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VP U Henry Van Thio shaking hands with an artiste at the National Landmarks Garden in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY

Vice President U Henry Van Thio and wife visit National Landmarks Garden

AN entertainment programme was staged from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the National Landmarks Garden (Nay Pyi Taw) yesterday, where cultural heritage, customs, lifestyle, development and the natural beauty of the ethnic peoples of Myanmar were on display.

Vice President U Henry Van

Thio and his wife Dr Shwe Hlwan enjoyed the programme staged by the Myanma Radio and Television (MRTV) band, along with vocalists and prize winners of the Peace Music Festival.

Also present were Union Minister for Information Dr Pe Myint, Union Minister for Natural Resources and Environmen-

tal Conservation U Ohn Win, Union Minister for Industry U Khin Maung Cho, Union Minister for Ethnic Affairs Nai Thet Lwin and Deputy Minister U Aung Hla Tun, along with their wives, officials, and visitors to the garden.

The Vice President and his wife arrived at the garden in the morning and were entertained

by vocalists singing to the accompaniment of the MRTV band.

After the entertainment programmes, the VP and his wife cordially conversed with vocalists, musicians and a few people from the audience.

Spread across 400 acres, the garden showcases Myanmar's grandest sites in miniature form.

It's a mini replica of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar. One can hop aboard a golf cart and zip from Kachin State to Mandalay, down to Yangon and beyond, while taking in the diminutive versions of Golden Rock, Inle Lake and Shwedagon Pagoda at the garden—Myanmar News Agency ■

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Equality, unity vital for peace

UNION Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Win Myat Aye paid his respects and presented offertories to the Sayadaw of Central Missionary School in Laukkai, Kokang Self-Administered Zone, in northern Shan State yesterday morning.

During a meeting with U Kyauk Htechan, chairman of the leading body, and members of the zone, the Union Minister said the government is prioritising the rule of law and socio-economic progress while striving for peace and development. He visited the area as a means of implementing the agreements of the Union Peace Conference-21st Century Panglong. Cooperation is required to resettle victims of conflicts. Members of the leading body should get in touch with the Shan State government. The Union Government will do its best, he said. U Kyauk Htechan explained the education, health and social endeavours and requirements. MP U Kyaw Ni Naing explained the resettlement plan for people



Dr. Win Myat Aye meets with members of the Central Missionary School in Laukkai, Kokang Self-Administered Zone. **PHOTO: MNA**

displaced by armed conflicts in 2015. The Union Minister looked into the requirements.

The Union Minister and the delegation held a meeting with members of the leading body, departmental personnel, social or-

ganisations and the local people. The Union Minister expressed pleasure in seeing the unity in the Kokang Self-Administered Zone. He said the government will fulfil the public needs, especially the requirements for peace and

progress. "Peace can be achieved through equality and unity. Laws, rules, directives and procedures are being rewritten or amended to become more people-friendly and fairer. The government, the Hluttaw and the people will join

hands to carry out the rehabilitation task in the zone. Social organisations are the reliable force in fulfilling the public's needs. All should strive with confidence for the emergence of the union under the federal system," he noted.

The Union Minister presented Ks 31.4 million and 12,000 sheets of tin roofs worth Ks 144 million for the rehabilitation programme of 657 displaced families.

He then inspected the construction of homes for the displaced persons and the opening of temporary camps in Laukkai. The Union Minister inspected the route to build a detour, the projected place for the Myanmar-China special economic zone, pre-primary school of the Chinshwehaw youth association in Chinshwehaw and the projected site for a new bridge in Kunlong. The Union Minister was accompanied by Bama Ethnic Affairs Minister of Shan State Dr Aung Than Maung, MPs representing the zone and other officials.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Myanmar delegates attend ASEAN Finance Ministers' and Central Banks Governors' meeting

DEPUTY Minister for Planning and Finance U Maung Maung Win and Deputy Governor of the Central Bank of Myanmar U Soe Thein attended the fourth ASEAN Finance Ministers' and Central Banks Governors' meeting in Singapore from 2 to 6 April. At the meeting, international organisations presented the global, Asian and ASEAN's economy and vision and exchanged views with finance

ministers and central bank governors. The Myanmar delegates also took part in discussions on the free movement of capital, investment market, freedom of financial services, insurance, customs, banking, all-inclusive financial affairs, payments and accounts, the Chiang Mai Agreement and the Asian bond market. Thailand will host the meeting in 2019.—Myanmar News Agency ■



Participants of the ASEAN Finance Ministers' and Central Banks Governors' meeting in Singapore. **PHOTO: MNA**

IDP camps closed; resettlement underway in Rakhine

TWO deputy ministers visited Nidin Village's internally displaced persons (IDP) camp in Kyauktaw Township, Rakhine State, on 5 April, where they explained the resettlement programmes and the plan to close the IDP camp.

During their meeting with those in-charge and residents

of the camp, Deputy Minister of the State Counsellor's Office U Khin Maung Tin and Deputy Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement U Soe Aung elaborated on the teacher reinforcement plan in the schools, higher learning pursuance plans for students who passed the matriculation ex-

amination, the station hospital extension plan at Khaungtok Village in Kyauktaw Township, vocational education plans and the national verification card issuance plan at the camp.

The deputy ministers were accompanied by Rakhine State Security and Border Affairs Minister Col Phone Tint

and other officials, where 581 people from 85 households are living.

The plan to close the camp is underway, and Director of Implementation Committee on Recommendations on Rakhine State Dr Aung Thurein met with those in-charge and residents of Khaung Dokka camps

1 and 2 in Sittway Township the next day and discussed closure plans.

The committee, while prioritising the camp closure plan, is working to close the Thekebyin camp in Sittway, Taungpaw camp in Myebon and Nidin camp in Kyauktaw.—Myo Myint ■

“ We have much to carry on fulfilling the hopes and needs of the people of the country. We must press on until our citizens have their dignity raised and our country can retain its former glory on the global stage.

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

“ We have many opportunities to learn in order to overcome and eliminate the evil legacies of the past and to fulfill the aspirations for the future of the nation. We know how much loving kindness, truth and bravery are needed; how greed, anger and ignorance can impact negatively. We have learnt the importance of having good friends. The most important lesson we learned is the value of understanding and unqualified support of our people.

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

Union Minister for International Cooperation delivers a statement at the 18th Mid-term Ministerial Conference of the Non-Aligned Movement held in Baku

UNION Minister for International Cooperation U Kyaw Tin has participated at the 18th Mid-term Ministerial Conference of the Non-Aligned Movement held in Baku, Azerbaijan from 5 to 6 April 2018 and delivered a statement during the interactive debate under the theme “Promoting International Peace and Security for Sustainable Development”. The Ministerial Meeting was chaired by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Azerbaijan and attended by 120 Member States of the Movement and 17 observer States and 10 international organizations.

Union Minister U Kyaw Tin took part in the interactive debate of the ministerial meeting on 5th April 2018 emphasizing the importance for the Movement to maintain the unity and solidarity among its membership adhering to its guiding principles and objectives, particularly respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of all nations; refraining from the interference in the internal affairs of the countries; settlement of disputes by peaceful means; and refraining from acts of aggression or threats or the use of force against any country. He also apprised the Meeting of the progress in Myanmar efforts on national reconciliation and peace process, and in resolving the situation in Rakhine State.

The Union Minister underscored the important nexus between peace and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals citing the reason that as the history of countless countries, including Myanmar, illustrates, conflict and instability have had a lasting impact on a country's development. The Movement must continue to work on consensus basis, speak with one voice and remain united as a group in addressing the major issues of concerns to all



Union Minister U Kyaw Tin attends the 18th Mid-term Ministerial Conference of the Non-Aligned Movement in Baku, Azerbaijan. **PHOTO: MIC**

Member States. The Movement must not encourage misuse of the forum for any act inimical to other fellow member States which could undermine the unity and solidarity of the Movement. Any dispute among member states, he added, must be resolved bilaterally by peaceful means.

In his briefing relating to Myanmar, the Union Minister explained that Myanmar, as a founding member of the Non-Aligned Movement, has faithfully adhered to those principles. Myanmar has undergone remarkable changes and democratic transformation in recent years. Recognizing peace as the prerequisite and enabler for the development, the Government has revitalized the peace process with numerous ethnic armed groups to end the internal armed conflicts. Thirty-seven key principles for a future democratic federal union were agreed during the second session of the Union Peace Conference in May last year. Two more ethnic armed groups came on board to sign the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA) last February bringing the total number of signatories to ten, marking a new milestone in the

direction of peace.

The Union Minister also explained about the issue of Rakhine State which, he said, has become the centre of the world's attention due to incessant media reports portraying it as a religious issue. Myanmar fully shares the concern over the humanitarian situation of all affected communities which was in fact ignited by the coordinated attacks by ARSA terrorists against 30 border security posts on 25 August 2017. Many overlooked this fact as well as the sufferings, insecurity and fears of Rakhine and many other ethnic minorities. Massive displacements were caused not only by violence involved in the fight against terrorists but also by fear, intimidation and persuasion of the terror group. In fact, the Rakhine problem is not an issue of religious discrimination as widely portrayed, but it is a political and economic issue involving illegal migration, resource competition, poverty, citizenship issue, rule of law and national security. The Government is fully committed to find a sustainable solution that would lead to peace, stability and development for all communities

within the State.

