire gutted a textiles market in Haiti's capital on Sunday, less than a week after a blaze partially destroyed a historic market, underscoring authorities' failure to ensure public safety.

Officials in Port-au-Prince sent in the few fire trucks available to fight the blaze. They were reinforced by private water tankers and police and UN vehicles outfitted with water cannons, normally used for crowd control.

The capital's mayor voiced regret at authorities' poor capacity to protect people in Haiti, the most impoverished

nation in the Americas.

"It's the weakness of the state, communities, the weakness of Haiti. This fire could have been avoided but the equipment is not there," Mayor Youri Chevry said. "It's our fault, all of us."

"We have a problem and we have to manage our priorities," he stressed.

Dozens of vendors sat by helpless. One woman fretted that her children only had her to support them, and that losing her wares meant she'd never be able to repay a small loan she took out to start her business.—AFP ■

Pro-regime forces to enter Syria's Afrin 'within hours': state media



Smoke is seen billowing from the northern Syrian Kurdish town of Afrin where Turkey launched an offensive against the Kurdish People's Protection Units (YPG) militia. PHOTO: AFP

DAMASCUS — Pro-government fighters will enter Syria's Afrin "within hours" to take a stand against a Turkish-led offensive on the enclave, state media reported on Monday.

AFP correspondents in the area and the Kurdish forces holding Afrin could not immediately confirm any imminent deployment.

"Popular forces will arrive in Afrin within a few hours to support its

people's stand against the Turkish regime's attack on the area and its people," state news agency SANA said, citing its correspondent in Aleppo.

The Syrian region of Afrin, which borders Turkey, is held by the Kurdish People's Protection Units (YPG) which is facing a month-old assault by Ankara and allied Syrian rebels.

The operation, dubbed "Olive Branch,"

has seen Turkey deploy ground troops and pound the Afrin region with air strikes and artillery fire.

Syrian government forces withdrew from Kurdish-majority areas across the country's north in 2012, paving the way for Kurdish authorities to implement a system of self-rule.

But negotiations have been ongoing for a potential return of government-affiliated forces to

the enclave, officials have said.

Heve Mustafa, the co-chair of Afrin's executive council, told AFP on Sunday that talks on the subject were ongoing.

"These talks are happening on the military level," she said. Last week, YPG chief Sipan Hamo told journalists his forces would have "no problem" with Damascus intervening to help repel Turkey's assault.—AFP ■

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Daw Htoo Htoo, H.G.P

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The Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Dated 20 February 2018

hh@kcyangon.com



Su-30SM multirole fighter aircraft. PHOTO: TASS

Russia to start upgrading Su-30SM fighter aircraft in 2018

IRKUTSK — KWork to upgrade the Su-30SM multirole fighter aircraft will start this year, and the upgraded planes will join the army in 2019, Russian Deputy Defence Minister Yuri Borisov said.

“We plan to kick off modernization this year, complete its first stage in 2019 and then start [deliveries of] upgraded vehicles,” Borisov said during his visit to the Irkutsk Aviation Plant (part of the Irkut corporation) on 8 Thursday February.

There are 100 Su-30SM aircraft in Russia’s inventory, he said. “They performed in the best possible way in Syria and proved all their capabilities. This aircraft is to be upgraded in terms of

import substitution and adaptation of new air weapons,” Borisov said, noting that these fighters will operate up to 40 years.

The super-maneuverable Su-30SM two-seat fighter is the last modified version of the basic Su-30.

It was developed under the requirements of the Russian Defence Ministry for radar, communication and IFF systems, as well as weaponry and other equipment. The first contracts to deliver Su-30SMs to the Russian army were inked in 2012.

The aircraft is designed to gain air superiority, block enemy’s airfields and destroy air, ground and sea targets.

—Tass ■

France’s Unibail-Rodamco rules out upping Westfield bid

PARIS — Unibail-Rodamco Monday ruled out increasing its bid for Australia’s Westfield shopping mall operator despite the cash and script offer losing its premium after a fall in the French property giant’s share price.

