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Union Minister Dr. Win Myat Aye, left, accepts a donation of Ks65 million presented by film director Maung Myo Min, right, in the presence of State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, centre, at the National Reconciliation and Peace Centre in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Rakhine donations prove our collective strength

STATE Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi expressed her belief yesterday that the artistes of Myanmar who continue to donate to help develop Rakhine State are supporting the Union

government not only monetarily but also spiritually.

The State Counsellor made this remark in her speech at a ceremony to accept a cash donation from a foundation

founded by artistes.

"The main power of the artistes is that they can influence the heart of the people," she said at the ceremony held at the National Reconciliation

and Peace Centre in Nay Pyi Taw. "The contribution of the artistes to the country can also motivate and make the people interested."

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Dinner to mark President U Win Myint's taking office to be broadcast live today

A dinner to mark the taking of office by President U Win Myint will be held at the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw at 6:30pm on 6th April.

The dinner in honour of President U Win Myint will be broadcast live at MRTV, MITV, MNTV, Skynet Up to Date, MoI Webportal's Facebook page, MRTV's Facebook page and Myanmar Digital News' Facebook page starting at 6pm. —Myanmar News Agency

UN's Deputy Emergency Relief Coordinator visits Maungtau

Assistant Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Deputy Emergency Relief Coordinator of the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) Ms. Ursula Mueller and party visited Kainggyi Village in Maungtau Township and met with Mro and Rakhine ethnic people yesterday.

The UN's Deputy Emergency Relief Coordinator asked about matters relating to the villagers' experiences during the terrorist attack, the current situation, and needs of the villagers.

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VP U Henry Van Thio stresses need to cooperate with gov't, traders in farm sector

VICE President U Henry Van Thio said the law to protect the rights of farmers and promote their interests is being amended to conform with the current era.

The Vice President made the comment in his capacity as the head of the Steering Committee for Farmers Rights, Protection and Interests Promotion at its preliminary meeting in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

"To implement the provisions prescribed in the farmers' rights protection and interest promotion law, the government, traders, experts and people need to work together," said U Henry Van Thio.

He also spoke about the five means to protect the rights and enhance the farmers' law for their economic welfare, such as supporting them to obtain suitable loans, assisting them with production, promoting investment and technology to increase production, ensuring suitable prices for their products in the market, and protecting the rights and interests of small-scale farmers, as well as offering support for the grievances and losses caused by natural disasters.

Farmers who suffered losses in the 2016 natural disasters were given Ks4.67 billion for crop substitution, Ks4.19 billion for the maintenance of dams and Ks2.47 billion for the maintenance of roads and bridges by



Vice President U Henry Van Thio delivers a speech at a meeting to promote and protect the rights of farmers and their businesses, in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

creating a separate government fund.

With the objective of ensuring that farmers can cultivate crops on time, the amount of loans was increased from Ks1 lakh to Ks1.5 lakh for one acre of monsoon paddy production in the 2016-2017 fiscal year, while the loans for other crops will be increased from Ks20,000 to Ks50,000 per acre. It is important that Union-level ministers, region and state governments, and working committees consisting of delegations from non-government organizations

and private entrepreneurs collaborate together in this effort, he said.

The Myanmar Agricultural Development Bank has granted more than 9 billion loans to 258 farmers in 10 regions and states and 60 townships in the 2017-2018 fiscal year to buy 258 power tillers.

Besides this, the government is planning to give loans to farmers to buy more agricultural machinery for post harvest work and the establishment of oil mills.

In his address, Vice Presi-

dent U Henry Van Thio also honoured the farmers, traders and governmental employees for the record rice export of more than 3 million tonnes, the highest in seven decades.

The Myanmar Rice Federation announced the basic index price for rice as Ks500,000 for 100 baskets on 6 March, as part of its efforts to guarantee the rights and interests of the country's farmers.

Meanwhile, Myanmar earned US\$690 million from fishery exports. The livestock export sector earned \$3 million

last year, and it is targeted to earn \$38 million this year.

Myanmar is an agriculture-based country in which 70 per cent of the farmers depend on the agriculture sector.

At the meeting, Union Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation Dr. Aung Thu and Union Minister for Commerce Dr. Than Myint reported on the current efforts to provide guarantee of rights and promote the interests of small-scale farmers, as well as help them get reasonable prices for their produce.— Myanmar News Agency ■

MRTV, winners of Peace Music Festival, to perform at National Landmarks Garden on 8 April

THE Myanmar Radio and Television (MRTV) staff and winners of the Peace Music Festival will perform at the National Landmarks Garden in Nay Pyi Taw on 8 April.

The move is aimed at attracting local and foreign travellers, said U Soe Naing, General Manager of the National Landmark Garden.

Earlier, performances were held at the National Landmarks

Garden in January, February and March, attracting local travellers.

More than 30,000 people visited the recreation garden to watch the Myawady troupe perform in January.

The garden has seen an increasing number of visitors since the performance of the Fine Arts Department of the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture in January.



Traditional dance troupes from regions and states perform at the National Landmarks Garden in Nay Pyi Taw on 11 February to mark the 8th anniversary of the founding of the garden. **PHOTO: MNA**

During the second performance in February to mark the 71st Union Day, nearly 600 ethnic artistes entertained visitors

with their traditional dance and songs, attracting more than 20,000 people.

For the 8 April concert, the

Nay Pyi Taw Council will operate free shuttle services between Nay Pyi Taw and the garden.— Aung Ye Thwin ■

“Today at this time, we are witnessing the transformation of an era and a system in accordance with democratic principles. This is just the beginning of the democratic transition. To make this transition process smooth and successful, it is very important for our peoples, government employees and civil servants to change their dogmatic mindset and habits. Those government institutions which are lagging behind in the transformation process will need to be put under tight management controls. The country's weak judiciary system would need to be strengthened. More efforts need to be exerted to stamp out corruption. More efforts need to be exerted to prevent human rights violations. More efforts need to be exerted to crack down illegal drug trade. We need to manage public funds properly so that there is no wastage. Measures need to be taken to return confiscated farmland to farmers and to give compensation to farmers for losses they have suffered in accordance with the law. We also need to improve the socio-economic life of farmers, improve the lives of workers and ensure that students gain access to higher education.

(Excerpt from the speech by President U Win Myint at the ceremony to take oath of office at Pyidaungsu Hluttaw on 30th March 2018)

“That is why in the coming year 1380, our Union Government has decided to keep in high regard the need for “collective strength” to overcome our country's challenges.

(Excerpt from the speech by State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi on the 2nd Anniversary of NLD Government on 1st April 2018)

Preparations on to host 19th ASEAN University Games

THE Steering Committee in charge of hosting the 19th ASEAN University Games (AUG) held its first coordination meeting in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

At the meeting, Vice President U Myint Swe, patron of the Steering Committee, urged the committees and sub-committees to make preparations for teams to be able to participate in and win all the games.

During the meeting, some 15 work committees and 17 sub-committees were formed.

The 19th AUG will be hosted in December this year and will see participants competing across 16 disciplines.

More than 3,100 athletes from 11 countries will participate in the games.

The AUG has been held every two years since 1981. Myanmar participated in the 15th, 16th, 17th and 18th games.

The objective of the ASEAN University Games is to strengthen friendship among ASEAN nations through sports, and exchange experiences and culture among students studying



Vice President U Myint Swe addresses the first meeting for holding the 19th ASEAN University Games (AUG) in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA

in ASEAN universities.

“As a country's image depends on its sporting ability, it is necessary to ensure fair play in the games,” said Vice President U Myint Swe in his opening address.

The Steering Committee, which was formed with 20 members on 8 February 2018, adopted six tasks, including providing the guidelines for the successful

hosting of the 19th ASEAN University Games and coordinating with the ministries concerned to get the buildings and sports grounds ready for the games.

The Steering Committee is also obliged to give guidelines on seeking help from foreign countries, non-governmental organisations and international non-governmental organisations, if necessary, and for

holding the opening and closing ceremonies on a grand scale, in accordance with Myanmar traditional culture.

The participants at the meeting reported on the preparations for hosting the 19th ASEAN University Games, the selection of mascots, the motto, types of games and the intensive training being provided to the athletes.

The meeting was attended by Union Minister for Education Dr. Myo Thein Gyi, Chairman of the Steering Committee; Union Minister for Health and Sports Dr. Myint Htwe, Vice Chairman of the Steering Committee; Deputy Minister for Education U Win Maw Tun; and other members of the Steering Committee.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Rakhine donations prove our collective strength

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The donation of Ks65 million by the Hnin Si Yin Khwin Foundation proves that the people are working with “collective strength” for development, stability and peace of the country, she said.