The Union Minister further elaborated that the Government has been implementing the recommendations of the Kofi Annan Commission through formation of a Ministerial-level implementation committee, an Advisory Board comprised of local and foreign eminent personalities and the Union Enterprise for Humanitarian Assistance, Resettlement and Development in Rakhine (UEHRD). Myanmar is working bilaterally with Bangladesh for early repatriation of the displaced people of Rakhine State through a joint working group following the signing of a number of agreements between the two countries since 23 November last year. Myanmar has sent back a list of hundreds of peoples which the government was able to verify, even though the forms received from Bangladesh are not in conformity with the agreed prescribed form for repatriation. Myanmar side is ready to receive verified returnees back any time.

The Government has also put in place an effective mechanism to deliver humanitarian assistance to all affected communities through Red Cross Movement and AHA Centre, WFP and FAO. The Government has proposed a draft MOU to UNDP and UNHCR to jointly assist the Government's efforts in carrying out livelihood development for all communities in Rakhine State and for repatriation and resettlement of the displaced persons respectively.

The Union Minister urged the members of the Movement to take a more positive approach by helping Myanmar to resolve the issue, rather than focusing on criticism, condemnation and hate narratives. Mishandling of the issue could trigger chaos, insta-

bility and tamper social harmony in the multi-religious country. It could even undermine the ongoing democratization process of Myanmar. It is important to focus on resolving the situation, not inflaming the situation and on helping Myanmar in bringing the communities together instead of driving them further apart. The Union Minister also pointed out the injustice, unfairness and inequalities of the current world order and the monopolization of the news media by the rich and powerful and warned that unbalanced reporting and spread of fake news could negatively influence policy decisions to the peril of less developed or weaker member States whose views and narratives are faced with suppression.

He concluded by urging the Non-Aligned Movement to work together in unity and solidarity to strengthen the group and to shape a more equitable and better world in order to realize lasting peace, social justice and to achieve sustainable development.

The Conference adopted the Final Document, Baku Declaration, Declaration on Palestine and General report.

The Ministerial Meeting was preceded by Senior Officials Meeting on 3 and 4 April.

During his stay in Baku, the Union Minister held bilateral meetings with Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Minister of People's Power for Foreign Affairs of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, the current Chair of the NAM, and the heads of delegations of Singapore, Cuba and India. The Myanmar delegation arrived back Yangon 8 April 2018. —Ministry of International Cooperation ■

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Cross-border imports from Lwejel point decline slightly

THE import value of trade between Myanmar and China via the Lwejel border trade camp before the end of the 2017-2018 fiscal year (FY) declined by US\$2.5 million, compared with the same period last FY, according to the Commerce Ministry.

Over the past 357 days of the 2017-18 FY, China imported commodities worth \$13.04 million from Myanmar through Lwejel, while exports to China were valued at \$208.95 million. Despite a decrease in the import value at Lwejel border, the total trade value saw an increase of some \$27 million, compared with the last FY.

Myanmar conducts border trade with China mainly through Muse, Lwejel, Kanpikete, Chinshwehaw and Kengtung. Of these, the

Muse 105 mile border trade zone. **PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR**

Muse border sees the largest volume and value in terms of border trade.

According to the ministry's official statistics, as of 23 March, the value of trade across all border points reached \$8.27

billion, registering an increase of \$679 million in comparison with the previous FY.

Myanmar predominately exports agricultural products, fishery products, mining products, forest products and indus-

trial goods. It imports personal goods, industrial raw materials, construction equipment, automobiles and capital goods from China, Japan, India, Indonesia, Germany, France and Hong Kong.—Shwe Khine ■

Myanmar-Malaysia trade exceeds \$930 million in 2017-18 FY

BILATERAL trade between Myanmar and Malaysia reached US\$931.49 million before the end of the 2017-18 fiscal year (FY), according to the Commerce Ministry's monthly data report.

The total trade between the two states, as of this January, included \$168 million in exports and \$762 million in imports. My-

anmar imports oil, consumer products, intermediate goods, plastic ware, chemicals, stone and glass, footwear, minerals, metals, construction appliances, wire, medical products and electronic devices, among other things, from Malaysia. Its exports to the Southeast Asian country include rubber, marine

products, clothes, forest products and some agricultural commodities.

The Commerce Ministry's yearly statistics show that the Myanmar-Malaysia bilateral trade was valued at \$980 million in the 2016-17 FY, \$750 million in the 2015-16 FY, more than \$1 billion in the 2014-15 FY, \$948

million in the 2013-14 FY, \$458 million in the 2012-13 FY and \$455 million in the 2011-12 FY. According to the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration, Malaysia's investment in Myanmar reached \$21.377 million from five projects in the first 10 months of the 2017-18 FY.—Khine Khant ■

CRIME NEWS

Men charged with dealing drugs in Pinlebu Township

TWO men have been charged in connection with dealing drugs in Pinlebu Township, Katha District, Sagaing Region, on Saturday.

Acting on a tip-off, an anti-drug squad raided a home owned by Maung Naing, alias Aung Naing Oo, in Aunggon Village, Kathaw Village-tract, on 7 April.

The police found some 27,800 yaba tablets, worth Ks139 million, hidden in the ground.

After seizing the drugs, the police immediately arrested the owner of the house and a drug



Two men seen with tablets in Pinlebu Township.

PHOTO: MYO LWIN (PINLEBU)

smuggler named Aung Aung.

The two suspects have been charged under sections 15/1, 9 (a) and 21 of the existing Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic

Substances Law.

The township police are carrying out further investigations to apprehend others involved in the case.—Myo Lwin (Pinlebu) ■

Elderly cyclist dies in motorbike crash

AN elderly cyclist was killed in a head-on collision between two motorbikes on Saturday afternoon, according to a police report.

The incident occurred at 12 p.m. on 7 April near Phayaw Village, Akye Village-tract, Myitkyina Township, Kachin State. U Ye Phu Hta, the 62-year-old cyclist, was riding his motorbike without wearing a helmet, from south to north along Phayaw-Akye road when he tried to overtake a car loaded with bags of charcoal. He was hit by a motorbike headed from the opposite side of the road and died on the spot due to a severe head injury. The body was sent to the nearest hospital for a postmortem.

The police have registered a case of reckless driving under Section 304 (A) of the Penal Code.—EPN ■



A shopper looking for edible oil produced with Korean technology at a shopping mall. **PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR**

Bilateral trade between Myanmar, South Korea worth \$635mn

THE value of bilateral trade between Myanmar and South Korea in the first 10 months of the 2017-2018 fiscal year (FY) exceeded US\$635 million, including \$236 million in exports and \$399 million in imports, according to figures release by the commerce ministry.

Rice and broken rice, coffee, mangoes, pulses, apparel produced by Myanmar's garment sector on cut-make-pack basis, shrimp and sesame oil, among other things, are exported to South Korea, while Myanmar imports capital goods such

as machinery and equipment, raw industrial goods such as fertilisers and garment materials, and consumer goods such as cosmetic products.

The value of bilateral trade between the two countries was \$866 million in the 2016-2017 FY, \$657 million in the 2015-2016 FY, \$862 million in the 2014-2015 FY, \$1.57 billion in the 2013-2014 FY, \$623 million in the 2012-2013 FY, and \$667 million in the 2011-2012 FY. A month prior to the end of the 2017-2018 FY, foreign direct investments worth some \$251 million were brought

into Myanmar by South Korea. South Korea is the sixth largest foreign investor in Myanmar. Multinational corporations such as Posco, Daewoo, Samsung and Hyundai from South Korea have already grabbed market shares in Myanmar.

Additionally, the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) has provided a grant aid for sustainable rural development and capacity building in public service, technology, education and fundamental infrastructure building. — Ko Khant ■

New car import policy brings down import value at Myawady gate

THE import value of goods traded through the Myawady gate dropped by some US\$50 million, a week prior to the end of the 2017-2018 fiscal year (FY), compared with the 2016-2017 FY.

The changes in the car import policy in 2018 and a high tax rate have contributed to a steep drop in the import value at the Myawady gate. During the nearly two-month suspension of automobile trade, more than 2,000 vehicles were stranded at the Myawady gate.

However, a high volume of fishery products are exported daily through the Myawady gate. Trade through the Myawady gate from 1 April 2017 to 23

March 2018 in the 2017-2018 FY fetched \$878 million, while the gate recorded trade worth some \$907 million in the same period last FY.

Industrial machinery, trucks, agricultural equipment, tractors, motorcycles, cars, food and beverages, cosmetics, fuel oil, fertilisers, cement, construction materials and sugar for re-export are imported through the Myawady gate.

Fish, prawns, crabs, onions, sesame, turmeric, herbs and forestry products are sent to Thailand.

Of the seven Thai-Myanmar border gates, Myawady gate is the main checkpoint

for Thai-Myanmar trade, but the trade value in the 2017-2018 FY was some \$28 million lower than that achieved in the 2016-2017 FY. Similarly, Tachilek also showed a slight decline in trade. The remaining gates showed an increase in trade. Exports via the Kawthoung and Myeik checkpoints significantly surpassed the imports.

A week before the end of the 2017-2018 FY, the value of border trade was \$85 million at the Tachilek gate, \$878 million at Myawady, \$199 million at Kawthoung, \$254 at Myeik, \$122 million at Hteekhee, \$7 million at Mawtaung and \$0.92 million at Maese. — Htet Myat ■

Pulses, bean sectors need immediate action

THE mung bean and pigeon pea markets, which are solely dependent on the Indian market, have been totally ruined by the neighbouring country's restriction on importation.

Thus, immediate action is required to deal with this problem, according to experts.

