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Tuesday, 24 April 2018



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi (Right) receives Mr. Kim Hyun-chong, Trade Minister of ROK in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA

State Counsellor, South Korea's Trade Minister discuss economic cooperation

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, State Counsellor and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, received Mr. Kim Hyun-chong, Minister of Trade of the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Energy of the Republic of Korea, at 9:00 hours on 23rd April 2018, Monday, at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw.

During the meeting, they

exchanged views on enhancing existing bilateral economic relations including the promotion of trade and investment, sharing technology and know-how as well as potentials for establishment of industrial zones in Myanmar.

The visit by Mr. Kim Hyun-chong, Minister of Trade of the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Energy of the Republic of

Korea is the first by a Minister-level South Korean official to Myanmar since President Moon Jae-in took office in May of last year.

At the meeting, the South Korean Minister said that his country was interested in the special economic zone being built north of the capital city, and he discussed ways for both sides to create smart fac-

ilities in the area, according to South Korea's Yonhap News Agency.

Also present at the meeting were Dr. Than Myint, Union Minister for Commerce, U Kyaw Tin, Union Minister for International Cooperation, the Permanent Secretary and Senior officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.— Global New Light of Myanmar ■

Displaced persons from seven families return home

SOME 46 displaced persons, including 21 men and 25 women from seven households in Sin Kone Taing Village, Yathedaung Township, returned home on their own volition yesterday, before leaving for Bangladesh. They were gathered near a sentry post at the mouth of Mhowun Creek, Maungtau Township, to leave for the other country. They informed authorities about going back to their homes.

On receiving this information, head of Maungtau District General Administration Department (GAD) U Ye Htut, head of Maungtau District Disaster Management Department U Maung Maung Gyi and head of Myin Hlut Town GAD U Zarni Tun provided rations and rice as initial assistance before taking them back along Maungtau-Buthidaung motor road.

Later in the day at No. 10 Nyaungchaung Area Station, Yathedaung Township, the displaced persons were handed over to their respective village administrators, who then took them back to their villages of origin by motorboat.

Authorities of the Rakhine State held a meeting with Union Minister Dr. Win Myat Aye recently in Sittway focusing development matters in Rakhine State. — District IPRD ■

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Myanmar-Korea trade minister-level meeting held in Nay Pyi Taw

A MYANMAR-KOREA trade minister-level meeting was held at the Ministry of Commerce, Nay Pyi Taw, yesterday morning, where Union Minister for Commerce Dr. Than Myint and minister of the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Energy (MOTIE) Kim Hyun-chong addressed the meeting.

At the meeting, matters relating to increasing cooperation in trade and investment, establishing an industrial zone for Korean companies investing in Myanmar, establishing a Korea Desk, increasing cooperation between the Ministry of Commerce, Trade Promo-

tion Department and Korea Trade-Investment Promotion Agency (KOTRA), sending government employees to Korea for training to increase the usage of news and information in the trade sector, providing technical support on setting up a database to implement e-commerce, activating and implementing the Trade and Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement already signed between Myanmar and Korea, supporting and encouraging good economic and trade relations between the two governments in order to discover opportunities to increase bilateral trade, were discussed.

Present at the meeting were Kim Hyun-chong, South Korea Ambassador to Myanmar Lee Sang-hwa and high-ranking officials; Dr. Than Myint, Deputy Minister U Aung Htoo, Yangon Region Government Minister for Planning and Finance U Myint Thaung, Ministry of Commerce's permanent secretary and directors general, invited directors general, managing directors and deputy directors general of ministries and high-ranking officials.

After the meeting, the delegation, led by Kim Hyun-chong, was hosted with a luncheon at Park Royal Hotel, Nay Pyi Taw. —Myanmar News Agency ■



Trade Minister-level Meeting between Myanmar and South Korea held at the Ministry of Commerce, Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Union Auditor-General inspects Laiva Dam, construction of Falam airport

UNION Auditor-General U Maw Than, accompanied by Chin State Auditor General Larl Tin Mann, arrived at Laiva Dam yesterday afternoon. Head of the state Irrigation and Water Utilisation Management Depart-

ment U Khin Zaw explained the workings of the dam in the briefing hall.

From there, the Union Auditor-General and party went to Falam (Surbung) airport briefing hall, where Department of Civil

Aviation Chief Engineer U Moe Kyaw Oo explained the status of the airport construction.

Later, the Union Auditor-General and party inspected the airport under construction, it is learnt. — District IPRD ■

Local, foreign media personnel reach Sittway on way to Maungtaw

LOCAL and foreign media personnel arrived in Sittway by Myanmar National Airlines yesterday afternoon to check the ground situation for stability, peace, security and development, as well as observe the

receiving of displaced persons in Maungtaw region of Rakhine State.

Some 13 media personnel from MNA, MRTV, MITV, TBS, TV Asahi, CRI, Xinhua, AFP, VOA, BBC, the Mainichi

Newspaper and RFA are participating in the trip.

The media personnel will collect news in Maungtaw region of Rakhine State from 24 to 25 April. — Myo Myint ■



Union Minister Dr Pe Myint presents first prize to Htay Win (Yammawaddi) at Shangri La Hotel in Yangon. **PHOTO: MNA**

Union minister attends photo competition award ceremony

UNION Minister for Information Dr. Pe Myint attended the prize presentation ceremony for a colour photo competition titled "Cultural heritage of ethnic nationals," organised by the Ministry of Information and Information and Public Relations Department (IPRD). The ceremony was held at Shangri La Hotel, Yangon, yesterday afternoon.

At the ceremony, Union Minister for Information Dr. Pe Myint delivered an opening speech.

Next, the first, second and third prize winners, Htay Win (Yammawaddi), Bagan Min Thu and Ko Ko Hsan, respectively, were presented with the awards by Union Minister Dr. Pe Myint, Permanent Secretary U Myo Myint Maung and IPRD Director-General U Ye Naing, respectively.

Following this, special prize winners Htay Win (Yammawaddi), Aung Ye Naing (Amarapura), Zaw Zaw Wei (Sinbyukyun), Ko Ko Hsan and Hline Than Tint (Shwe Bagyi-Yamethin) were presented with awards by Myanmar Photographic Society Chairman U Kyaw Kyaw Win, Myanmar Writers Asso-

ciation Chairman U Kyaw Win (Manottha Kyaw Win), Myanmar Motion Picture Organisation Chairman U Zin Waing, Myanmar Libraries Foundation Chairman U Maung Maung and Myanmar Photographic Society patron Bagyi Soe Moe, respectively.

Later, Myanmar Photographic Society patron Bagyi Soe Moe explained the process of selecting the award winners and Htay Win (Yammawaddi) delivered a message of appreciation on behalf of the award winners.

The union minister and his group then observed the award-winning photographs.

The competition was held with the aim to exhibit the ethnic nationals' literature and traditional practices, music and festivals, food, clothing, utensils and cultural heritage through photographs to create unity, get acquainted with one another, and build understanding and respect towards one another, and assist one another. Some 220 photographers and enthusiasts from across Myanmar participated in the competition by submitting 582 photographs. — Myanmar News Agency ■



“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)

“No matter what kind of projects we implement, the main factor for success is collective endeavor. I am firmly convinced that we can overcome any challenge— no matter how big or difficult— if we can set aside prejudices of organizations and select groups, and work without pointing fingers and if every one of us makes concerted efforts with goodwill, wisdom, and courage.

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

Coordination meeting held for Myanmar motion picture development

A COORDINATION meeting for the development of Myanmar motion pictures was held at the Information and Public Relations Department's Motion Picture Development Division, in Kokkine Avenue, Bahan Township, Yangon, yesterday morning.