“We believe that this donation is not just for Rakhine State,

but also for the stability of the country”, she added.

The State Counsellor highlighted the importance of national reconciliation for the peace and stability of the country, saying that diverse opinions bring people closer.

Opinions are not the same in people, and people have the ability

to negotiate diverse opinions to build up a unity among them, she said, requesting that the artistes spread the thinking of negotiation and rationalization to the people.

There might be more than one answer to a problem, and we should choose the best one based on the situation and our ability, she added.

She continued to say that the way to the goal can be changed, stressing the need to be prepared to use alternate solutions to reach a goal. She urged the artistes to spread that mindset to the people.

“Arts support our peace and national reconciliation process, and our peace and national rec-

onciliation process supports the arts,” she said.

At the ceremony, Director Maung Myo Min handed over K65 million to Union Minister Dr. Win Myat Aye, Vice Chairman of the Union Enterprise for Humanitarian Assistance, Resettlement and Development in Rakhine State.—Myanmar News Agency ■

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Myanma Railways to stop operating some RBE train services during water festival

THE Myanma Railways (MR) will stop operating a few of its Rail Bus Engine (RBE) trains on the circular railroad during the water festival, according to a report in Myawady Daily yesterday.

"The RBE train services will not run until the water festival is over, as fewer passengers travel by train during the festival. The train services will resume their normal schedule after the festival.

The RBE train will not operate for four days from 13 to 16 April," said U Zaw Lwin, region manager of MR's transport division.

The MR plans to relax its train schedule and will operate its rail transport service only on 81 routes during those days, he added.

The services will be



Passengers waiting to take a circular train on the rail route. Myanma Railways will stop some train services during Myanmar Traditional Thingyan Festival. **PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR**

reduced by half on the festival holidays owing to a decline in the number of passengers dur-

ing the festival period. The MR serves nearly 85,000 commuters on a daily basis.

It will announce its new transport service schedule at the train station.—GNLM ■

22 agricultural development projects to be implemented in Yangon

THE Yangon Region government will implement 22 agricultural development projects with private investment capital of Ks323 billion, according to a report in Myawady Daily yesterday.

The projects are expected to create more than 6,000 jobs for the local people. The exports of agricultural produce are mainly carried out through the Yangon market as the infrastructure needed for

this industry is available only in Yangon.

For the development of the agricultural sector, the region government drafted a master plan (2018-2021), in cooperation with the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCD), based on a series of workshops held last year.

Moreover, the joint implementation of the project

with the cooperation of the government and the private sector will bring about a rapid development in the agricultural sector.

The implementation process should stick to the basic principles, such as market-oriented production, development of the agricultural sector via the private sector's driving force and the government's assistance to the private sector for the smooth functioning of

MRF announces short-term loans for rice traders

THE Myanmar Rice Federation (MRF) has announced that those who wish to buy rice during the summer paddy harvest season in 2018 may apply for short-term loans not later than 12 April.

The MRF will provide the loans to buy only rice. The loans have to be paid back within 90 days.

The short-term loans can be availed of only by rice mill owners, exporters, traders and companies. The statement mentions that applicants must have suitable storage warehouses to match the loan amounts and the quantity of rice purchased.

Those applying for the short-term loans must have at least two years of experience in the rice business. Applicants must attach their application, along with a summary of their business and a recommendation letter from CEOs or businessmen, their business licence copies, storage warehouse location, copies of the storage warehouse assets or rental, and the telephone numbers of the storage warehouse, rice mill and drying warehouse.—GNLM ■

Book festival held to celebrating 90th birthday of writer U Aung Linn

A BOOK festival is being held in Yesagyo Town in Pakokku Region to celebrate the 90th birthday of local writer U Aung Linn.

The Children's Books Festival which is being called "Commemorating a Star from Fragrant Wood Land (or) Wild Jasmine" takes place in the precinct of the Maha Dhamma Kalyarni Sasana Beikman building in Yesagyo from April 4 to 6. "To honour the author U Aung Linn, we will celebrate his 90th birthday by hosting the book festival," said U Hla Shwe,

patron of the organizing committee for the book festival.

U Aung Linn was from Yesagyo. He was born in 1928 and died in 1984. He was a proficient writer and was an accomplished musician. People in the country view U Aung Linn as a classic Myanmar author. His most well-known book A Yine Sabae (Wild Jasmine) and other books are also being sold at the event. The book was awarded the Sarpay Beikman Manuscript Award in 1960, and was adapted into

a film. U Nay Say, owner of the Nay Say Publishing house, said: "I come from Yangon to participate in the commemoration of author; I want both old and young people to love reading and appreciate the power of the written word. That's why I opened a book stall here."

About 15 publishing houses from Yangon and Mandalay are displaying books, especially children books, at the three day event that's open between 7 a.m. and 10 p.m.—Myanmar Digital News ■

Cold storage, high-quality products factories to be established to develop fish, prawn exports

THE government has plans to set up cold storages and high-quality product factories to develop the fish and prawn export industry, said U Htay Myint, chairman of Myanmar Fisheries Federation (MFF).

The cold storage and high-quality product factories will help the fish and prawn export industry earn US\$2.3 billion within a year or two.

"The fish farming zone, feed factories, cold storages and high-quality product factories will be constructed

with the help of experts from Indonesia, Taipei and China. Upon completion of the project, the factories will create job opportunities for more than 100,000 local people," said U Htay Myint.

To implement these projects, the private sector needs fish and prawn species, as well as land. The Ministry of Planning and Finance will provide Ks100 billion worth of loans for small and medium enterprises in the fishery sector.

To develop the fishery sec-

tor, officials from MFF have requested an upgrade of the fishing boats, development of a strong market, promotion of fishing technologies and relaxation on the prohibition on fishing.

Moreover, the MFF has already conducted a negotiation meeting with officials to discuss Saudi Arabia's suspension of fish imports from Myanmar. Saudi Arabia has temporarily suspended fish and prawn imports from Myanmar, according to the World Organisation for Animal Health's (OIE) announcement, following the detection of two prawn diseases. At the beginning of 2018, OIE found white tail disease (macrobrachium rosenbergii) in freshwater prawns bred in Myanmar. The MFF has requested it be allowed to continue with the fish exports, said U Win Kyaing, general secretary of MFF. There are some 480,000 acres of fish and prawn breeding farms across the country.—GNLM



Workers processing fish for export at a marine product factory, Yangon. **PHOTO: PHOE KHWAH**

Yangon Region govt's leads trade facilitation through inland transport development

THE Yangon Region government will make efforts to facilitate trade through better use of inland infrastructure and efficient logistics, said Daw Nilar Kyaw, Yangon Region Minister for Electricity, Industry and Transportation.

The minister was speaking at a market sounding event for Ngwe Pin Le Integrated Logistics Zone and IWT Jetty Link Dry Port Project on 4 April, which will be executed near Ngwe Pin Le industrial zone, Hlaingthaya Township, by the Yangon Region government.

The event was held to explain the tender process for the dry port. By creating efficient logistics, the regional government aims to make

the trade flow easier through the extensive use of the dry port. Most countries exploit water transport extensively for freight forwarding and passenger transport. Yangon is a commercial hub and the Yangon River connects with the Ayeyawady Delta. Ports are located in the east, while industrial zones, such as Hlaingthaya, and commodity depots, such as Bayintnaung depot, are situated to the west.

However, there are no alternative routes that could prevent roads closure in the downtown areas, triggering severe traffic congestion, said Daw Nilar Kyaw.

To tackle this, the Yangon Region government initially

banned heavy trucks, including container trucks from the streets during the day.

The Yangon Region government head is promoting the extensive use of water transport. Water transport is the cheapest means of conveyance. However, Yangon's population has to now depend on motor ways. We have, therefore, initiated dry port plans, she stated.

Shwepyitha Bridge's route is next to Ngwe Pin Le industrial zone. In addition to this, the route is linked with routes to the Ayeyawady Region. This road is likely to be linked with an alternative route to avoid congestions on the downtown roads later. — GNLM ■

Myanmar stalled Yangon expansion plan gets new life



Serge Pun (L), CEO and vice chairman of New Yangon Development Co., and Nilar Kyaw, the firm's chairperson and Yangon Region Electricity, Industry and Transport Minister, talk about a plan to expand Yangon, Myanmar's commercial capital, in the city on 31 March 2018. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**

THE regional government administering Myanmar's major commercial capital Yangon and its vicinity is giving life to a stalled expansion plan aimed at eventually transforming the country's largest city into the next Southeast Asian economic hub, twice the size of Singapore.

