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THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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Monday, 19 March 2018



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi attends the ASEAN-Australia summit. **PHOTO: MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY**

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi takes part in ASEAN-Australia summit

STATE Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi attended the ASEAN-Australia Special Summit in Sydney, Australia, yesterday, along with other ASEAN and Australian state leaders and prominent government figures.

Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull welcomed the guests, followed by the opening address by Singapore Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong, who is the 2018 ASEAN chairman.

The State Counsellor then engaged in discussions with the

ASEAN and Australian leaders on collaborations, bilateral business cooperation and counter-terrorism.

The ASEAN-Australia summit first began in 1974 as the ASEAN-Australia Economic Cooperation Programme (AAECP). Myanmar celebrated the 40th-year anniversary of the ASEAN-Australia relations in Nay Pyi Taw and agreed to hold the ASEAN-Australia summits once every two years. The recent summit aims to enhance

regional security and prosperity.

The State Counsellor then attended a formal lunch hosted by Governor-General of Australia Sir Peter Cosgrove, AK (Knight of the order of Australia), MC (Military Cross), and his wife. She then took a commemorative photograph with other ASEAN and Australian leaders.

Later, the State Counsellor attended a private meeting with ASEAN and Australian leaders at the Governor-General's Admiralty House. Australian Prime

Minister Turnbull and Singapore Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong acted as joint chairpersons at the meeting. State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi discussed Myanmar's development progress, its challenges, international relations and regional situations with other participants.

The leaders then affirmed the Sydney Declaration in a joint statement from the ASEAN-Australia summit. Daw Aung San Suu Kyi then visited Canberra on the Prime Minister's invitation.

The State Counsellor arrived in Fairbairn Airport in Canberra around 6 p.m. and was greeted by Australian Assistant Minister for Science, Jobs and Innovation Senator Zed Seselja, Australian Ambassador to Myanmar Nicholas Coppel, Myanmar Ambassador to Australia U Tha Aung Nyun, his wife, and other officials.

The State Counsellor and her entourage then left for the Hyatt hotel at the end of the day. — Myanmar News Agency ■



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Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Office of the President
Message of Greetings sent by President U Htin Kyaw
on the occasion of the 44th Anniversary Mon State Day Celebration

Dear esteemed ethnic brothers and sisters living in the Mon State,

ON the auspicious occasion of the 44th Anniversary of Mon State Day which falls on 19th March 2018, I send good wishes and greetings for the good health and happiness of all ethnic nationals and Union nationals living in the Mon State. I am very happy and honored to have this opportunity to send this Message of Greetings to the Mon State Day celebrations which is a very significant day for all ethnic Mon brothers and sisters.

After independence, for the purpose of preserving and protecting the ethnic Mon racial groups and Mon literature and culture and to implement these objectives on a larger scale, an enquiry commission to grant self-administration according to region was formed on 5 October 1948. Furthermore the Union of Burma Advisory Committee for National Unity was formed on 4th December 1968, and steps were initiated for the formation of Mon State. On 20 June 1972, the former Tanintharyi Division was reconstituted as Tanintharyi Division (1) and Tanintharyi Division (2). According to Article (30) Section (C) of the 1974 Constitution of the Socialist Republic of the Union of Burma, Taintharyi Division (1) was designated as Mon State. Thus 19th March, the date on which the term Mon State was first recognized and used in the 1974 Draft Constitution was designated as Mon State and we have been celebrating this day annually ever since. We have now reached the 44th year.

In Mon State, the majority of the people living here are Myanmar and Mon races. Other ethnic races such as Kayins, Rakhines, Chins, Kachins, Shans and Pao's are living together in friendship and in peace. This state is blessed with good climate, green forests, rivers and streams and beautiful coastlines. The Kyaik Hti Yo pagoda which enshrines the hair relics of the Buddha and which is revered by all Buddhists is located in this area.

In the past, although there have been disunity among our ethnic brothers for various reasons, the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA) was signed by the New Mon State Party on 13 February 2018 thus making a new historic milestone for peace in Mon State. They are also making plans to continue participating in the different stages of the political dialogues. As peace begins to take firm roots, economic enterprises such as tourism, fisheries, agriculture, agro-based industries, trade and commerce will develop. I am very pleased to learn that currently the ethnic armed groups are working hand in hand with the Mon State Government to participate in regional projects for all round development. All Mon State nationals, both men and women alike, are now waiting with high hopes for Development, now that they have Peace.

I urge all our Mon ethnic brothers and sisters to participate with unity and concerted efforts for national reconciliation, Union peace and efforts for modernization and development. I urge you to work together, hand-in-hand in unity not only for the present generation but also for your sons and grandsons, to promote the development of Mon State more than ever. I send this Message of Greetings as I urge you to continue working hard in the task of building the future Democratic Federal Republic in unity.

Sd/-
(Htin Kyaw)
President

Union Minister for Home Affairs visits Lao PDR for bilateral talks

UNION Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Kyaw Swe departed for Vientiane from Yangon by air early yesterday morning at an invitation of Police Major General Somkeo Sylavong, Minister of Public Security of the Lao People's Democratic Republic.

The Union Minister was accompanied by senior officials including the chief of Myanmar Police Force, the Director General of the Bureau of Special Investigation and the Director General from the Department of Immigration.

The Union Minister and his entourage were seen off by Laotian Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Lying Sayaxang, Laotian Military Attaché Col Bounmyvieng Viengnhouthasat, the secretary of Yangon regional government and high ranking officials from the Ministry of Home Affairs. During the visit, Myanmar-Lao ministerial meeting on security and the rule of law will be held, focusing on border affairs between the two countries, according to the Ministry of Home Affairs.—MDN ■



Union Minister Lt-Gen Kyaw Swe and senior officials at the Yangon International Airport. **PHOTO: MNA**



Union Minister Thura U Aung Ko offers donations to Sayadaw Bhaddanta Vijjota in a Yangon monastery. **PHOTO: MNA**

Religious title conferred on highest monk of the Shwe Kyin Order

YANGON Region government held a ceremony to pay respects to and confer Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru title on Sayadaw Bhaddanta Vijjota, the highest principal monk of the Shwe Kyin Order by the State at a monastery in Yangon yesterday.

Sayadaw Bhaddanta Vijjota administered the Five Precepts to the congregation led

by Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture Thura U Aung Ko.

A Sayadaw read out the biography of Sayadaw Bhaddanta Vijjota and Chief Minister of Yangon Region U Phyo Min Thein supplicated on religious matters.

The Chief Minister then conferred the Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru title on the Sayadaw

and donated K 5 million for him. He also presented K 100,000 each to 36 members of the Sangha attending the ceremony.

Chancellor of Sitagu World Buddhist University Sitagu Sayadaw Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Dr Bhaddanta Nyanisara delivered a sermon and pious deeds were shared.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Complete socio-economic policy is a must



The Crans Montana Forum on Africa and South-South Cooperation in Dakhla, Morocco. **PHOTO: MNA**

DEPUTY Minister for Planning and Finance U Set Aung attended the Crans Montana Forum on Africa and South-South Cooperation in Dakhla, Morocco, on 17 March.

He is part of the delegation led by Vice President U Myint Swe, who is also in Morocco.

During the meeting, the attendees discussed two topics titled “International Conference on Urban Global Management” and “Migration: Development and Opportunity Factor”.

On Migration: Develop-

ment and Opportunity Factor, the deputy minister pointed out that to create opportunities without threatening migration, it is not enough to have a policy on migration but a complete socio-economic policy is a must.

Thus, development and migration will connect to convert brain drain to brain gain, he added. Ministries from various dialogue partner countries of Morocco, deputy ministers, mayors and other high-ranking officials attended the meeting.— Myanmar News Agency ■

Dr Shwe Hlwan attends Myanmar-Japan scouts fund raising bazaar



Dr. Shwe Hlwan and officials cut the ceremonial ribbons to mark the opening of the Osaka girl scouts and Myanmar girl guides fund raising bazaar in Yangon Education University. **PHOTO: ZAW MIN LATT**

THE Myanmar Girl Scouts Association and Osaka Girl Scouts Association organised a fund raising bazaar for a friendship trust fund at Yangon Education University in Kamayut, Yangon, yesterday morning.

Dr Shwe Hlwan, wife of Vice-President U Henry Van Thio, Chair of Osaka Girl Scouts Association Ms Keiko Irisawa

and Chief Scout of Myanmar Girl Scouts Association Dr Tin Hla Kyi formally opened the festival.

Next, Dr Shwe Hlwan praised the accomplishments of the Myanmar girl scouts. Ms Keiko Irisawa and Dr Tin Hla Kyi also gave speeches. Dr Shwe Hlwan, Ms Keiko Irisawa and the accompanying delegation

then took photographs and visited the booths.

At the ceremony, seven Myanmar girl scouts, including a leader, were invited to attend the 70th anniversary of the Osaka Girl Scouts Association camping ceremony to be held in Japan. The funds collected at the festival will be used for the trip.— Zaw Min Latt ■

U Ko Ko Shein appointed as Non-Resident Ambassador of Myanmar to the Republic of Azerbaijan

The President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has appointed U Ko Ko Shein, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the Russian Federation, as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar concurrently accredited to the Republic of Azerbaijan.— Myanmar News Agency ■

U Tha Aung Nyun appointed as Non-Resident Ambassador of Myanmar to the Republic of the Marshall Islands

The President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has appointed U Tha Aung Nyun, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the Commonwealth of Australia, as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar concurrently accredited to the Republic of the Marshall Islands.— Myanmar News Agency ■

Correction

A photo caption on Page 6 in the 17 March edition of The Global New Light of Myanmar contained an error. In the story headlined “Documentary on Rakhine State discussed”, the photo caption should read, “Union Minister Dr. Pe Myint addresses the meeting on shooting documentary movie and film of ethnic people lifestyles in Rakhine.” —Editors ■

Ceremony to protect orphans held

IN commemoration of the 2018 International Women’s Day, a ceremony to protect orphans was held at the People’s Park in Yangon yesterday morning.

