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Wednesday, 2 May 2018

State Counsellor welcomes the support of the International Community in the implementation of the Bilateral Agreement Between Myanmar and Bangladesh

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, State Counsellor in the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, met members of the United Nations Security Council on their visit. She welcomed the opportunity to discuss the situa-

tion in Rakhine State with them.

"The Government of Myanmar is pleased to working in partnership with the United Nations to deal with many serious challenges that our country faces" said Daw Aung San Suu Kyi.

"In particular, the engagement of UN agencies in Rakhine will strengthen the government's ability to ensure that refugees can return safely, without fear".

The government of Myanmar is discussing a Memorandum of Understanding with the

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). The government of Myanmar believes

this is the appropriate time for those bodies to work alongside Union Ministries and the Union Enterprise for Humanitarian Assistance, Resettlement and Development for the good for all people in Rakhine.

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UNSC delegation visits Rakhine

A DELEGATION of Permanent Representatives to the United Nations/representatives from neighbouring countries, including the current ASEAN chair and Member States of the United Nations Security Council arrived in Sittway, Rakhine State, yesterday morning to observe the situation in the Maungdaw region.

The delegation was accompanied by Union Ministers for International Cooperation U Kyaw Tin and Union Enterprises for Humanitarian Assistance, Resettlement and Development in Rakhine (UEHRD) Chief Coordinator Dr. Aung Tun Thet.

At the airport meeting hall, Union Minister U Kyaw Tin and

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Members of the United Nations Security Council delegation meet with local people from Islamic community in Maungdaw. **PHOTO: HAN LIN NAING**

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Over 5,000 march in Hlinethaya Town on International Workers' Day

MORE than 5,000 workers participated in a march towards Hlinethaya Township indoor sports stadium compound, where a ceremony in honour of International Workers' Day was held yesterday morning.

More than 5,000 workers assembled at the area near Nawaday bus stop at some 7 a.m. yesterday morning. With their respective union flags in front, they then marched towards Hlinethaya Township indoor sports stadium compound where a ceremony in honour of International Workers' Day was held.

At the ceremony, a message sent by President U Win Myint on the occasion of Workers' Day was read by Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population Permanent Secretary U Myo Aung.

Next, Union Minister for Labour, Immigration and Population U Thein Swe delivered a speech. This was followed with speeches by Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein, International Labour Organisation Myanmar head office Liaison Officer Rory Mungoven, Confederation of Trade Unions



Workers participate in a march in Hlinethaya Township to mark International Workers' Day yesterday.

PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR

of Myanmar (CTUM) President U Maung Maung, Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI) secretary general U Aung Kyi Soe and officials from organisations supporting the international workers' solidarity.

CTUM President U Maung Maung said, "Workers must not be satisfied with the rights they have obtained. Due to the changing situation of jobs, work hours are not the same for all. This needs to be corrected. This event was held to remind everyone of

our continuous struggle."

Ma Zin Mar Soe, a worker from a shoe factory in Hlinethaya Township, said, "I'm happy to participate as a worker in this event that is held once a year. The workers get to know each other by participating in this

event. Our morale will be lifted. We will get into the habit of doing things unitedly.

We will also get to know more about work-related laws and other useful information. The country is becoming more transparent. Many workers are expecting a better minimum wage. I hope that the force of workers in Myanmar can play a part in the development of the country."

The ceremony was organised by CTUM, and it was held for the sixth time. The events included entertainment by artistes and members of workers' unions, debates and sports competitions.

In addition to this, booths with information about the labour law, a fair and good work site, elimination of forced labour, prevention of violence against women, worksite safety, health, social security and agriculture were displayed.

CTUM issued a 2018 May Day Declaration titled "From an effective management of the labour market to sustainable development." — Zaw Gyi ■

Luyechuns visit pagodas in Bagan region

THE opening ceremony of the Bagan Luyechun vacation camp for grade 9 Luyechuns was held at the entrance of Royal Emerald River View Resort Hotel, Bagan town, yesterday morning. The camp was opened by Mandalay Region Chief Minister Dr. Zaw Myint Maung, along with (Mandalay) region ministers, the Bagan Luyechun vacation camp master, Education Department Deputy Director General Daw San San Yi and other officials.

Next, Chief Minister Dr. Zaw Myint Maung delivered a speech and then presented Luyechun batches, which was accepted by a pair (a boy and a girl) of Luyechun students on behalf of the rest of the Luyechuns.

Later, the chief minister, region ministers and former Luyechuns helped the Luyechun put on their batches and closed the ceremony after taking commemorative group photographs.

Commenting on the annual opening of the Bagan Luyechun vacation camp, Chief Minister Dr. Zaw Myint Maung said, "This is the sixth time the camp has been opened. The first Myanmar nation was established in Bagan, and so this camp was set up here. By visiting the place where the first Myanmar nation was established, youngsters will learn to love and work for the benefit of the country.

These youngsters will become leaders of the future. As they have come from all over the country and are of diverse ethnic nationalities, a spirit of union, love for the country and the urge to develop the country will be instilled in them. As future leaders, they need to be well acquainted with one another. We have the responsibility to make a place for them.

They also have the responsibility to take a place and must have the will to serve and develop the country. My word to them is, we, the elders have created



Outstanding students visit famous pagodas in Bagan yesterday. **PHOTO: THIHA SITHU**

a place and brought them up to take it. May they be capable of developing the country."

Later in the morning, the Luyechuns visited and paid homage to 10 famous pagodas, including Shwezigon, Ananda, Gawdawpalin, Dhammayangyi, Sulamani, Lawkananda, as well as the UNESCO World Heritage listed Myazedi stone inscriptions.

Talking about the visit, grade 9 Luyechun Ma Shin Min

Thwe of eastern Shan State, Kengtung Township, said, "I'm happy and honoured to participate in this visit as a Luyechun. I've been here with my family before but it is not the same. This time I'm here through my efforts. I believe that a Luyechun must have a noble mind. They need to be good to each other, and they need to try a lot more than the others."

Governments have consistently raised the youth to become

outstanding, and the Luyechun programme was started in 1964 by the Revolution Council government and conducted throughout the 24-year period until 1988.

The first generation Luyechun programme produced some 7,908 Luyechuns. Of these, some had and some are still serving the country in high ranking and high responsibility positions. —Zin Oo (Myanma Alinn) ■

“ I would firstly like to address the three branches of the sovereign power of the State, who have been entrusted with power according to the Constitution, to exercise mutual respect, understanding, and trust as they collaborate for the good of the people. Additionally, I wish to urge the media sector, which serve as the ears and eyes of the public, to understand the seriousness of their duties and to hold in high regard the public sector that they serve.

(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)

State Counsellor welcomes the support of the International Community in the implementation of the Bilateral Agreement Between Myanmar and Bangladesh

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She said, “I am confident that this is an important turning point. Violence has no place in a democratic Myanmar. We must work hard to repatriate those who have lost their homes while also dealing with the root causes of the recent violence”.

The Advisory Board on Rakhine

State, appointed by the State Counsellor, has made a number of recommendations so as to achieve this.

The State Counsellor said, “The basis for return must be that it is safe, dignified and voluntary. The report I commissioned from Dr. Kofi Annan sets out practical measures necessary to achieve development for all communities in Rakhine State, based on clear respect for rule of law and

human rights. These recommendations will contribute to the implementation of the Government’s efforts to bring peace, stability and development to Rakhine State”.