According to the Yangon regional government, the public-private partnership project on an 80-square kilometer plot of land on the west bank of the Yangon River includes a power plant, an industrial park and residential areas.

Inspired by Asian greenfield cities like China's Shenzhen and Malaysia's Iskandar, the Yangon expansion project will eventually cover around 15 per cent of the Yangon Region.

Myanmar's regional authorities have established a wholly-owned firm, New Yangon Development Co., with a capital reserve of 10 billion kyat (\$7.53 million) to carry out the project. The first phase of the two-stage project is scheduled for completion by 2020.

Serge Pun, a business tycoon who heads local conglomerate Serge Pun & Associates, has been named the firm's CEO and is supported by four other board members, including for-

mer Singaporean Foreign Minister George Yeo.

The Yangon development project is based on recommendations from urban development master plans drawn up by international and foreign entities such as the Japan International Cooperation Agency, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein said.

The project initially began before the National League for Democracy, led by State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, came to power in 2016 but was re-examined under the incumbent administration.

The region's population is currently about 7.4 million and is projected to reach 10 million in the next 10 years.

"Infrastructure development would be a key to deal with the growing population," the chief minister said at a recent launch ceremony in Yangon.

The Chief Minister added that the expansion project is expected to create 2 million jobs.

The Yangon Region is already Myanmar's economic center, accounting for 26 per cent of the nation's gross domestic product in 2016, according to government data accessed by New Yangon Development.—Kyodo News ■

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Rakhine repatriation

The Union Enterprise for Humanitarian Assistance, Resettlement and Development in Rakhine (UEHRD) is implementing strategies to reconstruct and develop Rakhine State.

The following is an interview with UEHRD Chief Coordinator Prof. Dr. Aung Tun Thet on the present status of the implementation progress and the repatriation progress of returnees into Rakhine State.

(Interview continued from 5 April 2018)

By Thi Thi Min, Min Thit (MNA)

Q: International media agencies report that the Muslim residents in Maungdaw fled because of low food supply and fear for their security. How do you respond to that?

A: Everyone has their own anxieties and worries. My response is that we provide humanitarian aid from our side. The International Committee of the Red Cross is providing aid and the security forces are not stationed in that area. We have done what we can; if they don't feel safe then there isn't anything we can do.

You can't carelessly fill out the returnee's forms. It has to include a family photograph, fingerprints and such. But these were not included in the papers they sent back to us. I can't tell if they didn't understand our instructions, or if they didn't know how to fill out the forms.

Prof. Dr. Aung Tun Thet

Q: What are some difficulties for UEHRD in developing Maungdaw?

A: I don't like to think of them as difficulties. That way of thinking can destroy a person's motivations. They are challenges with opportunities. For example, we want to start building residences for the returnees, but we have no labour force. So we can transport workers from Yangon, Sittway, or other regions.

We also need more media coverage. We need our own people and the international community to know what we're doing. Our people have a habit of doing the best we can, but neglecting to inform other people of it. But now we need to tell everyone what we're doing so they can understand the current situation. We need to clearly define the worries of the Rakhine people too, and to that end the UEHRD has a domestic communications and relations team and an international one. We need to respond to the international media's comments, we cannot just ignore them. We need to rationalize ourselves so that hate speech is not spread and conflicts are not instigated.

We have been ready for repatriation



UEHRD Chief Coordinator Prof. Dr. Aung Tun Thet talks during an interview with Myanmar News Agency. **PHOTO: YE HTUT**



Authorities inspect houses to be used for repatriation of returnees in Taung Pyo Letwe, Maungdaw, Rakhine State. **PHOTO: HTAY AUNG**



Humanitarian aids provided by voluntary youths in Buthidaung, Rakhine State, on 14 November 2017. **PHOTO: MNA**

I'm personally delighted that civilian organisations like the Myanmar Engineers Society and the Myanmar Medical Association are helping with the various works in Rakhine. They do not view the situation as not concerning them. It's also encouraging seeing the youth of the country helping out in humanitarian projects.

The UEHRD cooperates with the Union government, State Government, and the Implementation Committee headed by Union Minister Dr. Win Myat Aye. The Rakhine State Government has a five-year socio-economic development plan with six prioritized goals and the UEHRD has 10 goals. There's not much difference between our goals, but they did not include communications as a goal.

We collect donations using information technology. Our dream is that the 51 million people in the country will be able to each donate Ks1,000 a month. The combined money will be enormous for the development of Rakhine State.

Something else to consider is how the UEHRD can use the experience gathered in Rakhine State to do similar development projects in Mon, Kayin and Kayah states and Taninthayi Region. There also needs to be an understanding between the government sector and private sector. The government sector is strict and operates on a framework, while the private sector is quick to take action. If we go too fast, then we may go astray, and if we focus too much on regulations, we may not reach the deadline. So it's a delicate balancing act.

Q: Is there anything else you would like to tell us concerning Rakhine State?

A: I wish for the public to be aware of the pressure from the international community. Some may consider what's happening in Rakhine as inconsequential to them, but if they're not informed then they will not be able to realize the true situation in their own country.

The buildings are ready, the medical facilities are ready, and we are ready to accept the returnees.

Whether they return or not, we are discussing with international organizations on what to do and how to coordinate for them to return.

Prof. Dr. Aung Tun Thet

I want our people to remember the 'middle way thinking' mindset we have when dealing with things like these. Do not gravitate to any extreme points of view, and keep a rational and compassionate perspective.

It is also our duty to clarify to the countries that are misunderstanding the situation. I wish for the whole country to view the Rakhine situation as relating to them. Even if you cannot make it better, you have the power to keep it from getting worse. ■

THE CENTRAL

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Stepped-up measures to return confiscated farmland

OUR country had a record amount of rice exported this year. In part, this was because more land was returned to farmers and used for paddies. Farmland, obviously a necessity for developing the agricultural sector, needs to be in the hands of farmers, and authorities concerned are obliged to return previously confiscated land to them as soon as possible.

A degree of experience has been gained over the last two years under a new government, and all levels of states/regions committees should coordinate and work with goodwill.

The Central Committee for Reviewing Confiscated Farmlands has amended the policies, work processes and guidelines to conduct works effectively on the ground. The amended policies, work processes and guidelines were distributed to Nay Pyi Taw and states/regions committees concerned for reviewing confiscated farmlands. This takes time, as farmland cases need to be reviewed to ensure they comply with paper documentation requirements concerning ownership and other particulars.

Due to the weaknesses of some states and regions in handling the complaints according to the policies and work processes of the central committee, and insufficient supporting records and evidence, some cases need to be sent back for re-assessment.

At the moment, ministries are releasing the land they no longer require, and the Ministry of Defence has released the most amount of land. Although these lands were released by the ministries, in many cases the former owners received them only after considerable time had elapsed. Some were returned to the wrong persons, while the ownership of some is yet to be resolved between former and current owners. As such, many cases were delayed and not finished. The committee chairmen have proposed organizing groups of officials who could conduct a ground survey to prevent discrepancies in the findings.

Some 6,320 cases of complaints were received by the Central Committee, and they are being transferred to the relevant committees. Of these, the Central Committee found that only 669 cases were resolved and more emphasis needs to be placed on resolving the remaining 5,651 cases.

Government departments concerned are obliged to provide quick and correct solutions in returning the confiscated land to farmers as the Union government is making arrangements for returning confiscated farmlands and other lands to their original owners in accordance with rules and laws. ■

The IPRD; Raising public knowledge and awareness

By Aung Thu

MYANMAR is on its way to democratization and it is necessary for the education level of the public to rise so as to realize that goal. An educated and informed public can make rational decisions. The Information and Public Relations Department (IPRD) is a bridge between the public and the government bodies that communicates the needs of the former and the work of the latter.

To this end, the IPRDs across the country handle libraries, distribute pamphlets and wall posters, and conduct seminars and now they are using new ways to accomplish their mission.

Public centred activities

The IPRDs have upgraded their public libraries to community centres which include a children's reading corner and library, a space for public exercise, and a place for community discussions.

The IPRD in Kawhmu, Insein, Natmauk, Pyinmana, Myitkyina, Mandalay, and Hpa-An District have been successfully upgraded. They have carried out various exhibitions and competitions, workshops, reading circles, and other activities for the public. Furthermore, book clubs, woman clubs, and youth clubs have been formed in 72 IPRDs in various districts.

The centers will be a venue for literary talks, book reviews, support for women's development and education, youth empowerment, and discussing community needs and requirements.

Stocking up on literature

The libraries in IPRDs and other offices have been stocked with new books, magazines and other literature in the two year administration of the civilian government. In 2016-2017 financial year a total of 166,664 books estimated at Ks 306,200,787 and in 2017-2018 financial year a total of 185,237 books estimated at Ks 357,016,404 were distributed to IPRDs across the country.