Before the meeting, Union Minister for Information Dr. Pe Myint inspected the small censor screening cinema, and renovated the film studio and outdoor shooting sites in the compound of the department.

At the meeting, the union minister said the coordination meeting was held to seek suggestions and comments on establishing a fully furnished movie studio and a movie skills training school.

To establish these in Nay Pyi Taw, a building and adequate space must be allotted, said the union minister.

However, it will not be

effective if conducted by the government alone, and the relevant people and entities from the industry must participate in it, added the union minister. The investment component must be considered, besides the basic requirements for a movie studio and a training school.

The actual implementation also needs to be in line with the existing rules, laws, procedures and the investment law.

The motion picture development will benefit the artistes and players in the motion picture industry and will raise the image of the country, the union minister said.

Later, Myanma Radio and Television Director-General U Myint Htway explained making motion pictures in the studios at Tatkon Headquarters, Nay Pyi Taw, while Information and Public Relations Department Director-General U Ye Naing



Union Minister for Information Dr. Pe Myint addresses the coordination meeting for the development of Myanmar motion pictures in Yangon yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

explained plans made to establish a movie studio and a movie skills training school.

Following this, Myanmar Motion Picture Organisation Chairman U Zin Waing, My-

anmar Music Association Vice President U Lwin Myint, artistes and players in the motion picture sector and those already operating movie training schools discussed and gave suggestions

on establishing a movie studio and a training school. The union minister delivered a concluding speech after coordinating on the discussions and suggestions. — Myanmar News Agency ■

News writing course conducted in Nay Pyi Taw

AN OPENING ceremony for a news writing course conducted under the supervision of the Ministry of Information was held in the assembly hall of the ministry in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

The course aims to train media-related staff of government organisations to write, edit, produce and distribute news and press releases.

In his opening speech at the ceremony, Deputy Minister for Information U Aung Hla Tun said that in a democratic country, the government is elected by the

people and the people also pay taxes to fund the government. Government departments operating with public funds have the duty to report to the people systematically and transparently about their works, he noted.

This will reduce irregularities and corruption in government departments, support the establishment of a good and clean government, reduce suspicion and increase trust between the government departments and the people, he added.

To conduct news releases systematically, the departments



Deputy Minister for Information U Aung Hla Tun gives the opening speech at the opening ceremony for news writing course in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

responsible must create news releases. The trainees attending the course have this duty in their respective departments, and organisations need to systematically understand and learn news releasing techniques and methods. Trainees are urged to attend the course diligently and

value it. As the news releasing techniques and methods are changing and developing all the time, everybody needs to study and remain up-to-date, said the deputy minister. The training course will include clicking of photographs, writing news, news media law, news personnel eth-

ics, online publishing of news releases, and dos and don'ts on using social media. The five-day course will be conducted until 27 April, and more than 30 media staff from the Ministry of Information and 15 organisations are in attendance. — Myanmar News Agency ■

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Nine bridges to be inspected for strength in Yangon Region

May Thet Hnin

THE Yangon Region government will examine the strength of nine bridges in Yangon, said U Phyo Min Thein, Yangon Region Chief Minister, at a media conference on 20 April.

"The Ministry of Construction regularly inspects the bridges' strength. Unfortunately, the Myaungmya suspension bridge collapsed this year. Therefore, the region government is planning to inspect other bridges," he added.

The nine bridges are Thanlyin bridge No 1, Aung Zeya bridge, Bayintnaung bridges No. 1 and No. 2, Shwe Pyi Thar bridge, Pan Hlaing bridge, Twante bridge, Dagon

bridge No 2 and Mahabandoola bridge.

The chief minister said, "We have conducted emergency repairing of Thanlyin bridge No. 1, because the sand and stone from the bridge has been absorbed by the big boats. Currently, we don't need to worry about the other bridges' structural integrity."

Moreover, the authorities will no longer collect toll gate fees. However, the public is advised to follow the rules when using the bridges to ensure the infrastructure will be safe for all motorists. Overloaded heavy vehicles are not allowed on the bridges. Also, the authorities will take legal action against vehicles crossing the bridges with

overloaded vehicles.

"For smooth transport and the safety of our citizens, we will conduct detailed inspections and assessments of 29 suspension bridges across the country within three months, with the co-operation of foreign experts. From among these suspension bridges, those bridges which may pose danger will be repaired within six months in order of priority," said President U Win Myint at the Myanmar New Year's speech on 17 April.

The Myaungmya suspension bridge in the Ayeyawady Region collapsed on 1 April, killing two people. The bridge collapsed when a truck passed over it and plunged into the river. ■

Pilgrim vehicle plunges into chasm, 30 passengers hurt

The Padarmyar Shwesin pilgrim vehicle plunged into the chasm on Meiktila-Kyaukpadaung road on 23 April, injuring 30 passengers.

According to the investigation, the six-wheel pilgrim vehicle, driven by Nay Win Han, 35, of North Okkalapa Township, was heading to Popa from Yangon when it plunged into the hill after the vehicle's lost control near Nyaung Pin Thar village at milepost 17/1 on Meiktila-Kyaukpadaung road.

The accident injured seriously 30 of the 49 passengers.

The traffic police have filed charges against the driver under sections 337 and 338 of the Penal Code for negligence.—Khin Zar Mon Myint ■

GAP/GHP meeting held with mango plantation owners from Sagaing Region townships

A MEETING with mango plantation owners from townships in Kanbalu District, Sagaing Region, was held at the district Consumer Affairs Department meeting hall on the morning of 20 April to raise their interest in organic farming and to export value-added local agricultural products to foreign markets.

At the meeting, head of district Agriculture Department U Win Shwe, head of district Consumer Affairs Department U Than Po and U Than Tun Oo from a township mango plantation explained and discussed Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) and Good Handling Practices (GHP) to minimise the risk of microbial food safety hazards in production, packaging, handling and storage of fruits and vegetables; staying away from the chemical ripening of mangoes; crimes and penalties prescribed in the National Food Law; and contacting departments to obtain agriculture techniques. They also responded to questions raised by attending mango plantation farmers, it is learnt.



Mango stands at the top of the list of exported agricultural products. Four GAP-certified mango plantations in Kanbalu Township. **PHOTO: AUNG WIN NYEIN (KANBALU)**

All over the country, national crops such as rice, pulses and beans, oil crops, industrial crops and fruits are produced for local consumption and export. Among these agricultural products, mango stands at the top of the list of exported agricultural products. There are nearly 250,000 acres of mango plantations all over the country, and

in the year 2016, nearly 500,000 tons of mangoes were produced for local consumption, as well as exported to Asian countries such as China, Singapore, Malaysia, Bhutan, Brunei, Maldives and European countries. According to mango merchants, mangoes are exported after tests are conducted for chemical and other contaminations, as well as cross

border control against crop diseases.

Based on ASEAN GAP, a 16-point Myanmar GAP process has been drawn up, and up to 15 crops are being produced according to this process. U Than Tun Oo said there are four GAP-certified mango plantations in Kanbalu Township. — Aung Win Nyein (Kanbalu) ■



Farmers work in the organic farm in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE**

Agro products exports down by \$24 million in first two weeks of April

THE export of agricultural products from 1 to 13 April in the six-month transition period for the 2018-2019 fiscal year (FY) reached US\$102 million, which showed a slight decrease of \$24 million compared with the same period in the 2017-2018 FY, according to trade figures released by the commerce ministry.

The decrease in agro exports is attributed to slower trading in the pre-Thingyan pe-

riod. Chinese buyers halted the purchase of rice to observe the market in early April, which is the harvest season both in China and Myanmar.