The two companies announced the deal, which would be the biggest-ever corporate takeover in Australia, in December.

The future combined portfolio of the merged companies would include key centres like Westfield London, Westfield World Trade Centre in New York, and the Forum des Halles in Paris.

Unibail offered 0.01844 of its shares for

every one share of the Australian-listed Westfield, plus US\$2.67 cash, valuing the company at US\$24.7 billion.

At the time it was worth Aus\$10.01 per Westfield share, but that has now fallen under nine dollars due to currency volatility and a slump in Unibail’s stock price.

Unibail-Rodamco’s Paris-based chief executive Christophe Cuvillier is in Australia this week to sell the bid to local investors and told reporters “the price is what the price is”.

“We think the price is full and fair and we think it’s the best price for Unibail-Rodamco shareholders

and Westfield shareholders,” the Sydney Morning Herald quoted him as saying.

“When you think about, two-thirds of Unibail-Rodamco shareholders are necessary to vote in favour of this and 75 per cent of Westfield shareholders ... so it has to be at the right price for our shareholders and the right price for Westfield shareholders.

“And we think the price is right.”

Despite this, some fund managers see scope for the offer to be sweetened. Folkestone Maxim Asset Management managing director Winston Sammut told The Aus-

tralian newspaper the question for Westfield shareholders was “are they getting an adequate premium for giving up ownership of what are considered by many, as among the best retail assets in the world?”

The deal comes with mall operators embarking on a consolidation drive as they face increasingly tough competition from online shopping sites such as Amazon.

The market is now waiting for the explanatory document which should give better indication of timing and set out the finer details. Westfield reports its annual results on Thursday.—AFP ■

TRADEMARK CAUTION

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Daw Htoo Htoo, H.G.P

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Botataung Tsp, Yangon,

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Dated **20 February 2018**

hh@kcyangon.com

CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE

M.V SHIBA VOY. NO. (ISC 1078 E)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V SHIBA VOY. NO. (ISC 1078 E) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 20-2-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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 LAND & SEA LOGISTICS

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT

MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY

AGENT FOR: M/S MERIDIAN SHIPPING

AGENCIES PTE LTD.

Phone No: 2301928

CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE

M.V GEORGIANA V.CH1039

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V GEORGIANA V.CH1039 are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 20-2-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MITT-3 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. CA SHIPPING PTE LTD

Phone No: 2301928

CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE

M.V MCC BOX ENDURANCE VOY. NO. (1803/1804)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V MCC BOX ENDURANCE VOY. NO. (1803/1804) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 19-2-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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PTE LTD

Phone No: 2301185

News organizations should better serve the people: Xinhua President

BEIJING — News organizations should take a people-centered approach and better serve people's needs by providing more diversified news products, according to Xinhua News Agency President Cai Mingzhao.

Cai published an article in Qiushi Journal, the flagship magazine of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, reviewing Chinese President Xi Jinping's speech on the media work in 2016.

On 19 February, 2016, Xi, who is also general secretary of the CPC Central Committee, visited the People's Daily, Xinhua News Agency, and China Central Television, the na-

tion's three leading news providers. Later that day he presided over a symposium on the media work.

According to Xi, the mission of the Party's media work is to provide guidance for the public, serve the country's overall interests, unite the general public, instill confidence and pool strength, tell right from wrong and connect China to the world.

Cai said in the article that news organizations should give correct guidance to the public, always place social benefit in the first place, and encourage the whole society to strive for excellence and to develop stronger virtues.

He asked journalists



President of Xinhua News Agency Cai Mingzhao. PHOTO: XINHUA

to improve investigative reporting, report innovative and creative efforts made by the people, and reflect the people's wishes and voices. The article also underscored the importance of truthfulness.

"Truthfulness is the

life of journalism, and the facts must be reported based on the truth," Xi said in his speech in February 2016. "While accurately reporting individual facts, journalists must also grasp and reflect the overall situation

of an event from a broad view."