Ministry of the Office of
the State Counsellor
Nay Pyi Taw
Date: 1 May 2018

Correction

The headline of the story on front page of the 1st May issue of the Global New Light of Myanmar should have read: “State Counsellor receives UN Security Council Delegation” instead of “State Counsellor receives UN officials”.—Ed

UNSC delegation gives press conference on Myanmar and Bangladesh visits

A DELEGATION composed of Permanent Representatives to the United Nations and representatives from Member States of the United Nations Security Council conducted a press conference on their visits to Myanmar and Bangladesh in the lounge of the Nay Pyi Taw International Airport yesterday.

At the press conference, the President of the UN Security Council and Permanent Representative of Poland to the UN Ms. Joanna Wronecka, Peruvian Permanent Representative Mr. Gustavo Meza-Cuadra, UK Permanent Representative Ms. Karen Pierce and Kuwaiti Permanent Representative Mr. Mansour Al-Otaibi offered comments on the visits. Permanent Representative Ms. Joanna Wronecka said that they were extremely happy and grateful to the authorities of Myanmar for all arrangements.

“We’ve had the chance to visit your beautiful country and to speak to different representatives of your society. I think we have now a very good idea about the development of the country and the humanitarian assistance,” she said.

Peruvian Permanent



UNSC delegation at the press conference on their visits to Myanmar and Bangladesh in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

Representative Mr. Gustavo Meza-Cuadra said during their visit to Rakhine State they visited the area of the displaced persons and had good encounters with the local population.

“We visited the construction the government is taking on near the border for the return of the refugees. Also, we visited areas where the local communities experienced their news regarding how the returnees come back to their villages of origin. This is

an issue we have been discussing at the council”, Mr. Gustavo Meza-Cuadra said.

Kuwaiti Permanent Representative Mr. Mansour Al-Otaibi expressed thanks to the Myanmar government for all their support and logistical assistance for the visit to Rakhine State and for the meetings arranged with the different sectors of the government, civil society, and many others.

“What we really want as

representatives of the Security Council is to see the agreements signed between Myanmar and Bangladesh to be implemented. We saw that the Myanmar government took many steps to implement the agreements,” he said. UK Permanent Representative Ms. Karen Pierce expressed her country’s willingness to assist the government of Myanmar in the implementation of the plan they discussed with the representatives they have

met. “We also want to support the signing of the MOU and the implementation of the agreement with Bangladesh. We believe that if that MOU can be signed quickly and UN agencies are given unconditional access, that will be the best thing to deal with the scale of the problem”, she said.

Following their keynote remarks, the ambassadors replied to questions raised by journalists.—Myanmar News Agency ■

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edited.

Over 57,000 foreign travellers visit Myanmar via Tachilek border

SOME 57,970 international travellers visited the country through the Tachilek border gate in the current financial year, according to the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism.

From 1 and 26 April this year, some 57,968 foreigners, including 56,600 day-trippers, entered the country from Tachilek, a land border in Shan State and the Mae Sai border on the Thai side, to visit the town's well-known destinations on a one-day return visit or overnight trip. Most of them came from neighbouring Thailand, China and third-world countries.

Between 20 and 26 April, some 16,650 foreigners toured Myanmar through the Tachilek border, according to the ministry. Talaw Market, Mahamyatmuni Pagoda, Shwedagon Pagoda, the ethnic village and the Chinese temples are the town's popular destinations among tourists. The tourism authorities are now focusing on implementing eco-tourism, as well as coastal, marine and community-based tourism, in some states and regions.

International tourist arrivals through the borders are



Foreign travellers seen in front of the Tachilek border gate in Shan State. PHOTO: SUPPLIED

increasing each year. Foreign travellers visit the country to enjoy its natural scenery, including the highlands, mountains, rivers and forests. The diverse range of culture, traditions and

lifestyles of the rural communities in Myanmar are also major attractions.

Concerted efforts are being made to implement more nature-based tourism develop-

ment projects nationwide, and the development of cross-border trips is high on the government's list of priorities, said a spokesperson from the ministry.—GNLM ■

Nitrogen, sulphur dioxide levels in Yangon's air exceed permissible limits

The nitrogen and sulphur dioxide content in Yangon's air have exceeded the health benchmark level, according to a report in Myawady Daily on Monday.

Dr Kyaw Nyein Aye, environmentalist from Green Motherland Development Association, said the percentage of the two gases in the city's atmos-

phere in some places was found to be higher than the set air standards, after the air pollution levels were measured recently. The air quality measurement was taken in five crowded areas affected by heavy traffic, including Hledan junction, Bayintnaung junction, Myenigon junction, Tamway junction and

in front of Yangon City Hall.

The yearly measurement of air pollution started since 2016 in Yangon. Also, the association conducted quality measurements not only in Yangon, but in other crowded places in 130 townships in regions and states between September and December last year. The meas-

urement is only taken in the dry season.

High nitrogen and sulphur dioxide levels can cause breathing problems. High concentration of sulphur dioxide can cause inflammation and irritation in the respiratory system, especially while doing heavy physical activities.—GNLM ■

Yangon gov't to conduct survey to produce electricity from waste

The Yangon Region government will conduct a systematic survey to produce electricity from waste, as waste management is one of the main problems affecting the commercial capital, according to a report in Myawady Daily on Monday.

The region government has invited tenders for building waste-to-energy plants. Two

companies submitted tenders for the project. However, one company withdrew later. The other company is still conducting research on waste burning, and so, the region government will invite tenders again.

The Yangon region's Shwepyitha Township can only burn 60 tonnes of waste per day, which is a small amount com-

pared to the large amount of garbage dumped daily.

"We have sent different types of waste to a foreign country to conduct research to find out which technology is suitable for burning a particular type of waste, which waste is suitable for making fertilisers and so on. Only when we get back the lab results, can we

invite tenders," said an official from the Yangon Region government.

Some 2,500 tonnes of waste are produced per day in Yangon. The waste is collected from the whole region and sent to dumps in Mingaladon, Hline-thaya, Shwepyithar, Dala, North Dagon and Seikgyi Kanaungto townships.—GNLM ■

India-Myanmar bilateral border trade tops \$5.6 million within 20 days

THE India-Myanmar border trade reached US\$5.618 million in the 2018 transitional financial year (FY), increasing by more than \$2 million compared with the same period last FY, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

Border trade between the two countries is conducted through the Tamu and Reed cross-border points. However, most bilateral imports and exports are delivered by ships.

Between 1 and 20 April this year, Myanmar exported some \$4.7 million worth of commodities to India, whereas imports between the two countries reached \$0.954 million.

Myanmar normally exports ginger, saffron, turmeric, bay leaves and other fruits and vegetables, besides human hair, fishery and forest

products to the neighbouring country, while it imports medicines, oil cakes, electronic products, motorbikes, cotton yarn, non-alloy steel and other construction materials.

Myanmar's total border trade with China, India, Thailand and Bangladesh was valued at \$319 million, including \$199 million in exports and \$120 million in imports.

The country conducts border trade via 16 land border points of entry and is planning to open new border trade camps in the future.

According to the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA), India's investment in Myanmar at the end of 2017-2018 FY was \$10.993 million through three investment projects.—Swe Nyein ■

Myanmar earns \$267 million from export of manufactured goods within 20 days

MYANMAR sold US\$267 million worth of manufactured goods to international buyers in the current 2018 transitional financial year (FY), recording an increase of \$102 million compared to last year, the commerce ministry reported.