Additionally, mung bean and pigeon pea prices are also on the downward trend, following India's restriction on the importation of mung beans and pigeon peas.

Myanmar's main agricultural exports are rice and

broken rice, pulses, corn and rubber. Fruits and vegetables, sesame, dried tea leaves, sugar and other agro products are also sent to foreign countries.

The commerce ministry is endeavouring to help deal with the challenges faced by farmers, such as high input costs, procurement of pedigree seeds, high cultivation costs and erratic weather conditions. — Mon Mon ■

Over 500,000 tonnes of cobless maize stock left

SHAN State growers have stocked more than 500,000 tonnes of maize without cob, while trying to boost the production, according to a report in Myanma Alinn yesterday.

Some 250,000 tonnes of maize are left after excluding wastage and consumption. The merchants are piling up the stocks hoping for a good price, said U Sai Kyaw Ohn from the Shan State Maize Producers and Exporters Association.

Currently, there are stockpiles of more than 400,000 tonnes in northern Shan State, more

than 70,000 tonnes in eastern Shan State and 15,000 tonnes in southern Shan State, totaling more than 500,000 tonnes of stocks in the hands of merchants.

A viss of maize fetches Ks570 from China.

"The maize planting season starts in April, and it is harvested in October in Shan State. Last year, maize fetched a good price, prompting the growers to extend their planting acres. An acre produces 80 baskets of maize," said a maize grower.

There are some 300,000

acres of maize plantation in southern Shan State and 600,000 acres in northern Shan State.

Myanmar's maize without the central core is sent to nine countries, including China, Bangladesh, Singapore, Malaysia and Hong Kong. However, 98 per cent of the export is primarily shipped to China.

Myanmar exported some 1.2 million tonnes of maize, worth US\$305 million in the 2015-2016 FY, and 1.3 million tonnes valued at \$253 million in the 2016-2017 FY. — Zar Lin Thu (AMIA) ■

Livestock minister visits Fishery Development and Research Collaboration Centre

UNION Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation Dr Aung Thu inspected the Fishery Development and Research Collaboration Centre, being constructed by the Mon State Fishery Department (Thaton Hatchery) last Sunday.

The Fishery Development and Research Collaboration Centre is jointly developed by Helvetas Myanmar, Network Activities Group and International Union for Conservation of Nature, with funds from the Fishery Department (headquarters) and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation.

The research centre will help enhance the fishery sector in Mon State. U Thanchaung, head of Mon State Fishery Department, and other related

officials explained the objectives of the research centre and the construction process to the union minister

The construction of the centre began in February. The centre will be a two-storey reinforced concrete building (56' 6" x 36').

The construction is slated to be completed on 5 May by Royal Thanlwin (Mawlamyine) Construction Co. Ltd. at a cost of Ks114 million, said a representative from the company.

"The centre will provide hatching technology for fish origins and marketable fish varieties. Moreover, it will distribute fingerlings to fish farmers at a cheaper price. It will contribute fish to breed them in lakes and ponds," said U Win Bo from Thaton hatchery. — Khun (Winpa) ■

MIC issues 9 investment permits, 3 endorsements

The Myanmar Investment Commission (MIC) issued nine investment permits and three endorsements under the Myanmar Investment Law, according to a meeting held by MIC last Friday.

The nine projects approved by the MIC are engaged in the manufacturing and marketing of edible oil, marketing of plastic products, breeding, manufacturing and selling of prawns, processing and sales of lead concentrate, importation and distribution of LPG, gas and diesel and hotel services. The enterprises will create more than 1,800 job opportunities.

The three endorsements are for enterprises involved in the manufacturing and ex-

port of cigarettes, passenger transport business of hot-air balloons and the production and sale of electricity by diesel generators, which will create 180 job opportunities. Union Minister for Planning and Finance and chairman of MIC U Kyaw Win, Union Minister for Commerce and vice chairman of MIC Dr. Than Myint and nine MIC members attended the meeting.

According to the new Myanmar Investment Law, region and state DICA offices are authorised to grant approval to investment proposals with capital not exceeding US\$5 million (Ks6,000 million), to facilitate the verification process of the investment projects. — Ko Khant ■

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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By Min Min Zaw (Kalaywa)

MINISTRY of Home Affairs MOHA is focusing on ensuring national security, strengthening law enforcement, maintaining community peace and tranquility and carrying out social rendering services. The following is interview with the respective responsible persons regarding the above-mentioned matters:

Permanent Secretary U Tin Myint, Ministry of Home Affairs

The existing 49 laws are applied to realize a vision of Myanmar to reach the goal of a peaceful and prosperous nation. MOHA is formed with Union Minister's Office, Myanmar Police Force, General Administration Department, Bureau of Special Investigation, Prisons Department and Fire Services Department.

MPF is practicing people-centred method cooperating with people while its members are taking security measures on board vehicles, on bike, on bicycles and on foot.

As regards security at Myanmar-Bangladesh border, Border Liaison Office is to be opened in Teknaf, Bangladesh.

To oppress transnational crimes, MPF is making contacts with Interpol, ASEAN Police, Europe Police, police forces of the respective countries.

To curb danger posed by narcotic drugs, Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law was amended to be in line with the international standard.

Regarding drug elimination five years extra plans have been drawn in 1999 up to 2019. Moreover, anti-drug campaigns were launched and alternative crops are grown. Thanks to these efforts poppy growing could be reduced by 25 per cent in 2017.

The General Administration Department is engaged in the tasks of forming towns and villages systematically, implementing rural development projects, forming associations in accord with the laws, awarding medals to those who deserved, taking measures on negotiable instrument act, land management, and collecting tax. The measures lead to granting 44296 land leases.

Tax collecting in 2017-2018 Fiscal Year hit 36577.017 million kyat exceeding the target.

During the two years period in office of the government, 441 NGOs and 42 INGOs were permitted to register or extend.

One Stop Services were established in the interest of people in 316 townships which they have provided 2919549 services to the public.

BSI exposed 95 cases from 1st April 2016 to 15 March 2018 resulting in informing to the Ministry of Planning and Finance to collect 5435443.2 million kyat and USD 18566 945 as taxes.

Prisons Department build new jails spending Union Government's budget. The cells for the inmates are set at 18 square feet for one inmate. Water purifiers were also installed at 94 prisons spending 854.63 million kyat. With the loans from



Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Kyaw Swe and dignitaries pose for the documentary photo at the workshop on Search & Rescue and Disaster Management jointly conducted by Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). **PHOTO: MNA**

Missions of MOHA: National Security, Law Enforcement, Community Peace & Serving Interest of People



Permanent Secretary U Tin Myint,
Ministry of Home Affairs.



Police Colonel Thet Naing,
Director (Admin), MPF.



U Aung Theik Win, Director (Admin),
General Administration Department.

Poland, advanced fire engines and rescue vehicles were procured to fight fire and to ensure effectiveness in rescue tasks.

As the ministry is carrying out its duties in accord with laws, courses are being conducted for staff of the ministry to promote their performances as well as sending them to meetings and workshops at home and abroad.

Police Colonel Thet Naing, Director (Admin), MPF

Myanmar Police Force is, in the transitional period of the government, applying problem solving method and Comprehensive Evidence-based Approach to accomplish police force's missions.

To promote security in the western part of Myanmar, eight police companies and three command centres were positioned in the areas.

For the security of western border areas, arrangements are being made to establish Border Liaison Office. Meetings between Myanmar and Bangladesh were held for 17 times at various levels. Moreover, Two-storey outpost towers were built, fox holes and trenches were dug and fencing works were carried out for security reason. Coastal areas are also guarded with coastal patrol boats.