Following India's restriction on the importation of mung beans and pigeon peas, prices plunged, unable to cover even the cultivation costs. The growers have been battered by the sharp drop in prices and are finding it difficult to grow the crops in the coming season.

Therefore, they need guidelines from the related departments and organisations to remedy this situation, said U Khin Han, chair of Yangon Region commodity depot, during the 16th regular meeting of Vice President U Myint Swe with Myanmar entrepreneurs on Monday last week.

The government's intervention is needed to explore new export markets in a bid to regu-

late the prices, as India's import policy for pulses is not clear, he noted.

U Tun Lwin, chair of Myanmar Pulses, Beans and Sesame Seeds Merchants Association, told Myawady Daily that there was still no response to a proposal to set up an inclusive quota for Myanmar's pulses exports to India.

The demand for pulses in the domestic market has been steady with the Thingyan Festival approaching. However, in the previous years, the foreign demand for mung beans and pigeon peas was soaring.

In early August, India announced a 200,000-tonne import quota on pigeon peas and 300,000-tonne quota on mung beans and green grams.

Myanmar's pulses export sector is heavily reliant on the Indian market, which accounts for 70 per cent of the export volume. The sole reliance on a single market has plunged the Myanmar pulses industry into chaos. — Mon Mon ■



Myanmar pulses are kept on display for sale in a shop at a market. **PHOTO: ZAW MIN LATT**

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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Interview by Thura Zaw
PHOTO: MNA

THE role of independent audit committee which checks and monitors the utilization of public resources plays significant role in a democratic country. Here is an interview with Auditor General of the Union U Maw Than to present the endeavors of the Office of the Auditor General of the Union during the second year of the incumbent government.

Q: Please tell me about the activities done by the Office of the Auditor-General of the Union during the second year of the present government

A: The office of the Auditor-General of the Union has to audit whether or not Union level organizations, Union Ministers, Government departments and Government organizations manage their money, prepare and keep the account properly. But, now inspection the work implementation of those mentioned above is added to the duties of the Office of the Auditor-General of the Union. Moreover, according to the task given by the President Office, the Auditor General audited the local development funds started from June 2017. The projects which have been carrying out by eight ministries that took the loans and financial supports from international organizations during 2015-2016 and 2016-2017 fiscal years were examined. During these two years, the Office of the Auditor-General of the Union could reply the opinions requested letters of other union level ministries in accordance with laws, rules and regulations. And then, (203) letters in 2016-2017 fiscal years, (119) letters in 2017-2018 fiscal years were sent back to 18 ministries.

Q: How have you handled the Auditor-General of the Union law and other auditing laws?

A: The Office of Auditor General of the Union has to manage the Auditor-General of the Union Law, the Public Accountants Default Act and Myanmar Accountancy Council Law. The Auditor-General of the Union Law was amended in 2018, January 22 (Pyidaungsu Hluttaw 2/2018). In the previous law, it was stated that the aim of appointing Auditor-General of the union is only to examine the expenditure but it is amended as to audit both the expenditure and the work implementation. Furthermore, the duties and responsibilities of the



Attendees at the 4th ASEAN Supreme Audit Institutions Summit held in Vientiane, Lao PDR in November 2017.

Office of the Union Auditor-General's achievements in the past two years



The Office of the Auditor-General of the Union hosts the 3rd field workshop of Long Term ASEANSAL Programme on International Standards of Supreme Audit Institution Implementation (LTAPII) - Phase 2 from 11.12.2017 to 15.12.2017 at Park Royal Hotel, Nay Pyi Taw.

Office of the Auditor-General of the Union increased into 27 facts from 12 in original. The main responsibility is to protect and prevent corruption, destructive use of property, inspect the misuse of public finance and manage the public finance to be used effectively and properly. Six more duties are added to the duties of State and Regional Auditor-Generals. These additional duties are to observe and inspect those cases imposed by State and Regional Parliaments and to audit loans, debts, deposits and so on that are carrying out by means of regional and state funds. One more duty of the audits which is added to three original duties is to carefully look into the supervision of responsible ones on

the State and Regional funds, debts, revenue, and the financial accounts. In order to have qualified and skillful accountants, as it is not enough to rely only on the trainings and programs organized and opened by the Myanmar Accountancy Council, the Myanmar Accountancy Council Law was enacted in 2015 to encourage and welcome private accounting schools and make the registration process easy for teachers. In the moment, the action plans and activities are carrying out to have standardized technical terms among Myanmar Accountancy Council Law and international organizations, to put update courses to the context of Myanmar, to pass over the duties of Myanmar

Accountancy Council to working committees, to allow private schools and teachers to register and to check and monitor variety of activities implementing to be done in accordance with existing laws and policies. The Public Accountant Default Act which was aimed to get grantees from public accountants was abolished in 2017 after Myanmar Companies Act was enacted.

Q: Please share me whether the Office of Auditor-General of the Union has been involving in other committees or not.

A: The Office of Auditor-General of the Union is a member of Privatisation Commission, National Planning Commission, Finance Committee and E-Government Committee.

Q: I would like to know how the office of Auditor-General of the Union is working in the strategic planning for the public finance management system reforming.

A: With the financial supports of World bank and international donors, public finance management development projects have been operated with seven departments as part of the strategy of nation's economic and social reform, and OAG (Office of Auditor-General of the Union) is also involved as one part of the project. In that 2.75 million fund, 60% of the fund is loans and 40% is supported funds. With that fund, office materials and supports are also bought, capacity building programs for staffs are supported, and mini data center is purchased for data sharing among Head office and State and Regional offices. Data sharing and good communication is essential for the welfare of the publics. With good communication, government departments can accurately and quickly response and announce information to the publics. Upgrading the quality of auditing and performing the reforms in order to adopt the auditory system which can level up with international standard, auditing with computer assisted audit technique will be implemented in the future.

Q: Could you tell us about your cooperation with foreign organisations?

Cooperation is made with international organizations such as ASEAN Federation of Accounts, Asian Development Bank, World Bank, International Monetary Fund, GIZ, and Office of the Auditor-General of Norway. Activities and cooperation are performed to be able to audit in accordance with the Financial Audit Manual which is based on ISSAI. Both ADB and Myanmar Statistic Council have been trying to fix Insolvency Act together.

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The Myanmar Accountancy Council Law was enacted in 2015 to encourage and welcome private accounting schools and make the registration process easy for teachers.



An MBA programme for Auditing class in session.



Attendees at the official dinner of the 4th ASEANSAT Summit in Vientiane, Lao PDR in November 2017.

Uncovering wasted assets and false accounts

FROM PAGE-6

With the support of World Bank and IMF, report on Observance of Standard and Codes which includes the statistical standard, codes and frameworks for organizations was issued in 2017. It should be considered as an important one because those advices are made with all the efforts and costs. We are planning to form a committee to supervise and carry out the activities by following the advices of the report. German International Cooperation Team, the Office of Auditor-General of the Union, Myanmar Accountancy Council, and Central Bank of Myanmar has selected three private banks in order to plan and draw financial clearance in accordance with international statistic standard for the development of financial reporting. A survey was conducted to be able to know whether the IFRS standards are being issued or not. Office of the Auditor General of the Union of Myanmar and Office of the Auditor General of the Norway signed MOU in 2016, and the priorities in the MOU are to be held the workshops and trainings on different types of audit such as financial audit, performance audit, environmental audit and IT audit for audit on Petroleum Sector of Myanmar. Workshops are done to experience the Performance audit of Norway. At the Audit Management System Workshop which was held by cooperating with Norway to implement Au-

dit Management System, Audit Process Mapping and Audit Flow were discussed.

We've permitted private accounting schools to raise more qualified professionals. We've opened courses for Diploma in Accountancy (DA) and Chartered Public Accountant (CPA).

Q: Let me know how the office is managing the human resources?

A: With the financial supports of World Bank, IPSAS (International Public Sector Accounting Standards) training was conducted to the staffs of the Office of Auditor-General of the Union and staffs from other Ministries. Human Resources Management training, Project Management training and Assets Management Training are planning to conduct in order to upgrade the capacity of the human resources.

Q: Can you tell us a bit about the Myanmar Accountancy Council's (MAC) workings?

A: The Auditor-General is

the chairman of the MAC. There aren't many qualified accountants in Myanmar, in fact there are only 1,209 professionals in the entire country. We've permitted private accounting schools to raise more qualified professionals. We've opened courses for Diploma in Accountancy (DA) and Certified Public Accountant (CPA).

Q: Have there been any changes to the field of accounting?

A: In 2010 we released the localized version of the International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) called the Myanmar Financial Reporting Standards (MFRS). These standards are constantly changing to stay relevant to modern times. To this end the MAC and the IFRS Foundation Corporation have signed an open license agreement.

On the national level we follow the International Standards of Supreme Audit Institutions (ISSAI) and we participate in workshops with the ASEAN Supreme Audit Institutions (ASEANSAD) to stay up-to-date.

Q: Could you tell us a bit about the Myanmar Institute of Certified Public Accountants (MICPA)?

A: MICPA is a non-profit formed with skilled professionals. The Myanmar Accountancy Council used to be the primary member of the ASEAN Federation of Accountants (AFA) but now MICPA has taken the role. It



Auditor-General of the Union U Maw Than.



The 4th ASEANSAT Summit in process in Vientiane, Lao PDR.



Civil servants at the Office of the Auditor-General of the Union.

has taken the place of a national accountancy body.

Q: Can you explain about the international standards accountants use here?