This time last FY, foreign traders bought manufactured products valued at \$165 million from Myanmar.

According to official figures, the country also exported \$156 million worth of agricultural products, \$12 million worth of animal products, \$37 million worth of marine products, more than \$36 million

worth of minerals, \$12 million worth of forest products and miscellaneous exports valued at more than \$64 billion. The total export figures of manufactured goods in the 2017-18 FY included \$3.532 billion through the public sector and \$3.262 billion via the private sector.

Despite the increase in the value of exports every year, the country's import value is always greater than its exports, causing a trade deficit. In collaboration with private businesspersons, the government is seeking more trade opportunities to reduce the trade gap.—Khine Khant ■



Local farmers earn a good income from Japanese watermelon in Kyaukpadaung Township. **PHOTO: KO HTEIN IPRD**

Japanese watermelon cultivation earns local farmers good income

Japanese watermelons are earning local farmers a good income in Laegwa Village, Kyaukpadaung Township, Mandalay Region.

"The local farmers in Kyaukpadaung township cultivate only Japanese watermelons. Some four years ago, a local farmer from Laegwa Village planted the Japanese watermelon seed for the first time as a trial, which proved to be successful

and earned him a good income. Therefore, local farmers from the village took up Japanese watermelon cultivation. This year, local watermelon traders bought the Japanese watermelons directly from the farmland," said U Naing Tun, a watermelon farmer.

Japanese watermelon is also called the missile fruit. "The taste of the Japanese watermelon is very sweet," said Ma Pusu, a Japanese watermelon seller in

Kyaukpadaung Myoma market.

The price of Japanese watermelon is Ks1,000 per fruit this year. "We earn Ks1.5 million for 1,500 watermelons. If the traders do not like some watermelons, we sell those at the Kyaukpadaung Myoma market," said U Maung Soe, a watermelon farmer.

Japanese watermelons can grow during any season within 56 days.—Ko Htein (IPRD) ■

Betel nut merchants unhappy with India's import duty

Betel nut exporters are facing difficulties owing to the 40 per cent import duty on betel nuts imposed by India, U Moe Zaw, Deputy Director of the border trade session told Myanma Alinn.

The Tamu gate provides a one-stop service to facilitate trade. Betel nut exports in the 2017-2018 fiscal year (FY) brought in some US\$10 million, with the export volume being 4,000 tons. India's tax hike on betel nut importation has posed difficulties for merchants, while the least developing counties are enjoying tax exemption by the



developed counties, he maintained.

India's taxation on betel nuts has led to a significant drop of more than 60 per cent in exports, said U Aung Kyaw San, a merchant trading from the Tamu gate.

India's customs department is confiscating imported betel nuts that are third-country products. If Indian merchants want to import betel nuts, they have to temporarily deposit 40 per

cent of the import value at the bank. So, they are hesitating to import betel nuts on account of the high taxation, which might lead to losses. The export volume is likely to remain on the lower side, he added.

Myanmar exports agro products to India, while cigarettes, footwear, plastic bags, mosquito coils, preserved fish can, glasses, food and other products are imported into the country.—Zar Lin Thu (AMIA)

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MOFA: Defending the interests of the State and the People on the frontlines of the international arena

By Khin Yadanar

(CONTINUED FROM YESTERDAY)

The Agreement whereby China granted RMB Yuan (1) billion for socio-economic development and the Peace process is one result of the friendly visits.

The mechanism of (2+2) consultations between the Foreign Ministry and Defence Ministry of both countries were held three times. These consultations have assisted in maintaining peace and stability along the border areas, China's constructive support for Myanmar's peace process and the joint settlement of border issues.

At the same time the President paid a visit to India, which is one of the important neighbouring as his first goodwill visit to a non-ASEAN country. The State Counsellor also visited India twice within the two-year tenure of the Government thereby fostering closer relations between the two countries and also enhancing increased cooperation with India.

The State Counsellor's first goodwill visit was to Thailand. During the visit, she discussed matters relating to the protection and promotion of the interests of Myanmar workers. There were also exchanges of visits between the leaders of Myanmar and Viet Nam. Myanmar's bilateral relations with Viet Nam have been elevated to the level of Comprehensive Strategic Partnership.

The State Counsellor visited Brunei Darussalam and both leaders exchanged views on the enhancement of bilateral cooperation. Both the President and the State Counsellor paid official visits to Japan. These visits served as an impetus in uplifting the traditional bonds of friendship and enhancing bilateral cooperation between Myanmar and Japan.

During the State Counsellor's visit to Japan, agreement was reached for Japan to give Japanese Yen 40 billion during five years for Myanmar's transition to democracy and national reconciliation. Agreement was also reached for the Japanese government and Japanese private sector investments to provide during a period of five years Japanese Yen 800 billion for balanced development of urban and rural areas.

The State Counsellor paid official visits to the Headquarters of the European Union, Belgium, Italy, the Holy See, and the United Kingdom in May 2017 aiming at fostering friendly relations and cooperation with partner countries that have consistently supported Myanmar's cause for democracy.

The challenges and difficulties encountered by Myanmar during its democratic transition as well as matters relating to Rakhine State were cordially discussed during these visits.

Furthermore, as the Government's



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi is welcomed by Indian Prime Minister Narindara Modi in New Delhi during her visit to India. PHOTO: MNA

endeavours to promote internal peace and national reconciliation processes and matters related to national development were discussed and explained, it resulted in better understanding towards Myanmar. In addition, the establishment of diplomatic relations between Myanmar and the Holy See was announced during the visit to the Vatican City. As a result, Pope Francis paid his first state visit to Myanmar in November 2017 which was a historic milestone.

Q: Could you tell us some of MOFA's contributions towards promoting international relations?

A: Myanmar was able to expand diplomatic relations with the countries of the world and to establish mechanisms for consultations at the Foreign Minister level with friendly countries. During the two year period it was able to establish diplomatic ties with Malta, Ecuador, Marshall Islands, Liberia, Guinea, Seychelles and the Holy See.

At present, Myanmar has established diplomatic relations with 121 countries out of 193 countries. In the coming years it will endeavor to promote the development of friendly relations and cooperation with Caribbean and Latin American countries.

With a view to fostering bilateral relations and cooperation between Myanmar and other friendly countries, Myanmar has been able to establish Foreign Office Consultations Mechanisms with countries such as Australia, Switzerland, Estonia, New Zealand and Columbia. Myanmar is also annually holding Human Rights Dialogue with Japan and the European Union. We have conducted partnership talks with the United States of America. We believe that the conduct of such foreign affairs related discussions on an annual basis would be very beneficial to improve relations and cooperation with respective countries.

Q: How did MOFA respond to challenges encountered in the international arena?

A: Since the current Government took office, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has given high priority to address the issue of Rakhine that has recently created enormous challenges to Myanmar in the international arena. The Government also established the Advisory Commission on Rakhine State headed by Dr. Kofi Annan in order to find a durable and sustainable solution for the Rakhine issue incorporating both local and international perspectives.

Because of these developments, the draft resolution which had been tabled yearly on the situation of human rights in Myanmar was stopped and the United States lifted its economic sanctions imposed on Myanmar in September 2016.