Xi urged media outlets to confront problems emerging from their work and social ills head-on, spreading the good and condemning the bad while practicing critical journalism based on accurate facts and objective analysis.

Cai called for accelerating the development of new media with the push of 5G telecommunication technology, so that the country could make use of the new media's edge in modern communications.

Xinhua has recently unveiled an artificial intelligence platform called "media brain" and announced the building of

an intelligent newsroom.

"The agency aims to build an intelligent newsroom, featuring human-machine cooperation, and focusing on increased production and communication efficiency," Cai wrote.

Cai said Xinhua News Agency would speed up its efforts in building a new type of first-class global news agency, setting up a world-leading system of news gathering, editing, and release that covers the globe. "The country's international communication capacity should be improved to match China's national strength and international status," Cai wrote in the article.

—Xinhua ■



Japan registered a trade balance deficit of 943.4 billion yen (\$887 million) in January, the first since May last year. PHOTO: AFP

Japan books first trade deficit in eight months

TOKYO — Japan logged a trade deficit in January, the first negative figure in eight months, as imports of fossil fuel overwhelmed the revenue from exports, government data showed on Monday.

The world's third-largest economy registered a trade balance deficit of 943.4 billion yen (\$887 million) in January, the first since May last year, the finance ministry said.

The market had expected a deficit of 1.02

trillion yen.

Exports rose 12.2 per cent to 6.086 trillion yen but imports also rose 7.9 per cent to 7.029 trillion yen.

The yen was on average 3.4 per cent higher against the dollar compared to the same month a year earlier.

Still, the costs of imports in crude oil, medical products and liquified natural gas increased as the volume of trade in such items grew, the ministry said.

Japan's often politically sensitive trade surplus with the United States shrank 12.3 per cent on increased imports of liquified natural gas, organic chemicals and medical products.

For decades into the 1990s, the two countries battled over their trade flows, but the balance has become less of a hot-button issue under recent US administrations, with China's trade surplus a greater concern for Washington.—AFP ■

India to host this year's World Environment Day

NEW DELHI — India will host this year's World Environment Day on 5 June, the country's environment minister Harsh Vardhan and Erik Solheim, UN Environment's Executive Director, jointly announced here on Monday.

This year's theme would be "beat plastic pollution" which would urge governments, industry, communities and indi-

viduals to come together and urgently reduce the production and excessive use of single-use plastic polluting the environment. Speaking on the occasion, the Indian minister said, "India is excited to host the World Environment Day this year on 5 June. Indian philosophy and lifestyle has long been rooted in the concept of co-existence with nature. We are

committed towards making planet Earth a cleaner and greener place." The visiting UN official said, "India will be a great global host of 2018's World Environment Day celebrations. The country has demonstrated tremendous global leadership on climate change." The World Environment Day is an annual UN-led event which takes place on 5 June. —Xinhua ■

HERZFELD RUBIN MEYER & ROSE LAW FIRM LIMITED

(In Members Voluntary Winding-up)

Notice of Special Resolutions pursuant to section 206 (1)

The following Special Resolutions were unanimously passed at the Extraordinary General Meeting of the shareholders of Herzfeld Rubin Meyer & Rose Law Firm Limited held on 16th February 2018 at 9:00 am at No.(99B), Myay Nu street, Suite 6(d) Lamai Condo, Sanchaung Township, Yangon Region as required under Section 203 (2) of the Myanmar Companies Act:-

Special Resolution No.1

Resolved that the Company be wound up as "Members' Voluntary Winding Up" with effect from 16th February 2018.

Special Resolution No.2

Resolved that U Maung Maung Aung, C.P.A, be hereby appointed as Liquidator of Company with effect from 16th February 2018, for the purpose of such winding up and is authorized to carry on the business of the Company to such extent and for such period as may be necessary only for the beneficial winding up thereof and is granted such other powers as may be deemed fit and proper and to finally wind up the Company.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

I, the undersigned Liquidator of Herzfeld Rubin Meyer & Rose Law Firm Limited have fixed the period for creditors to submit their claims together with supporting documents, to the undersigned as one month from date of the publication of this notice and that in default thereof they will be excluded from the benefit of any distribution made before such debts are proved and before the final winding up date.