Furthermore, around 118 mini-libraries were opened up in public places such as airports, train stations, highway bus terminals, ports, markets, etc. for easy access by the public.

Public talks

The IPRDs hold public talks for the community to discuss important issues and to develop discussion skills in the people. Discussion topics include the dangers of drug addiction, youth and job opportunities, and other topics relevant to the respective districts.

Bulletin board

The IPRDs have a bulletin board and pocket shelf that is updated twice a month and informs of the government's progress and accomplishments. Recent documentary photos are also put up on display and changed every month.

Pamphlet distribution

Pamphlets with news of important commemorations, holidays, and special occasions are

distributed to the public. Every year around two hundred thousand pamphlets on the dangers of drug addiction, Independence Day, Armed Forces Day and etc. are distributed.

Rural Journals

A journal for people living in rural areas is published twice a month. The aptly named Doe Kyay Ywar Journal (Our Village Journal) contains information on agriculture, livestock breeding, healthcare, and other helpful information. The journal prints out 34,000 copies twice a month and so far in the two year administration a total of 1,659,930 copies have been printed and distributed.

Educational microfilms

A variety of microfilms have been produced on different topics for the public. In 2016 an environmental conservation awareness microfilm was released titled "Even superman can't save us." In 2017, "The light from the neighbor's house" a film about democratic conduct was released. In

2018 microfilm called "Change" was released that highlighted how reading can change a person's life for the better.

Literature Festivals

To promote literature among the people, a total of six children literature festivals have been conducted across Myanmar.

A Festival for Youth All-Round Development was held in Yangon in December 2017 and one in Mandalay will be held in July 2018. The festival includes literature activities, art activities, sports activities, IT and science activities, as well as book sales, youth education programmes, discussion, songs, dances and playing musical instruments. An

Ethnic literature festival was also held in Shan State from 21 to 25 March. There are future plans to hold more diverse ethnic literature festivals and a national literature festival too.

Compiling research papers

The Sub department of Re-

search and News Gathering (Yangon) was reformed into the Centre for Myanmar Affairs Studies in June 2016 and publishes a newspaper for Myanmar Affairs once every three months. They have compiled research on the 72 reports on the Union Peace Conference-21st Century Panglong Peace Conference, a paper on Anti-Corruption progresses, and Chinese relations and economic influence.

News distribution

The IPRDs have information on their district's news, news on natural disasters, and news on the various ministries' progresses and projects for the public to see and each ministry has its own webportal for easy access to its status.

The Myanmar Rehabilitation News Facebook Page displays information on environmental disasters such as warnings of approaching disasters, rescue operations and is co-operated by the Ministry for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement.

Everyone can ask for news on the weather, unique occasions, and domestic, local news by dialing 1883, the call center hotline set up by Blue Ocean Operating Management Co. Ltd and the Ministry of Information.

A twitter account with the name myanmarinformation tweets news tidbits about the Union Government and other significant changes in the country. There is also a Viber Public Chat group with the name MOI Myanmar giving the same services.

Developing the journal sector

Publishers and Printing houses were once required to submit four hardcopies and on softcopy of their published item to the Ministry but now after some amendments to the printing and publishing law, only six hardcopies are required for submission.

In the two year administration of the government the Ministry of Information has given approval for 1,497 printing houses, 45 publishing houses, 825 journal publishers, 432 magazine publishers, 1,323 miscellaneous publishers, and 98 news agencies to operate.

Developing the movie industry

About 99 movie theatres were changed to a digital format in the two years of government. A total of 128 Myanmar movies have been played 8 times in international foreign movie festivals, and 9 times in foreign movie festivals held in Myanmar. Workshops, exchange programmes, and overseas expeditions have also been conducted to raise the next generation of the movies and fine arts industry.

The rise of the education tide

With many advances in the information, literature and fine arts sectors in recent years, the future looks hopeful for effectively raising awareness and education among the general public. Only when the public is well educated and informed, and have a clear communication channel with the government, then the road to a democratic federal state is within reach. ■

Newspapers to be distributed in turns this Thingyan

THE Ministry of Informations, News and Periodicals Enterprise announced that daily newspapers will be printed in turns during the Thingyan Festival.

While the Myanmar Alinn will be printed on 13, 14 and 15 April, the Mirror and the Global New Light of Myanmar newspapers will temporarily cease printing operations during this period.

While the Mirror and the Global New Light of Myanmar will resume operations on 16 and 17 April, the Myanmar Alinn will temporarily cease operations on those days.

Similarly, the Mandalay News Sector from the Sub-Printing house (Mandalay) will temporarily cease printing operations on 14 April, the extra page in ethnic languages from the Sub-Printing house (Mawlamyine) will temporarily cease printing on 15 April, and the extra page "Today Yangon" published every Wednesday from Myanmar Alinn will temporarily cease printing on 18 April and will resume normal production after the Thingyan holidays. Advertisements will be received at the newspaper offices, which will remain open during Thingyan. All newspapers will resume normal production starting 18 April.—News and Periodicals Enterprise

Guidelines for the public to reduce accidents during Thingyan

1. Be responsible and don't consume alcohol heavily.
2. Avoid using psychotropic drugs.
3. Avoid the use of water balls, fire hose, and acid or similar corrosive liquid.
4. Do not carry nor conceal pointed objects, knives or other melee weapons.
5. Avoid buying and selling of sexual stimulant drugs.
6. Avoid wearing clothing inappropriate to the local culture.
7. Females should avoid travelling around with non-family members and refrain from accepting food from strangers.
8. Avoid staying out late into the night.
9. Avoid taking a rest in secluded areas throughout the day.
10. Avoid consuming alcohol and driving cars over the weight limit.
11. Avoid excessively teasing other people.
12. Avoid swimming or showering in lakes or creeks.
13. Avoid using or decorating items that are unsuitable for display to the general public.

—Myanmar Police Force

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

We could generate 400000 employment opportunities during the government's two years in office

Following is the interview with Union Minister for Labour, Immigration and Population (MLIP) U Thein Swe, on the progress in the second year of the incumbent government.

By Khin Yadanar, Photo: May Oo Moe, Tawtar Win

Q: What are the main duties of MLIP to perform these days?

A: As for our main tasks of MLIP, the first point is that cooperation is being made among the government, employers and employees based on triple cooperation which can foster the development of the country; the second point is that we have started the process of taking population census in accordance with the policies of the state with

systematic approach.

Q: Could you let us know about creation of job opportunities for the people?

A: The first thing to do when we formed our new ministry is that we aimed at creating employment opportunities and reducing unemployment rates at the same time besides increasing per capita income of the country. According to the data taken from April 7 of 2016 to February 28 of 2018, there are some 2214336 people who are holding labour registration. It was

learnt that there are totaling some 2214336 people who have already registered up to now. Moreover we created about 400000 employment opportunities including some 27406 people for Government sector and some 369426 people for private sectors.

Q: How do you manage to help the people those who work abroad as a displaced workers?

A: We have granted some 258 employment agencies for them, as a result we can send some 307767 worker to nine



Union Minister for Labour, Immigration and Population U Thein Swe.



U Thein Swe inspects the immigration counter at the Yangon International Airport.



Union Minister U Thein Swe meeting with Myanmar migrant workers in Thailand.

countries during a period of two years. We also assist many workers who cannot show valid documents in Thailand. We have formed two committees as a mobile team which can issue Certificate of Identity _CI for some 1033174 worker in Thailand.

Q: What kind of opportunities could you create for local workers in Myanmar?

Moreover we created about 400000 employment opportunities including some 27406 people for Government sector and some 369426 people for private sectors.

A: The main thing is that we have already set the minimum wagers for the workers and could exhibit Job Fairs 21 times across the country with the cooperation of local and foreign firms as One Stop Service. Also we have opened up to 13 Migrant Resource Centre (MRC) for Myanmar workers.

Q: How about providing vocational training schools?

A: According to the standard of the National Skills Standards Authority (NSSA), we issued totaling 3022 Vocational Training Certificates including some 2930 Level-one skilled workers and some 92 Level-two skilled workers.

Q: How do you provide a healthy and safe working environment for the workers?

A: We have formed many committees for health and safe working environment for the workers in the 249 factories.

Q: How would you manage to cope with the issues between the employers and the employees?

A: During the two years, arbitration of the Department of Labour has settled a total of 175 cases regarding worker affairs for 2777 workers. As such, they could enjoy the benefits of Ks 760 lakhs plus US\$ 50000. The Ministry of Labour has settled 305 cases and handed Ks 900 lakhs for 552 employees.