At this time when our international relations was improving, ARSA terrorist attacks occurred once on 9 October 2016 and once on 25 August 2017 to draw the attention of the world on the Rakhine issue. As a result refugees left their homes which resulted in Myanmar having to suffer misunderstandings, criticisms and pressures for another round. Therefore we had to face the potential danger of our national interest and our sovereignty being threatened.

On 19 September 2017, the State Counsellor invited diplomats to Nay Pyi Taw and gave a speech on the Rakhine issue. Also, a delegation led by Vice President U Henry Van Thio attended the 72nd UNGA where he delivered a policy speech. In the UN Security Council, an attempt was made to pass a resolution regarding the Rakhine issue. National Security Advisor U Thaung Tun, who was also the alternate leader of the Myanmar delegation and the Myanmar Permanent Representative to the UN responded, explained and made a rebuttal at the UNSC. We were

able to prevent this draft resolution from being adopted. At the 2017 UN General Assembly, OIC tabled a draft resolution on Myanmar but the Myanmar Permanent Representative protested, made a rebuttal and demanded that the resolution should be adopted by voting, not by consensus. And also, in December 2017, at the UN Human Rights Council, Geneva, IOC called a special meeting tabled a draft resolution on Myanmar on the Rakhine issue; Myanmar had to try and approach friendly nations for adoption by voting instead of by consensus.

The Union Minister for International Cooperation himself attended the regular annual meeting of Human Rights Council High Level Segment and gave a briefing on the Rakhine affairs. This year, a delegation led by Union Minister U Thaung Tun from the Office of the Union Government held a side event, and gave a detailed explanation for a better understanding of Myanmar. At the Human Rights Council, discussions on the EU draft resolution on Situation of Human Rights in Myanmar were held, and the Permanent Representative of Myanmar pointed out paragraphs that threatened the sovereignty and categorically rejected the motion.

Q: For the Rakhine issue, what kind of efforts have you made on the regional front?

A: For the implementation of Dr. Kofi Annan's Advisory Commission on Rakhine, the MOFA has also cooperated and coordinated with the Implementation Advisory Committee which was formed and headed by Dr. Surakiart Sathirathai. From among the advice given by Kofi Annan, matters related to relations with Bangladesh and countries in the region including ASEAN are being implemented. On 23 November, an agreement was signed between Bangladesh and Myanmar for the verification and acceptance of displaced people from Rakhine. The Foreign Ministry continued negotiations with Bangladesh to establish a Joint Working Unit and the TOR (Terms of Reference) was signed on 19 December 2017 and on 16 February 2018 a "Physical Arrangement" for repatriation of displaced persons was signed.

At the regional level, the State Counsellor explained about Myanmar's transition to democracy, efforts to achieve peace and national reconciliation, including the Rakhine issue and the complex and sensitive nature of the challenges being faced in November 2017 at the ASEAN Leaders Conference in Manila, and in March 2018 at the ASEAN-Australia Special Summit.

The State Counsellor, when receiving Foreign Ministers from USA, Japan and UK, and other high level foreign representatives, gave explanatory briefings to continue support for Myanmar's endeavors for the success of the transition to democracy,

Peace and National Reconciliation and also about the situation in Rakhine.

On February 2018, the Union Minister for International Cooperation himself, in a separate meeting in Singapore, gave explanations to ASEAN Foreign Ministers informally, on developments in Rakhine State and repatriation of displaced persons. After the conclusion of the meeting, in a statement released by the ASEAN Chairman, he indicated in a constructive manner that the ASEAN Ministers supported the efforts of Myanmar Government to promote harmony and reconciliation between the communities. The Foreign Ministry has established an official website and social network pages and has continuously disseminated "facts on the ground" regarding the Rakhine situation.

Q: During the term of this government, what is being done for protecting the interests of Myanmar nationals abroad?

A. The Foreign Ministry and Myanmar Embassies, Missions and Consulates are now practicing a new approach called "people-centered diplomacy". Protecting the interests of Myanmar nationals and former Myanmar citizens living abroad have been our foremost concern. In order for Myanmar nationals to participate and assist in socio-economic developments, necessary help were given including assistance to facilitate entry into the country. Visa requirements for social visits were relaxed to facilitate re-entry of former Myanmar citizens living abroad.

Our embassies, in spite of man power limitations and financial restrictions, are conducting negotiations on cooperating with the corresponding host country regarding benefits of our migrant workers and for illegal migrants to get permission to work legally in the respective countries.

In Thailand, in order to provide more assistance to migrants, we have increased the number of embassy personnel and centers to issue identity cards. Assistance is being given to workers abroad to get compensations for death and injuries in foreign countries. Assistance is also provided for returnee workers who are facing difficulties paying for airfares. Also, we have effectively brought back Myanmar fishermen incarcerated for various reasons who were released after serving time.

Q. Please also tell us what is being done by the Foreign Ministry with regards to demarcating the borders with neighboring countries?

A. The State Counsellor wishes to finish the unfinished border matters done by previous governments so that future generations will inherit good legacies. She has given directions to give priority to border demarcation matters, especially at this time when relations with neighboring countries are very good.

During the State Counsellor's visit to Thailand on June 2016, she mutually agreed to speed up the interrupted demarcation of borders between the two countries.

In the Naga region of the Myanmar-In-



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi welcomes UN Resident Coordinator Ms. Renata Nicola Lok-Dessallien. **PHOTO: MNA**

dia border, in order to stop disputes between border pillars 145 and 146 due to indistinct delineation, more defined distinct borders pillars were erected jointly on March 2017. The Friendship Bridge that crossed Myanmar-Laos was built and an agreement was reached at the meeting of Foreign Ministers of the two countries to mark and record the border demarcating line of the river on the bridge.

A protocol was signed in November 2017 in reference to agreement 1998 to demarcate land on the northern part of Naf river. The appendix to the 2007 Myanmar-Banladesh-Naf River Border Agreement was also signed on that date.

Q. I would like to know what has been done to upgrade the skills of diplomatic personnel?

A. To implement our foreign policy, we need sharp, bright, and good diplomats. To develop our human resources, our Ministry and other Ministries are giving training courses and workshops. 12 workshops and courses in diplomatic skills, English language and foreign affairs were given by local and foreign invited experts to officers and clerical staff. Courses and training of 50 newly recruited officers were given on advanced diplomatic skills and in international affairs. 3 Basic Diplomatic Skills training courses were conducted for 603 trainees.

Q. Do you have any plans to enable your diplomatic personnel to perform their duties more effectively?

A. For Myanmar diplomatic personnel to carry out their duties to the fullest and concentrate and function smoothly, Embassies, Permanent Missions and 13 Consulates in foreign countries, diplomatic personnel and their families were given

opportunities to obtain health insurances and now, altogether 19 out of 44 missions have health insurances for the staffs and families. Due to instructions by the State Counsellor, by the 2018-2019 fiscal year education allowance amounting to two thirds of the tuition fee will be covered for the children of embassy staff between the ages of 5 to 18. This is a unique improvement.

State-owned old buildings of Myanmar Embassies in foreign countries are being renovated, rebuilt and beautified to enhance their beauty to be in line with diplomatic standards and dignity.

Q. We have noticed that you have established The Ministry of International Cooperation. Would you care to elaborate on this?