The function was teeming with students, youngsters and their parents.

Dr. Myat Sander Thant from Single Mother Foundation, said, “Our foundation has launched a booth to disseminate knowledge about sex to the youth. We are educating youths who pass our booth.”

The ceremony serves as a link between the government and orphanage groups. Sadly, public interest is still low, she added.

Similarly, Daw Mar Mar Lwin, a visitor from Thimgangyun Township, said, “My children had a long summer vacation, and we got a chance to visit this place. We frequently hear about children being abandoned in Yangon. This ceremony will educate the youths.”

At noon, the Ministry of Health and Sports gave educational talks on health and held musical shows to entertain the various orphanage groups. — Myanmar News Agency ■

At noon, the Ministry of Health and Sports gave educational talks on health and held musical shows to entertain the various orphanage groups. — Myanmar News Agency ■



Attendants at the 2018 International Women’s Day ceremony in People’s Park in Yangon yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

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you submit a text longer than 500 words
please be aware that your letter will be
edited.

Two MASHAV Israeli demonstrate the use of family irrigation kit

TWO MASHAV experts from Israel, Dr Mollie Sacks and Ms Shelley Ganz were in Shan State conducting an advance Irrigation in Vegetable Cultivation Training from 12th to 16th of March, 2018.

During the field trip, they visited villages in Shan State and did family irrigation kit installation in vegetable gardens and demonstrated the use of it. The training was done in cooperation with MASHAV—Israel Agency for International Development and MEDA, a Canada Aid organization as part of IMOW project (Improving Market Opportunities for Women) of MEDA.—GNLM



Earthen pots selling well in pre-Thingyan period

EARTHEN pots produced in Meiktila Township, Mandalay region, are selling well in the pre-Thingyan period, with growers earning a handsome profit for their work, pot makers said.

Numerous earthen pot manufacturers can be found in Theepingon Village, Nyaungkhon village-tract, Meiktila Township, for whom the craft is a traditional family business. The village has been engaged in the production of earthen pots for many years.

Ko Aye Win Naing, a pot maker, said, "We run this kind of business on a manageable scale throughout the year. We normally produce large quantities of pots between March and May during the traditional festivals."

During these days, hand-made earthen pots produced from the village are in high demand in the domestic mar-



A woman prepares for making earthen pot. PHOTO: SUPPLIED

ket, especially in the hilly regions, including Kalaw, Aungban and Taunggyi towns in Shan State, he added. "We send some 7,000 earthen pots on an average to

the hilly areas per consignment, selling them at the rate of Ks100 per pot in the wholesale market," Ko Aye Win Naing stated.

Traditional pottery business-

es can be found not only in Theepingon village but also in nearby villages, such as Kukkokyin, Khontha and Thitatkan.—Chan Tha (Meiktila)

Capital goods imports decline by \$341 million this FY

THE total value of capital goods imports this fiscal year amounted to US\$5.933 billion, a decline of \$341 million, as against the same period of last FY, according to the latest statistical report released by the Ministry of Commerce.

From last April to early March of this year, the pri-

vate sector imported US\$5.301 billion worth of capital goods from overseas traders, which saw a decrease in value of \$347 million, whereas the government's imports of the similar products reached \$632 million, which showed a slight increase in value of \$6 million.

Despite a decrease in im-

ports of capital goods, the country's total import value went up by \$1.643 billion in the current FY, according to the ministry's statistics.

Before the end of 2017-2018 FY, the country's imports value of intermediate goods reached \$6.981 billion while consumer goods were \$4.063 million.

Myanmar conducts trading mainly with ASEAN members, EU member states, some island nations, Asian and African states, and some western countries. The overall trade value between Myanmar and international traders totalled \$30.193 billion as of 3 March.—Shwe Khine



Lime trees see with lime. PHOTO: SUPPLIED

Lime growers reap healthy profits this summer

FARMERS growing limes in Kya In Seikgyi Township, Kawareik District, Kayin State, say they reaped a handsome profit, as there is an increasing demand for limes in the domestic market.

Local growers have said, “The demand for the crop continues to increase in the local markets.”

Seasonal lime plants thrive in some villages in Kya In Seikgyi Township, including Kyakhetchaung, Kyaingyi, Khotkhwa, Tagay, Meelaungchaung, Tulegon and Thameinlit villages.

One local grower noted,

“Based on the size and freshness, fresh lime fruits are sold for 80 kyats per fruit in the hot season.

Last monsoon, the prices of a lime fruit was worth only two kyats. Thanks to good transportation, the fresh crops were transported to the markets in cars.”

The lime, the small citrus fruit, is fresher and more fragrant than the lemon. It has light green flesh and is approximately 6 cm in size. Lime is also used as an ingredient in cooking, and when used in drinks and sauces it creates a fresh and “zingy” taste.

Lime plants can be seen throughout the country. The fruits grown in Kya In Seikgyi Township are often sent to nearby markets.

Also, lime is famous among the public, as it helps in weight loss and increases immunity from diseases.

Merchants estimate that the crop will likely continue to sell well in the local market throughout this season. Growers and exporters are considering manufacturing finished goods from locally-produced lime fruits, in anticipation of healthy exports.—Myo Min Oo (IPRD) ■

Individual exports from borders top nearly Ks4.5 billion this FY

EXPORTS which used individual trading cards (ITCs) at border crossings reached almost Ks4.5 billion during the current fiscal year, whereas individual imports exceeded Ks36 billion, according to the latest report from the Commerce Ministry.

At the nation’s 15 active border crossings, Myanmar exported a wide variety of goods through seven border crossings, including Tamu, Myawady, Tachilek, Kanpaktee, Reed, Mawtaung and Kengtung.

At those border points, individual exports at the Tamu border gate ranked first, both in its volume of trade and value, reaching over Ks2.2 billion; followed by Mawtaung at Ks1.6 billion; Tachilek at Ks315 million; Kengtung at Ks160 million; Reed at Ks134 million; Kanpaktee with Ks26 million and Myawady with Ks6 million.

According to the ministry, the total individual trade at the 12 border entry points, as of March 2, was valued at Ks40.909 billion.

During the last two weeks, individual exports and imports totalled Ks1.198 billion.

As part of its efforts to boost cross-border trade, the Ministry of Commerce has issued ITCs to border merchants since the 2012-2013 FY. From the beginning of the programme, to date, there are some 1,427 ITC holders operating at the border crossings. The trade authorities have issued 163 cards to individual traders this FY.—Shwe Khine ■

Trade with Denmark exceeds \$119 million in current FY

BILATERAL trade between Myanmar and the Kingdom of Denmark, the southernmost of the Scandinavian countries, topped US\$119 million in the current fiscal year (FY), according to the official monthly statistics released by the Ministry of Commerce.

Between April 2017 and this January, Myanmar’s exports to Denmark reached \$87.925 million, while imports from Denmark were valued at \$31.224 million.

Trade relations between Denmark and Myanmar have increased rapidly in the past six consecutive years, though begin-

ning from a very low base.

According to the ministry’s statistics, total bilateral trade was valued at \$2.869 million in 2011-12 FY; \$4.106 million in 2012-13 FY; \$27.150 million in 2013-14 FY; \$15.259 million in 2014-15 FY; \$32.416 million in 2015-16 FY and \$58.657 million in 2016-17 FY.

Several Danish companies are presently looking into expanding their operations in Myanmar. Most business opportunities in the country are in the renewable energy, water, oil and gas, garments, pharmaceuticals and manufacturing sectors.—Khine Khant ■

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

သတင်းစာများကို ဤဆိုင်များတွင်ဝယ်ယူဖတ်ရှုနိုင်ပါပြီ

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• Market Place by City Mart (Junction City)	• City Mart (Sule Square)
• City Mart (Aung San Stadium)	• City Mart (Star City - Thanlyin)
• City Mart (47th street)	• City Mart (Waizayandar)
• City Mart (Yankin)	• City Mart (Hledan)
• City Mart (China Town)	• City Mart (Myanmar Plaza)
• City Mart (Myay Ni Gone)	• City Mart (Junction 8)
• City Mart (FMI)	• City Mart (St. John)
	• Ocean North Point (9 mile)
	• Ocean Shwegonedine

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Media interviews Hindus in Rakhine State

By Kyaw Thu Win,
Aye Min Thu

THE local and foreign media interviewed Hindu women who returned to Myanmar from Bangladesh, after they were abducted by ARSA extremist terrorists, at the General Administration Department in Maungtaw on 17 March.

Ma Fomila, Khamaungseik village: It was between 8 a.m. and 9 a.m. when terrorists entered our house that day. They tied our hands behind our backs, blindfolded us and ordered us to sit in a row. They beat us with sticks and then murdered all the men. They demanded gold and cash from us, and when they got what they wanted, they took us into the jungle. They ordered eight of us (all women) to sit in a hut. They insulted our religion. They asked us whether we would convert to their religion and marry them. As we were afraid to die, we had to give in to their demands.

The terrorists ordered us to discard our clothes and wear those worn by women of their faith. They then took us to Bangladesh. We reached the other bank at about 11 a.m. the next day. We faced torture and insults from the women of their faith in the other country. To stop them from harassing us, we told



Hindu women, left, answering to questions from local and foreign media about their escape from ARSA terrorists who abducted them to Bangladesh. **PHOTO: MNA**

them we would convert to their faith and live in love and peace together. The terrorists warned us to tell the media as they had instructed us to do. Or else, they would tell the media that our villagers and the people of our race were killed by the Rakhine people and the military.