All persons claiming to be creditors of the above company are therefore requested to submit details of the claims, together with any documentary evidence in their possession, to the Liquidator at the address given below, before the above date.

(U Maung Maung Aung)

Liquidator

Herzfeld Rubin Meyer & Rose Law Firm Limited

(In Members' Voluntary Winding up)

64(B), 1st Floor, Shwagon Plaza,

Komin Kochin Road, Bahan Township, Yangon Region.

A movie a day for 60 years: cinema sustains a Berlin love

BERLIN — It's a love that was born in a cinema in 1950s Cold War Berlin and that has been nourished for over six decades by taking in at least a movie a day together.

At this week's Berlin film festival, Erika and Ulrich Gregor, now in their 80s, are absolute fixtures.

Year after year, they can be spotted gingerly making their way, arm in arm, from theatre to theatre to catch as many screenings each day as they can.

"We've watched thousands and thousands of films together," Ulrich, 85, told AFP in an interview at the Arsenal cinema they helped found.

"We're curious and we want to be on the cutting edge, so to speak. So we watch five movies a day (at a festival), sometimes even six. And when we're not watching movies, we're talking about them."

It's that kind of shared passion that the Gregors say has kept their relationship thriving after nearly 60 years of marriage.

The pair met as students at West Berlin's Free University in 1957, when Ulrich was hosting a film evening.

"It was 'People on Sunday'," a 1930 German silent film, "and there was one woman who had very strong views," he said.

"Everybody loved the movie



For more than 60 years, Berlin couple Erika and Ulrich Gregor, both in their 80s, have watched at least one movie a day together and are an absolute fixture at the annual Berlin film festival. **PHOTO: AFP**

but I thought it was sexist and said so," recalled Erika, 83.

"There was a stormy debate but I wouldn't back down. When it was over I walked out and the moderator (Ulrich) ran after me and said 'Please come next time' and promised to show a film that was more humanistic. And he did, it was terrific."

- 'Polish films and vodka' -

She was immediately taken with Ulrich, who stands two heads taller than his petite wife.

"I thought he was the cleverest of all of them. And I think cleverness is something wonderful," Erika said, adding: "Especially for men, who in general are not very smart."

She ended up joining the film club's board.

Ulrich returned from the Cannes festival one year raving about Polish directors such as Andrzej Wajda and Andrzej Munk.

Erika suggested they start showcasing cinema from behind

the Iron Curtain — a controversial move with capitalist West Berlin on the front lines of geopolitical tensions.

"We hopped on a Vespa and rode to the Polish military mission in East Berlin and rang the bell," she said.

"We said 'hello, we're students and we'd like to show some Polish films'. They were quite surprised and offered us vodka. But they finally agreed and said we could come back and pick up the films."

Ulrich said that because of "strong anti-communist prejudices" they had to fight hostile administrators to show Eastern European films, but Erika's more impulsive style and his diplomatic skills "complement each other in a really special way".

"Together no one can beat us because we're always stronger."

- Eventually, children came too -

The Gregors married in 1960 — a year before the Berlin Wall went up — and soon started a family. But it didn't stop their nearly obsessive moviegoing.

"It wasn't easy because we had two children. We were lucky because they could have hated the cinema — it took their parents away from them. But the kids got used to it and we raised them that way," he said.

"It was a different time, when I see how mothers parent today," Erika said.

"When I needed to go to the cinema I told them 'I trust you so be good and Mama will be home again in a few hours'. Eventually we started taking them with us to the movies."

That meant bringing the children to film festivals as well: Venice, Locarno, Moscow and the biggest of all, Cannes, which they still attend every year. —AFP ■

Emma Watson gives £1m to UK women's justice fund ahead of Baftas

LONDON — Actress and activist Emma Watson has donated £1 million to kickstart a new British fund to help women facing harassment and abuse at work, launched ahead of Sunday's Baftas and backed by hundreds of female entertainment stars.