A. Since the civilian government took office, international community has shown interest to increase assistance and support. Exchange of visits from foreign countries has soared up sharply. As a result, our international relations duties have increased. It is also a time when we are facing the highest level of criticism and pressure in the international arena. In order to be able to work with international organizations in all sectors, we need to coordinate with the Foreign Ministry in line with the foreign policy. Together with the Foreign Ministry, in our actions to deal with international issues, we are acting not only from the political perspective but also from the economic perspective. Thus our Ministry was established on 23 November 2017.

However, we are cooperating and working closely under the roof of the Foreign Ministry, and also functioning with the budget of the Foreign Ministry and its staff structure. The Ministry for Interna-

tional Cooperation is dealing not only with subjects under the International Organizations and Economic Departments, it is also working in regional and sub-regional matters of ASEAN, BIMSTEC, and the Mekong Cooperation Programmes, and economic relations with foreign countries, giving priority to all these matters.

Q. Please tell us about the activities and involvement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in regional organizations?

A. Myanmar is enthusiastically and actively participating in regional organizations such as ASEAN, BIMSTEC, Greater Mekong Cooperation Program, Irrawaddy-Chao Phraya-Mekong Economic Strategy, Mekong-Lancang Cooperation Program, Mekong-Japan Cooperation, Mekong-Korea Cooperation Plan, and the Lower Mekong Initiative.

In participating in these activities Myanmar is not only looking for the interests of its citizens, but it is also working for regional interests.

On 10 January 2018, Vice President U Myint Swe led a delegation and attended the 2nd Mekong-Lancang Cooperation Leaders Meeting held in Phnom Penh, and as a result, US \$2.4 million was received for 2017 for development of 10 projects under Mekong-Lancang Cooperation Program. Myanmar is also participating in the 7-member BIMSTEC Cooperation Framework. In 2016, a delegation headed by State Counsellor attended the BIMSTEC-BRICS Outreach Summit and the BIMSTEC Leaders Retreat held in Goa, India. In August 2017, a delegation headed by the Minister of State for Foreign Ministry attended the 15th Ministerial Meeting held in Kathmandu, Nepal.

In November 2017, our Ministry successfully hosted a Meeting for ASEM Foreign Ministers consisting of 51 countries and 2 organizations. This shows the capabilities Myanmar diplomats.

A separate informal meeting was held to give a briefing about the Rakhine issue. As a result, we were able to enhance the understanding of the international community about the delicate and complex nature of Myanmar's challenges.

Q. In conclusion, what are your future plans in foreign relations? Is there anything you would like to add?

A. Regarding the Rakhine issue, the international community, instead of criticizing and fostering hatred, it should adopt a constructive approach in solving the problem and avoid making the problem worse. Also, we would like to urge to focus more on solving the problem.

In the international arena in order to overcome the challenges we are facing, we will work hard to show the developments on the ground with the support of our friendly nations who understand the complex and sensitive nature of our country's challenges. We will continue to strive hard with the united strength of our ethnic brothers and sisters.

(Translated by Kyaw Mying and Alexander Chu)

Invest today in disaster preparedness for a safer tomorrow

A LOW-PRESSURE area has recently formed over the Andaman Sea, and it still persists. It is forecast to reach the Gulf of Mottama and the adjoining deltaic area within the next 36 hours, according to observations made at 3.30 pm yesterday.

The forecast has alerted us that the cyclone season is coming. Myanmar has two cyclone seasons. The pre-monsoon months start in mid-April and end in mid-May, and the post-monsoon months are October and November. The Department of Meteorology and Hydrology closely monitor the formation of cyclones during both periods by means of daily weather maps, upper air observation maps, numerical weather forecast products and satellite images.

Cyclone Nargis in 2008 and the 2015 flood, the worst in decades, alerted us to carry out natural disaster preparedness.

Natural disasters will definitely occur. It is found that the frequency of natural disasters has risen, along with its destructive power. If the level of disaster management remains the same while the power or strength of natural disaster rises, there will be an increase in damage and losses.

Not only individuals, but the whole world are being threatened by natural disasters, and the world's countries need to work together and individually to put emphasis on the works of mitigating and reducing the effects of natural disasters.

A better and more effective disaster management is sine qua non to respond to powerful natural disasters. Regarding disasters in our country, we know the time, place and the type of disasters that can occur in our region, and we should be prepared for what to do.

Preparation on response programmes and follow up programmes after the disasters is a must for us.

In conducting recovery or reconstruction works, they should be done not only to repair up to original standards but also to include additional safeguards that can withstand future natural disasters.

Furthermore, cooperation with the people in natural disaster management has progressed from a normal process to a Community-Based Disaster Risk Management process.

Preparations against earthquakes, erosion of river banks and landslides are high capital, high-cost works. But, as the saying goes, "Invest today for a safer tomorrow," prevention is better than responding. Investing in natural disaster preventive/preparation works not only reduces damages and losses, but also lowers the cost of reconstruction and redevelopment.

There is a need for all to work and coordinate together with an aim to prevent or reduce the damage and loss of lives caused by natural disasters.

Preventing outbreaks of fire by public collective efforts

By Than Phyto Naing (Kanyinkyoo)

MORE and more news about outbreaks of fire is heard and read in the daily newspapers these days. As the summer has already set in, the temperature is getting higher and higher in the daytime. The higher temperature is usually coupled with outbreaks of fire. Old wires tend to be faulty and unless they are replaced in time, they could set nearby things on fire. In addition, electric cookers, charcoal or firewood stoves could become overheated, if neglected and could start to catch fire easily. Electric equipment such as irons, fans, TVs used for long duration or high voltage could set nearby inflammable things on fire. Consumed by anger and jealousy, some persons intentionally set fire to a depot or a house.

In connection with outbreaks of fire this week, the fire broke out at the Hteinbin Rubbish dump of 300 acres in Hlinethya Township on 21 April. The fire on 100 acres of rubbish dump raged up until now, sending thick smoke over North Okkalapa Township, New North Dagon township and may other nearby townships. In order to put out the fire, 16 fire engines, 14 water-carrying vehicles, 6 supporting firefighting vehicles, 6 administrative and guiding vehicles, 213 firefighters, 101 reserve firemen were sent to the rubbish dump to put out the blazing fire.

During a period of 2 days- 23 to 24 April- five outbreaks of fire occurred: a case of setting fire on a house in a village; an outbreak of fire in a house in Wetlet Township, Sagaing Region; a hut gutted fire in Mautin village tract, Magywe Region; a house consumed by a blazing fire in Letpadan Township, Bago Region; and a car engulfed by balls of fire on the Anawrahta Road, Hlinethaya Township and Yangon Region. Therefore, houses and other properties were lost in the fire, according to the news reports in the state-dailies.

Notices of avoiding and keeping things safe

At the time of the year, fire brigades and ward authorities go round to beware of fire outbreaks by using bull-horns or loudspeakers; actually it is a must for firemen and authorities concerned. There is a saying: "A thief leaves something behind; nothing is left when a house is gutted by fire." When a house catches fire in a ward, it will spread like wildfire towards village or town. Fresh outbreaks of fire make the young and old alike get more nervous and worried. Even in Yangon, an old building of brilliant workmanship like Kandawgyi Palace Hotel caught fire and gutted by fire last year.

It is unusual that more and more vehicles—big or small—get caught fire on the road. They generally use highly inflammable liquids or gas in their cars or motorcycles; they easily catch fire when they go out in very hot environments.