One night, they took us to a man named Babu. At that time, more than 1,000 people from their faith were demanding that

we be murdered. Babu told the crowd that he would inform the police if we were murdered. We stayed there for some 35 days. We were asked if we wanted to stay back in Bangladesh. We told them we wanted to live on the land where we were brought up under our religion and customs. The government organisations and the ethnic people in Rakhine State never harmed us. We were troubled by the terrorists. So,

we told them we wished to go back to Myanmar. With the help of some Hindu religious leaders, we returned to Myanmar on 27 September. Arrangements have been made to provide us with food, clothing and shelter. I have a child. I want a happy life with my relatives at home.

U Ni Maung, Hindu religious leader, Maungtaw region, said: I found through a Facebook page that some 10 Hindu women were

abducted by terrorists and taken to Bangladesh. I immediately informed the relevant authorities about the matter. The authorities permitted us to get them back. So, I contacted Hindu religious leaders in Bangladesh and got them back. The government also rendered assistance.

The Maungtaw region had a Hindu population between 1,200 and 1,300. More than 400 Hindus from the region are still in Bangladesh. I want to get them back. Ten women and 16 children have returned from Bangladesh. Local and foreign mediapersons have interviewed them. The Hindus have told the truth, but we were threatened on the phone. Thanks to the government and welfare organisations, Buddhist monks and donors, Hindus who returned from Bangladesh are leading a secure life in Sittway. Initially, there were only three or four donations when they returned to Buthidaung. They were kept in camps, as it was dangerous for them to live in the wards. The religious groups are protecting them.

Some 102 Hindus were butchered by terrorists. We want the government to protect us to prevent the re-occurrence of such tragic events. We thank the local and foreign media, as we can tell them the truth. ■

Local and foreign reporters visit reception centers in Rakhine State

A group of reporters from local and foreign media visited reception centres, Myanmar-Bangladesh Friendship Bridge and the border fence in Taung Pyo Letwe Town, Rakhine State yesterday morning.

Firstly, at the reception centre Maungtaw District Deputy Administrator U Ye Htoo explained about preparations in the centre, humanitarian aids and procedures of the camp construction, followed by a question and answer session.

Afterwards, the media group gathered news on temporary shelters for returnees in the centre, opening of the repatriation office and Myanmar-Bangladesh Friendship Bridge.

Then, they also met with people living at Myanmar-Bangladesh border area and inter-



Local and foreign reporters interacting with people at the border in Rakhine State. **PHOTO: MNA**

viewed them. In the afternoon, the media group arrived in Indin Village and met with local

ethnics who were the victims of terrorist attacks.

Later, in the evening, the

media group arrived back Yangon from Sittway.—Thura Zaw (MNA) ■

Moderate earthquake rocks in Pyu Township

NO casualties were reported following a moderate earthquake with the magnitude of 5.3 on the Richter Scale with its epicenter inside Myanmar about 26 miles southwest of Pyu, latitude 18.27 °N, longitude 96.10 °E, depth 57 kilometers about 98 miles north of Kaba-Aye seismological observatory was recorded at 2:29 am yesterday, according to a source from the Department of Meteorology and Hydrology.

Myanmar has had 54 earthquakes during the period from 1 January to 18 March.—Myanmar Digital News ■

Union Minister Dr Myint Htwe attends Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance Board Retreat Meeting

UNION Minister for Ministry of Health and Sports, Dr. Myint Htwe attended Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance Board Retreat Meeting which was held at Evian-les Bains in France from 14 to 15 March and the Union Minister arrived back home on 17 March.

Ministers and officials from donor organisations Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, DFID, Global Fund and World Bank attended the meeting.

The Gavi Board is an organization which is responsible for strategic direction and policy-making, oversees the operations of the Vaccine Alliance and monitors programme implementation.

At the meeting the Union Minister discussed provision of effective aids of vaccinations along with effective management to developing countries from the Gavi, the strategic thinking over 5-year plan of the Gavi to solve the difficulties and requirements from the develop-



Union Minister for Health and Sports Dr. Myint Htwe at the Vaccine Alliance Board Retreat Meeting in France. **PHOTO: MNA**

ing countries. The Gavi Board has supported over USD 66 million to Myanmar in 2017. Similarly, Myanmar also supported funds for vaccination to Gavi in 2017-2018 Budget year. The Gavi has also planned to support USD 60 million as other health support apart from vaccination programme in (2018-2020).

In the evening of 16 March, the Union Minister met with Deputy Executive Director Mr. Vicente Yu and responsible officials at the office of the permanent representative in Geneva and discussed prevention of the hazardous microbes along with the agendas of Myanmar as a member of South Center; an intergov-

ernmental organisation.

And then, the Union Minister met with the President of All Special Kids, Mrs. Joy Tong and discussed care for children suffering from cognitive development across the nations along with cooperation of government, children's parents and stakeholders.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Strong wind destroys houses in Hpakant Township

ROOFS from some houses and a water purifier in Hmawwangyi Village in Hpakant Township, Mohnyin District in Kachin State were destroyed when strong wind and heavy rain struck.

The damage occurred at about 9 pm on 17 March during heavy wind and rain. House roofs were flipped over and around 20 corrugated sheets from a water purifier which belongs to the village damaged.

Arrangements are being made by the township administrator to provide assistance and support to the affected victims. —Win Naing (Kachin Land) ■

Scoping of EIA Study of Exploration Drilling Campaign in Onshore Block MOGE-3 by PTTEP SA

PTTEP South Asia Limited (PTTEP SA), successfully completed the Block MOGE-3 Seismic Acquisition in 2017. PTTEP SA is now planning to conduct a drilling campaign in order to explore petroleum potential in Block MOGE-3. This drilling campaign consists of 4 exploration drilling wells from 8 selected locations located in Thayet Township, Magway Region, Myanmar. The tentative plan for commencement of drilling will be end of 2018.

Under the Environmental Impact Assessment Procedure of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, PTTEP SA is required to undertake an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Study to obtain an Environmental Compliance Certificate (ECC) for the proposed activity. PTTEP SA with third party EIA/SIA consultants International Environmental Management Co Ltd. (IEM) and Environmental Quality Management Co. Ltd (EQM) are currently undertaking Scoping of EIA Study to define project description, study area, potential environmental and social impacts and relevant stakeholders. The Scoping will be conducted in accordance with the Myanmar EIA Procedure (2015).

More information about the proposed activity can be found on PTTEP SA's website as follows: www.pttep.com

Questions and comments can also be submitted to PTTEP SA in writing by contacting the following e-mail address: TinNilarSoe@pttep.com

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Reg. No.4/1435/2018 (16 February 2018)

In respect of "Non-metallic pipes for construction; Rain gutter; railway sleepers of wood; Seals for building and construction; Curing tapes for construction; composite materials of carbon fiber and resin for building or construction; Plastic plates for construction or building; Plastic sheets for construction or building; ceramic building materials, bricks and refractory products; building materials made of linoleum for fixing to existing walls or floors; plastic building materials; synthetic building materials; asphalt, and asphalt building or construction materials; rubber building or construction materials; Plaster [for building purposes]; Lime building or construction materials; building or construction materials of plaster; rockslide retention nets of textiles [construction materials]; Prefabricated building assembly kits, not of metal; cement and its products; building timber; building stone; building glass; joinery fittings, not of metal; boards and powder of inorganic fiber; plaster boards; tar and pitch; Non-metal transportable greenhouses for household use; artificial fish reefs, not of metal; erosion control mats integrating plants seeds; road signs, non-luminous and non-mechanical, not of metal; liquid storage tanks of masonry for industrial purposes; water tanks of masonry for industrial purposes; water tanks of masonry for household purposes; Valves for water-pipes; Diving platforms not of metal; Foamed resin sheets and boards for construction; Water resistant construction materials for water storage and supply; Branching pipes, not of metal; cladding for building; drain traps [valves], not of metal or plastic; Hydraulic pipes, not of metal; Water pipes, not of metal; Rigid pipes, not of metal for building; Drain pipes, not of metal; Pipe fittings, not of metal; Penstock pipes of metal; Gutter pipe, not of metal; Manhole covers, not of metal; Moldings, not of metal, for building; Plastic pipes for construction; railway sleepers of synthetic resin; tiles for building; Composite materials of resin and plastics for construction; Glass fiber reinforced plastic composite materials for construction; Foamed resin boards for construction; Reinforced urethane and reinforced urethane boards; Drain traps; Synthetic resin pipes for construction or building" included in **International Class 19**.

Notice is hereby given that the Registrant claims the colors in respect of and as represented in the abovementioned trademark.

Fraudulent or unauthorised use or actual or colourable imitation of the Mark shall be dealt with according to law.

Daw Khin Myo Myo Aye, H.G.P
For SEKISUI KAGAKU KOGYO KABUSHIKI KAISHA (doing business as SEKISUI CHEMICAL CO., LTD),
C/o Kelvin Chia Yangon Ltd.,
Level 8A, Union Financial Centre (UFC),
Corner of Mahabandoola Road and Thein Phyu Road,
Botahtaung Township, Yangon,
The Republic of the Union of Myanmar.
Dated 19th March 2018 kmma@kcyangon.com

Transferring Distributor for Registered Pesticides

Distribution of pesticides registered by Shandong Weifang Rainbow Chemical Co., Ltd is transferring from Close Friends Co.,Ltd to Rainbow Agrosiences Co.Ltd. Any objection regarding to this transfer can notify at Myanmar Pesticide Registration Board within 7 days.

(1) Imark 240 SL (2) Tancap 50 WP (3) Tancap 80 WG (4) Farmozine 80 WP (5) Farmozine Plus 90 WG (6) Rice Waiter 32 WP.

Rainbow Agrosiences Co.Ltd.
ဖုန်း - ၀၉-၄၅၆၀၆၀၆၀

marketing@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

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The wrong approach

A GLOBAL summit held in 2005 discussed UN reforms. The basic principle in adopting the UN reform program by the summit was the correlation between human rights, development, peace and security. So, there must be coordination to formulate a single approach after taking into account the given correlation in realizing peace and reconciliation after a conflict. The Rakhine issue must be solved in accordance with this principle.