A: We have collaborated with the German Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), which has been working on behalf of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, and have chosen

three banks to test the adapted standards in the country. We found that 60 per cent of the banks here are adaptable to international standards. We are trying to shift to an accrual basis.

As a last word, we send prospective students for study-abroad programmes and we currently have four students taking an MBA course in China. ■

(Translated by
Wint Lae Aung)

Follow guidelines to avoid accidents, crimes in Thingyan festival

THE Myanmar traditional Thingyan festival, one of the Myanmar 12-season festivals is coming soon. Dangers of drugs are spreading not only in Thingyan Festival but also all the time in Myanmar and across the world.

Generally, people are overjoyed during these days. To save people's lives, drivers need to drive vehicles with great care. They should not be intoxicated while driving, assuming that they are taking responsibilities of ensuring safety of those on board.

Motor cycles are two-wheeled vehicles without any cover and protection against danger. Oil which leaks on roads and water can make a vehicle turn over, so it needs to avoid over-speeding, driving with more than two on motor cycles, driving without helmets on, drunk driving and driving motor cycles with exhaust unfastened to the extent of making public nuisances.

Besides, various kinds of drugs including sex stimulant drugs are being smuggled into the country from neighboring countries in many types—liquid, tablet and powder and in many brands.

ing countries in many types—liquid, tablet and powder and in many brands.

These drugs are colorless and tasteless. So these are very dangerous. In case unexpected young women happen to take it mixed with food, their lives are likely to be completely ruined, hence the need to protect them from danger. This is the responsibility of parents and guardians. We would like to urge parents to look after their offspring not to use narcotic drugs

As for parents they need to control their offspring not to wear indecent costumes which are not suitable for Myanmar Culture.

Taking security measures does not mean catching civilians and throwing them in jail. Like every year, police will try to prevent occurrence of major problems.

Henry Dunant Medal Winner who saved one's life by first aid

By Sai Aung Hlaing Myint

WHILE I was in the village of Khatcho on the other side of Myitkyina Township on Jan 11, 1976, a loud crash impelled many villagers to rush to the bank of Ayeyawady to investigate further what had happened. As we are Red Cross members, we have had an innate sense of sympathy towards the victims after hearing a loud crash on the road or in the river. As I was a local member of Red Cross, I also rushed on my bicycle towards the bank like the villagers did. I asked them what had happened.

An army truck on the barge skidded and plunged into the water; the people on the barge didn't have any idea whether there were any passengers or a driver in the car. They were too shocked to deal with the sunken car let alone rescued the passengers or a driver. When I asked the onlookers on the barge, they told me one or two person went down with the truck. They kept shouting without considering how to rescue them. I wanted to put the blame on them; instead I swallowed a lot of commotion without saying a thing. I took off my clothes to dive into the water, inadvertently showing the crowd a red cross sign on my chest. They eagerly shouted red cross was coming and made their way for me. I studied around the barge before I dived down. Even though the water is 18 to 20 deep, it is crystal clear to see the overturned truck.

I was eager enough to save those who got trapped inside the vehicle. I repeatedly tried to open the door, but I found it hard to see something inside it. Accidentally my leg touched a hole to find a naked body. My ears happened to ache while staying underwater; but I managed to drag the naked body along to the surface. I put the body on my back by my left hand, with right hand clinging to the ropes thrown to me from aboard the barge. Then I managed to carry the patient on my back to get to the barge. The onlookers on the



barge helped me get the patient on board the barge. As usual, they tried to crowd around the patient, leaving me in the water swimming around, let alone rescued me. If I got tired, the two persons were deemed to have lost our lives.

I tried to climb on board from the stern of the motor boat in order to help my patient with first aid treatment. First the patient was lain in a prone position, with me sitting astride on the body. My two hands joined under his belly and pulled upwards with the help of some one from the crowd to empty out the water from the belly completely. Two people helped me lift the body in a prone position so that I could go under his belly with his head downwards to empty out the water.

Water, vomit and faeces spurted out from nose, mouth and anus. The patient was tenderly put on his back, letting me think of proper treatment. I kept hearing from the crowd the patient was at death's door. I was being advised not to put the patient on his back; he might die from bleeding, they said. The most important thing they didn't notice was that the patient could not breathe and without a heartbeat.

He might have died with a minute. By ignoring their advice my immediate response was to make the patient breathe again. That is why I put him in a supine position in order to let him breathe easily. I sat down on his right side to perform a kind of resuscitation on him.

I ejected some vomit from his mouth by using two fingers. Rice mixed with snot were at the tip of nose; stains of thick blood were found above the eyebrows. Although I knew four types of resuscitation, I was going to use easy and effective mouth-to-mouth resuscitation



on him. A bristling moustache was found on him as he recently returned from a front line. Covering his nose with my left hand, I performed a mouth-to-mouth resuscitation with all my efforts.

When his lungs got a lot of fresh air, his belly became bulging. I pressed down the bulging stomach with my right hand, letting the air out from his nose and mouth. I repeated did it, thereby letting the patient breathe and the heart being activated to start beating.

Some onlookers from the crowd had returned home assuming that the soldier had

died. I was the only one who knew his real conditions.

With a relatively good health, I alighted from the barge with him on my back and treaded through the rocks in the hope of sending him to hospital by truck or by car. Clinics in Khatcho village were not open on Sundays; So, I had to send him to the Waingmaw Township Hospital which is four miles away. I earnestly requested the truck driver to send us to the Township Hospital. With the help of two soldiers, the patient took a front seat together with me; the patient lay on my lap

in a prone position so that he could breathe effortlessly under my great care all along the way. Fortunately on the way we found a jeep to which the patient was removed from the truck in a state of vomit, water and filthy rags on the body. I finally breathed a sigh of relief because he started to breathe normally.

Upon arrival at the hospital at four in the afternoon, I again put him on my back and went into a ward. I warmed him with a blanket from a woman; in a moment he opened his mouth and showed his tongue with some blood stains, letting something immediately spring to my mind: he became fully conscious again. I still didn't know the name of the patient with his colleagues letting me know his name. I let Ko Khin Maung Aye know he was now in hospital and soon a doctor came in and I explained to the doctor everything in detail what had happened.

First aid is a kind of treatment before a doctor has come: such as keeping a victim lying down, using a clean cloth or sterile dressing directly on the wound and taking care not to take out any object that is lodged in the wound. I heaved a sigh of relief when the doctor came in, assuming that my patient was safe and put under medically qualified staff in a township hospital.

Sai Aung Hlaing Myint of Myanmar was awarded with Henry Dunant Medal in 23rd International Committee of Red Cross conference in Bucharest, Rumania in 1977.

He was only 21 years old and became the youngest Henry Dunant Medal winner in that year. Born in the Khaungfu village, Myitkyina township on 15 March, 1959 he was a Shan Buddhist with a childhood name of Maung Tin Hlaing. He died of a cerebral haemorrhage on 25 March, 1985 and his body was donated to the Institute of Medicine(1). ■

Translated by Arakan Sein

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor

Apropos to the article, 'Bolivia's jaguars facing threat from Chinese fang craze' (GNLM, April 7, 2018); it is alarming to note the devastating impact on wildlife populations through intercontinental poaching and illegal trafficking of wildlife body parts from South America into China. The illegal wildlife black markets operating in full swing in China and their massive network around the globe are turning out into a serious jeopardy for conserving global biodiversity. This is not just the case of Bolivia alone; but overseas wildlife crimes are all finding destination across four continents into illegal black markets of China; namely- Asia, Africa, Eastern Europe and South America. The region of South and South East Asia is most vulnerable due to its close proximity to China. Several species of wildlife like endangered marine and fresh water as well as terrestrial invertebrates, endangered and critically endangered species of fishes, birds (residents and migratory species), reptiles and amphibians; and majestic mammals like different species and subspecies of tigers, leopards, snow leopards, clouded leopards, lions, civets, bears, pangolins, primates (apes and monkeys), elephants, rhinoceros, deer, antelopes, wild sheep and goats are all vanishing in the unstoppable vortex of this dark wildlife trade that China must take strong action and legal responsibility. Without support from politically influential nexus such trades could not operate openly as is being reported from China. The Chinese government must crack down on these black markets involved with wildlife trade and eradicate them completely. Unless China takes responsibility and act credibly to curb wildlife crimes conducted through its shores and her overseas agents; a dark future awaits the security and conservation of global wildlife.

Thanking you
Sincerely yours
Saikat Kumar Basu
Apt 6-409, 43 Street South,
Lethbridge AB Canada T1J 4B3
Cell: 1-4038944254

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

Workers in Thailand need to return home legally in Thingyan



Myanmar workers at the Thai-Immigration check point. **PHOTO: KYAW SOE (KAWTHOUNG)**

MYANMAR Workers in Thailand, who want to return home to participate in Myanmar Thingyan, need to obey the legal laws of Thailand announced by Governmental officials of Thailand and Myanmar Embassies in Thailand according to the officials.

Over 10 thousand Myan-

mar workers are returning to Myanmar through four gates including Mei Sai- Tachilek Gate, Kawthoung-Yanoung Gate, Phaya Thone Su Gate.

According to the announcement, all the Myanmar workers must bring their Visa and they must undergo the legal processes step-by-step at the

gates. The allowance dates for the returning workers was arranged between 5 to 30 April by the officials and all the cost due to the Visa processes are free-of-charge during these days.