Q: How about child labour issues and challenges?

We have taken census with the use of ILO technology in 2015, 2017 and 2018. As a whole, we had collected a total of 28080 household lists. Plans are under way to set up necessary framework in order to wipe out child labour issues in Myanmar.

Q: What is the cooperation with other ministries and organizations?

A: Myanmar delegation led by Union Minister has attended a series of International Labour Conferences and signed the agreement with ILO in order to eliminate child labour. It is heartening to know that Myanmar has been chosen as a Deputy Member of Asia-Pacific region for 2017-2020 periods.

Q: How about coping with legal affairs?

A: Currently, there are some 14 rules which we adopt and with the remarks of Union Attorney Council, bill for safe working environment for foreign workers has been submitted in 2018 Hluttaw Session.

Q: Could you elaborate more about the welfare scheme for the employees?

A: We have settled 10265 cases for medical issues during the previous two years and necessary changes will be made to be more effective.

Q: Could you explain about the process of Immigration please?

A: Our ministry has relaxed some rules and regulations regarding the list of blacklisted people?

A total of 681 people including some 279 nationals and 402 foreigners were removed from the blacklist. Moreover the Ministry has already scrutinized the list of blacklisted people and relaxed some regulations. We have issued visa on arrival (VOA) to foreign visitors from 51 countries and permitted eVisa system at the airports in Yangon, Mandalay and Nay Pyi Taw. According to the bilateral agreements, we have made Visa Exemption Agreement with 21 countries and eight ASEAN nations.

Q: How about visa policy of Myanmar and relaxation of the rules?

A: We have already relaxed some rules and regulations for the foreign visitors.

The Ministry has issued six types of entry visa and three types of re-entry visa to international visitors. Consequently this move reflects a proliferation in the ways that foreign visitors can now enter the country, whether by air, by sea or via border gateways and we can be able to open 17 pass-

port offices across the country.

Q: Could you elaborate the process of Myanmar Citizenship?

A: In two years, the government has permitted some 68 previous Myanmar citizen out of some 117 people to be nationalized as Myanmar citizenship. Moreover the ministry has granted some 129 people as Permanent Residents among some 193 people.

Q: Could you tell us about repatriation process of Rakhine State?

A: We have carried out the repatriation process for the displaced persons in accordance with the bilateral agreement which is based on

We have carried out the repatriation process for the displaced persons in accordance with the bilateral agreement which is based on 5-point principle.

5-point principle. We have built reception centres and houses to accept the returnees.

Q: How about the process of issuing National Scrutiny Card?

A: The Ministry has issued some 817947 National Scrutiny Cards (NRC) for some 14854 household lists according to the 1982 Citizenship Law. As for our ministry, efforts are being made to change NRC into Smart Card and Nation ID.

Q: How about the significant improvement of your Ministry?

A: All in all, I am sure that Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population has been made dramatic changes during the two years of taking office, and we are planning to set up Population Policy for future activities of taking census in order to be more effective. As such the process is gaining momentum. Therefore I am determined to serve the interest of the people to the best of my abilities.—Translated by Win Ko Ko Aung



Union Minister U Thein Swe inspects the immigration office.



A labour official meeting with workers for labour arbitration.



Immigration officers check passports of the cross border tourists.



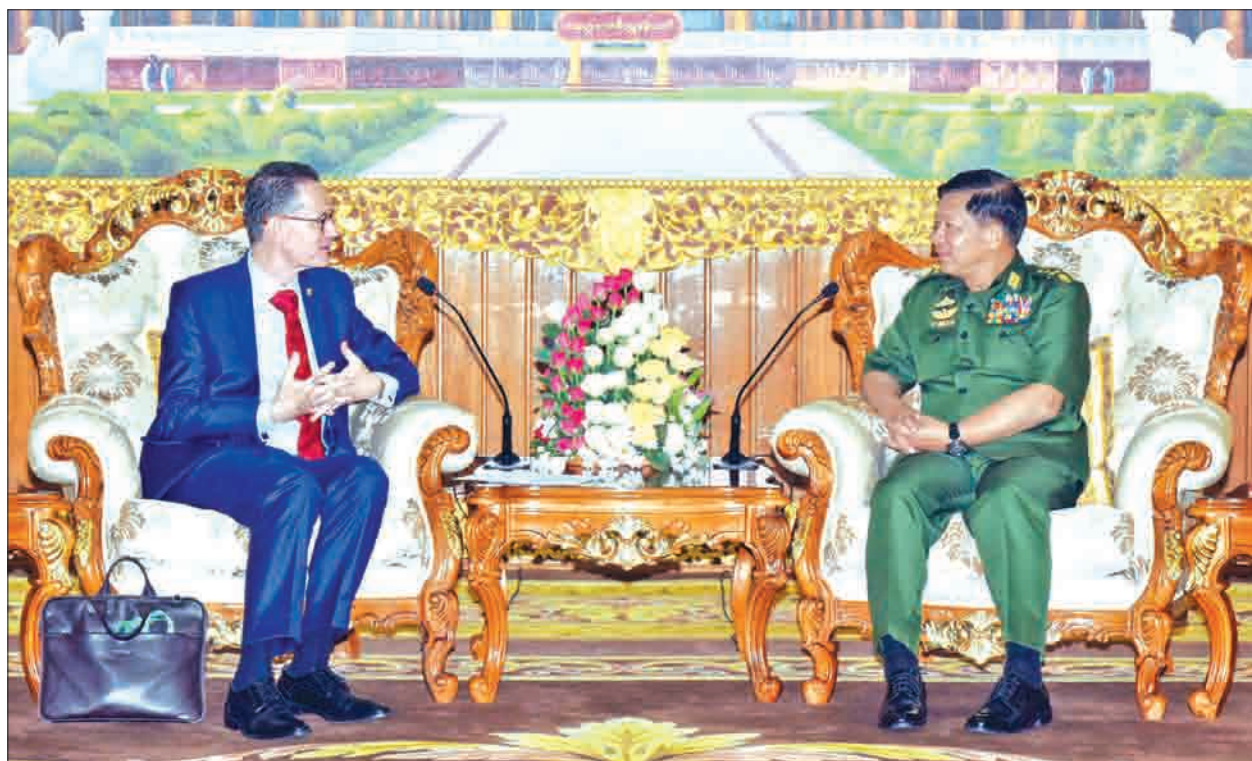
Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population provides documents to Myanmar migrant workers.

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing receives Australian Ambassador

SENIOR General Min Aung Hlaing, Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services, received Australian Ambassador Nicholas Coppel at Bayint Naung Guesthouse in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning. During the meeting, they discussed matters related to bilateral cooperation in defence services between the armed forces of the two countries, and efforts to build the Standard

Army, efforts made by the government and the Tatmadaw to achieve eternal peace, the implementation of the peace process with assistance from Australia, and the situation in Buthidaung and Maungdaw in Rakhine State.

The Senior General and the Australian Ambassador exchanged views on the development process in Myanmar with the assistance of Australia.—MNA



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing holds talks with Australian Ambassador Nicholas Coppel in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF
MYANMAR
MANDALAY REGION GOVERNMENT
MANDALAY CITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
MANDALAY URBAN SERVICES IMPROVEMENT PROJECT
(MUSIP)

Invitation for Prequalification

Invitation for Prequalification No: MYWS/10.0 /01

Contract No: MYWS/10.0

Contract Title: New Water Treatment Plant and Associated Pipeline Work

1. Mandalay City Development Committee, Mandalay Urban Services Improvement Project, intends to implement a New Water Treatment Plant and Associated Pipeline Work under financing from Agency of French Development.
2. Mandalay City Development Committee now invites applicants to submit sealed prequalification documents for Design and Build of New Water Treatment Plant and Associated Pipeline Work to be constructed in Mandalay.
3. Bidding will be conducted through the International Competitive Bidding (ICB) procedures as specified in the AFD Procurement Guidelines. The bidding documents shall be addressed only to the prequalified eligible firms following the evaluation result of the prequalification.
4. Interested firms may obtain the prequalification documents (PQD) from Project Manager, Project Management Office (MUSIP), Mandalay City Development Committee, pmomusip@gmail.com during office hours 9:30 to 16:30hr at the address given below starting from 2nd April 2018.
5. Application for prequalification must be delivered to the address below on or before local time 16:00hr, 31st May 2018. Electronic application of prequalification will not be permitted. Late application will be rejected.
6. A site visit and prequalification meeting will be held tentatively from 10:00hr until 12:00hr on 27th April 2018, at Mandalay City Development Committee Meeting Hall.
7. The address referred to above paragraph 4 and 5 is:

Attention : Project Manager
Project Management Office (MUSIP)
26th street between 71st and 72nd street
Mandalay City Development Committee
The Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Telephone : +95 261631

Email : pmomusip@gmail.com

Union Minister U Win Khaing meets with PTTEP's officials

UNION Minister for Electricity and Energy U Win Khaing met with officials from PTT Exploration and Production Public Company Limited at the PTTEP Headquarters in Bangkok yesterday.