The Rakhine issue is a problem arising out from the two communities of human society with different backgrounds including faith, race and origin. It is crystal clear that such problems never end just by forcedly imposing a solution by a group of foreign powers. The conflicts in the countries like Syria, Iraq and Libya stand witness to the fact. The military involvement of foreign powers not only heightens the conflicts of Iraq and Libya, but also worsens the plight of their peoples. So, foreign involvement is opposed to the adopted principle of the 2005 summit. It is important not to commit the same mistake again in handling the Rakhine issue.

We need to promote the knowledge and thinking power of both communities. Hence, the Union Enterprise for Humanitarian Assistance, Resettlement and Development-UEHRD of the government in office or the popular government is implementing its task in Rakhine State.

workers. The state needs a lot of job opportunities. We need to promote the knowledge and thinking power of both communities. Hence, the Union Enterprise for Humanitarian Assistance, Resettlement and Development-UEHRD of the government in office or the popular government is implementing its task in Rakhine State.

In fact, the popular government is working under the policy of making multi-sector coordination in handling the Rakhine issue. In other words, it is faithfully applying the principle adopted at the 2005 global summit.

Astonishingly, at the time when Myanmar is adhering to the principle, the international parliamentary conference uttered untruthful words saying that the situation in Rakhine State is threatening international peace and security. In fact, the ones who are really threatening international peace and security are no other persons than the dishonest group at the conference taking the wrong approach in trying to deal with the Rakhine issue.

Advancing Responsible Finance in Myanmar

For microfinance institutions and digital players in Myanmar, client protection, financial awareness, and transparency in lending policies are imperative for a resilient future

By Lory Camba Opem and Ricardo Garcia Tafur

EVERYTHING is radically changing in the 21st century. Yet, one thing seems to be constant — the pursuit of sustainability. While economies and industries are growing, so are clients who need to be served and connected to the economy through financial services. Further, there are several options today including online, mobile phones, and apps.

Compared to two million internet users in 2014, today, the number of internet users in Myanmar is more than 39 million. At present, 90 percent of the country enjoys mobile coverage, while currently 80 percent of Myanmar's mobile phones are smartphones.

This high level of smartphone penetration and inadequate access to financial services provides microfinance institutions and mobile money providers in Myanmar a unique opportunity to offer digital financial services to the nation's poor and underserved.

In fact, according to a report by the McKinsey Global Institute, digital finance has the potential to provide access to financial services for 1.6 billion people in emerging economies, more than half of them women. It could increase the volume of loans extended to individuals and businesses by \$2.1 trillion and allow governments to save \$110 billion per year.

The pace of new entrants in digital and micro finance, particularly in certain provinces of Myanmar introduces unforeseen risks for the lower income poor and less experienced customers. These risks include potential over-indebtedness due to lack of transparent pricing, weak disclosure of terms and conditions and ineffective mechanisms to resolve customer complaints.

With more digital channels for delivering financial services, and a growing number of financial players in the market, responsible finance has become increasingly relevant. In Myanmar, 70 percent of its rural poor and underserved are lacking ac-

cess to formal financial services. According to an IMF report, 2017, rural areas have very limited access to financial services with only about six percent of commercial bank loans going to the rural sector. Moreover, approximately 173 microfinance institutions (MFIs) operate in

interest rates are calculated, or the general credit terms. Also, some MFIs offer only standard group loans that allow clients limited loan amounts per lending cycle. This may not be in alignment with clients' financial needs, which is why they may seek additional loans from other

operational risk management for a growing or transforming institution.

Myanmar is well-positioned to learn from global best practices and proactively avoid risks that impacted the global microfinance industry over the last decade — in Bolivia, India, and Nicaragua, among others. Myanmar's microfinance regulations already acknowledge the importance of responsible finance — particularly in the Notifica-

leads to financial awareness.

Further, clients benefit from appropriately designed products and services, when coupled with respectable treatment of clients and data privacy. When financial service providers inspire confidence among their clients, they gain institutional resiliency, and can grow, while contributing to overall financial inclusion and economic development of the country.



Myanmar's ten thousand kyat notes. PHOTO: NYI ZAW MOE

Myanmar, serving an estimated 2.7 million clients, and have a total loan portfolio of approximately \$420 million. While liberal licensing and registration of MFIs contribute to the problem of multiple borrowing, there are many other unlicensed financial service providers in the urban and semi-urban areas.

Considering the increasing number of MFIs, as well as other providers including fintech companies, informal lenders and cooperatives, there is a potential for multiple lending to the same clients. This could lead to over-indebtedness and credit bubbles, as it happened in Asia, Africa, Latin America and Eastern Europe. Further, some clients may not be aware of the fees, the way in which

MFIs. **Road to responsible financial inclusion**

Responsible finance is a core value-add for Myanmar's sustainable growth. It relies on institutional and market practices that enable customers, particularly the rural poor, to make informed choices about how to best use financial products and services offered to them — both by traditional MFIs and digital channels. Core practices involve fair and transparent pricing, as well as a better understanding of customers' rights and obligations to mitigate risks of over-indebtedness. Responsible finance ultimately serves to build customer resilience, and creates sustainable markets through enhanced credit and

tions on Consumer Protection by the Microfinance Business Supervisory Committee. Yet, a comprehensive understanding of potential risks to clients and their financial providers remain crucial to unleash the opportunities that financial inclusion offers.

Clients in Myanmar will benefit from consumer protection, financial awareness, and transparency in lending policies. Earning customer trust is critical. In fact, if MFIs and other financial service providers are transparent, they can empower lower-income clients in several ways. If clients have clarity about the services they are availing and what their responsibilities are, they can make more informed decisions, which

Mapping the future

Given the current context of Myanmar's microfinance sector, there is a growing need for awareness among the concerned stakeholders. Further, adopting good practices and conducting trainings is critical for financial inclusion. Subsequently, it is vital to support effective, responsible, inclusive financial intermediaries, and leverage them to meet development impact and financial sustainability goals.

Currently, millions of micro enterprises, lower-income households, and women in rural and urban areas are excluded from financial services in Myanmar. Encouraging financial ser-

vices providers to reach these clients will be critical.

Given how quickly financial services are moving across digital and virtual platforms, DFS has the potential to tap into this significant gap in the market for financial services. More convenience and better adapted financial services will be a plus for clients, although it will be important to ensure a coordinated market that embraces responsible finance practices.

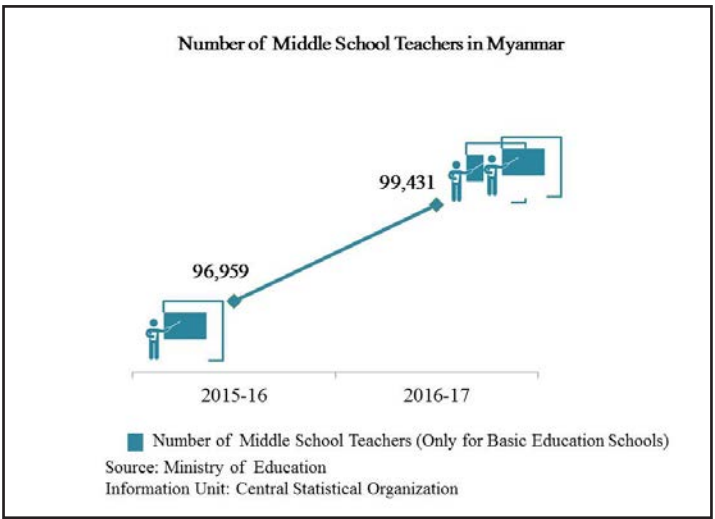
Going ahead, ideally, the supervisory staff from the Ministry of Finance's Financial Regulatory Department (FRD) and MFI leaders can continue to deepen its capacity to implement global responsible finance approaches, develop monitoring systems for the MFI sector, and design strategic plans to strengthen industry practices.

Working towards this goal, the International Finance Corporation (IFC) is supporting the government through a training series. The six-month program aims to introduce regulators and MFIs in Myanmar to best international practices for responsible finance. Launched in October 2017, in collaboration with the Myanmar Microfinance Association, it is expected to reach out to more than 50 licensed MFIs and more than 150 participants, including around 50 FRD staff.

The training series reinforces Myanmar's efforts to enhance the capacity of financial institutions and mitigate lending risks at the industry level. Additionally, with IFC's support, the development of a national credit bureau, following the issuance of a landmark credit reporting regulation in March 2017, will help promote credit information sharing among the lending institutions.

The future of responsible finance in Myanmar will require persistent focus along with commitment of all players in the industry — financial service providers, regulators and supervisors, and industry associations. Going ahead, this will unlock the country's economic potential.

**The authors are microfinance specialists at the International Finance Corporation IFC, a sister organization of the World Bank and member of the World Bank Group.*



POEM:
Life is an unpredictable cycle

Life is a cycle that has its own dimension.
We wish to have a lot of things in life,
But life follows its own path and directions
No matter whether we like it or not.
Often these discourses give us grave pain,
Other times it provides us with unexpected joys.
Sometimes it is difficult to even understand
Why it happened and how did it happen,
Sometimes it is even difficult to accept specific incidents in our life,
As they unfold to us in an unexpected manner.
But at the end we have to accept life as it is.
Because it is a cycle of happenings,
It is a cycle of episodes
That triggers and stimulates our life,
Every minute and every second it its own unpredictable ways.
Think about it
No matter how much we would like to deny this,
But the cycle of life dictates us and our decisions.
Today or tomorrow we have to accept this.

S. K. Basu
Lethbridge AB Canada

Invitation to young writers for Sunday section

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

UEHRD discussion held in Sittway

VICE Chairman for Union Enterprise for Humanitarian Assistance, Resettlement and Development in Rakhine (UEHRD) and Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr. Win Myat Aye; Union Minister for Labour, Immigration and Population U Thein Swe; and UEHRD Chief Coordinator Dr. Aung Tun Thet led a team to Sittway, Rakhine State, on 17 March to hold a meeting with the Rakhine State government on the UEHRD.