All illegal actions can meet a 5-year imprisonment according to an official from Thailand.—Kyaw Soe (Kawthoung)

Myeik fire victims provided with relief items

TANINTHAYI regional minister, regional lawmakers and local authorities gave words of encouragement and presented cash assistance to the fire victims in Myeik Township this morning.

The recent fire left 42 people – 16 men and 26 women—from 10 households homeless. Taninthayi Regional Minister for Planning and Finance U Phyo Win Tun encouraged the fire victims and provided them with cash assistance, saying Taninthayi Re-



An official presents cash assistance to a fire victim. **PHOTO: MDN**

gional government also plans to support necessary aids.

Well-wishers are donating money, food, rice and edible oil

to the fire victims who are taking shelter at a temporary relief camp in a monastery.—Myanmar Digital News

Pakokku farmers receive compensation for confiscated farmlands

A ceremony to offer land compensation to farmers took place at the meeting room of the General Administration Department in Pakokku, Magway Region this morning.

First, Lower House parliamentarian U Paik Ko delivered an opening speech and U Kyaw Lin, an official from Myanmar Railways (MR) explained the purpose of compensation.

Afterwards, the MPs, chairmen of district/township management committees and railway officials presented compensation to farmland owners.

More than Ks114.8 million of compensation for 76.58 acres of farmlands which were confiscated when construction of Pakokku-Kyunchaung railway road section on Kyangin-Pakokku Railway began in 2006 was given to the farmers from eight villages during the ceremony.

The ceremony was attended by the Lower House legislator, Upper House representative, regional lawmakers, district and township level authorities and railway officials. —Myanmar Digital News ■



An official gives compensation to a farmland owners. **PHOTO: MDN**

Wasps as pest control in Kanma

To control pests which destroy paddy crop, farmers in Sabeichone village-tract and Kadupyin village-tract, Kanma Township, Thayet District, Magway Region released wasps into the summer paddy fields on 7 April. The release of wasp was organized by Kanma Township Department

of Agriculture. Head of district Agriculture Department Daw Khin Mar Aye, Head of township Agriculture Department U Zaw Min Naing met and gave educating talks to the farmers about the benefits of releasing wasp to the field.—Maung Shwe Win (Pyay)



Farmers and officials release wasps into the paddy field. **PHOTO: MAUNG SHWE WIN (PYAY)**

Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 4:00 pm Sunday 8th April, 2018)

BAY INFERENCE: Weather is partly cloudy over the West Central Bay and partly cloudy to cloudy over the Andaman Sea and elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL MORNING OF THE 9th APRIL, 2018: Rain or thundershowers will be fairly widespread in Naypyitaw, Upper Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway, Bago, Yangoon and Ayeyarwady Regions, Kachin and

Shan States, scattered in Lower Sagaing and Taninthayi Regions, Chin, Rakhine and Kayah States and isolated in the remaining Regions and States. Degree of certainty is (80%).

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

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Likelihood of continuation of scattered rain or thundershowers in Upper Sagaing Region, Kachin, Shan and Chin States.—MNA

Taninthayi donors hand over school to Maungtaw

DONORS from the Taninthayi Region handed over a school building, dormitories for faculty members and a concrete road built in Kainggyi, Maungtaw Township in Rakhine State, to the Rakhine government at a ceremony yesterday.

Rakhine State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu delivered the opening speech, followed by Taninthayi Region Chief Minister Daw Le Le Maw explaining the handover process. Next, Rakhine State Minister for Public Affairs Dr. Chan Thar and Taninthayi Region Minister of Public Affairs U Ho Pin delivered speeches. Chief Minister Daw Le Le Maw then handed over the documents of the school to the Ministry for Education and gave

school uniforms to the students. The Rakhine chief minister also gave the Mro people ASEAN family kits and solar lamps and household items donated by the Ministry for Industry.

This was followed by the chief ministers and the officials cutting the ribbon to formally open the school.

The new school measures 90x30 square feet and includes a dormitory for faculty members, concrete roads, fences, two restroom stalls and a 1,200-gallon water tank. The estimated donation to construct the school is Ks183.56 million. Officials then went to a small hill by the school and staked the ground where a pagoda will be erected.

—Aung Kyaw Tin Soe ■



Rakhine State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu, Taninthayi Region Chief Minister Daw Le Le Maw and officials tour the new school in Kainggyi, Maungtaw Township yesterday. **PHOTO: AUNG KYAW TIN SOE**

Myanmar Scout Federation delegates leave for Malaysia



Myanmar Scout delegation seen at the Airport before departure for Malaysia. **PHOTO: MYANMAR SCOUT FEDERATION**

TO attend 4th Asia Pacific Region Messenger of Peace Coordinators Meeting, Myanmar Scout Federation Peace Coordinator U Sa Kyaw Nyi Nyi Zin and Yangon University scout leader Min Htet Maung left for Malaysia yesterday.

They were seen off at the Yangon International Airport by Myanmar Scout Federation chief organizer U Aye Kyaing and scout members

and families.

Peace coordinators from World Scout Bureau and member nations of Asia Pacific Regional Scout Committee will attend the 4th Asia Pacific Region Messenger of Peace Coordinators Meeting and discuss the public, students and civil society organizations' participations at peace processes of their countries.—Myanmar Scout Federation ■

Chindwin bridge (Khamti) opens in Sagaing Region

AN opening ceremony for a bridge in Khamti Township in Sagaing Region was held at the base of the bridge yesterday. The bridge is situated on the Khamti-Sinthey-Lahe road and was constructed by Construction team-3 of the Bridge Department of the Ministry of Construction.

Sagaing Region Hluttaw Speaker U Than and Deputy Minister for Construction U Kyaw Lin delivered speeches at the ceremony.

U Than said that the new bridge will be beneficial to the local people as it will speed up

transportation in the region. Before the bridge was opened, travelers and their cargo and motorbikes had to cross the Chindwin river by boat and that delayed precious time. The bridge also connects Lower Sagaing Region with the Naga Self-Administered Zone and provides a pathway for Upper Sagaing to reach other parts of Myanmar much easier.

The ceremonial ribbon was cut by the Sagaing Region Hluttaw Speaker U Than, Deputy Minister U Kyaw Lin, Region Minister for Electricity, Industry and Transport

U Than Nyunt Win, Region Minister for Border Security Colonel Kyaw Thet Naing, Chairperson of Naga Self-Administered Zone U Kay Sai, Pyithu Hluttaw MP U Aung Then Sein, and U Tun Lin the Director of Bridge Construction team-3. Speaker U Than, Deputy Minister U Kyaw Lin and other officials unveiled the commemorative tablet and sprinkled scented water. The officials and other guests then took a tour across the newly opened Chindwin bridge (Khamti).—Myanmar News Agency



Officials and local residents pose for a documentary photo of the opening of the new Chindwin bridge (Khamti) that connects Lower Sagaing Region with Upper Sagaing, Naga Self-Administered Zone, and to the rest of Myanmar. **PHOTO: MNA**

Japan ready to support Laos economic growth, Kono says

VIENTIANE - Japanese Foreign Minister Taro Kono on Saturday told his Laotian counterpart of Japan's readiness to continue supporting Laos' social and economic development.

Meeting in Vientiane, Kono and Saleumxay Kommasith also discussed Japan's "free and open In-

do-Pacific" strategy for maintaining and strengthening a free and open order in the region based on the rule of law. Earlier Saturday, Kono toured facilities at the capital's Wattay international airport, where Japan is providing roughly 9 billion yen (\$84 million) for a terminal expansion project.

Kono also met with Prime Minister Thongloun Sisoulith and conveyed Japan's desire to strengthen bilateral ties.

Kono told reporters after the meeting that Japan will step up efforts to remove unexploded bomb shells from the Viet Nam War. Laos is also a destination for Chinese invest-

ment as part of Beijing's "One Belt, One Road" regional infrastructure development megaproject.

The Japanese government has insisted that its Indo-Pacific strategy is not aimed at countering the Belt and Road plan. Kono is scheduled to leave Laos for Cambodia on Sunday morning. — Kyodo News ■



Lao Foreign Minister Saleumxay Kommasith (2nd from R) and his Japanese counterpart Taro Kono (2nd from L) hold talks in Vientiane on 7 April 2018. PHOTO: KYODO

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST Department of Highways (DOH) under the Ministry of Construction (MOC) Flooding and Landslide Emergency Recovery Project (FLERP) IDA Credit 5889-MM

Assignment Reference Number: C1-MOC-CS02
Assignment Title: Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) and Resettlement Action Plan (RAP) for the Kalay – Hahka Road Rehabilitation in Chin State

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar has received financing from the World Bank towards the cost of the Flooding and Landslide Emergency Recovery Project (FLERP). The Department of Highways (DOH) under the Ministry of Construction (MOC) which implements the FLERP intends to apply part of the proceeds for the hiring of a specialized consulting firm in the area of Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) and the development of Resettlement Action Plans (RAP).

The FLERP responds to the priority sectors and geographic areas affected by the 2015 floods and landslides of which the transport sector was the hardest-hit public sector through financing with focus on the geographic areas that experienced the highest per capita damages such as Chin, Rakhine, Ayeyarwaddy, Sagaing, Magway, Bago and Yangon. The project also provides livelihood support through labor-intensive rehabilitation and maintenance of rural roads in order to help alleviate the suffering of the most-affected segments of society with both immediate and long-term benefits of income generation, capacity building, increased connectivity as well as business opportunities.