A man takes photos of the fire at Kandawgyi Palace Hotel on 19 October 2017. PHOTO: NYI ZAW MOE

We have never heard of catching fire in cars or motorcycles in the past; it is common news nowadays. Therefore, long-distance vehicles should be equipped with fire extinguishers or something to put the fire out if something happens to these vehicles while going on a highway.

Preventing outbreaks of fire

Here are some instructions by the Fire Department of preventing outbreaks of fire in wards, villages and towns: putting a watchman to beware of fire if a wood-burning stove is used; Formica or asbestos sheets must be used between the roofs and stoves; and traces of live charcoals have to be completely extinguished.

Getting prepared

Fire stations have to be in a state of getting prepared with firefighters waiting for emergencies; fire engines are getting ready with fully loaded with water and fuels. Some people have experienced a lot about outbreaks of fire; it is important to put out a fire in advance before fire engines arrive. It is believed that residents usually tried to extinguish the burning fire secretly due to a worry of getting involved in a lawsuit and overanxiety. All of sudden and out of control the neighbours made a phone call to the fire stations before the whole house went up in flames. At the same time, neighbors usually focused on their house and properties, let alone distinguishing the burning fire. In addition, next-door neighbors became overanxious and nervous while children were running crying to and fro in apocalyptic event.

Over anxiety

When fire breaks out in a ward of poor housing conditions, it is good enough for residents in a calm day; but it will get worse and worse if the fire breaks out in a windy day. Even if fire engines arrive in time, they sometimes find themselves in short supply of fuels and water. Most of the time, lanes are too narrow for the vehicles to enter from the backyards and from left or right side. That is why they cannot extinguish the burning fire in a period of short time.

Preventing outbreaks of fire

In conclusion, only when we can prevent the outbreaks of fire, then a liberation from loss of properties and anxiety can be obtained by taking precautionary measures. These measures may include a lot of things taken seriously from the beginning in every household: old wires and faulty wiring should be replaced; the use of electricity supply and voltage should be regularly balanced; Formica or asbestos sheets have to be put between stoves and inflammable materials; easy availability of fire extinguishers is put in suitable

places; try to learn how to use them properly; inflammable materials have to be separated or removed; residents should have water and sand at the ready; and they should abide by the instructions released by the Fire Departments concerned.

Small fire hoses must be fixed to the roofs to prevent fire outbreaks spreading from next-door neighbors. Light generators should be used in an emergency during the outage; always keep the water tanks to the full; valuable things such as jewel cases and important documents should be separated from the minor ones including movable things. Everything must be taken seriously in connection with outbreaks of fire which are often and frequent across the country during the summer. In this way, outbreaks of fire in a ward, village or town can be prevented conscientiously by public collective efforts in the future.

Translated by Arakan Sein



Accelerate efforts to address air pollution — WHO

THE World Health Organization today called upon Member countries in its South-East Asia Region to aggressively address the double burden of household and ambient air pollution. The Region accounts for 34% or 2.4 million of the 7 million premature deaths caused by household and ambient air pollution together globally every year.

Of the 3.8 million deaths caused by household air pollution globally, the Region accounts for 1.5 million or 40% deaths, and of the 4.2 million global deaths due to ambient (outdoor) air pollution, 1.3 million or 30% are reported from the Region, as per the latest WHO report.

"Though there is progress in the Region as most countries have national action plans for prevention and control of non-communicable diseases, which incorporate measures to address household air pollution, and more and more cities are now measuring air quality, we need to do much more, and with an urgent and aggressive approach," said Dr Poonam Khetrpal Singh, Regional Director, WHO South-East Asia.

Non-communicable diseases (NCDs) are the leading cause of deaths globally and in the Region, and air pollution contributes significantly to NCDs such as cardiovascular disease, respiratory disease and lung cancer. Cleaning up the air we breathe will help prevent NCDs, particularly among women and vulnerable groups such as children, those already ill and the elderly.

Dr Khetrpal Singh drew attention to the example of India's Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Scheme under which, in the last two years 37 million women living below the poverty line were provided free LPG connections to support them to switch to clean household energy use. The country targets to reach 80 million households by 2020.

The availability of clean household energy affects us all and our families and is a key to sustainable development. All countries in the Region are making efforts to expand availability of clean fuels and technologies, however, over 60% population do not have clean fuel.

The combined effects of household air pollution and ambient air pollution become increasingly hard to address if not tackled early. The majority of countries in the Region are at early stages of accelerated urbanization and rapid industrialization. Hence, air pollution needs to be brought under control with urgent and effective action at the earliest to stand the best chance to prevent the situation from worsening as development proceeds.

A range of solutions exist. Governments need to invest in effective urban planning with energy-efficient housing and power generation; build safe and affordable public transport systems; improve industry and municipal waste management; eliminate emissions from coal and biomass energy systems; properly manage agricultural waste, forest fires and agro-forestry activities such as charcoal production; and support the transition to exclusive use of clean household energy for cooking, heating and lighting.

Individuals should also contribute by valuing the environment and adopting behavioral changes such as using public transport or 'soot-free' vehicles; using clean, low- or no-emission stoves and fuels for cooking; using clean household energies and technologies; and reducing and disposing of household waste in an environmentally sound manner-WHO

Invitation to young writers for Sunday section

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

Performance of Ayeyawady Region Government over two-year period



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi at the peace talk with local people in Myaungmya Township, Ayeyawady Region. **PHOTO- MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY**



Vice President U Henry Van Thio inspects reinforcement of the banks of the Ayeyawady River during his tour of inspection in Ayeyawady Region. **PHOTO: MNA**



Union Minister gives words of encouragement to flood victims at the Mingalar Yarma monastery in Nwataung village. **PHOTO: MNA**

By Honey Win

THE Ayeyawady Region Government has made efforts to achieve all-round development in all socio-economic sectors. In order to spur sustainable development, plans are under way to support and encourage small and medium-sized enterprises, development of health and education sectors, and conservation of the natural environment.

Electricity

The development of a certain region can be determined by its physical and social infrastructure such as electricity, roads and bridges, water supply, education, health, telecommunication, etc.

Among the fundamental facilities and systems, power grids play an important role in implementation of tasks

Education Sector

Regarding the education sector, altogether 981 schools big and small were upgraded with new school buildings in order to meet the set standards and some 50 examination centres had been extended in the region. The regional government has constructed 671 hostels, 50 examination centres, three universities, three Technological Universities, three Computer Universities, and three Education Colleges.

The Ayeyawady Region Government arranged to build five apartments including 80 rooms for civil servants in the region.

To be in line with the two objectives of the healthcare sector—increasing life expectancy and reducing the occurrence of diseases, health awareness training was given to rural people, while effective

The Ayeyawady Region Government has made efforts for all-round development in all socio-economic sectors of the people. In order to spur sustainable development, plans are under way to support and encourage small and medium-sized enterprises, development of health and education sectors, and conservation of natural environment.

for ensuring better living standards of the people.

The Ayeyawady Region Government had replaced some 9,157 old wooden lamp-posts with new concrete ones. A total of 117 villages have already received electricity and extended some 239.575 miles of power lines, utilising solar-powered systems in the 833 villages. Efforts had been made to supply electricity to some 241,183 residents who live in the rural area of the region. The authority tried to generate sufficient power supply for the villages, including industrial zones and business centres.

The Ayeyawady Region Government has implemented many programmes for electrification of the whole Ayeyawady Region, using all forms of sources to supply electricity. Next, the installation of the 6-mile 10MVA power lines and 6-mile 33KV power lines had been installed.

prevention and treatment were provided throughout the nation.