The meeting concerned the repatriation and relocation efforts in Maungdaw District.

The meeting started yesterday at the Rakhine State Hluttaw building. Rakhine State Hluttaw Speaker U San Kyaw Hla delivered the opening speech, followed by Dr. Win Myat Aye's explanation on the development works and the establishment of the rule of law in the state. He said the incumbent government has been working on ethnic development, man-made disasters, development of infrastructure, power supply, creation of job opportunities, as well as the de-



Dr. Win Myat Aye discussing the progress of UEHRD with Rakhine State Government officials. PHOTO: MNA

velopment of Industrial zones.

Dr. Win Myat Aye said the UEHRD has been working on repatriation, resettlement, humanitarian aid and end of conflicts in Rakhine State.

Later, Union Minister U Thein Swe addressed the audience and said they were listening

to the voice of the Rakhine people, while adhering to the 1982 Citizenship Law and the 1993 Repatriation Agreement with Bangladesh.

He also said they were taking strict measures to ensure that terrorists or other such people do not pass the repatriation

checkpoints in Taung Pyo Letwe and Ngakuya centres.

Lastly, Dr Aung Tun Thet said they were trying to address the accusations made by the international community, while working with the local residents of Rakhine State for its development.

This was followed by the attendants asking questions about the repatriation process, to which Dr. Win Myat Aye replied.

Later, the union ministers and their entourage left for Indin Village in Maungdaw District to check the progress made in the security and repatriation efforts. The village will station four teams as border security guards.

The entourage then travelled along the Myinlut-Jintaw-Tapyaytar-U Daung-Maungdaw road to view the villages that were burnt down. They then arrived in Myothugyi Village and inspected the security and regional peace efforts being made there.

Next, the entourage travelled to Kyeinchaung Village to inspect the temporary shelters for the returnees.

Also accompanying the union ministers were Deputy Minister U Soe Aung, Rakhine State ministers, Department of Rehabilitation Director-General U Win Naing Tun, Myanmar Police Force Brig-Gen Myo Swe Win, and other officials. —Myanmar News Agency

EU to assist in environmental conservation exchange programme

May Thet Hnin

WITH the assistance of the European Union (EU), Myanmar will conduct a student and teacher exchange programme on environmental conservation, which will involve three foreign universities and four local universities.

Dr Sai Sein Lin Oo, a lecturer from Mandalay University and national project coordinator, said, "Students pursuing a master's in botany, marine zoology and forestry at Myeik University, Mawlamyine University, Mandalay University and University of Forestry in Myanmar, and Germany-based University of Gottingen, University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences in Vienna of Australia, as well as University of Extremadura in Spain, are eligible for the programme."

The EuMuCAP project will be officially launched in October this year and will run until 2020.

Dr Sai Sein Lin Oo said, "The exchange programme will provide opportunities for Myanmar students to study abroad and help promote the teaching skills of the faculty members of local universities."

The project is expected to be beneficial to both students and teachers. In our country, a lot of field research in the related subjects is being conducted. However, the country is in a position to publish only a handful of research articles internationally. We hope the programme will produce more professional researchers, who can present their findings internationally."

U Thein Aung, chairman of Myanmar Birds and Nature Society, said students will be given lessons on wildlife and related plants, including theoretical knowledge, as well as practical works under this programme. "In addition to these, the course will provide knowledge about the habitats

of wildlife, including birds, endangered species of animals, administration of national gardens and sanctuaries, illegal trading of wildlife, international organisations working for environmental conservation, as well as domestic and international laws related to the environment," he added.

U Thein Aung said, "As a biodiverse country, Myanmar needs to produce professional researchers who can apply their knowledge and experience to the field of biodiversity conservation. Students will enjoy the opportunity to take field trips to forest reserves and wildlife sanctuaries located near the respective universities." The European Union has pledged to offer financial assistance and the necessary teaching aids under the three-year project. The detailed curriculum and the procedures for the project will be discussed at the meeting, which will take place in June or July in Mandalay.



Commander Kyaw Soe Lwin of Myanmar Tatmadaw hands over the speed boat to the Colonel of Thailand Jirawit Chulakran and party at the Kawthoung Jetty. PHOTO: KYAW SOE (KAWTHOUNG)

Lost Thai speed boat transferred

MYANMAR Tatmadaw (Navy) transferred to the authorities of Thailand the lost speed boat of Phayam Co. Ltd. that was found floating in the Myanmar water Andaman Sea on 17 March.

Phayam Co.Ltd. lost its Speed Boat on 11 March, 2018 and the authorities of Thailand informed Myanmar

Tatmadaw(Navy).

The Speed Boat was found on 13 March, 2018 near the Shar Island in Andaman Sea.

Commander Kyaw Soe Lwin of Myanmar Tatmadaw transferred the Speed Boat to the Colonel of Thailand Jirawit Chulakran and party at the Kawthoung Jetty. — Kyaw Soe (Kawthoung)

Turkish-led forces seize centre of Syria's Afrin

AFRIN — Turkish-backed rebels have seized the centre of Afrin city in northern Syria, Ankara said Sunday, as they made rapid gains in their campaign against Kurdish forces.

"Units of the Free Syrian Army, which are backed by Turkish armed forces, took control of the centre of Afrin this morning at 8:30 a.m. (0530 GMT)," said President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, who has vowed to oust Kurdish militia from areas along the Turkish border.

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, a Britain-based monitor of the country's war, said Turkish-led forces had made a lighting advance inside Afrin, taking control of half the Kurdish-majority city.

A civilian inside Afrin said that rebels had deployed in the city centre and that the Kurdish People's Protection Units (YPG) militia had withdrawn.

Civilians hiding in basements could hear fighting out-



People shelter in a cellar in the village of Qastal Koshk, north of Afrin, as Turkish-backed forces clash with Kurdish fighters on 16 March 2018. PHOTO: AFP

side and people shouting "God is greatest", one resident told AFP.

An AFP correspondent in the city said he heard explosions on Sunday morning.

The capture of Afrin would be a major victory in Ankara's campaign against the YPG,

which Turkey considers a terrorist group. Ankara launched Operation "Olive Branch" in Afrin two

months ago, saying the area near the Turkish border needed to be secured and the YPG pushed out.

The advance has made steady gains and earlier this week Turkish-led forces largely surrounded Afrin city, leaving a single escape route open southwards to territory still held by the YPG or controlled by the Syrian regime.

At least 200,000 civilians had fled the city over the last week, the Observatory said.

Turkish jets and artillery have been battering Afrin for weeks and ground clashes intensified in recent days, raising fears for thousands of civilians trapped in street-to-street fighting.

At least 27 civilians were killed in Turkish bombing on Friday and Saturday, according to the Observatory, including 16 when a raid reportedly struck the main hospital in Afrin city on Friday.—AFP ■

China-Europe freight train service extended southwards to Viet Nam

CHONGQING - The China-Europe freight train service has started to extend to southeast Asia, as a returned train made a brief stop on Friday in southwest China's Chongqing Municipality before continuing toward Viet Nam. The train stopped in Chongqing to load cargo including mechanical equipment and industrial materials before heading to Viet Nam's Hanoi, crossing the border via Pingxiang Customs in southwest China's Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region. The return train is expected to carry Vietnamese produce, including tropical fruit, rice, coffee and aquatics as well as electric commodities produced by factories set up by global manufacturers in Viet Nam.

The first China-Europe line was launched in 2011 between southwest Chongqing and Duisburg in Germany. Since then, more than 50 train routes have been opened for the China-Europe freight service.—Xinhua

Thousands without power, water after "wake-up call" cyclone hits northern Australia

CANBERRA — Tens of thousands of people in Australia's Northern Territory (NT) have been left without power or drinkable water in the wake of Tropical Cyclone Marcus.

Residents of Darwin awoke to widespread damage on Sunday after the strongest cyclone to hit the city in 30 years swept through on Saturday.

Marcus passed directly through Darwin as a category two storm, bringing winds of up to 130 km per hour and

heavy rainfall. The storm, which diminished to a category one after hitting Darwin, has been upgraded to a category two again and is expected to cross Western Australia's Kimberley coastline on Sunday evening local time. As many as 23,000 homes in Darwin were still without power as the clean-up began on Sunday.

There have been multiple reports of buildings and homes sustaining damage with some having had their roofs ripped off.

Fallen trees crashed through cars and houses but there have been no reports of serious injury. "We do want you to go check in on your neighbours," NT Chief Minister Michael Gunner told reporters on Sunday.

"There has been a lot of community spirit already. I'm probably asking Top Enders to do what they've already done.

"We are going to get the territory up and running and open for business ASAP but we are

operating on safety first." NT Police regional controller Warren Jackson said that the direct threat of the storm had passed but said that the damage caused should act as a warning for what a stronger cyclone would do. "I think this is a real wake-up call for Darwin given that it was in what we'd say is the lower end but it was a category two.

You can see there was a significant amount of damage," Jackson said.—Xinhua ■

China set to become major global specialty gas supplier

BEIJING — China has been a specialty gas importer for over a decade. Now with its own growing capacity to produce various specialty gases, China is to become more of a producer than consumer.

"China's integrated circuit manufacturing industry was heavily dependent on imports abroad. We are doing everything we can to make our own specialty gases over the years," said

Guo Jianzeng, the vice director of the 718th research institute of China Shipbuilding Heavy Industry Corporation.

Specialty gases represent rare or ultra-high purity gases, which have unique properties and thus benefit industries such as pharmaceuticals and electronics by helping them to lower costs, improve yields and optimize performance.

Through years of research

and technological innovation, the 718th research institute has successfully produced high purity NF₃ and WF₆ gases, which are important production materials for semiconductor and liquid crystal manufacturers.