The DOH now invites expressions of interest (EOI) from qualified and experienced NGOs/ Consulting Firms (the Consultants) for an assignment of which the objective is threefold:

1. To develop an ESIA specifically with regard to the road works that have already taken place including an inventory of losses and damages with a time-based RAP to compensate losses. Especially the sub-project Kalay – Falam – Hahka Road Rehabilitation in Chin State will require the consultant's immediate attention
2. To develop an ESIA for upcoming road works including ancillary facilities such as borrow pits, quarry areas, disposal sites, crushing plants, workers' camp, etc. as well as potential impacts in the immediate vicinity of the physical works and downstream and down slope. The ESIA will examine the effects of the planned activities on existing environmental and social conditions in the areas which may be affected by the project, and propose measures for mitigating and monitoring any potential negative impacts. Importantly, it will also consider already occurring impact of road widening and improvement works carried out by MOC, and measures to mitigate them.
3. To support actively the MOC in such way that environmental and social impacts associated with the project are assessed and examined at the earliest planning stage possible, including environmental factors that impact public health and safety as well as the natural environment, such as: air, water, soil, waste, accidents, water usage, ecosystems, and biota. Social concerns include: involuntary resettlement of the population, cultural heritage, landscape, gender, communicable diseases, adverse impacts on ethnic communities, labor influx impacts, labor and working conditions, traffic impacts, community safety.

The ESIA methodology the consultants will follow will be based on:

1. Current environmental and social regulations of Myanmar, especially the EIA Procedures (2015) and EIA Guidelines (2014)
2. The World Bank environmental Operational Policies OP 4.0, OP 4.04, OP 4.11, OP 4.36, as well as the social policies OP 4.12 and OP 4.10 and relevant guidelines
3. The World Bank Group's Environmental, Health and Safety Guidelines (EHSGs)
4. The Consultant will also consult the typical methodology for ESIA preparation in Bank projects (Appendix I) and typical Table of Content (Appendix II) and define the Project Area of Influence that will be covered by the ESIA and identify sensitive receptors and inventory pre-existing (legacy) issues.

The Consultant will be required to propose a team of social and environmental specialists which have previous experience working with the World Bank's social safeguards requirements and prior experience in preparing ESIA, ESMP and RAP. In addition, the specialists are expected to be familiar with Myanmar National environmental requirements and the team should also include Myanmar-speaking and Chin State ethnic minority language(s) speaking personnel. The total duration of the assignment is estimated at 1.5 years on an intermittent basis.

Expressions of Interest must be submitted in a written form to the address below (in person, or by mail, or by e-mail) by Monday 30 April 2018. A consultant will be selected in accordance with the CQS method set out in the World Bank Guidelines for Selection and Employment of Consultants under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits and Grants, January 2011 and revised July 2014.

Further information and a copy of the detailed Terms of Reference (TOR) may be obtained at the address below during office hours from 09:00 to 16:00, Monday through Friday, except public holidays, or by simple e-mail request to:

The Department of Highways under the Ministry of Construction
Attention of U Khin Zaw, FLERP Project Director
Office No. 11, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.
Email address: dkhinzaw@gmail.com, flerp.moc@gmail.com
Telephone: +95-9-2450600, +95-67-407658

India to extend railway connectivity to Kathmandu

KATHMANDU — Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday pledged to connect Kathmandu, the capital of landlocked Nepal, to his country's railway network. Speaking at a joint press conference with visiting Nepali counterpart Khadga Prasad Sharma Oli at Hyderabad House in New Delhi, Modi said Kathmandu would be linked by railway to India's Raxaul city bordering Birgunj, Nepal's biggest trading point with its larger southern neighbor. Modi also said that he and Oli have agreed to develop inland waterways for the movement of cargo, which would provide additional access for Nepal to Indian sea ports. Modi praised Oli's vision of "Prosperous Nepal, Happy Nepalis" as one that complements his own mantra of "Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas" or collective effort, inclusive growth. Speaking after Modi, Oli said Nepal and India share a "common destiny" and therefore "Nepal attaches great importance to relations with India." He, however, stressed that Nepal wants relations based on "equality, justice and respect." The electrified rail line to Kathmandu, which so far has only road and aviation linkages, will be constructed with India's financial support. Preparatory survey works are to be completed within a year. — Kyodo News ■

Four killed, five injured in bus-car collision in southern India

NEW DELHI — At least four people were killed and five others injured in a road accident in the southern Indian state of Karnataka, police said Sunday. “The accident occurred when a state-run bus collided with a car near the state’s Haliyal town after its driver lost control of the speeding vehicle,” a police official said.

While four people died on the spot, those injured have been admitted to a local hospital, he said, adding that the victims included occupants of both the vehicles.

A probe has been ordered into the incident, the official said. “The bus driver has been booked for rash and negligent driving and efforts are on to arrest him,” he added. India has the highest number of road fatalities in the world. Road accidents occur mostly due to poor driving or badly maintained roads and vehicles. —Xinhua ■

Two Koreas discuss setting up hotline between Moon, Kim

SEOUL — The two Koreas discussed setting up a telephone hotline between South Korean President Moon Jae In and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un during working-level talks Saturday, ahead of their first summit in nearly a decade.

The meeting of working-level officials of Seoul and Pyongyang was held at the North Korean side of the border village of Panmunjeom, according to South Korean officials.

The two sides agreed to establish the hotline at a meeting in early March between Kim and special envoys of Moon in Pyongyang, with the first call to be held before the planned summit later this month.

Kim was quoted by a South Korean government source as telling Moon’s envoys, “If working-level talks (between the two Koreas) become deadlocked, the president and I can resolve it through telephone conversation.”

Leaders of the two Koreas have held formal talks only twice, in 2000 and 2007, since the 1950-1953 Korean War, which ended in a cease-fire rather than a peace treaty.

On Thursday, South and North Korean working-level officials discussed protocol, security and media coverage for the Moon-Kim summit scheduled to be held at the South Korean side of Panmunjeom on 27 April.

Seoul and Pyongyang will hold another round of talks next week to finalize the hotline issue and decide the date of a telephone conversation between Moon and Kim, according to South Korea’s Yonhap News Agency. —Kyodo News ■



An emergency vehicle is seen near the crash site after a bus carrying a junior ice hockey team collided with a semi-trailer truck in rural Saskatchewan province, killing 15 people. PHOTO: AFP

Canada mourns 15 killed in hockey bus crash

NIPAWIN — A shocked Canada was in mourning Saturday after a bus carrying a junior ice hockey team collided with a semi-trailer truck in Saskatchewan province, killing 15 people.

In a country where love of the sport is almost a religion, the crash sparked an outpouring of grief among players and fans, while national political leaders and the head of the National Hockey League expressed their sympathies.

The Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP), which said determining the cause of the accident would require some time, did not say how many of the victims were players or coaches of the Humboldt Broncos team, which hails from a town of 6,000 people.

Police said that there had been 29 people on board the team bus, including the driver, and 14 were injured, including some in critical condition.

“An entire country is in shock and mourning today,” Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said.

“We are heartbroken knowing many of those we lost had their entire lives in front of them... This is every parent’s worst nightmare. No one should ever have to see their child leave to play the sport they love and never come back.”

Tom Straschnitzki told CBC News that his son Ryan was among the injured. “He remembers he was in the middle of the bus and then he remembers waking up when the paramedics took him off the bus,” said Straschnitzki, whose son suffered a severe back injury.

The team comprises 24 players, all from Canada, with the youngest aged 16 and the oldest 21.

The crash happened around 5:00 pm (2300 GMT) Friday on Highway 335 about 28 kilometers (17 miles) north of the town of Tisdale, a trading center in an overwhelmingly agricultural region of the western province. —AFP ■

The follwing pesticides, registered in Pesticide Registration Board, from foreign manufacturer Imaspro Resources Sdn Bhd Co.,Ltd will be imported, distributed and sold after changing from original distributor Imaspro Resources Sdn Bhd Co.,Ltd to Aung Naing Yoma Thitsar Co.,Ltd				
No.	Trade Name	Active Ingredient	Registration Type	Registration Number
1	Crop - Care 500 SC	Carbendazim 500g/1 SC	Provisional	2014-2102
Therefore, if somebody would like to object for that changing distributor's name, it is announced that he/she can object to Co-secretary, Myanma Pesticide Registration Board, Plant Protection division, West Gyogone, Insein Township, Yangon within two weeks. Address - Imaspro Resources Sdn. Bhd No.(37), Jalan 5, Kaw. 16, Taman Intan, 41300 Klang, Selangor, Malaysia. Tel : 603-33431633				

The follwing pesticides, registered in Pesticide Registration Board, from foreign manufacturer Imaspro Resources Sdn Bhd Co.,Ltd will be imported, distributed and sold after changing from original distributor Myanmar Arysta LifeScience Co.,Ltd to MM Import Export Co.,Ltd				
No.	Trade Name	Active Ingredient	Registration Type	Registration Number
1	Shoot 48 SL	Glyphosate Isopropylamine 480 G/L SL	Provisional	2015-2426
Therefore, if somebody would like to object for that changing distributor's name, it is announced that he/she can object to Co-secretary, Myanma Pesticide Registration Board, Plant Protection division, West Gyogone, Insein Township, Yangon within two weeks. Address - Myanmar Arysta LifeScience Co.,Ltd 95, Padonmar Street, Dagon Tsp. Yangon				