The Union Minister will attend the 2nd Asian and Pacific Energy Forum.

At the PTTEP Headquarters, officials ex-

plained their company oil and gas exploration process to the Union Minister and party.

The PTTEP officials then explained the Sub Surface Data Management System before the Union Minister discussed back Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprise's Data Management System upgrading plan.

Also, the Union Min-

ister and party visited PTTEP Core Research Centre where officials explained the processes of Core Research Centre.

The Union Minister then discussed the matter to upgrade Core Laboratory of Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprise and viewed the inside of Core Research Centre.

—Myanmar News Agency ■

FDI revenue streams swell in real estate sector

THE value of foreign direct investment significantly surged in Myanmar's real estate industry in the fiscal year 2017-2018, a member the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA) said.

The total value of foreign direct investment (FDI) in Myanmar in the financial year of 2017-2018 climbed to US\$ 6.1 billion which surpassed the estimated value of \$ 6 billion.

"The FDI has increased significantly in the real estate industry. It also increased in industrial areas and other service driven areas. But,

the value of the FDI has decreased in the transportation and communications areas," said Dr Wunna Aung, Director of the DICA.

He added that substantial opportunities still exist for investors to put money into industrial, real estate and IT areas. Singapore is the top foreign investor while China and The Netherlands follow in second and third place respectively.

Meanwhile, domestic investment has also increased more than 50 per cent to Ks.3928.1 billion from 119 enterprises compared to the last

fiscal year of 2016-2017. The domestic investment has increased in all areas apart from the agricultural sector, according to DICA.

In the fiscal year 2017-2018 the FDI created 950,000 jobs for locals while domestic investment generated more than 22,000 jobs. So increasing FDI's financial influx year after year is critical to the country he added.

But the department has estimated the value of FDI investments to reach \$ 6 billion by 2020. —Myanmar Digital News ■

UN's Deputy Emergency ...

FROM PAGE-1

Following the meeting, they visited the houses constructed by government for the Mro ethnic people.

The Deputy Coordinator and party then visited Pan Taw Pyin Village, where 22 Islamic families remain after the terrorist attacks of August 2017, and asked the villagers about matters relating to job opportunities, education, health and business.

The delegation also visited Shwe Zar Village where people of different faiths are living in harmony.

At the meeting with residents of Shwe Zar Village, the UN official encouraged them to continue living in harmony and requested the religious leaders to negotiate among them in order to avoid conflicts.

The delegation also pledged to bring international aid and to create job opportunities in the areas.

The UN delegation also visited Hla Pho Khaung reception centre, which is ready to receive returnees. In the centre, there are 625 buildings and each building has eight apartments.—Kyaw Thu Win, Aye Min Thu ■

Two vessels collided in Hlaing River

TWO vessels collided near Myanmar Industrial Port in the Hlaing River at around 10 am yesterday morning according to the police report. A vessel that was carrying fuel from the Ahlone International Port and a tug boat named "Dana Hlaing-3" from Bayint Naung-Aung Zayya Bridge collided in the Hlaing River.

The tug boat was pulling a container of gravel which was 115 feet in length and 38 feet wide. When the tug boat and the vessel transporting fuel hit each other the container of gravel sank in the river. Fortunately no casualties were reported.—MDN ■



Members of Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation pose for the documentary photo at their annual meeting in Nay Pyi Taw on 5 April 2018. PHOTO: MNA

MWAF holds annual meeting

MYANMAR Women's Affairs Federation held an annual meeting at its headquarters in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. Speaking at the meeting, Chairperson of the MWAF Dr. Daw Thet Thet Zin urged the members to effectively carry out the tasks for improvement of women's life.

The number of members of the MWAF reached more than 5.7 million in 14 years and the federation is considered a

human resource force for the country. Also present at the meeting were Honorary Patron of MWAF Daw Khin Thet Htay, patrons of the Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation, members of the Central Executive Committee of MWAF, members of the CEC of Myanmar Women's Affairs Association, chairpersons and secretaries of state/region associations and guests.

"Participants of the meeting are urged to

review and openly discuss weaknesses and strengths of work done of the federation in 2017," said Dr. Daw Thet Thet Zin.

Joint General-Secretary of the MWAF submitted the report on the Central Executive Committee to the meeting while delegates of the women's affairs association from Nay Pyi Taw, Kachin, Kayah, Kayin and Chin states, and Sagaing, Taninthayi, Bago and

Magway regions also took part in the discussion.

In the afternoon session of the meeting, Dr. Win Myat Aye, Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement and Chairman of the All-Myanmar Women's Affairs Committee delivered an address.

Future tasks of the federation will be laid down during the two-day meeting which ends today.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Myanmar-China friends bring happiness to children

TO mark the Thingyan Festival, Myanmar-China Cultural Association (temporary) donated food and gifts to children receiving medical care at the Yankin Children Hospital in Yangon yesterday.

At the ceremony, 300 children were entertained

with dances and songs. Vice Chairman-1 of the association U Maung Maung Myint Aye and Vice Chairperson-2 Meng Fei (a) Daw Kyi Lin donated gifts for the children through Medical Superintendent Dr Myint Myint Khaing.—Saw Thein Win ■



Vice Chairman U Maung Maung Aye presents gift to children in Yankin Children Hospital. PHOTO: SUPPLIED

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V THANLWIN STAR VOY. NO. (028 N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V THANLWIN STAR VOY. NO. (028 N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 6-4-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S CONTINENTAL
SHIPPING LINE PTE LTD

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V EVER ABLE VOY. NO. (0235-479)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V EVER ABLE VOY. NO. (0235-479) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 6-4-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.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 EVERGREEN SHIPPING
LINE

Phone No: 2301185

TRADEMARK CAUTION
Republic Biscuit Corporation, a company incorporated in Philippines and having its registered office at No.57 Gen. Luis St., Novaliches, Quezon City is the owner and proprietor of the following Trademarks:

Hansel

Reg. No. 4/2636/2018
(22.3.2018)

Rebisco

Reg. No. 4/2632/2018
(22.3.2018)

All in respect of "Biscuits; pastries and confectionery" and all included in International Class 30.

DOO WEE DOO

Reg. No. 4/2637/2018
(22.3.2018)

In respect of "Doughnuts; bread; pastries and confectionery" and all included in International Class 30.

FUDGE BARR

Reg. No. 4/2638/2018
(22.3.2018)

In respect of "Cakes; pastries and confectionery" and all included in International Class 30.

ChocoMucho

Reg. No. 4/2634/2018
(22.3.2018)

In respect of "Biscuits; chocolates; wafer biscuits; pastries and confectionery" and all included in International Class 30.

Creamline

Reg. No. 4/2633/2018
(22.3.2018)

In respect of "All forms of ice cream; frozen desserts" and all included in International Class 30.

DING DONG

Reg. No. 4/2635/2018
(22.3.2018)

In respect of "Cooked peanuts; broad beans; processed peas; processed sweet corn" and all included in International Class 29 and "Corn-based snack food; puffed corn snacks" and all included in International Class 30.

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 Republic Biscuit Corporation,
C/o Kelvin Chia Yangon Ltd.,
Level 8A, UFC Tower,
Botahtaung Tsp,
Yangon, Myanmar.
kmma@kcyangon.com
Dated 6th April 2018

HOTLINE
09-974424114

Trade Mark:
09-251022355

‘Blockers’ gives teen sex comedies gender-swap spin

LOS ANGELES — The raunchy bro comedy, with its high school jocks, nerdy virgins and busty cheerleaders, was once guaranteed box office gold — but the trope has become an anachronism in post-Weinstein Hollywood. A riotous new movie featuring a group of empowered girls, rather than the usual clique of sex-starved boys, is proving that you can do gross-out teen sex romps without homophobia or misogyny. “Blockers,” the directorial debut of three-time Emmy nominee Kay Cannon, who wrote the “Pitch Perfect” movies, tells the

story of three parents who stumble upon their daughters’ pact to lose their virginity at prom. The aggressively protective friends — Leslie Mann (“The Other Woman,” “This Is 40”), Ike Barinholtz (“Neighbors,” “Suicide Squad”) and John Cena (“Trainwreck,” “Sisters”) — launch a covert operation to stop the teens from sealing the deal. “We’ve had R-rated raunchy sex comedies before, but it’s never really been from this female perspective, with three young women at the forefront and Kay Cannon behind the camera,” said Geraldine Viswanathan, who

plays Kayla, the daughter of Cena’s hapless dad Mitchell.