"Our product specifications have reached the international level, not only breaking up the monopoly of foreign companies, but giving China an edge in specialty gas production,"

Guo said.

According to a report released by the 718th research institute, NF₃ and WF₆ produced by it have been supplied to nearly all semiconductor factories and most liquid crystal manufacturers in China, and exported to Japan, Singapore, the United States and many European countries, achieving a 50 per cent market share internationally this year.—Xinhua ■

Dubai Ports World acquires stake in India's logistics firm in joint venture

DUBAI — Dubai Ports (DP) World and India's National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF) said Sunday that they acquired a 90 per cent stake in an Indian multi-modal logistics corporation.

The acquisition of Continental Warehousing Corporation Ltd (CWCNSL) was executed through Hindustan Infralog Private Limited (HIPL), a joint venture recently created between DP World and NIIF

as an investment vehicle, they said in a joint e-mailed statement.

CWCNSL's logistics network is spread across key strategic locations in India covering a total area of more than 400 acres and

providing over 660k TEU (twenty-foot equivalent units) capacity.

The United Arab Emirates and India have intensified political and economic relations in recent years. In February, Indian

Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited the the UAE to boost trade between the two countries.

On Saturday, Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, the Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy

Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces, discussed cooperation and ways of enhancing bilateral relations in a phone call with Modi, UAE state news agency WAM reported. — Xinhua ■

30,000 civilians evacuate from Eastern Ghouta Saturday

DAMASCUS — As many as 30,000 civilians evacuated from rebel-held areas in the Syrian capital Damascus' Eastern Ghouta area on Saturday, state news agency SANA reported.

The mass evacuation took place through two crossings, one in the Hamouriyyeh area and the other near the Water Resources facility in Harasta area in Eastern Ghouta.

The evacuation is ongoing and is the latest in a series of mass evacuation as the people have fled rebel-held areas in Eastern

Ghouta in droves since Thursday.

Earlier in the day, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said Saturday that 50,000 civilians have evacuated Eastern Ghouta over the past 72 hours.

Such process was possible due to the advance of the Syrian army inside Eastern Ghouta, as people said the rebels have prevented them from leaving before and the progress of the army opened this road for them.

The Syrian army said

recently it had captured 70 per cent of Eastern Ghouta, after splitting that area into sections to facilitate the battle against various rebel groups there.

Eastern Ghouta, a 105-square-km agricultural region consisting of several towns and farmlands, poses the last threat to the capital due to its proximity to government-controlled neighborhoods east of Damascus and ongoing mortar attacks that target residential areas in the capital, pushing people over the edge.

Four major rebel groups are currently positioned inside Eastern Ghouta, namely the Islam Army, Failaq al-Rahman, Ahrar al-Sham, and the Levant Liberation Committee, known as the al-Qaida-linked Nusra Front.

The UN humanitarian agencies have sounded the alarm about the worsening humanitarian situation for 400,000 people in that region, where activists said around 1,000 people have been killed since late last month by the heavy bombardment and military showdown. — Xinhua ■



A boy waves as he waits to be transferred to a safe shelter from Hamouriyyeh area in Eastern Ghouta of Damascus, Syria, on 17 March 2018. As many as 30,000 civilians evacuated from rebel-held areas in the Syrian capital Damascus' Eastern Ghouta area on Saturday, state news agency SANA reported. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

10 killed when small plane crashes into house in the Philippines

MANILA — Ten people died when a small passenger plane crashed into a house near Manila shortly after takeoff on Saturday, local police said.

All five people aboard the aircraft were killed, as well as five people on the ground, the police said.

The aircraft had just

taken off from an airport in Plaridel town in Bulacan province, on a flight to Ilocos Norte province in the far north of Luzon, the largest and most heavily populated of the Philippine's more than 7,000 islands.

The Associated Press reported that the aircraft

was a six-seat Piper-23 Apache operated by Lite Air Express, a transport and courier company.

It also reported that all the company aircraft had been grounded while investigators try to determine the cause of the crash. — Kyodo News ■

TRADEMARK CAUTION

Ajinomoto Co., Inc., a company incorporated in Japan and having its registered office at 15-1, Kyobashi 1-chome, Chuo-ku, Tokyo, Japan (the "Registrant") is the owner and proprietor of the following Trademark:

Eat Well, Live Well.



Reg. No.4/1533/2018 (21 February 2018)

In respect of "Chemicals; Industrial chemicals; Glutamic acid for industrial purposes; Amino acid for industrial purposes; Artificial sweeteners [chemical preparations]; Chemical preparations for scientific purposes, other than for medical or veterinary use; By-products of the processing of cereals for industrial purposes; Activated carbon; Surface-active compounds; Fertilizers; Soil conditioning preparations; Cell growth media for growing cells for use in scientific research" included in **International Class 01**;

"Nutritional supplements; Dietary supplements; Mineral food supplements; Dietary supplements for animals; Dietary supplement for livestock; Feed additives for dietary supplemental purposes [not for medical purposes]; Livestock feed additives for veterinary purposes; Pharmaceuticals; Medicines for human purposes; Amino acids for medical purposes; Vitamin preparations; Adhesive plasters; Babies' diapers [napkins]; Powdered milk for babies; Food for babies; Lactate flour for babies; Cotton sticks for medical purposes; Diapers for incontinent; Tonics [medicines]; Medicines for veterinary purposes; Sanitary pads; Breast-nursing pads; Capsules for medicines; Dietetic foods adapted for medical purposes; Dietetic beverages adapted for medical purposes; Cell growth media for medical use" included in **International Class 05**;

"Bouillon; Bouillon concentrates; Preparations for making bouillon; Preparations for making soup; Soups; Soup stocks; Instant soup mixes; Broth; Meat, preserved; Fish, preserved; Vegetables, preserved; Fruit, preserved; Beans, preserved; Berries, preserved; Frozen meat; Frozen fishes; Frozen vegetables; Frozen fruits; Processed meat products; Processed seafood products; Processed vegetables; Processed fruits; Vegetable salads; Meat; Meat extracts; Meat jellies; Pork; Poultry, not live; Compotes; Cranberry sauce [compote]; Eggs; Flavored nuts; Processed nuts; Game, not live; Ham; Jams; Jellies for food; Lard; Liver; Butter; Margarine; Marmalade; Milk; Milk products; Milk substitutes; Almond milk; Almond milk-based beverages; Curd; Yogurt; Edible fats; Oils for food; Olive oil for food; Tomato paste; Whey" included in **International Class 29**;

"Seasonings; Seasonings having monosodium glutamate as its principal ingredients; Mixed seasonings; Condiments; Cooking salt; Ketchup [sauce]; Tomato sauce; Mayonnaise; Dressings for salad; Sauces [condiments]; Premixed sauces; Oyster sauces; Marinade sauce; Teriyaki sauce; Chili sauce; Seaweed [condiment]; Soya sauce; Malt extract for food; Meat gravies; Meat tenderizers for household purposes; Pasta sauce; Sugar; Natural sweeteners; Spices; Vinegar; Mustard; Pepper; Coffee; Coffee-based beverages; Coffee beverages with milk; Coffee flavorings; Preparations for making coffee beverages; Artificial coffee; Cocoa; Cocoa-based beverages; Cocoa beverages with milk; Preparations for making cocoa; Tea; Tea-based beverages; Preparations for making tea; Confectionery; Cakes; Cereal bars; Cereal-based snack food; Cereal preparations; Crackers; Bread; Sandwiches; Breadcrumbs; Buns; Corn, roasted; Custard; Honey; Instant confectionery mixes; Pancake mixes; Flavorings, other than essential oils, for beverages; Food flavorings, other than essential oils; Ice cream; Ice, natural or artificial; Bean meal; Macaroni; Noodles; Instant noodles; Noodle-based prepared meals; Ramen [Japanese noodle-based dish]; Fried noodles; Oatmeal; Pasta; Spaghetti; Pizzas; Pies; Ravioli; Rice; Processed rice products; Rice-based snack food; Rice balls; Risotto; Congee; Spring rolls; Sushi; Baozi [stuffed buns]; Dumplings; Chinese steamed dumplings [Shumai, cooked]; Wanton; Samosa; Tacos; Tapioca; Flour; Wheat flour; Vanillin [vanilla substitute]; Baking powder; Baking soda [bicarbonate of soda for cooking purposes]; Yeast" included in **International Class 30**; and

"Non-alcoholic beverages; Non-alcoholic beverages flavored with coffee; Non-alcoholic beverages flavored with tea; Non-alcoholic fruit extracts; Preparations for making non-alcoholic beverages; Non-alcoholic beverages in the form of jellies; Protein-enriched sports beverages; Sports drinks; Sports drinks in the form of jellies; Preparations for making sports drinks; Energy drinks; Isotonic beverages; Fruit juices; Preparations for making fruits juice; Lemonades; Smoothies; Mineral water [beverages]; Syrups for non-alcoholic beverages; Vegetable juices [beverages]; Whey beverages; Powdered drink mix; Beer" included in **International Class 32**.

Notice is hereby given that the Registrant claims the color "red" in respect of and as represented in the abovementioned trademark at Registration No. 4/1533/2018 (21 February 2018).

Fraudulent or unauthorised use or actual or colourable imitation of the Mark shall be dealt with according to law.

Daw Khin Myo Myo Aye, H.G.P

For Ajinomoto Co., Inc, C/o Kelvin Chia Yangon Ltd.,

Level 8A, UFC Tower, Corner of Mahabandoola Road and Thein Phyu Road, Botahtaung Township, Yangon, The Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Dated 19th March 2018

kmma@kcyangon.com

At least four dead, 14 injured in ongoing Manila hotel fire

MANILA — At least four people were killed and 14 others injured as a fire swept through a casino in a Manila hotel on Sunday morning, authorities said.