The follwing pesticides, registered in Pesticide Registration Board, from foreign manufacturer Imaspro Resources Sdn Bhd Co.,Ltd will be imported, distributed and sold after changing from original distributor 7 Star Agro Power Co.,Ltd to MM Import Export Co.,Ltd				
No.	Trade Name	Active Ingredient	Registration Type	Registration Number
1	Deltakin	Chlorpyrifos 530g/1+ Deltamethrin 35g/1 EC	Experimental	2016-3201
2	Envo-Cyper 100EW	Cypermethrin 100g/1 Ew	Provisional	2016-3202
3	Power 100 EC	Cypermethrin 100g/1 EC	Provisional	2016-3204
4	IZO 25 SC	Azoxystrobin 250g/1 SC	Provisional	2016-3205
5	Pro-Mix Herbicide 240/120 SL	Glyphosate Isopropylamine 240g/1 + 2,4-D Isopropylamine 120g/1 SL	Provisional	2016-3206
6	Power 500 EC	Cypermethrin 500g/ 1EC	Provisional	2016-3207
7	IMEC 5 SG	Emamectin Benzoate 50g/1 SG	Provisional	2016-3208
8	Temebate	Temephos 10g/1 GR	Provisional	2016-3209
9	Lavermate	Temephos 500g/1 EC	Provisional	2016-3210
10	Acarmec	Abamectin 18g/1 EC	Provisional	2016-3211
Therefore, if somebody would like to object for that changing distributor's name, it is announced that he/she can object to Co-secretary, Myanma Pesticide Registration Board, Plant Protection division, West Gyogone, Insein Township, Yangon within two weeks. Address - 7 Star Agro Power Co.,Ltd, Room 204, Bld. 1007, Kantharyar Juncion, Thudamar Road, North Okkalapa Township Yangon, Tel : 09-43135884				

The follwing pesticides, registered in Pesticide Registration Board, from foreign manufacturer Imaspro Resources Sdn Bhd Co.,Ltd will be imported, distributed and sold after changing from original distributor 7 Star Agro Power Co.,Ltd to Aung Naing Yoma Thitsar Co.,Ltd				
No.	Trade Name	Active Ingredient	Registration Type	Registration Number
1	Deagon 585 EC	Chlorpyrifos 530g/1+ Cypermethrin 55g/1 EC	Experimental	2016-3200
2	Power 120 EC	Cypermethrin 120g/1 EC	Provisional	2016-3203
3	Bullet 48 EC	Chlorpyrifos 480g/ 1 EC	Provisional	2016-3212
4	Pretector 5 SC	Fipronil 50g/ 1 SC	Provisional	2016-3213
5	Imidor 20 SL	Imidacloprid 200g/1 SL	Provisional	2016-3214
Therefore, if somebody would like to object for that changing distributor's name, it is announced that he/she can object to Co-secretary, Myanma Pesticide Registration Board, Plant Protection division, West Gyogone, Insein Township, Yangon within two weeks. Address - 7 Star Agro Power Co.,Ltd, Room 204, Bld. 1007, Kantharyar Juncion, Thudamar Road, North Okkalapa Township Yangon, Tel : 09-43135884				

Engagement

Both Parents are pleased to announce
the Engagement of

Richard Kay Chug, only son of
Mr. Edward Chug & Mrs. Teh Kow Bo,
262, Campana Avenue, Daly City,
California, U.S.A.

to

Su Yin Win, only daughter of
U Hla Win @ Pho Sai & Daw San San Win
@ Lee Lay Swet

22/24, Botahtaung Lane (2),
Botahtaung Township, Yangon, Myanmar,
in the presence of both Parents, Relatives
and Elders on Sunday, the 8th of April, 2018.
in Yangon.

Parents from Both sides and
Richard Kay Chug & Su Yin Win.

TRADEMARK CAUTION

UNI-CORP (SINGAPORE) PTE LTD, a company
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Myanmar Reg. No. 4/1365/2013 (8 February 2013)

In respect of "Vibratory rammers [machines]; concrete
cutters [machines]; vibratory walk-behind rollers
[machines]; walk-behind trowels [machines]; vibratory plate
compactors [machines]; vibratory reversible plate
compactors [machines]; power trowels; reinforcing bar
cutters [machines]; reinforcing bar bending machines;
concrete scarifiers [machines]; concrete vibrator
[machines]; submersible pumps; 360 degrees turntable
being a part of engine to be affixed to concrete vibrators
and submersible pumps; grinders [machines]; handling
apparatus for loading and unloading; excavators; gas
breakers being gas cutting machines; electric breakers
being machines for concrete, earth, ice and rock breaking;
hydraulic breakers for concrete, earth, ice and rock
breaking; pneumatic concrete, earth, ice and rock
breakers; construction equipment; construction machines;
construction machines and equipment for building and road
construction industries; ride-on trowels [machines]; ride-on
rollers [machines]" in **Class 7**; and
"Tower lights" in **Class 11**.

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

Daw La Min May, H.G.P
For **UNI-CORP (SINGAPORE) PTE LTD**
C/o **Kelvin Chia Yangon Ltd**

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

Dated 9th April 2018

lmm@kcyangon.com



Mrs. Toursim Beauty Queen Myingyan 2018 in Progress. **PHOTO: U ZAW MIN NAING (MYINGYAN)**

Mrs. Tourism Beauty Queen Myingyan 2018 held in Myingyan

THE Grand Final of Mrs. Tourism Beauty Queen Myingyan 2018, organized by Myanmar Beauty Pageant Organization was held in Myingyan, Mandalay Region yesterday.

Altogether 35 contestants took part in the competition and the judg-

es led by Miss Khaing Thwe selected the prize winners. Five prize winners will have a chance to participate in the Mrs. Tourism Beauty Queen 2018 to be held in Yangon representing Myingyan Town. The contestants will be rewarded with eleventh

crown prizes and ten title awards in the event.

Miss Khaing Thwe, an event organizer donated Ks.250,000 each to seven local social organizations including Myingyan home for aged, a funeral services society and Ayeyawady blood

donation group totaling Ks. 1750,000 through officials concerned. Cash donation was made from selling tickets in advance for the beauty contest. Money raised during the contest will also be donated to Myingyan People's Hospital.— U Zaw Min Naing (Myingyan)■

Ex-Saint Laurent designer wins huge payout in contract dispute

PARIS — Star designer Hedi Slimane has won an 9.3 million euro (\$11.5 million) settlement from the luxury group Kering in a court judgement which lifts the lid on how much fashion's big names are paid.

Court documents seen by AFP Friday show that the "Sultan of skinny", famed for his skinny jeans look, was only paid 667,000 euros of the 10 million he had been promised for his last year in charge of French label Saint Laurent.

A spokesperson for Kering told AFP the group was appealing the decision.

Slimane, 49, one of fashion's hottest and most enigmatic talents, went through a messy divorce with Kering, the brand's owners, in 2016.



French-born designer Hedi Slimane, famed for his skinny jeans look, has taken the reins at Celine. **PHOTO: AFP**

He has since moved to the rival luxury conglomerate, LVMH, to take the reins at Celine, where he will also create a men's line in a massive overhaul of the brand.

The latest payout comes two years after a Paris court ordered Kering to pay Slimane \$13 million concerning a non-competition clause in his contract. The group also appealed that ruling. Slimane's skinny

and rock star chic looks made millions for both Dior and Saint Laurent, and were much copied by mass-market brands.

Chanel boss Karl Lagerfeld once famously shed 41 kilos (90 pounds) in order to squeeze into Slimane's skinny jeans.

Like Lagerfeld, Slimane is a renowned photographer, and he has spent the last seven years living in Los Ange-

les, where he had moved his studio at the end of his reign at Saint Laurent.

The designer drew much of his inspiration from the LA rock scene, which he tirelessly documented with his photographs and in his blog.

A mysterious and intensely private figure, he nonetheless has struck up close friendships with many A-listers including pop star Lady Gaga.

The Libertines' bohemian frontman Peter Doherty also became a friend and muse, and figured prominently in his 2006 photo book, "London Birth of a Cult".

Born into an immigrant family in Paris, Slimane's father was a Tunisian boxer who became an accountant and his mother an Italian dressmaker.—AFP ■

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More and more visitors coming to Botataung Pagoda. **PHOTO: THANT ZIN WIN**

Over twenty thousand tourists visited Botataung Pagoda in March

OVER twenty thousands tourists visited Botataung Kyaukseup Buddha hair relic Pagoda in March and most of tourists are from Thailand.

On Last Saturday, 881 tourists visited and last month 22078 tourists arrived according to Pagoda list. Thailand nationals

believed in Botataung Bo Bo Gyi and 99 per cent of Thailand visited on week end, said a tour guide.

Entrance fee for a tourist is 6000 ks.

In that time, Botataung pagoda is renovating and Buddha hair relic is laying in NanOo religious edifice. —Thant Zin Win ■

CCTVs installed across Mandalay City prior to Thingyan

AS part of the efforts to reduce crime in the region, the Mandalay City Development Committee (MCDC) has extended the installation of closed-circuit television cameras (CCTVs) at target points since the beginning of April.

The CCTVs have been installed at target points along 26th Street, 66th Street, 80th Street and 12th Street in Aungmyethazan Township. The MCDC will prioritise the installation of CCTVs at strategic spots, such as main roads, banks, railway stations, markets and schools.

Depending on the commit-

tee's budget, a plan is underway to fix CCTVs in wards, lanes and byways within the municipal areas, a spokesperson of the MCDC said. The key objective of expanding the installation of CCTVs is to reduce crimes and increase public safety, said a member of MCDC.