The justice and equality fund was announced in an open letter supporting the US Time's Up movement, signed by around 200 women, including actresses Kate Winslet, Emma Thompson, Kristin Scott Thomas, Keira Knightley and Saoirse Ronan.

The letter is addressed to "dear sisters" — as was a similar missive signed by Hollywood stars last month — and calls for an international movement to stamp out a culture of abuse exposed by the Harvey Weinstein scandal. The fundraising page for the new fund shows



Actress Emma Watson has made a £1 million donation to launch a new British fund to help women facing harassment and abuse at work. **PHOTO: AFP**

Watson, who won fame in the Harry Potter films and is now a UN Women goodwill ambassador, made the opening £1 million (1.13 million euros, \$1.4 million) donation. Knightley and British

actor Tom Hiddleston have both given £10,000 to the fund, which will be used to set up a network of advice, support and advocacy projects to tackle abuse across all sectors of work. —AFP ■

Had to happen: Billy Zane on why Jack had to die in 'Titanic'

LOS ANGELES/LONDON — Almost 20 years ago, James Cameron's "Titanic", though magnificent, broke the hearts of millions with the death of its hero Jack in the end, and now actor Billy Zane says that he "had to die".

Zane portrayed the role of female lead Kate Winslet's arrogant fiance Cal in the film, which went on to win 11 out of the 14 Oscars it was nominated for.

Fans have time and again posed the question as to why Rose (Winslet) did not make room for Leonardo DiCaprio's Jack on the door.

"Your hero had to die. I don't know what else would have done it. It had to hap-

pen," Zane told People magazine in defence of Winslet's character.

Cameron had earlier also said that Jack was always meant to die.

"The answer is very simple because it says on page 147 (of the script) that Jack dies. Very simple... Obviously it was an artistic choice, the thing was just big enough to hold her, and not big enough to hold him..." the director had said in an interview.

Cameron said it was "kind of silly" to still have this discussion but it also shows that Jack became so endearing to the audience that "it hurts them to see him die". —PTI ■

Spanish cheesemakers defend Manchego from Mexican 'copy'

ALCÁZAR DE SAN JUAN (Spain) — In central Spain, the arid plains of La Mancha are famous for their windmills and Manchego, a cheese made out of ewe's milk that is one of the best-known representatives of the country's gastronomy.

But local producers there are furious with Mexico which they accuse of "crude plagiarism" of their cheese, an issue so touchy it has become a point of discord in drawn-out talks for a new trade deal between the EU and the Latin American country.

"We have to defend our Manchego tooth and nail," says Francisco Tejado, walking through the factory of Spain's biggest cheese producer, Garcia Baquero, in the small town of Alcazar de San Juan, some 150 kilometres (90 miles) south of Madrid.

Tejado, in charge of the rip-

ening stage of the cheese-making process, says he comes to the plant every day to "watch, touch, pamper these cheeses, these living foods" that are maturing in air-conditioned rooms.

- Two different cheeses -

Manchego is an EU Protected Designation of Origin (AOC) product, which is respected within the bloc but not always further afield. And in Mexico, in particular, manufacturers have used the names of several "European cheeses, including Manchego, to reap profit from crude plagiarism", complains Santiago Altares, head of the group that gives out AOC labels to Manchego producers.

The original and the copy, he stresses, are completely different.

"The Mexican Manchego is made from cow's milk within seven days, and the authentic Man-

chego with the milk of ewes of 'Manchega' race, is ripened for at least a month."

Such is the controversy over the matter that it has been one of the issues in talks aimed at sealing a new version of an 18-year-old trade deal between the EU and Mexico.

The Europeans want exclusive right to the "Manchego" name, along with other products.