In addition to normal security measures, securities for VIPs at state-level ceremonies were also enhanced. The old weapons are replaced with automatic rifles and riot control weapons used.

MPF is also focusing on law enforcement for the sake of people and taking measures for curbing crimes.

Crime education is also disseminated to the public through vehicles mounted crime education booths, making field trips

to areas and schools, delivering pamphlets, and making home visits.

As regard anti-drug movement, eight special operations were made in regions and states leading to the arrest of 1957 suspects in 1388 cases. Information sharing is also made with international communities.

To carry out social rendering services, police members participate in rescue and rehabilitation works in time. It donated over 400000 gallons of water to people facing water scarcity.

U Aung Theik Win, Director (Admin), General Administration Department

The General Administration Department is responsible for law enforcement, community peace and tranquility, regional development and rendering social service.

The mission of the department includes issuing land lease grant, returning grabbed lands to owners, issuing license to liquor firms and raising tax for the firms with the aim of reducing consuming liquor; and revoking license from those who do not abide by the law, collecting tax, and forming and organizing towns, wards and villages and granting permission to associations.

U Aung Myo, Director, Bureau of Special Investigation

The major tasks of BSI are exposing economic crimes, corruption of government servants; collecting information on national security; and cooperating in security measures. Crimes related to economy are cash received from exports are not returned to the country but circulated abroad, internet-based fraud, purchasing forest products without permission, producing fake drugs and selling goods through multi-level marketing. Altogether 95 cases related to the above-mentioned crimes are exposed and investigated.

Misappropriations by public servant were also exposed in 44 cases and preventive measures against the unscrupulous persons were also taken.

In accord with money laundering law, 131 cases were exposed for stability of Myanmar currency. As a result of efforts made by BSI, 1901,756,967 kyat, 467,240 USD, 33000 Euro, 5261000 Yen, 28505 Malaysian ringgit, 33193 Chinese Yuan, 610 Pound Sterling, 50700 Taiwan Dollar, 1001000 Korean Won and 17177 HKD could be put into the State Treasury.

Ignorant people not to face losses, BSI post news on conditions of companies and nature of crypto currency on the website of MOHA and published in state media.

U Min Soe, Director, Correctional Department

Under Correctional Department, there are 43 prisons, six lockups, and 48 camps. During the two years period, two new lockups and one prison were built. Water purifiers were also installed at the prisons and camps. To meet the health standard, sewage systems have been upgraded.

Regarding health care to the prisoners, 50-bed hospitals were built in each



U Aung Myo, Director, Bureau of Special Investigation.



U Min Soe, Director, Correctional Department.



U Kyaw Naing, Director, Fire Services Department.

three central prisons. In Insein Central prisons, patients with TB are treated. Health knowledge is also given to inmates.

Religious freedom is enjoyed by followers of the respective faiths. For Buddhists, Meditation Centers are opened and religious courses conducted.

Vocational trainings including agriculture, livestock breeding, production and mechanical workshops are also given to inmates enabling them to earn their livelihood after they have done their times.

In academic sector, basic education students, and university students are allowed to pursue their education and in 2016-2017 academic year, 16 inmates passed the matriculation exam. In 2017-

2018 AY, 104 inmates sit the metric exam. For illiterates, Three-R courses are conducted.

U Kyaw Naing, Director, Fire Services Department

Fire Services Department is taking measures to guard lives and properties against fire, and participating in rescue work in time of emergency.

During the two years period, the level of region and state FSDs have been promoted putting them under the command of directors. There are 73 district-level centres, 330 at township level and 703 at area level.

Before 2016, there were only 2920 fire

engines, but now the number increased up to 3351. Members of FSD are now enjoying daily ration at a rate of 1500 kyat per day.

To be able to make rapid response in time of emergency including disasters and other accidents, Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development of EU backed by the government of Poland offered 50 million Euro as official development assistance to FSD. Spending the money, advanced fire engines, rescue vehicle, fire extinguishers and equipments were bought and course for FSD members are conducted in Poland. These facilities will be reaching in the country this year.

(Translated By Wallace)

To curb danger posed by narcotic drugs, Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law was amended to be in line with the international standard.



Local villagers carrying water which is their main source of usable water donated by the Fire Services Department. PHOTO: MNA



Firefighters received training course as part of ODA programme in Poland. PHOTO: MNA



Firefighters are rescuing the villagers who are trapped in flood. PHOTO: MNA

SEE PAGE 12

It is time we take our palm trees to the international market ■.

Performance in Two-Year Period by Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation

By Maw Si

THE Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation has been performing emphatically the tasks of reducing the climate change, fighting against the formation of deserts, conservation of different biological species and so on.

Here is the interview with the Union Minister for Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation who has been making concerted efforts for reducing the destruction of forest resources and conservation of environment in every way and departmental heads of the ministry.

U Ohn Win, Union Minister for Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation

Interviewer : Could you explain about the dramatic reforms regarding the forestry sector?

Union Minister : During the period-of-two year, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation

wood in the whole country in the financial year 2016-2017. This was done with the intention of conserving the forests.

Starting from 2016-2017, extracting logs from the Bago Yoma had been suspended nationwide and long-term projects have been initiated which can restore the forest area during the 10 years from 2017-2018 to 2026-2027 fiscal years. Also plans are under way to lay down 19 schemes which can contribute to the restoration of the trees across the country.

The Ministry had efforts to detect illegal logging and to introduce the Community Monitoring and Reporting System of nationwide scale.

During the two-year-period, we could open up to 18 elephant-based tourism camps and earn Ks 300 million. Moreover we are going to open many elephant conservation-based tourism camps across the country.

Interviewer : Could you explain about the implementation for the long-term development?

As we know that forests and trees are renewable energy, with minerals being the non-renewable resources which cannot develop again. Thus for long-term use, it has been arranged to leave reserved mineral resources for new generations.

has three major sectors, namely sector of conserving the forests, sector of conserving the environment and sector of exploiting minerals for sale. The remarkable change of the forests is none other than the suspension of the production of teak and hard

Union Minister : As regards the long-term development, the Ministry has the department of conserving natural environment. It is a major department which carries out the conservation of natural environment. For sustainable



Experts observing chromium minerals using a portable XRF instrument in Bopebon mountain in 2017. **PHOTO: AYE THAN**



The CCOP Steering Committee Meeting is held in 2017. **PHOTO: AYE THAN**



Geologists carry out field studies in Thebeikkyin Township, Mandalay Region. **PHOTO: AYE THAN**

development, there are three major panels under the ministry—social, economic and natural environment sectors. Among them, panel of natural environment conservation plays an important role.

Interviewer : Could you explain

about sustainable development for environmental conservation?

Union Minister : We have drawn up National Environmental Policy, Myanmar National Climate Change Policy, Myanmar Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan in accordance with the changes of



Officials from SEG group and Hteiktankyal Selzu company analyzing the lead mining in Bawsaq region, southern Shan State in 2017. **PHOTO: AYE THAN**



Director-General Dr Myint Soe reading the paper titled "The Inventory of Preliminary Geological Sites Assessment in Myanmar" at the 3th International Congress on Geology, Resources, Geo- hazards of Myanmar and Surrounding Regions Seminar. **PHOTO: AYE THAN**



Merchants evaluate pearls at the 4th International Myanmar Pearl Auction in Hong Kong. **PHOTO: AYE THAN**

economic, social, political situations.

Moreover, we had drawn up a draft of Green Economic Policy Framework and National Waste Management Strategy for the time being. Some six committees were also formed including Central Committee and Working Committee to cooperate with Regions and States. The formation of Environmental Conservation Department has extended up to 19,229 service personnel from 2017-2018 to 2025-2026 fiscal years totalling 9 years in 73 districts and 330 townships across the country.