With the aims of improving the health of the local people, the regional government appointed 92 doctors, 219 nurses, 619 midwives and 410 public health supervisors in the region.

In order to undertake health activities in an effective manner, the regional government arranged to build 63 health-care centres in the region. Also, housing units for patients' wards and operating rooms, 72 artesian wells, 79 lakes for drinking water supply, and 80 water pumping machines were constructed for the welfare of the local people.

Investment

The Ayeyawady Region Government has invited investment to create a micro electrical generation and grid system in Ayeyawady region.

Moreover Myanmar Investment



Vice President U Henry Van Thio attends opening of rice husk power plant in Kyaiklat. **PHOTO: MNA**

Commission (MIC) has approved 17 investments including one LNG power station, three offshore supply bases, and agriculture and production sectors in the Ayeyawady Region.

Agriculture

The regional government is trying its utmost to boost rice production in many ways. The Ayeyawady Region Government have strived to uplift the socio-economic situation of residents with small holdings, as well as farmers and breeders, according to the policy, law, rule and work processes, and the residents and farmers are urged to co-operate by conducting good practices.

In order to promote the socio-economic development of the farmers, efforts have been made to purchase 1,707 tractors via an instalment paying system, and training courses were also provided to the farmers to help them operate the machineries. As a result, training and farmer education works were also being conducted so that the farmers can overcome climate change and produce crops, in accordance with the changing situation. It is certain that the farming sector will develop only when the entire process of planting, harvesting, processing, packaging and marketing and selling is developed. With increasing demand from foreign trade partners, farmers are now getting a decent price for rice cultivation.

Preparation to fight against natural

disaster

With the cooperation of the Ayeyawady Region Government, the National Natural Disaster Management Committee was formed, consisting of related ministries and natural disaster management committees for the local people in the region.

Arrangements were made to support Ks1 billion for 62,624 houses including 238,193 people.

Cyclone Shelters

The regional government is planning to build many multi-purpose shelters which will be used as cyclone shelters during disasters. They will be used as schools, for social occasions and housing. The location of the shelters, and their size and types, will be proportionate with the population number.

The lower part of the shelter will be used for animals and upper part is for people. Moreover, plans are under way to store food, drinking water, buoyancy aids, water tanks, generators and fuel tanks at the shelters in line with international criteria. Currently there are 55 cyclone shelters, with 17 shelters under construction. Thus there will be a total of 72 cyclone shelters.

Arrangements have been made to provide other necessary items for some 5,000 households and 500 other households in other districts.

Fishery Sector

Fish farming is flourishing in the



Pan Hlaing River, Nyaungdone Township is being dredged by machinery. **PHOTO: MNA**



Free ferry service is operating for the travellers after Myaungmya suspension bridge collapse aiming not to delay the flow of commodities and transportation access.

PHOTO: MNA

region with 63,735 ponds on 123,550 acres. During its two years in office, the regional government arranged for 74 villages to develop fishery sectors, which are a part of the Emerald Project.

Development in the transport sec-

tor coupled with irrigation dams and provision of farm equipment has served as a springboard for growth in the agricultural sector, which is the base for socio-economic progress.

(Translated by Win Ko Ko Aung)



Measures are taken to prevent erosion at Pyapon Strand Road. **PHOTO: MNA**

To achieve the two objectives of the healthcare sector—increasing life expectancy and reducing the occurrence of diseases, health awareness training was given to rural people, while effective prevention and treatment were provided throughout the nation.

Opening ceremony of Ngwehsaung Luyechun vacation camp held

THE opening ceremony of the 2018 Ngwehsaung Luyechun vacation camp was held at Pearl Ngwehsaung Hotel, Ngwehsaung town, Patheingyi District, Ayeyawady Region, yesterday morning.

The event started off with the Luyechuns singing the song Bet Sone Luyemon (all round outstanding smart people).

In his speech at the ceremony, Ayeyawady Region Chief Minister U Hla Moe Aung conveyed his government's happiness in participating in the programme to select and honour the Luyechuns. The chief minister directed the Luyechuns to relax and enjoy the vacation while obtaining regional knowledge. He prayed that the Luyechuns would befriend the ethnic nationals

in the union and partake in the development of the country.

Next, Luyechun Project Central Committee Vice Chairman Deputy Minister for Education U Win Maw Tun delivered a welcome speech.

Later, U Hla Moe Aung, (Ayeyawady) region Hluttaw Speaker U Aung Kyaw Khaing, Deputy Minister U Win Maw Tun, region ministers, including the minister for Kayah Ethnic Affairs, and other officials presented the Luyechun students with Luyechun badges.

U Hla Moe Aung and U Win Maw Tun were then presented the camp opening emblem and the commemorative emblem by Ngwehsaung Luyechun vacation camp master Daw Myin Myint Than



Outstanding students performing at the opening ceremony of Ngwehsaung Luyechun vacation camp in Ngwehsaung town, Patheingyi District. **PHOTO: MNA**

and a Luyechun (1964-88) Association member.

Following this, three-time Luyechun Ma Pan Phyu Phyu Win gave the vote of thanks on behalf of the Luyechuns, after which the students from Patheingyi Basic Education

Middle School and the Luyechuns sang songs.

Later, the chief minister, region Hluttaw speaker, deputy minister, region ministers and officials had lunch with the Luyechuns.

Later in the afternoon, the Luyechun stu-

dents enjoyed activities at Ngwehsaung Beach. In the evening, they were entertained with songs and dances by students from Ngwehsaung basic education schools and Pyinya Alinga music troupe. —Myo Thu Hein (MNA) ■



Managing Director of Myanmar Railways U Thurein Win presents to official for best railway divisional award for 2017-2018. **PHOTO: MNA**

Myanmar Railways (MR) celebrates its 141st anniversary in Nay Pyi Taw

A CEREMONY to celebrate the 141st anniversary of Myanmar Railways (MR), Ministry of Transport and Communications, and to present its annual outstanding awards was held at Bawa Thantaya Hall, Nay Pyi Taw Central Railway Station in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Present at the meeting were Managing Director of Myanmar Railways U Thurein Win, general managers, deputy general managers, divisional officers from 11 Myanmar Railways divisions, of-

ficers and officials.

U Thurein Win delivered a speech at the ceremony and then presented the first, second and third best railway divisional awards for 2017-2018 to No. (2) Division Ywataung, No. (4) Division Kalaw and No. (8) Division Mawlamyine, respectively.

The best factory award, best cleanliness award and the best hospital award were also presented at the event. — Myanmar News Agency ■

THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR MINISTRY OF ELECTRICITY AND ENERGY MYANMA OIL AND GAS ENTERPRISE (INVITATION FOR OPEN TENDER) (9/ 2018)

1. Open tenders are invited for supply of the following respective items in Myanmar Kyats.

Sr.No	Tender No	Description	Remark
(1)	DMP/L-028(18-19)	3" ERW Steel Line Pipe API 5L Grade A (PSL 1) (10,000) MTR	Ks
(2)	DMP/L-029(18-19)	CAT G-3516 C Generating Set Gas Engine (81) Items	Ks
(3)	DMP/L-030(18-19)	Industrial Raw Materials (2) Groups	Ks

2. The Open Tender forms including Description of Materials / Qty with details specifications and Tender Terms & Conditions can be available free download at the Ministry of Electricity and Energy Website Portal (www.moee.gov.mm) as from 2 May 2018. Tender forms will not be sold.