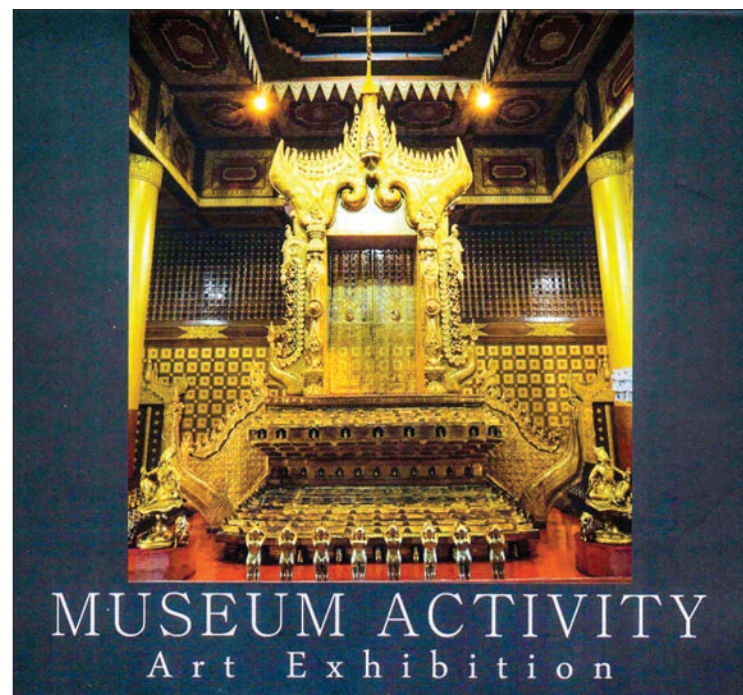
But that is a problem for cheese producers in Latin America's second-largest economy, where Mexican Manchego represents nearly 15 percent of total cheese sales. So the National Chamber of Dairy Industries in Mexico has said it will continue using Manchego as a name, which it says is "generic".

- Struggling region -

Under the portrait of his late father Hersilio who ventured into producing Manchego in 1962, the head of Garcia Baquero tries to be conciliatory, saying the conflict "is one of the small elements of friction that mark the globalisation process". "But for us, this protection of Manchego as an AOC product is of utmost importance in a semi-arid, austere, under-populated region," says Miguel Angel Garcia Baquero.—AFP ■



Some of La Mancha's windmills, immortalised in Miguel de Cervantes' masterpiece Don Quixote. PHOTO: AFP



Art collections to be displayed at National Museum in Yangon

AN art show entitled "Museum Activity Art Exhibition" will be held at the National Museum under the Department of Archaeology, National Museum and Library under the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture on Pyay Road, Dagon Township in Yangon from 20 to 28 Febru-

ary. The show will take place from 9 am to 4 pm and every art enthusiast can take part in the event.

For further information may contact Ph-01 371 539, Ph-01 378652 or Email national.museum.yangon1996@gmail.com.—Myanmar Digital News

Roland Mouret presents Fashion Week ode to free, sensual women

LONDON — French designer Roland Mouret launched his latest collection in London on Sunday, aligning with the #MeToo movement in a parade celebrating femininity, independence and sensuality.

In the subterranean concrete lobby of the National Theatre, the London-based designer hosted buyers, journalists, bloggers, fashionistas and other Fashion Week VIPs to highlight his 2018 autumn-winter collection.

Models paraded between the ranks of guests following a labyrinthine route set to retro music.

Velvet corduroy dresses were worn with transparent tops; soft ties appeared nonchalantly tied around the neck; and lace socks were paired with sandals. Mouret was eager to play

with contrasts to explore concepts of femininity — and his abiding mantra "...we all dress to undress".

In red and black, in pale pink or midnight blue, his models subtly revealed garters and low-cut necklines.

"Roland Mouret proves that there is practicality in femininity, and femininity is a woman's greatest power," read the collection's accompanying notes.

Mouret told AFP he deliberately chose fabrics reminiscent of the 70s — "still the highlight of women's liberation" — for his latest designs as he incorporated the current climate into the collection.