Interviewer : How about international cooperation which can develop mining sectors?

Union Minister : We have joined the Coordinating Committee for Geoscience Program in East and Southeast Asia (CCOP) since 2015 and attended many workshops, seminars and conferences regarding geology. We have successfully hosted 68th Steering Committee, 16th ASEAN Senior officials Meeting on Minerals (16th ASOM) and ASOMM + 3) and 6th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Mineral-AMMIN in Myanmar.

Interviewer : Could you explain about the process of the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI)?

Union Minister : It is of great importance to be transparent in extracting mineral resources. As regards to this, EITI was initiated as of 2012, so Myanmar became a Candidate Country in 2014. The first report had been submitted to EITI Board in 2016. After that a Tripartite Committee consisting of Government, Private and Civil Society was formed. Likewise, Work Implementation Committee was formed in 2016 to promptly carry out EITI works. 2nd Report of the EITI was under-way to submit to the international EITI Board in March 2018.

Interviewer : Could you tell me about the arrangements for the long-term benefits of mineral resources as for the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation?

Union Minister: As we know that forests and trees are renewable energy, with Minerals being the non-renewable resources which cannot develop again.

In our accomplishments, the tasks of sharing knowledge are required in the long run so that respective departments, organizations, NGOs, civil societies, private entrepreneurs and the whole populace will participate.

Thus for long-term use, it has been arranged to leave reserved mineral resources for new generations.

In mining minerals, EMP (Environmental Management Plan) was drawn up, since the time when the new government took office in 2016-2017. With effect from 1 March 2016, permits allowing limited mining were granted. Starting from 1 April 2016, it was strictly prohibited to grant new mining plots in the interest of future generation.

We need to take into consideration of the impact assessment guideline such as including EIA / SIA / IEE / EMP and the maximum benefits in terms of ecosystem services as well as in terms cash income. Cooperation among all-sector-related ministries, private organizations, civil society organizations and the people are essential to implement the policies successfully.

U Khin Latt Gyi, Director General Department of Mining

Plots for exploring minerals are being made in accord with the EMP (Environmental Management Plan). In performing the tasks of exploring jades and gems in gem-producing areas, instructions are issued for drawing up the plans for management of natural environment.

Dr. Ye Myint Swe, Director General, Geological Survey and Mineral Exploration Department

In mining minerals, EMP (Environmental Management Plan) was drawn up and licenses were given out to continue mining. If not so, the permission to dig up was suspended. Presently, digging was granted with limitation.

Dr. Nyi Nyi Kyaw, Director General,

U Hla Maung Thein, Director General, Environmental Conservation Department

Conservation of the natural environment and climate change must be done practically on the ground. In carrying out the tasks of industrial development, we must work hard in unity and with full conscientiousness and special care needs to be given so as to leave a better and sustainable natural environment for our future generations.

U Zaw Ko Ko, Academician

In our accomplishments, the tasks of sharing knowledge are required in the long run so that respective departments, organizations, NGOs, civil societies, private entrepreneurs and the whole populace will participate.

(Translated by Win Ko Ko Aung)



A mining survey team measures a limestone in Haka Township. **PHOTO: AYE THAN**



The 4th International Myanmar Pearl Auction held in Hong Kong from 24-2-2016 to 26-2-2016. **PHOTO: AYE THAN**

Rakhine State Chief Minister receives Taipei representatives, Daw Khin Kyi Foundation

RAKHINE State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu received a party led by the representative of Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Myanmar Chun-Fu Chang and Daw Khin Kyi Foundation Central Executive Dr. Thant Thaw Kaung in the guest room of the State Chief Minister.

During the meeting, they discussed matters related to cooperation and participation in agriculture and livestock breeding works for Rakhine State development, upgrading the libraries in the district and township offices of the Information and Public Relations Department (IPRD) into community centres through co-operation between the IPRD and Daw Khin Kyi Foundation, conducting computer training courses and cooperating with the state government in provid-



Rakhine State Chief Minister holds talks with the delegation led by representative of Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Myanmar Chun-Fu Chang at the State Chief Minister's Office. **PHOTO: MNA**

ing information and knowledge to the people through the mobile library.

After the meeting, the State Chief Minister presented the document of honour to Daw Khin Kyi Foundation

and Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Myanmar that built and donated 30 houses in Maungtau Township, Khondaing Village, for the ethnic Mro nationals. — Tin Tun (IPRD) ■

Ayeyawady Region Chief Minister inspects new facility for ferry services with barges in Myaungmya

AYEYAWADY Region Chief Minister U Hla Moe Aung visited a site where a jetty for barges was in construction in Myaungmya Township yesterday.

The jetty project is part of a plan to provide better transportation services to local people

in Myaungmya and Labutta districts after the Myaungmya bridge collapsed on 1 April.

The new facility on the bank of the Panmawady River in Myaungmya for ferry services with barges is expected to be commissioned into service on

24 April.

The chief minister also visited a site near the collapsed bridge and assisted in providing ferry services to local people to solve transportation difficulties.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Union Supreme Court sits to pass judgment, hear cases

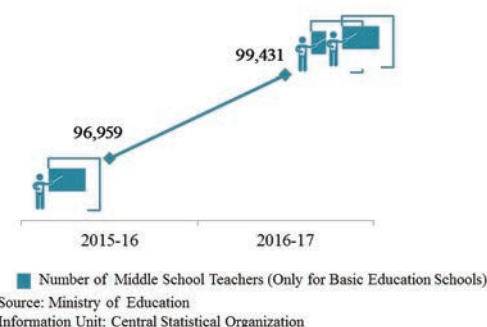
THE Union Supreme Court sat at Union Supreme Court room number 1 yesterday morning, along with Chief Justice of Union U Htun Htun Oo and

other Supreme Court judges, to pass judgments on six special civil appeal cases and hear six special civil appeal cases. —MNA ■



Displaced persons receive sacks of rice before returning home. **PHOTO: DISTRICT IPRD (NEWS ON PAGE 1)**

Number of Middle School Teachers in Myanmar



Unlocking Potential towards Knowledge Economy in Myanmar

FROM PAGE 8+9

contributing in giant global organizations that would attract several employment and investment opportunities for the nation. Investment has to be done positively in the direction of human capital development and fostering research and creativity in the students. If unavailability of fund is a major cause of concerns then the policymakers may think upon the alternative ways of the funds for these schemes.

* **MEMS can play Crucial Role:** Myanmar Enterprise Monitoring System (MEMS) focuses on small and medium size enterprise (SME) as industrial enterprise that would create awareness in youth, for which only re-

quired the effort to bring the SME initiatives to the youth and making them part of it. This could do wonders in skill development and enriching human capital in native areas of scope in the industrial sectors.

* **Sharing and Caring the Talent:** The country is rich in producing vegetables, fruits and paddy and this needs a lot of scientific revolutions so as to make few significant contributions in these areas that would not only help productivity but attract more and more foreign investments. The collaborative investments get the talents of Myanmar as well as other parts of the nation in exploring the possible research based economy in the area of agriculture by

combining the efforts and scientific knowledge of local youth and other researchers from the world. So, sharing its native knowledge; updating with latest knowledge; involving others from outside would help develop human capital in the nation itself.

* **Strengthening ICT Initiatives:** As far ICT (Information and Communication Technology) tools and initiatives are concerned, the nation has to take very bold steps so that common ICT tools are available to common masses and they can use all ICT enabled services for service sector and other beneficial schemes aimed at elevating the poor and common masses. In addition to this, modern and global ed-

ucation needs ICT support very much and therefore ICT efforts that are already being put by the country, needs to be speeded up for facilitating the e-based or ICT based education and then the outreach of education would benefit faster and larger.