Snatch-and-run cases are frequently reported to the city police. With the help of footage from cameras, police have been able to investigate cases of traffic accidents better, said a police official.— Maung Pyi Thu (Mandalay) ■



A worker installing a CCTV in Mandalay. **PHOTO: MAUNG PYI THU (MANDALAY)**

‘Wheelchair Train for Peace’ concludes in Yangon

A conclusion ceremony for “Wheelchair Train for Peace”, a programme conducted by physically challenged people for peace, was held at the City Hall in Yangon yesterday.

During the programme, participants travelled from Kawthoung to Yangon, covering some 920 miles, spreading the word of peace.

The wheelchair train groups were welcomed by Yangon Region Government Social Affairs Minister U Nang Ngan Lin, along with other departmental officials and members of the public.

“During the trip, we realised the public is interested in participating in peace programmes. Our group will continue to travel until we com-

plete our mission, as a show of our aspiration for peace,” said author Zeyya Min Htin, alias U Khin Maung Myint, an official for public information access in the Helping Hands for Peace Group. The Helping Hands for Peace Group was also aided by 10 Myanmar national athletes in wheelchairs, along with musicians and artistes from Khawe Chan School for the Blind.

The leader of the wheelchair group, U Htein Lin, said, “We are overjoyed to convey the message of peace to the public.

The public gave us a rousing welcome in every town and village and participated in the peace signing ceremony.”

The group included ar-

tistes and physically challenged people from Khawe Chan School for the Blind, 88 peace and opening public organisations, three colour painting public groups and others who wanted to participate in the peace process.

The General Secretary of Khawe Chan School for the Blind said, “The Union Peace Conference-21st Century Panglong is held by the government of Myanmar. I want to suggest to the public to cooperate in the peace process as much as they can.

We formed the group with the aim of encouraging the participation of physically challenged people in the peace process.”

The Wheelchair Train for Peace began its first trip on 14 February 2017 from Myitkyina Township in Kachin State to Nay Pyi Taw by passing 14 townships, covering some 557 miles.

The second trip began at Hsibaw Town, Northern Shan State, and concluded at Lashio, passing seven townships.

The third trip this year started from Kawthoung and ended in Yangon, passing 21 townships, and collected 23,000 signatures.

At noon, the ceremony concluded with entertainment by music bands of the Helping Hands for Peace Group. —Min Thit (MNA) ■



Members of the wheelchair train for peace seen in front of the City Hall in Yangon. **PHOTO: MNA**

O-Top Trade Fairs launches in Maesot

THE opening ceremony of O-Top Trade Fairs was launched in Maesot, a Thai town bordering Myanmar on Saturday.

The ceremony was attended by Myawady District Deputy Commissioner U Htoo Lwin, Deputy District Administer U Htay Kyaw, Township Administer U Phyo Zaw Ko Ko, Myawady District Trading Association Chairman Daw Thin Thin Myat and other officials.

The ceremony was entertained with Thai tradition dances.

The trade fair will help promote bilateral trading of Myanmar and Thai products. The convenient tax arrangement will really promote the trading

of the two countries said Daw Thin Thin Myat.

The OTOP is aiming to open trade, promoting the quality products, enhancing coopera-

tion and friendship and trade between the two countries.

The trade fair started on 7 April and continues till 11 April.—Htein Lin Aung (IPRD) ■



O-Top Trade Fairs hold to promote Myanmar –Thai bilateral trade. **PHOTO: HTEIN LIN AUNG (IPRD)**

City celebrations would have been 'like a death' – Pogba

MANCHESTER CITY — Manchester United midfielder Paul Pogba revealed his relief as preventing local rivals Manchester City from sealing the Premier League title on Saturday, claiming watching City celebrate would have been "like a death" for United fans.

Pogba shrugged off a turbulent season and speculation over his future by scoring twice in as many minutes just after half-time to spearhead a stunning United comeback that was completed by Chris Smalling 21 minutes from time. Victory for City would have seen Pep Guardiola's men crowned as champions and take a United record in the process by winning the title with six games to spare. "If they won they are champions, for all the fans it would be like death," said the Frenchman. "To lose against City and to see them celebrate, I couldn't let that happen. At half-time in the dressing room we said we have nothing to lose."

Barring an incredible collapse, City will still win the league in the coming weeks as the hold a 13-point lead over second-placed United.

However, Pogba issued a rallying cry for United to win back the battle for supremacy in

Manchester next season.

"After a second half like this, we have to do that all the time. If we did we would be up there with City, and maybe even in front."

Guardiola added more spice to an already hotly-anticipated clash when he claimed on Friday he had been offered the chance to buy Pogba two months ago by the player's agent Mino Raiola.

Pogba has often been dropped by United manager Jose Mourinho for the biggest games this season, despite costing the club a then world record £89 million when he returned to United from Juventus in 2016.

However, restored in his favourite position on the left of a midfield three, Pogba showed why he was once one of the most in-demand players in the world.

"With City they love to attack, they don't like to defend, so I had to get more in the box. I knew I had Nemanja Matic behind me and Ander Herrera with me." Mourinho has been stinging in his criticism of Pogba at times during the campaign, but hailed his contribution to a famous victory. "Two goals from a midfield player in a big match like this one stays in the memory of the people, especially for the fans," said Mourinho.—AFP ■

Summer football course to be opened again in Yangon

Kyaw Zin Lin

WITH the aim of teaching basic football skills and education to children, summer football course will be launched in Yangon for the second time in this summer starting from 23 April to 22 May according to the Myanmar Football Federation.

The football courses for kids will be conducted at the artificial turf of the Myanmar Football

Federation (MFF) according to an official. The course attendees must be between the ages of 8 and 14, both girls and boys are welcome to join.

The one-month course will be held on weekdays: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday.

All the basic football skills will be taught from 7am to 9am.

The course fee for one child is Ks 30,000 and every child attending will receive a jersey said

an official.

At the course's conclusion, outstanding youth players will be selected and they will get a chance to participate in some activities of Myanmar Football Federation, he added. All those interested can submit an application at the office of Myanmar Football Federation in Yangon not later than 20 April and call at an official number of 09-251525044 for further information. ■

Mawyawady and Kachin United players regarded as best for March

Kyaw Zin Lin

THE best coach and best players' awards for March went to the footballers from Mawyawady and Kachin United in MPT Myanmar National League II 2018.

After the match of Mawyawady and University FCs played on 4 April, U Myint Swe, head coach of Kachin United, garnered the Best Coach of the Month Award while Zin

Min Thant from Mawyawady achieved the best player of the month.

The best player of the month award was given by Joint General Secretary of Myanmar Football Federation U Tin Myint Aung and the best player of the month award was given by CEO of Myanmar National League U Soe Moe Kyaw.

The awards were arranged by the official main partner of the tourney, MPT (Myanma Post

and Telecommunications) and it set up as Ks 50,000 with medal for the best coach of the month and Ks 100,000 with the medal for the best player of the month, an official said.

"The awarding system is great. By regarding as this, players and coaches will show more of their abilities with their teams in better play," said Myanmar National League II fan U Sai Myo Zeya Aung from Tamway, Yangon. ■

Messi hat-trick helps Barcelona equal record unbeaten streak

MADRID — Barcelona equalled the record longest unbeaten run in La Liga history as a Lionel Messi hat-trick inspired the runaway leaders to a 3-1 win over Leganes on Saturday to make it 38 league games unbeaten.

The Catalan giants will look to break the record that Real Sociedad set in 1979-80 when they host Valencia next weekend, with Ernesto Valverde's side now just seven matches from becoming the first La Liga side to go through a campaign without tasting defeat.

Messi was the star of the show at the Camp Nou with a magnificent treble, as Barca stretched their lead at the top to 12 points ahead of second-placed Atletico Madrid's derby against Real Madrid on Sunday.

"This unbeaten record has not only been achieved this season, but also last year under (for-

mer coach) Luis Enrique," said Barca coach Valverde.

"It's a shared record, because it crossed over between seasons. It has been quite difficult, because of the fact it's an old record that hasn't been broken for a long time."

Valverde named a strong side despite having a Champions League quarter-final, second leg on Tuesday at Roma, with Messi, Luis Suarez and Philippe Coutinho all starting.

Suarez passed up two good early chances to put Barca ahead, prodding wide and then seeing visiting goalkeeper Ivan Cuellar deny him with an excellent save.

But the hosts moved in front in the 27th minute through a trademark Messi free-kick.

The Argentinian stepped up and curled the ball over the ball and into the bottom corner



Lionel Messi scored his third hat-trick of the season as Barcelona equalled the longest unbeaten run in La Liga. **PHOTO: AFP**

from 25 yards out to score his 27th league goal of the season.

It didn't take the 30-year-old long to double his tally for the day, latching onto Coutinho's through ball and firing low into the corner.

Barcelona eased off in the

second half, perhaps with the midweek clash at the Stadio Olimpico on their minds, and Leganes hit back midway through the second half.

Former Liverpool winger Nabil El Zhar cut inside and fired into the bottom corner from the

edge of the box despite slipping as he shot.

But the home side finished off the match as a contest late on with Messi completing his third hat-trick of the season in style.

The five-time Ballon d'Or winner chested down Ousmane Dembele's pass and dinked the ball over Cuellar with consummate ease.

"To score goals is always good. We think that Messi has to stay active and he avoids any muscular problems," added Valverde. "He's doing well and we saw that tonight. Looking forward to the next matches, the way he played is good news for us." Barca will now turn their attentions to avoiding a disaster in Italy as they defend a 4-1 first-leg lead, still bidding to complete the treble with a Copa del Rey final against Sevilla to come in a fortnight's time.—AFP ■