- Bow silhouette -

Spanish fashion house Delgado, a defector from New York Fashion Week, also highlighted its latest offerings on Sunday

with a slow and romantic show in the cosy setting of London's Royal Institute of British Architects.

The location was an homage of sorts to creative director Josep Font's past life as an architect.

For his 2018 autumn-winter collection, the Catalan drew inspiration from French cubist artist Ines Longevial.

Font found the works "radiate a harmonious femininity in shape and colour" and sought to incorporate their "simple lines and curvy silhouettes with luminous hues" into his designs.

Pink provides the basis for the collection, while ivory, camel, canary yellow, chalk blue and navy blue feature too.

Shorts are cut wide, skirts long, and the coats hang down to mid-thigh.

Shirts are studded with pol-

ka dots, ankle boots are sequined and dresses feature floral patterns.

Meanwhile the designer has styled two types of belts: an "iconic bow silhouette" and an-

other more "organic and floral" offering inspired by lily pads.

"Artisanship of leather at its most delicate expression," proclaims the collection's literature.—AFP ■



Buyers, journalists, bloggers, fashionistas and other Fashion Week VIPs have flocked to London to view the latest collections. PHOTO: AFP

Watson's wait ends with third Riviera triumph

CALIFORNIA — Bubba Watson fired a two-under-par 69 on Sunday to win an emotional third Genesis Open title, ending a drought that stretched back to his 2016 triumph here at Riviera Country Club.

One-over for the day after three bogeys and two birdies on the front nine, Watson produced three birdies without a bogey coming home for a 12-under-par total of 272.

A spectacular hole-out for birdie from a greenside bunker at the 14th gave him sole possession of the lead for good.

"I can't believe it," said Watson, who had slipped to 117th in the world rankings after a forgettable 2016-17 season that included "medical issues" that he prefers not to elaborate on.

"There are so many emotions going through my head right now," Watson said as he teared up on the 18th green. "You never know if you're going to play good



Patrick Cantlay, who was seeking a second title of the season, closed with a 71 to share fourth place at the Genesis Open. **PHOTO: AFP**

again, never know if you're going to lift a trophy again."

He admitted that his physical struggles, including significant weight loss, sapped his confidence and even had him considering retirement.

"I was close," Watson said. "My wife was not close. My wife

basically told me to quit whining and play golf."

Watson finished two strokes in front of Kevin Na and Tony Finau, who both carded 69s for 10-under 274.

Watson's 10th PGA Tour victory capped a halcyon week in Hollywood for the two-time Masters

champion, who recorded a show with US comedy icon Jay Leno, dropped in on comedian and chat show host Ellen DeGeneres, took in a taping of TV sitcom "The Big Bang Theory" and played in the NBA All-Star Celebrity Game on Friday night.

"It loosened me up," Watson said of the extra-curricular activities. "I was so focused on other things I didn't have time to focus on where I stood going into this week." He shot to the top of the leaderboard on Saturday with a third-round 65. A birdie at the par-five first on Sunday looked promising, but three bogeys on the front nine left him trailing at the turn. Na's back-to-back birdies at 10 and 11 saw him move to 11-under, but his bid stalled with a brace of bogeys at 12 and 13.

- 'Nervous as can be' -

Patrick Cantlay, who trailed Watson by one stroke going into the round, also reached 11-under

before bogeys at 12 and 13.

Cantlay, who was seeking a second title of the season, closed with a 71 to share fourth place with Scott Stallings, who carded a 68 for 275.

Watson said making two testing seven-footers for par at the 12th and 13th after his birdie at 11 were crucial to his round — more so than the impressive hole-out at 14. "I knew there was a shot," he said. "It doesn't mean I'm going to win, but it means I'm still in the ballgame, putt on 11, putt on 12, putt on 13."

Even after taking a two-shot lead at 14, Watson said, "I was still nervous as can be on every shot". Five-time major-winner Phil Mickelson, chasing a first title since his 2013 British Open triumph, briefly pulled within one shot of the lead before settling for a 68 that saw him head a group on 276 that also included Australian Cameron Smith (71) and Canadian Adam Hadwin (66).—AFP ■

Five classic Chelsea v Barcelona Champions League ties

LONDON — Chelsea and Barcelona renew hostilities in the Champions League last 16 on Tuesday in what has become a European classic in five tempestuous meetings shrouded in controversy.