* **Knowledge Management Platform can act as Big Brother:** The country's knowledge management platform launched for bringing big financial services to Myanmar, can act as big brother in helping the institutions and young minds in becoming good human capitals that would further attract other developed countries in Myanmar for joint academic and research activities.

* **Recognizing Native Intelligence and giving them Opportunity to Flourish:** Most importantly, all native intelligence in different areas of industrial and societal growth need to be given importance. The local intelligence of youth has to be promoted; encouraged; flourished and propagated all across the world.

There are so many things that could be written on how to improve knowledge economy of a nation but this article has attempted to bring important points that would help the nation in developing the human capital so that knowledge economy is improved significantly on continuous basis that would ultimately benefit the common masses and the nation at large. (Please do write for feedback to me at drgrsinha@ieee.org, ganeshsinha@acm.org, gr_sinha@miit.edu.mm). ■

Threatened Cambodia river dolphins making ‘historic’ rebound

PHNOM PENH — The population of Cambodia’s critically endangered river dolphin is growing for the first time in decades, conservationists said on Monday, hailing a major turnaround for the freshwater species.

The Irrawaddy dolphins, known for their bulging foreheads and short beaks, once swam through much of the Mekong river but in recent decades have been limited to a 190 km (118 mile) stretch from central Cambodia to its northern border with Laos.

The population has been in steady decline since the first census was taken in 1997, dropping from 200 that year to 80 in 2015 due to habitat loss and destructive fishing practices.

But new births — including three calves in 2018 — and a decline in deaths has put the species on the path to recovery.

The number of dolphins in the Mekong has increased from 80 to 92 in the past two years, according to a survey by Cambodian authorities and the World Wildlife Fund (WWF), which called the rebound a “historic increase”.

“After years of hard work, we finally have reason to believe that these iconic dolphins can be protected against extinction,” said Seng Teak from WWF-Cambodia.

The group attributed the turnaround to the work of river patrol teams and the removal of illegal

gillnets — vertical mesh fishing nets that are left in the water for long periods and can trap and drown dolphins. Tourist boat operators were also hailed as a “secret ingredient” for their help in reporting poaching and illegal gillnets to authorities.

But conservationists and officials warn that significant threats remain, including other illegal fishing practices involving grenades, electronic gear and poisonous bait.

Major infrastructure projects, such as dams in Laos, also endanger the animals’ fragile recovery.

Eng Cheasan, the director of Cambodia’s fisheries administration, hailed the dolphins as a “national

treasure” and said the government was committed to “eliminating all threats to the survival of this species”.

Cambodia is home to the largest population of Irrawaddy dolphins, which can also be found in rivers and lakes in Myanmar, Indonesia, India and Thailand.—AFP ■



Conservationists have fresh hope for the future of the critically endangered Irrawaddy dolphin. **PHOTO: AFP**

Underwater survey reveals secrets of Australia WWI wreck off PNG

SYDNEY — Researchers on Monday voiced renewed hope of discovering why Australia’s first submarine sank, after a detailed underwater survey of the long-lost wreck off Papua New Guinea led by Microsoft co-founder Paul Allen.

HMAS AE1, the first of two E Class submarines built for the Royal Australian Navy, vanished on 14 September, 1914 near the Duke of York Islands.

The disappearance of the sub, carrying 35 crew members from Australia, Britain and New Zealand, was the nation’s most enduring military mystery until the wreck was found in December following 12 previous expeditions.

The new survey, conducted earlier this month with Allen’s research vessel the R/V Petrel, used a remotely-operated vehicle to inspect the sub and collect more than 8,500 high-resolution photos and several hours of video footage.

James Hunter of the Australian National Maritime Museum, an arche-

ological observer to the US-Australia expedition, said the fresh imagery should help unravel the mystery of what happened to AE1.

“We’re not there yet, we’re still looking through all the footage... it’s going to give us the detail that we need that we didn’t have before,” he told AFP.

He said the researchers, who also came from the Royal Australian Navy, Curtin University, the Western Australian Museum and the Submarine Institute of Australia, previously only had low-resolution overhead shots of the wreck.

“We’re going to be looking for all sorts of clues. Even the seemingly most innocuous clues may actually help us move forward and have a better understanding of what happened to the submarine,” he added.

So far, the images that have been reviewed reveal that the sub’s stern torpedo tube cap was open, although it is not known why, Hunter said.—AFP ■

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Dated 24th April 2018 lmm@kcyangon.com

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Vatican's Sistine Chapel hosts first live online concert

VATICAN CITY — The Vatican's Sistine Chapel, an artistic Renaissance jewel, opened up to the digital age on Sunday with the first live concert streamed over the internet from the famous sacred space.

It was a performance of Scottish composer James MacMillan's acclaimed version of the "Stabat Mater."

A British choir group The Sixteen and chamber orchestra ensemble Britten Sinfonia took to the stage against the backdrop of Michelangelo's masterpiece of The Last Judgement, while lovers of classical music from around the world tuned in to watch on the web.

The "Stabat Mater" is a 13th century poem most likely written by Franciscan friar Jacopone da Todi (1230–1306), but sometimes ascribed to Pope Innocent III, which portrays the Virgin Mary's suffering during Jesus Christ's death by crucifixion.

MacMillan, 58, who has composed many pieces of sacred music, was commissioned by



The British choir perform the sir James MacMillan's Stabat Mater conduct by British composer Harry Christophers, in a concert live streamed for the first time from the Sistine Chapel at the Vatican on 22 April, 2018. **PHOTO: AFP**

the Genesis Foundation, which has been working since 2001 to support young artistic talent and develop the link between art and faith. His version of "Stabat Mater" was heaped with praise

upon its premiere at London's Barbican Centre in 2016, and Cardinal Vincent Nichols, Archbishop of Westminster, pushed for the composer to present his work at the Vatican.

Some 300 people filled the Sistine Chapel Sunday evening for the concert while live video of the performance was streamed over the website of Classic FM.

As the British choir began

to sing the audience there and online was reminded that the acoustics as much as the frescoes have made the chapel world famous over the centuries.

The Sistine Chapel attracts some six million visitors each year as part of the Vatican Museum, but it is also "a musical centre where composers have written for the liturgy for hundreds of years, some of the great composers of Western civilisation, Palestrina, Allegri, Josquin... And to have my music played here is a very special privilege," said MacMillan.

Conductor Harry Christophers added that "these great sacred places always have something special about the acoustics. The details we can hear, the resonance, is fantastic; it's so emotional." And for him the performance at the Sistine Chapel was the chance of a lifetime.

"These occasions, you are lucky if they appear once in a lifetime, and here we are, I can't think of anything greater."—AFP ■

'A Quiet Place' sneaks back to top of the box office

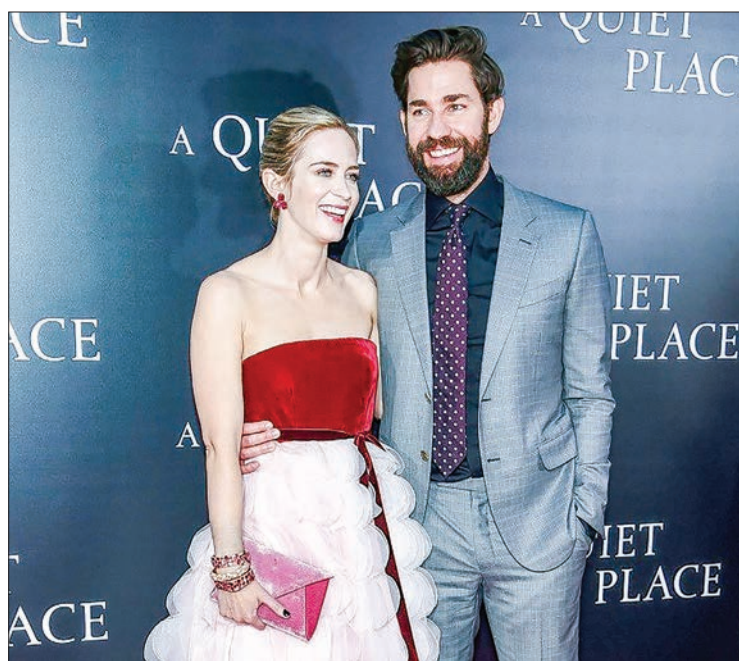
LOS ANGELES — Sci-fi horror film "A Quiet Place" snuck its way back to the top of the North American box offices over the weekend, beating out noisier action flick "Rampage," industry estimates showed on Sunday.