According to Johnny Yu of the Manila Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office, four people, who had been critically injured during the fire, did not make it to the hospital.

Yu said earlier that the four injured were “unconscious” when rushed to the hospital.

The fire gutted the casino’s mezzanine up to the third floor.

The Bureau of Fire Protection in Manila said the fire produced flames and thick smoke plume that engulfed the casino of the Manila Pavilion Hotel and Casino along United Nations Avenue in Manila City. Firefighters were still trying to control the blaze that continued to rage as of past noon. The cause of the fire was still unknown.

—Xinhua ■



Smoke rises from Pavilion Hotel and Casino in Manila, the Philippines on 18 March 2018. A fire broke out Sunday morning at the hotel in Manila, the Bureau of Fire Protection said. PHOTO: XINHUA

Five dead in house fire sparked by lightning strike in NE Bangladesh

DHAKA — Lightning hit a gas pipeline and sparked a house fire in Bangladesh’s Sylhet district some 240 km northeast of capital Dhaka early Sunday, killing five people including three children and two women.

AKM Fazlul Haque Shibli, officer-in-charge of Sylhet’s Golapganj Police Station, told journalists that the victims, who were asleep inside the single-store tin-shed house,

were burnt to death on the spot.

He said the fire broke out at around 3:00 a.m. local time in a gas pipeline adjacent to the house of the victims after lightning struck there early Sunday. Two other people were injured in the devastating fire, he added.

Storms accompanied by thunder and lightning are common during this season in Bangladesh. —Xinhua ■

Airstrikes kill 29 insurgents in South Afghanistan

LASHKARGAH — At least 29 armed militants were killed during air attacks by Afghan air force in Helmand province, south of Afghanistan, on Saturday, Afghan Defense Ministry said in a statement released here on Sunday.

“The air force’s warplanes targeted hideouts of Taliban militants in Gereshk, Nadali, Nahr-e-Saraj, Sangin and Marjah districts of southern

Helmand province, on Saturday, killing at least 29 insurgents,” said the statement.

Several hideouts of Taliban militants were destroyed and their arms and ammunitions were smashed or seized by security forces during the operations, the statement added.

Taliban militants have not commented about the report so far. —Xinhua ■

TRADEMARK CAUTION

KURARAY CO., LTD., a company incorporated in Japan and having its registered office at 1621, Sakazu, Kurashiki City, Okayama, Prefecture, Japan is the owner and proprietor of the following Trademarks:

kuraray

Reg. No.4/1929/2018 (27 February 2018)

In respect of “Synthetic fibers for textile use; Staple fibers; Ropes, string, nets, tents, awnings, tarpaulins, sails, sacks and bags (not included in other classes); Textile fibers, yarn fibers, textile filaments (fibers); Padding and stuffing materials (except of rubber or plastics); Raw fibrous textile materials” included in **International Class 22**; and “Threads and yarns; Spun yarn; Textile filaments (threads)” included in **International Class 23**.

KURALON

Reg. No.4/1928/2018 (27 February 2018)

KURALON K-II

Reg. No.4/1930/2018 (27 February 2018)

All in respect of “Polyvinyl alcohol fibers not for textile use; Synthetic fibers not for textile use; Synthetic fiber yarns and threads not for textile use; Semi-finished artificial and synthetic resins; Plastic semi-worked products for use as material” included in **International Class 17**; and “Polyvinyl alcohol fibers use for textile use; Synthetic fibers for textile use; Staple fibers; Ropes, string, nets, tents, awnings, tarpaulins, sails, sacks and bags (not included in other classes); Textile fibers, yarn fibers, textile filaments (fibers); Padding and stuffing materials (except of rubber or plastics); Raw fibrous textile materials” included in **International Class 22**.

Fraudulent or unauthorised use or actual or colourable imitation of the Marks shall be dealt with according to law.

Daw Khin Myo Myo Aye, H.G.P

For KURARAY CO., LTD.,

C/o Kelvin Chia Yangon Ltd.,

Level 8A, Union Financial Centre (UFC),

Corner of Mahabandoola Road and Thein Phyu Road,

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Dated 19th March 2018

kmma@kcyangon.com

The Republic of Union of Myanmar Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population Social Security Board Open Tenders Invitation for developing and implementation of Social Security Information System

1. Social Security Board (SSB) wants to acquire a comprehensive Social Security Information System in Myanmar Kyats. Any interested domestic, international or joint-venture companies are eligible to submit the tender proposal.
2. The project is to deliver an integrated solution comprises of the followings:

- Data center implementation
- Development and implementation of SSB core business processes such as employee/employer registration process, contribution collection process, benefits provision process, claims management process, medical services provision process and e-Money services, etc.
- Setting up and operate the SSB smart card printing processes
- Implementation of software packages such as accounting, human resource management, hospital management, and building and inventory maintenance, among others.

3. The tender forms including Terms of Reference and Tender Discipline can be purchased at the Administrative Department, Social Security Board (Head Office), No (OU- 77), corner of Thiriyadanar and Naykyar (8) Street, Ottarrarhiri Township, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar during office hours starting from 19-3-2018 to 28-3-2018.

4. The closing time to submit tender proposal is 16:30 pm on May 11, 2018 at the above mentioned address. Any tender submitted after the closing time will not be considered.

5. For further information, please visit the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population website <http://www.mol.gov.mm> and inquiry the following address within office hour:

- Information and Communication Department, Social Security Board, Nay Pyi Taw
- Phone - 067-3417925, 3417951, 3417952
- Fax - 067-3417926

Tender Invitation and Appraisal Committee
Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population

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Zimbabwe holds Miss Albinism beauty pageant to fight stigma

HARARE — Oozing charm and confidence, 22-year-old Sithembiso Mutukura beat 12 other contestants in Zimbabwe's first Miss Albinism beauty contest aimed at reducing stigma and increasing awareness about the condition.

Friday's "Beauty Beyond the Skin" pageant was held in a Harare nightclub, making Zimbabwe the second African country after Kenya to host such an event.

Many African countries have a dark relationship with albinism — a genetic disorder inherited from parents who both carry a faulty gene that prevents the skin from making melanin properly and thereby giving it colour.

They are hunted down in some African countries by witch doctors for their body parts which are used in potions to bring good luck or riches. Some are even kidnapped and sold by relatives out to make a fast buck.

Mutukura said she entered the pageant to raise awareness.

"The people with disabilities are always looked down upon even in schools. I have gone through a lot but I want people



Pageant organiser Brenda Mudzimu said she was happy to finally host the event as it was postponed last year due to a lack of funds **PHOTO: AFP**

living with albinism to be brave and persevere in life," the social work student at the University of Zimbabwe told AFP after winning the crown.

"We must continue to advocate for our rights and I hope my win will empower the girl child. People with disabilities must not look down upon themselves."

The contestants sashayed down the catwalk in gowns and traditional African robes and were asked an array of questions to decide the winner.

Mutukura won a food hamper and \$85 (70 euros) — a fair bit of money in Zimbabwe.

Pageant organiser Brenda Mudzimu said she was happy to

finally host the event as it was postponed last year due to a lack of funds.

- Global pageant -

"The pageant aims to instil confidence in girls living with albinism in Zimbabwe as well as reduce the stigma," Mudzimu said. "People living with albinism are talented, beautiful and intel-

ligent just like any other normal human being. My experience living with albinism was not easy. I learnt that in life living with albinism you have to persevere and survive in life."

Mudzimu said she hoped to organise a global contest.

"This will be an annual event which will later be advanced to Miss Albinism Africa and Miss Albinism World because we want to reach all corners of the world," she said. The southern African country has about 39,000 people living with albinism, she said.

Tapuwa Muchemwa, a government representative who was the guest of honour, said Zimbabwean authorities were committed to uphold the rights of albinos. "We as government strongly advocate that people with albinism deserve their right to life and security and to be protected as well as the right not to be subjected to torture and ill treatment," Muchemwa said.

Albinism groups say more than 90 per cent of people with the condition in Africa die before they reach the age of 40. The rate of albinism in Africa is much higher than in other parts of the world. —AFP ■

From 'the sticks' to opera top bill, thanks to karaoke

NEW YORK — Swinging with the karaoke microphone, Lucas Meachem belted out an "I Believe I Can Fly" that would instantly put to shame any unsuspecting amateur who stumbled into the cozy New York bar.

His voice packing an R&B brassiness yet refined with an unforced vibrato, Meachem is no dabbler in bar singing. He is one of opera's rising stars, recently completing a stint as a male lead in "La Boheme" at New York's Metropolitan Opera

— and karaoke was key to his success.

Raised in rural North Carolina, Meachem got his big break in 2006 when he visited Paris for the first time as part of a fellowship and decided to make his move as opera glitterati went out drinking.

Meachem got on the karaoke machine and sang "I Believe I Can Fly," R. Kelly's ballad of discovering personal strength, and so impressed mezzo-soprano Susan Graham that she

recommended him for a part at Lyric Opera of Chicago.

But karaoke runs deeper for Meachem. The skill needed to master it — imitating another's voice — is how he entered opera.

One of four children supported by a schoolteacher mother, Meachem grew up with little exposure to opera, but would mimic songs on the radio by Top 40 artists from Michael Jackson to Aerosmith's Steven Tyler — whose screeching climax on "Dream On" is another of Meachem's karaoke tricks.

One Christmas his mother gifted him a tape of the Three Tenors — the legendary trio of Jose Carreras, Placido Domingo and Luciano Pavarotti.

"It was next to godliness to me that these people could make this sound with the unamplified human voice," he told AFP at the Upper West Side bar where he showed off his karaoke prowess.

"All of a sudden there was this type of singing that I could not replicate," he said. "After hearing that, it changed my life forever."

"Sorry, Steven Tyler, Whitney Houston and Michael Jackson — rest in peace — but you couldn't pique my interest in the same way, because I could already do that."