“It couldn’t be better timing. It’s really exciting and I’m so proud to be part of a movie that’s funny and that I think so many people will enjoy, but that also has a lot of heart and is very reflective of now.” The newcomer, who was speaking at the Los Angeles premiere on Tuesday, teams up with Kathryn Newton — last seen as the murdered daughter in “Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri” — and Gideon Adlon, who play her best friends Julie and Sam.—AFP ■



Actor and wrestler John Cena — here with his wrestler friend Nikki Bella — is one of three parents who stumble upon their daughters’ pact to lose their virginity on prom night in ‘Blockers’. **PHOTO: AFP**



The Cannes film festival will open next month with the psychological thriller “Everybody Knows” starring Spanish stars Penelope Cruz and Spanish actor Javier Bardem. **PHOTO: AFP**

Penelope Cruz and Javier Bardem film to open Cannes film festival

PARIS — The Cannes film festival will open next month with Iranian master Asghar Farhadi’s new film “Everybody Knows”, starring Penelope Cruz and Javier Bardem, the organisers said Thursday. The psychological thriller shot in Spanish will also compete for the Palme d’Or — the first time in six years that an opening film will be in the running for the festival’s top prize.

While Farhadi won an Oscar and the Golden Bear at Berlin for his 2011 breakthrough film, “A

Separation”, he has never taken the Palme d’Or, although two of his later films — “The Past” (2013) and “The Salesman” (2016) — won best screenplay and best actor and actress prizes.

“Everybody Knows”, which also features the Argentine star Ricardo Darin, tells the story of a woman played by Cruz who returns from Buenos Aires to her native village in Spain with her husband and children. Cruz and Bardem are the golden couple of Spanish-language cinema, and

have starred in several films together including last year’s “Loving Pablo”, about a journalist who falls in love with the notorious Colombian drugs lord, Pablo Escobar.

Farhadi, 45, is one Iran’s most renowned directors, who has made a name for himself with tense and carefully crafted stories both inside and outside his homeland. The film will be released in France on 9 May, the day after the 11-day festival begins.—AFP ■

‘Arousing emotions’ with Bosnian rock a la francaise

SARAJEVO — Even if few can understand their lyrics, including the band members themselves, Bosnian rock fans have taken a new local group that sings only in French to their hearts.

The band is called Jall Aux Yeux, a linguistic play on the name of a small Bosnian village pronounced in a French accent, and their music is full of references to France.

Thirty-one-year-old Jure Petrovic, who writes the lyrics, is the only one among the band’s seven musicians to speak the language of Moliere.

Singer Sanel Jusic simply memorises the words to the songs phonetically.

“I’m like a blind man and it is Jure who guides me on this road,” the 33-year-old school art teacher told AFP.

“It’s the melody that drives me. French is a beautiful language, complicated but melodious, and I have the impression that it allows me to arouse emotions in the audience,” he said.

Although the French language has lost its footing in Bosnia in recent years, that has not deterred fans from going to performances by the band, which

is currently on tour ahead of the release of its debut album.

Et pourquoi?

Like most of his band mates, Jusic even struggles to pronounce the name of the band, which was founded in 2016.

The name Jall Aux Yeux derives from that of a village near the northwestern town of Bihac called Zaluzje, of which Petrovic said he was particularly fond. In Bosnian, the word “zal” (pronounced “jal”) means sorrow.

“Since in our band nobody speaks Chinese, we decided to do it in French,” Petrovic quipped.

In Bosnia, the use and popularity of the French language is decreasing as schools increasingly opt to teach English, German or even Turkish.

In Bihac, a town of 56,000 inhabitants, French is not taught in any school.

So, as a teacher of Latin, history and French, Petrovic has no chance currently of teaching the latter.

He writes the songs in French, he says, so as “not to forget” the language.—AFP ■

Bollywood star Salman Khan sentenced to five years for killing antelopes

NEW DELHI - Bollywood superstar Salman Khan was sentenced to five years prison on Thursday by an Indian court for killing endangered wildlife nearly two decades ago.

Khan, regarded as the bad boy of Indian cinema, was taken into police custody and driven to jail after the sentencing amid chaotic scenes outside court.

But the actor, who denied poaching the rare antelopes known as black bucks in 1998, can still appeal his conviction for a crime that has gripped celebrity-obsessed India for years.

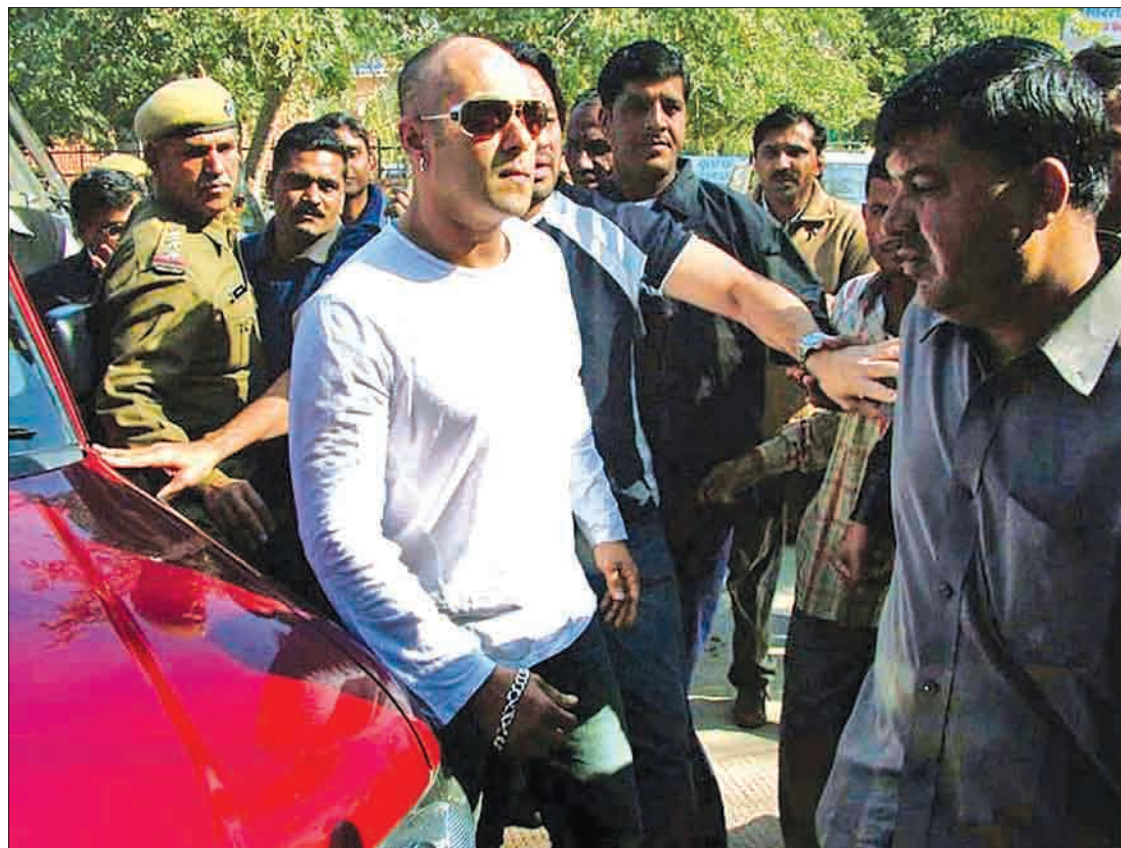
"The court has given a five-year jail term and fined Salman Khan 10,000 rupees (\$150)," prosecution lawyer Mahipal Bishnoi told reporters outside the court in the Rajasthan city of Jodhpur.

Hundreds of police were deployed outside the courtroom to keep back fans who massed to support the body-building actor best known for his macho roles.

Khan, one of the Indian movie industry's most bankable stars, wore black sunglasses and a figure-hugging black shirt as he walked briskly from a white SUV to the courthouse flanked by security.

Four other Bollywood stars -- Saif Ali Khan, Sonali Bendre, Tabu and Neelam Kothari -- were also accused of joining the hunting trip but were acquitted for lack of evidence.

Khan, whose legion of fans emulate his distinct hairstyle and fashion, has accused Ra-



Indian Bollywood actor Salman Khan, 52, has been dogged by multiple charges since undertaking the infamous hunting safari in protected forest land while shooting a film in Rajasthan. **PHOTO: AFP**

jasthan's forest department of framing him over the black buck case.