"A Quiet Place," an almost wordless Paramount production, stars actor/director John Krasinski and real-life wife Emily Blunt as a couple silently struggling to protect their family from invading aliens that are blind but can track their prey by sound.

The film took in a \$22 million for a total of \$132.4 million since opening atop the box office early this month.

Fallen from the top spot to number two was "Rampage," starring hard-working Dwayne (The Rock) Johnson as a primatologist who befriends an albino gorilla — which grows to enormous size after a rogue experiment and then teams with Johnson to stop invading monsters. Naomie Harris co-stars.

The video-game inspired "Rampage" took in \$21 million for the weekend for a total of \$66.6 million in two weeks, against a budget of \$120 million.



"A Quiet Place," starring actor/director John Krasinski and real-life wife Emily Blunt, has made significant noise at the box office. **PHOTO: AFP**

In third place was "I Feel Pretty," an Amy Schumer film about a self-conscious woman who suffers a head injury and subsequently sees herself as beautiful, which made \$16.2 million on its debut weekend.

In fourth was "Super Troopers 2" — the long-awaited sequel to the 2001 film about a ne'er-do-well group of cops — in which the protagonists are tasked with

replacing a Mountie unit in a Canadian town that is found to be part of the US. The partially crowd-funded film made \$14.7 million on its first weekend.

In fifth was "Truth or Dare," a supernatural thriller starring Lucy Hale and Tyler Posey as spring breakers caught up in an innocent game that turns deadly. The film made \$7.9 million on its second weekend.—AFP ■

A Syrian dancer's journey from hell to the Paris stage

PARIS — Yara al-Hasbani was putting the finishing touches to her make-up for a performance of "Romeo and Juliet" in Damascus when she found out her father had been tortured to death.

It was the moment the dancer's world turned upside down.

"The little girl in me died at that moment," says the 24-year-old, who had protested alongside her family against Syria's regime in 2011 at the start of the brutal civil war.

Six years on, Hasbani may be living a new life in Paris, but her feelings on the war at home spill onto the stage through her poignant contemporary choreography. Her first Parisian performances, in the public squares at Republique and Trocadero, right by the Eiffel Tower, were tributes to the hundreds of Syrian children killed in a chemical weapons attack in 2013.

"I took inspiration from the photos," Hasbani says. "I imitated the positions of the children's curled-up bodies."

She is just kicking off performances of "Unstoppable," a 12-minute solo retracing her

journey to exile, at a dance festival organised by the Arab World Institute in Paris, running until 23 June.

Leaps into a new life

Hasbani, who sports a bleach-blond pixie haircut and a nose piercing, has slowly rebuilt her life through dance after it fell apart with her father's death.

His body was returned to the family 23 days after he was arrested by Syrian authorities. They claimed he had died of a heart attack.—AFP ■



Syrian dancer Yara al-Hasbani regularly draws inspiration from the conflict at home for her choreography. **PHOTO: AFP**

‘Mini-Me’ actor Verne Troyer dead at 49

LOS ANGELES — Verne Troyer, best known for his role as Mini-Me in the “Austin Powers” movies, died Saturday. He was 49.

While no cause of death was given, a statement on the actor’s social media accounts said he had gone through a “recent time of adversity” and alluded to suicide and depression as “serious issues.”

“Over the years he’s struggled and won, struggled and won, struggled and fought some more, but unfortunately this time was too much,” it added.

“Depression and Suicide are very serious issues. You never know what kind of battle someone is going through inside. Be kind to one another. And always know, it’s never too late to reach out to someone for help.”

Troyer, who lived in Los Angeles, was taken to hospital early this month for unspecified treatment. The actor spoke about his alcohol addiction during another hospital stay a year ago.

One of the world’s shortest men at just two feet eight inches (81 centimeters) due to achondroplasia dwarfism, according

to reports, Troyer was born in 1969 in Sturgis, Michigan.

He first entered show business as a stunt person in “Baby’s Day Out” (1994).

“In 1993, I was working for Sprint in customer service, and a friend of mine who was the president of LPA — Little People of America — got a phone call from the producers of ‘Baby’s Day Out,’ and they were wondering if there was anyone close to a stand-in size,” he recalled in a 2012 interview with Hollywood Chicago.

“I guess they searched worldwide and couldn’t find anyone. I sent in my picture, and they flew me out to Hollywood to meet with them. Two days later, they offered me the job, and I quit my job at Sprint.”

‘Extremely caring’

Tributes poured in for the small man with an outsized personality.

“Verne was the consummate professional and a beacon of positivity for those of us who had the honor of working with him,” Mike Myers, his “Austin Powers” co-star said in a state-



Verne Troyer was best known for his role as Mini-Me in the “Austin Powers” movies and as Griphook in “Harry Potter” **PHOTO: AFP**

ment. “It is a sad day, but I hope he is in a better place. He will be greatly missed.”

Oscar-winning actress Marlee Matlin said she was “so sad” over the news of Troyer’s death.

“A lovely smile with a caring and big heart, he helped raise money on behalf of @starkey-cares for free hearing aids for deaf and hard of hearing people. RIP,” added Matlin, who is deaf.

Ludacris posted on Instagram a photograph of himself

with Troyer strapped to him in a baby carrier, taken from the rapper’s “Number One Spot” music video. The pair are wearing the same gray costume.

“R.I.P Verne Troyer aka Mini Me. You made it to that #1 Spot Glad we got to make history,” Ludacris wrote.

In addition to his breakout role as the “Mini-Me” — a diminutive, hairless clone of villain Dr Evil — in the first Austin Powers movie “Austin Powers: The Spy

Who Shagged Me,” Troyer was also known for playing Griphook in “Harry Potter and the Sorcerer’s Stone.”

“Verne was an extremely caring individual. He wanted to make everyone smile, be happy and laugh. Anybody in need, he would help to any extent possible,” added the post on Troyer’s social media accounts.

“He inspired people around the world with his drive, determination and attitude.”—AFP ■

World’s oldest person, Japan’s Nabi Tajima, dies at 117

KAGOSHIMA (JAPAN) — Nabi Tajima, a Japanese woman who had been the world’s oldest person, died Saturday due to advanced age at a hospital in southwestern Japan, local officials said. She was 117.

Born in 1900, Tajima, a resident of Kikai Island in Kagoshima Prefecture, raised seven sons and two daughters and had more than 140 descendants.

She had been spending most of her time in bed recent years at a nursing home and was hospitalized about a month ago.

“She passed away as if falling asleep. As she had been a hard worker, I want to tell her ‘rest well,’” said Tajima’s 65-year-old grandson Hiroyuki.