- Straddling two worlds -

Meachem — who has the strapping frame of a college athlete yet with piercing blue eyes and a natural affability — voiced pride in his North Carolina roots but joked that he came from "the sticks."

He acknowledged that starring at the Met, the most prestigious US opera house, gave him limited cachet with childhood friends. "I could go home and say, 'I'm singing at the Met and in Vienna and London and San Francisco and Chicago and then I say that I sang the national anthem at the Rangers game in New York and they say, 'The Rangers game — that's something else!'"

With his insight into two worlds, the 39-year-old has taken to writing strikingly forthright essays aimed at aspiring singers.

Devoid of any diva-like pretension, The Baritone Blog offers everything from advice on taxes (make sure you pay them!) to his thoughts on feeling out of place as an opera singer when he won a Grammy last year.

Elsewhere on the blog, in what could have been a scene from "Les Miserables," he admitted stuffing his coat with food to survive when he was a student.

He also resorted to calling up food companies to compliment them on their products, leading them to send him packages of samples that would hold him over.

He said his experiences helped in "La Boheme" as he played Marcello, the struggling painter living among Paris bohemians. "Somebody who can't pay the bills — been there before. Somebody that can't pay his utility bill, so it's cold in the house, and he can't afford firewood — been there, too," Meachem said.

"There's a lot of life imitating art in that opera for me personally." —AFP ■



Operatic baritone Lucas Meachem is one of opera's rising stars, recently completing a stint as a male lead in "La Boheme" at New York's Metropolitan Opera. **PHOTO: AFP**

Artist Kyaw Thu Win holds solo show at Gallery 65

KYAW Thu Win, an artist from Mandalay, is showcasing selected handiworks through a solo exhibition at Gallery 65 in Yangon.

This is Kyaw Thu Win's third solo event. He introduced his acrylic works during his first solo show in 2013 in his hometown of Mandalay. The second solo event was held in Yangon last year.

The current exhibition, featuring 25 acrylic artworks, started on 17 March (Saturday) and will run until 19 March at Gallery 65, a contemporary art gallery located on Yawmingyi Road in Dagon Township, Yangon.

Based on their size and design, the paintings are worth between US\$350 and \$700 each.

The art exhibition will be

open to the public from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily.

Kyaw Thu Win's subject matter includes landscapes, historic pagodas and other traditional structures in Bagan Cultural Zone in the Mandalay region and Inle in southern Shan State.

The 30-year-old artist, who studied his craft at the State School of Fine Arts in Mandalay, is known for his trademark drawings and painting style. Since joining the art field, Kyaw Thu Win has held several art exhibitions.

His works can mostly be found through collective art exhibitions. The artist said he planned to participate in at least two group exhibitions of water-colour paintings this year.—Khaing Thanda Lwin ■



Works by artist Kyaw Thu Win. **PHOTO: SUPPLIED**



Mro ethnic youths entertained the audiences with the performances. **PHOTO: MRAUKU (IPRD)**

Mro ethnic people celebrate National Day in Kyauktaw

THE 5343rd National Day of Mro ethnic people was celebrated yesterday at the Lama Hta Village, Kyauktaw Township in Rakhine State where chairman U Aung Hla and village leader U Khin Maung Kyaing delivered opening speeches.

At the event, Mro ethnic man U Maung Zan Aung explained the background of Mro ethnic while Mro ethnic women Ma Su Mon Htun read the messages sent by Mro National Democracy Party (Yangon) in which she said the present oc-

casion is auspicious event for Mro ethnic people. Thanks to the glorious history Mro ethnic people can live with sincerity and loving-kindness and urged the Mro ethnic nationals to unite and make cooperation in the affairs of state and nation.

Then, U Htun Hla Khaing Chairman of National Day of Mro ethnic Implementation Committee gave words of thanks and Mro ethnic youths entertained the audiences with the performances.—MraukU (IPRD) ■

Jewelry Trade Fair and Miss Competition held for 1st anniversary of Mandalay Yatanar Mall



A lady dress in the ethnic costume on the stage at the Jewelry Trade Fair and Miss Competition in Mandalay. Photo: Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay)

AN event of Jewelry Trade Fair and Miss Competition, marking the first anniversary of Mandalay Yatanar Mall was held on Saturday evening at the second floor, promotion areas of Yadanarbon Super Centre, Mandalay.

A total of 50 beauty pageants from Mandalay and upper Myanmar took part at the Miss Mandalay Yatanar Mall 2018 Competition. Of the 50 beauty pageants, 30 were chosen on Saturday while of the 30 selected pageants, 20 were selected on Sunday.

The winners will be selected today, awarding Ks 2,000,000 (two lakhs) for first winner, Ks 1,000,000 (one lakh) for second winner and Ks 500,000 for third prize.

Public can enjoy free the Miss Competition and entertainments of singers Chit Zwe Thar, Paing Paing and Pyae Phone Kyaw at the event.—Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay) ■

MGG, UPT and Zombie score big in MFF Futsal Open Cup

Kyaw Zin Lin

MGG, UPT and Zombie notched double digit, lopsided wins in Group (A), (B) and (C) matches of the MFF Futsal Open Cup 2018 yesterday at Thuwunna National Indoor Stadium in Yangon.

In Group (A) matches, Myoma Hla Thida futsal team trounced YeikThar by a score of 14-7, while MGG won big over Monster Hero by a score of 21-1.

In Group (B) matches, MSJ team defeated YGR Star team by a score of 8-2 while Zombie earned a big win over United by a score of 11-1.

In Group (C) matches, RDZ team beat MCY by a score of 9-3 while UPT elim-

inated the amateur club Family United by a score of 25-2.

The matches played yesterday observed a minute silence for Myo Chit Youth futsal team player Chit Minn Aung who died yesterday morning.

Officials also recognized the standout play of individual players from each game played yesterday.

The man of the match performance awards were garnered by Wai Phyoo from Thida team, Hein Min Ko from MGG team, Min KoZin from MSJ team, Myo Myat Thu from Zombie team, HlaingMyoHtet from RDZ team and Moe Thu from UPT team. ■



A Player from Zombie Futsal team kicks the ball into the net in yesterday's Futsal tourney at Thuwunna National Indoor Stadium. **PHOTO: MFF FUTSAL**

Royal Thanlyin, the apple of everyone's eye in MNL II 2018

KyawZin Lin

AT the end of the Week 6 marches of MPT Myanmar National League II 2018, Royal Thanlyin FC has become an apple of everyone's eye with standing

in the first place with garnering awesome 11 points.

After playing all 5 matches of the tourney, the team has won 3 matches, two draw and no loss.

In the second place of the table, Mawyawady FC has gar-

nered 7 points after playing 4 matches. 2 win, 1 draw and 1 loss.

In the third, Kachin United FC with earning 7 points with goal difference to Mawyawady after playing all 5 matches of 2

win, 1 draw and 2 loss.

Among the all clubs Royal Thanlyin is the most famous clubs to win the League said U Sai Lao Lyian, a Myanmar National League II football fan.

Royal Thanlyin Football

Club is a Myanmar football club, founded in 2015.

This is the third MNL-2 season of Royal Thanlyin FC. City Stars FC changed their name to Royal Thanlyin and based on Thanlyin, Yangon. ■

Depleted Super Rugby champions refuse to raid infirmary

WELLINGTON — The defending Super Rugby champions Canterbury Crusaders have ruled out raiding the All Blacks infirmary despite suffering back-to-back losses for the first time in three years. A patched-up Crusaders slipped to third in the New Zealand conference, raising early questions about their chances of a successful title defence, when beaten 25-17 by the Otago Highlanders on Saturday, a week after a 29-19 loss to the Wellington Hurricanes.

The most successful franchise in Super Rugby history have been hamstrung by an alarming injury toll which has put seven All Blacks out of ac-



Canterbury Crusaders have been hamstrung by an alarming injury toll which has put seven All Blacks out of action including Richie Mo'unga with a broken jaw. **PHOTO: AFP**

tion including team captain Sam Whitelock and All Blacks skipper Kieran Read along with backline general Ryan Crotty.

But assistant coach Brad Mooar ruled out Sunday any attempt to pressure players to make an early return. Read, Owen Franks, Joe Moody and Israel Dagg are not expected back until mid-April, Whitelock and Crotty will return when con-

cussion symptoms clear and Richie Mo'unga is unlikely to have recovered from his broken jaw for another month. "The answer is a clear 'no'," Mooar said when asked if some players could return ahead of schedule. "When they are ready, then we will think about picking them. If a player is injured and unable to play, then that is a medical scenario and we will totally respect it."—AFP ■

USA win sledge hockey gold as Paralympics set to end

PYEONGCHANG — The United States beat Canada with a dramatic overtime goal to win sledge hockey gold in Pyeongchang Sunday, a fitting finale to high-octane sporting action at the Winter Paralympics.

The curtain was due to fall on the Paralympics at a closing ceremony in the evening, capping the nine-day Games that have featured sports ranging from vision-impaired skiing to wheelchair curling.

Team USA topped the medals table, with a total of 36 medals including 13 golds. Canada also did well, picking up eight golds while France and Germany won seven each. The Winter Paralympics broke records with ticket sales topping 340,000. Its other standout moments ranged from North Korea's debut to the many tales of disabled athletes fighting against the odds for

sporting glory.

The sledge hockey final was the most hotly anticipated showdown of the Games, as defending Paralympic champions the United States took on reigning world champions Canada.

In the fast and furious sport, athletes with leg impairments are strapped into sledges and use two sticks to get around the rink and shoot. Canada dominated in the early stages of the game. Billy Bridges scored in the first period and it looked like the Canadians were heading for gold as USA were unable to break through their defences. But with just 37 seconds left on the clock, the USA's Declan Farmer scored to send the match into overtime. Three minutes into extra time, Farmer sliced the puck between two defenders and into the net to carry the USA to a 2-1 victory.—AFP ■