His defence lawyers had suggested the black bucks died of natural causes such as over-eating, and claimed there was no evidence they had been shot.

Controversial bad boy

The 52-year-old has been dogged by multiple charges since undertaking the infamous hunting safari in protected forest land while shooting a film in Rajasthan.

The Bishnois, a Rajasthani tribe seen as custodians of the region's wildlife, filed a complaint against the actors.

Khan spent a week in prison in 1998 when first accused of using unlicensed arms to shoot the black buck.

Last year he was cleared by a court over the alleged use of unlicensed guns on the expedition. A higher court is challenging his acquittal.

Khan was also found guilty of killing gazelles on the hunting trip and served a very brief stint

in jail in 2006, but was later acquitted on appeal.

Controversy has followed the Bollywood bad boy since he burst onto the silver screen in the 1980s.

He was cleared in 2015 of killing a homeless man in a hit-and-run accident. That decision is now being challenged in the Supreme Court.

Indian courts can often take years -- and sometimes decades -- to pronounce verdicts.

He was also accused of assaulting a former Miss World

and provoked a firestorm in 2016 by saying his workout schedule for a film left him feeling "like a raped woman".

But the off-screen drama has done little to dampen his appeal. The actor known as "bhai", meaning "brother" in Hindi, enjoys a cult-like status with the majority of his devotees, young men who envy Khan for being unmarried at 52.

Bollywood film industry analyst Komal Nahta said the conviction and any jail term would only delay movies but not seriously harm his career.

"He is a superstar whose films guarantee huge box office numbers," Nahta told AFP. "A jail term might affect a few films that are in the pipeline." "These films can wait as they have not yet begun production and at present it would only mean a loss of time rather than money investment."

Khan remains one of Bollywood's biggest draws despite his off-screen drama, starring in more than 100 films and television shows.

According to Forbes, he made \$37 million in yearly earnings to finish second behind Shah Rukh Khan in the 2017 Bollywood rankings.

Both the Khans are among the top 10 most highly paid actors in the world.

The Bollywood heartthrob's latest blockbuster "Tiger Zinda Hai" (Tiger is alive) collected some \$85 million worldwide. — **AFP ■**

'Far Cry 5' record sales buoy gamemaker Ubisoft's shares

PARIS — French videogame powerhouse Ubisoft saw its share price surge over six percent on the Paris CAC stock exchange Thursday, buoyed by record global sales of its "Far Cry 5" shooting game.

Within just a week of its launch the latest instalment in Ubisoft's blockbuster franchise pulled in \$310 million (253 million euros). "Far Cry 5" is now the fastest selling title in the franchise's history, Ubisoft said in a statement on Wednesday.

It pits players against a dangerous, violent cult, and is the first in the series to be set in the United States.

Previous editions played out in places such as jungles in Africa, Himalayan mountains and an archipelago in the South Pacific.

The game sees players immersed in an ultraviolent world, fighting "a fanatical doomsday cult", Ubisoft said. "Far Cry 5 offers players total freedom to navigate a serene-looking yet deeply twisted world as the new junior deputy of fictional Hope County, Montana," it added.

The idea of bringing "Far Cry" to the US was considered early in the franchise, but it was only after political tumult gained momentum in recent years that the plan cemented, executive

producer Dan Hay said last year.

Hay insisted that the game is not a commentary on politics in the United States, while admitting it was developed amid feelings that American society wasn't as safe as one might hope.

"I'm proud that the culmination of years of passionate work from the team is paying off, and that Far Cry 5's experience resonates with so many people," Hay said, according to the latest statement from Ubisoft.

In Thursday morning trading, Ubisoft saw its share price jump 6.3 per cent to 70.90 euros.

On Wednesday, the group said "Far Cry 5" had become



"Far Cry 5" sees players pitted against a dangerous cult in the US. **PHOTO: AFP**

its second best-selling game on launch after "Tom Clancy's The Division", an online role-playing game released in 2016.

"Far Cry 5", released on 27 March, also became the fastest-selling game in the series, going twice as fast in the first

week since its launch as the previous instalment, Ubisoft said in a statement. More than half of the sales were online, it added.

Ubisoft has sold more than 40 million copies of "Far Cry" overall since the first instalment launched in 2004. — **AFP ■**

WLC appoints Fight Globe as exclusive worldwide media rights distributor

FIGHT Globe announced the addition of the largest lethwei and bare-knuckle fighting organisation in the world, World Lethwei Championship (WLC), to its existing portfolio of combat sports media properties on 2 April.

Lethwei is a traditional form of full contact, bare-knuckled fighting that originated in Myanmar. For the last couple of years, lethwei has experienced a resurgence.

Supporting the rise, WLC modified its rules to make the sport more appealing to an international audience not used to the full-on action, bringing together some of the world's top martial artists to compete in lethwei.

"Lethwei is a sport with a storied history, and we want to elevate the sport and showcase Myanmar as a world-class sporting nation. Kickboxing and Muay Thai are more well-known internationally, but a wealth of knowledge exists in lethwei from which martial artists across the world can learn," said U Zay Thiha, chairman of the World Lethwei



Myanmar Lethwei Fighter Thabyay Nyo seen at an international Lethwei match. **PHOTO: WLC**

Championship. "By combining world-class entertainment with the traditional aspects of lethwei, such as a Burmese orchestra, we want to create a unique product, and in Fight Globe, we now have a strong partner to introduce

the Burmese martial art to the world," he added.

Operating from the sales offices in Amsterdam and Dubai, Fight Globe will serve as WLC's exclusive distribution agency.

Sabine Kessler, managing

director, Fight Globe, said: "We are thrilled to represent WLC. Lethwei is uniquely positioned to bring together fans of kickboxing and MMA (mixed martial arts), especially as the MMA organisation, ONE Championship, is

already tapping into the WLC stables for crossover talent. We are very excited to get started and look forward to working with their team."

World Lethwei Championship (WLC) is the largest bare-knuckle fighting organisation in the world, which has hosted four events so far and plans to host five more in 2018.

Based in Yangon, Myanmar, World Lethwei Championship has signed on top fighters in Lethwei and kickboxing for exclusive contracts. It packages the historic traditions of the Burmese martial art of Lethwei with cutting-edge technology in media and entertainment to provide fans a night to remember. Fight Globe is the top independent distributor of MMA and kickboxing content worldwide. Annually, it distributes more than 300 live combat sports events, ancillary fight sports content and hundreds of hours of library content to broadcasters, in more than 150 countries across the world, reaching over 1 billion households.—GNLM ■

Zwekapin blanks University in women's football league

ZWEKAPIN shut out University by a score of 3-0 at Aung San Stadium in Yangon yesterday in a KBZ Bank Women's League 2017-2018 match.

The weather at Aung San Stadium was fair, and so was the play on the pitch as both teams played energetically from the start. With the long hair of many of the players flowing in the wind, there was crisp and tidy passing and clean play from both sides.

The first half ended in a scoreless draw after several back-and-forth exchanges.

Both teams switched playing styles in the second half, with better tackling and a mix of long and short-distance plays.

Zwekapin finally broke the ice at the 70-minute mark when Lae Lae Hlaing scored.

The goal seemed to give



Zwekapin's striker tries to headbutt while University team's Goalie intervenes in yesterday's KBZ Bank's Women League match at Aung San Stadium. **PHOTO: MWL**

the Zwekapin team a lift, as evidenced by Lae Lae Hlaing's skillful score a short time later. In the last minutes of the match, Zwekapin changed to a defensive

style of play, but that did not stop Zwekapin star Than Than Htwe from scoring the third and final goal of the match for her team.—Kyaw Zin Lin ■

Defending champion Shan to play Southern today

MPT Myanmar National League defending champions Shan United will play Southern Myanmar FC today at the Stadium in Mawlamyine.

A Southern player was cautiously optimistic about his team's chances for a victory.

"Last year, we lost in both matches. But we hope the result is different this year. As we are the home team, we have prepared the best of ours for our fans. Although the team is not in the best shape, we will make the best of it," said Kaung Sithu, the striker for Southern Myanmar.

In contrast, the coach of Shan United was confident about a win for his team today.

"We will take the victory in this match to celebrate the happiness of our Myanmar New Year (Thingyan). We will more carry out the better result after Thingyan. The team is being shaped with our Unity mind of coaches and players to reach the top of the table", said U Aung Kyaw Htun, head coach of Shan United.

The match will be broadcast live on MRTV Sport starting at 3:30pm.—Kyaw Zin Lin ■