US-based Gerontology Research Group recognized Tajima as the world’s oldest person last September after the death



File photo taken in 2015 in Kikai, Kagoshima Prefecture, southwestern Japan, shows Nabi Tajima, who died at 117 at a hospital in Kagoshima, on 21 April 2018. The Japanese woman born in 1900 is believed to have been the world’s oldest woman. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**

of Violet Brown of Jamaica at the age of 117, according to the group’s website.

Guinness World Records also had been conducting research with a view to recognizing Tajima as the oldest living person after the death of Brown.

Chiyo Miyako, a resident of Yokohama near Tokyo, is now the world’s oldest living person. Miyako will turn 117 on 2 May, according to the Gerontology Research Group.

“Currently, she can eat by herself and spends every day in good health.

We, as her family members, are very happy about her longevity,” Miyako’s family said in a release. Masazo Nonaka, a 112-year-old Japanese man in Hokkaido, born on 25 July, 1905, is currently recognized as the world’s oldest living man by the Guinness World Records. —Kyodo News ■

Pyeongchang gold medalist Hanyu greeted by big hometown crowd

SENDAI — A large crowd turned out to cheer Yuzuru Hanyu, who won a second consecutive men’s figure skating gold medal at the Pyeongchang Winter Olympics, as he paraded through the streets of his hometown of Sendai on Sunday.

Hanyu received an honorary award from Miyagi Prefecture for the second time in a ceremony which preceded the parade on a

1.1-kilometer stretch of the street in downtown Sendai.

The 23-year-old was given the prefecture’s award in 2014 when some 92,000 people gathered in the northeastern Japan city to celebrate his gold medal in the Sochi Olympics. “I’m so happy to be able to come back here with this gold medal and say ‘I’m home’ to people in Sendai,” Hanyu said. — Kyodo News ■



Pyeongchang Olympic figure skating champion Yuzuru Hanyu parades in his hometown Sendai in northeastern Japan on 22 April 2018. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**

Kids selected to represent Myanmar at F4F programme in Russia

Min Khant and Thant Tay Zar, 12 year old football enthusiasts from Myanmar, have been selected as country's representatives at the global Football for Friendship (F4F) social programme. The F4F programme, supported by Gazprom and FIFA aims at developing youth football and a healthy lifestyle as well as promoting tolerance, open-mindedness and respect for different cultures and nationalities between children from across the globe. This year, the F4F programme has expanded to 211 countries and regions. Myanmar will participate in the programme for the first time.

Min Khant will join Young footballers from around the world in Moscow in June 2018. The children will be a part of the 32 International Teams of Friendship and play against each other in the Gazprom Football for Friendship International Championship.

The friendly tournament aims to bring together children from around the world and celebrate the unifying spirit of football.

Thant TayZar will act as the young journalist and report on all the local and global activities of the F4F programme as part of the International Children's Press Center. He will also spread awareness on the Nine Values (friendship, equality, fairness, health, peace, devotion, victory, traditions and honour) of the F4F programme.

Min Khant and Thant TayZar, will also participate in the Football for Friendship International Children's Forum in Russia, where the youngsters will get a chance to meet their peers from other countries, share their experiences, and discuss with famous footballers and journalists on how to promote key values of the F4F programme around the

world. Speaking on the selection of the young ambassadors by Myanmar Football Federation, CEO Phone Naing Zaw said, "The selection of the young ambassadors from Myanmar is an extension of our support to this unique global initiative. The programme is a wonderful opportunity for the ambassadors to build ties of friendship among children from around the world and foster peace and harmony through the beautiful game of football. We wish our young ambassadors all the best for the programme and look forward to their contribution in promoting the key values of the programme, in Russia, as well as in Myanmar"

The sixth season of the F4F programme will conclude with a visit by the participating children to the opening ceremony and the first match of the FIFA World Cup 2018.— GNLM ■



Min Khant, 12 year-old Myanmar representative for football for friendship social programme in Russia. **PHOTO: SUPPLIED**

Southern Myanmar beat Myawady in U-21 MNL 2018

IN the Week-12 match of MPT Myanmar National League (U-21) 2018, Southern Myanmar FC beat Myawady FC by a score of 2-1 in Padonmar Stadium in Yangon yesterday.

The win for Southern Myanmar was mostly brought about by the terrific play of all the youth players of the team, said Kaung Hein Zaw, a fan of Southern Myanmar FC.

Both teams played energetically from the kick-off to score the opening goal.

Southern Myanmar attempted to control the ball in the beginning but Myawady's

systematic counterattacks frequently rankled Southern Myanmar's defence line.

At the 30 minute mark, Myawady FC got an opening goal via a penalty shot kicked by ThetWai Moe.

The win result did not stand too long for Myawady FC, however. With the speedy play, Souther Myanmar made an equaliser at 43 minute.

The goal was scored by Zaw Win Naing by passing through the opponents. The match was a tie at the end of the first half.

Southern Myanmar team fared better in the second half.

HtunNaingOo scored the second and winning goal for Southern Myanmar at 51 minute.

In the hot weather, both teams put an effort to get more goals in the last minutes but all the chances were blurred by the good defending skills of both teams' players.

There were no more goals till the final whistle and the win was sure for Southern Myanmar.

The win has built the confidence of Souther Myanmar in dreaming for thir upcoming results in U-21 Myanmar National League.— Kyaw Zin Lin ■

Youth football referee course to be conducted in Yangon

UNDER the supervision of Myanmar Football Federation (MFF) and Myanmar Referee Committee, a course for new professional football referees (2/2018) will be launched at the head quarter of MFF from 17 to 23 May according to an official from MFF.

The MFF has been recognized for the qualification into the course. Those qualified to take the course should be physically healthy, should not require the wearing of eyeglasses and be very interested in becoming a referee. The educational requirement is at least on the high school level. Those over the age of 30 will not be allowed to take the course.

All qualified referees that result from the successful completion of this course will be registered official referees in Myanmar and must be responsible to act as a referee in MFF referee committees and other States and Regions referee duties.

The outstanding referee of the course will be also later sent to a foreign country to study the FIFA Referee courses, it is learnt.

All those interested can contact and register for the course at Myanmar Football Federation or call the Referee Committee at Thuwunna Stadium at (09- 450007448, 09-420128064 and 09-8623621) no later than May 15, according to MFF.—Kyaw Zin Lin ■

Improved Man City difficult to catch, admits Mourinho

LONDON — Manchester United manager Jose Mourinho admitted his side have little chance of catching Premier League champions Manchester City next season unless the standards set by Pep Guardiola's side slip.

Second-placed United trail City by 16 points with four games of the league season to go after Guardiola's men kept up their

chase of a series of Premier League records by thrashing Swansea 5-0 yesterday.

Mourinho believes United let crucial points slip away in defeats to West Brom, Huddersfield and Newcastle. However, the Portuguese coach reckons even if those errors are eradicated next season, it will be difficult to challenge for the title if free-spend-

ing City bolster their squad once more over the summer. "I think we should have eight, nine or 10 points more than we had," said Mourinho after reaching the FA Cup final by beating Tottenham Hotspur 2-1 on Saturday. "It was not acceptable the last defeat (to West Brom), not acceptable the performance at Huddersfield, not acceptable the performance

at Newcastle, so we lost a few matches where we should do better.

"Can we improve next season? Let's try. Can Manchester City keep this level or improve this level? Only they can say. "If they have the team they have, and they are going to invest on the top of the team they have, of course it's going to be difficult."

United have spent hundreds of millions themselves since Mourinho took charge just under two years ago, splashing a then world record £89 million fee for Paul Pogba in 2016 and beating City to the signature of Alexis Sanchez in January by reportedly making the Chilean the highest paid player in Premier League history.—PTI ■