Here, AFP Sports takes a look back at the five previous knockout ties between the English champions and Catalan giants in the Champions League.

Rivaldo leads revival

Chelsea's first foray into the quarter-finals in 2000 got off to a flying start as Gianfranco Zola and a Tore Andre Flo double put the hosts 3-0 up inside 38 minutes of the first leg.

However, Luis Figo grabbed a vital away goal after the break to set up a Barca second leg fight-back. Rivaldo and Figo struck before half-time at the Camp Nou to give Barca the advantage on away goals before Flo restored Chelsea's aggregate lead.

Pep Guardiola provided the cross from which Dani Garcia's header took the game to extra-time.

Rivaldo's penalty edged Barca ahead, having earlier missed from the spot, before Patrick

Kluivert capped the comeback with Barca's fifth.

Mourinho gets Frisky

The presence of former Barca assistant Jose Mourinho as Chelsea boss took the rivalry to new heights in 2005.

Mourinho was furious with Swedish referee Anders Frisk after he sent-off Didier Drogba with Chelsea leading 1-0 at the Camp Nou in the first leg.

Frisk retired from refereeing less than a month later, citing death threats. Barca came back against the 10 men to win 2-1 on the night, but were blown away by another fast Chelsea start at the Bridge.

Eidur Gudjohnsen, Frank Lampard and Damien Duff put the Blues 3-0 up inside 20 minutes before Ronaldinho, firstly from the penalty spot, and then with a stunning outside of the foot strike from outside the box nudged Barca ahead on away goals. However, John Terry's header 14 minutes from time won the tie, with this time Barca complaining of a foul on goalkeeper Victor Valdes by Ricardo Carvalho.

Messi times for Chelsea

Lionel Messi started just

one knockout game on Barca's run to winning the Champions League in 2006. Unfortunately, for Chelsea the Argentine was still decisive.

Asier del Horno saw red for hacking down an 18-year-old Messi before half-time in the first leg.

Barca made the man advantage count through a Terry own goal and Samuel Eto'o in a 2-1 win. Ronaldinho then sealed the tie back at the Camp Nou before Lampard's late penalty.

Chelsea pay heavy penalty

The most controversial of all the clashes came in 2009 when Chelsea saw four strong penalty appeals waived away by Norwegian referee Tom Henning Ovrebo before being hit by a late sucker punch. After a forgettable 0-0 draw at the Camp Nou, Chelsea went in front in spectacular fashion through Michael Essien's volley. Three penalty claims then came and went, whilst Barca also had Eric Abidal sent-off.

But the 10 men got the goal that paved the way for Guardiola's men to win the treble when Andres Iniesta fired into the top corner three minutes into stoppage time.



Chelsea's John Terry (L) dives over the ball with Barcelona's Lionel Messi during a Champions League game at Stamford Bridge in London in February 2006. **PHOTO: AFP**

Yet there was still time for Ovrebo to turn down final howls for a spot-kick when the ball struck Eto'o's arm, sparking fury from Chelsea players and fans.

Torres' time to shine

The English side got their revenge in Guardiola's final Champions League match as Barca boss three years later by upsetting the odds despite again going down to 10 men.

Drogba gave Chelsea a slender 1-0 lead to take to Catalonia and that didn't look like being enough when Terry saw red for

kicking out at Alexis Sanchez before Sergio Busquets and Iniesta turned the tie around.

However, Ramires's wonderful chip hauled Chelsea back into the tie and they withstood wave upon wave of Barca attack after the break as Messi also hit the bar with a penalty.

And it was the unlikely figure of Fernando Torres who landed the final blow when he broke away for Chelsea's second in stoppage time to set up the Londoners' solitary Champions League triumph.—AFP ■