3. The interested Bidders should submit the **Technical Specifications with Original Bid Bond and Commercial Quotation in each separate sealed envelopes** on which to be addressed to the Managing Director, Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprise and should reach in Tender Box of the Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprise not later than **16:30 pm on 31 May 2018**.

4. Tender Closing Date & Time- 31-5-2018, 16:30 pm

Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprise
Ph . +95 67 - 411206
+95 67 411212

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V SINAR BANDA VOY. NO. (087N)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V SINAR BANDA VOY. NO. (087N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 02-5-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of HPT where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S SAMUDERA SHIPPING LINE

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V MAERSK WELLINGTON VOY. NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V MAERSK WELLINGTON VOY. NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 02-5-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T/ TMT where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S MCC TRANSPORT (S'PORE) PTE LTD

Phone No: 2301185

Opening ceremony held for concrete road

AN opening ceremony for a concrete road constructed under a public-centred project was held in Hselan Village, Nyaung U Township, Mandalay Region, on the afternoon of 30 April.

Present at the event were Union Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation Dr. Aung Thu, Mandalay Region Chief Minister Dr. Zaw Myint Maung, (Mandalay) Region Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation Dr. Soe Than, the Hluttaw representatives, departmental officials and the local populace. At the ceremony, the union minister and the chief minister cut the ceremonial ribbon to open the road and then delivered speeches. Earlier in the day, Dr. Aung Thu inspected the income-generating activities conducted under the Emerald Green Project in Tan Nga Kan Village, Kyaukpadaung Township. Similarly, later in the day, the union minister inspected the rural development works and the income-generating activities conducted under the Public-centred project in Taungba and Magyisauk villages in Nyaung U Township and Legyi (Ma) Village in Kyaukpadaung Township. — Myanmar News Agency ■

UNSC delegation visits Rakhine

FROM PAGE-1

UEHRD Chief Coordinator Dr. Aung Tun Thet explained the arrangements made for the trip, the history of UEHRD, works conducted by UEHRD and the plans for long-term stability, peace and development.

Next, Rakhine State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu explained the works conducted after the occurrence of conflict not only to restore the situation to normalcy but for sustained stability and development, the delicate situation of conflict resolution due to the long history of the issue, arrangements made under the leadership of the government to receive the returnees and receiving of the returnees according to the bilateral agreement.

Later, the delegation, accompanied by the Union Minister and the Chief Minister, left Sittway in helicopters and reached the Taung Pyo Letwe Reception Centre, Maungta Township. In the briefing hall of the reception centre, Maung-

taw District Deputy Commissioner U Ye Htut explained the construction of the reception centre and the process of receiving the returnees.

The delegation then inspected the Taung Pyo Letwe Reception Centre, the Myanmar-Bangladesh Friendship Bridge and the process of issuing the NVC to the returnees.

From there, the delegation proceeded to Hla Phoe Khaung Transit Centre and inspected the buildings in the transit centre, where the returnees will stay temporarily.

The delegation went to Shweza Village, Maungta Township, and met the Rakhines, Hindus and Muslims. At the meeting, the Rakhines, Hindus and Muslims said they had been living together in the past without problems and wanted to continue doing so.

The delegation then went to Maungta District General Administration Department office to view photographic records of persons who died

during the conflict and met the family members of the deceased. At the meeting, the Rakhine families spoke of housing difficulties and their need for a livelihood, while the Hindu families spoke of being fearful for their lives as they were being threatened. The Hindu families also mentioned their bereavement in personally witnessing the murders of their family members, as well as the problems of livelihood.

Following this, the delegation went to Pantawpyin Village, Maungta Township, where they met and discussed freely with Muslim families and heard the villagers' first-hand the account of terrorist events and their requirements from the villagers. After this meeting, the delegation departed in helicopters and reached Sittway. At the airport meeting hall, they met social welfare groups and associations.

Later in the evening, the delegation left Sittway for Nay Pyi Taw by Myanmar National Airlines.— Myo Myint ■



A new Angumaw-Kotankauk section of the Angumaw-Maungta road is expected to ease traffic when it opens in Maungta. PHOTO: MNA

Angumaw-Kotankauk road section opens in Maungta

THE opening ceremony of the Angumaw-Kotankauk section of the Angumaw-Maungta road upgradation project was held yesterday at a pandal in Angumaw, Maungta Township, Rakhine State.

During the ceremony, Amyotha Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Aye Tha Aung said the Buthidaung-Maungta road was better now, and with the current road playing a strategically important role (the two roads), it would give people in Rakhine State easy access to the Maungta area. With the improvement of basic infrastructure such as roads, bridges and electricity, as required by the people, there is now more potential for the development of the region.

Dr Win Myat Aye, Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, as well as deputy chairman of Union Enterprise for Humanitarian Assistance, Resettlement and Development in Rakhine State (UEHRD), and U Han Zaw, Union Minister for Construction, delivered speeches.

Next, Rakhine State Minister for Security and Border Affairs Col. Phone Tint, chairman of Rakhine State Federation Chambers of Commerce and Industry U Tin Aung Oo and Maungta local U Aung Myint Thein expressed their appreciation over the upgraded

road. Asia World Foundation Chairman U Tun Myint Naing explained the reason for donating the road upgradation work, after which he accepted a certificate of honour presented by Union Minister Dr. Win Myat Aye.

Asia World Foundation also donated Ks2 million each to eight schools in Maungta, which was received by the respective village leaders.

Amyotha Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Aye Tha Aung, Union Ministers Dr. Win Myat Aye and U Han Zaw, Rakhine State Hluttaw Speaker U San Kyaw Hla, and Rakhine State Minister for Security and Border Affairs Col Phone Tint then opened the Angumaw-Kotankauk road section by cutting the ceremonial ribbon.

The Amyotha Hluttaw Deputy Speaker and party also inspected the upgraded road section in cars.

The upgradation work of the road was donated and constructed by Asia World Foundation, a member of the Construction and Infrastructure Task Force (CITF), one of the nine task forces of UEHRD in Rakhine State.

This strategic road plays an important role for security, stability, health, education and economic development of Maungta region.—Myo Min, Han Linn Naing ■

Scattered rain or thundershowers likely to hit whole country

Scattered rain or thundershowers are likely to hit the whole country in the next two days, as the weather is partly cloudy over the central Bay, and cloudy over the Andaman Sea and elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal, according to the Myanmar Daily Weather Report issued by the Department of Meteorology and Hydrology yesterday evening.

The low pressure area over

the North Andaman Sea still persists and is forecast to reach the Gulf of Mottama and the adjoining deltaic area in the next 36 hours. It is likely to further intensify into a depression.

The forecast for Nay Pyi Taw, Mandalay, Yangon and neighboring areas for today is isolated rain or thundershowers and the degree of certainty is 80 per cent.

Occasional squalls with

rough seas will be experienced at times Deltaic, Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon-Taninthayi coasts. The surface wind speed of the squalls may reach 30 to 35 m.p.h. The sea will be moderate elsewhere in Myanmar's waters. The wave height will be some 8-10 feet in the deltaic, Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon-Taninthayi coasts and 4-6 feet along the Rakhine coasts.—GNLM ■



Argus NPK Fertilizers Myanmar 2018

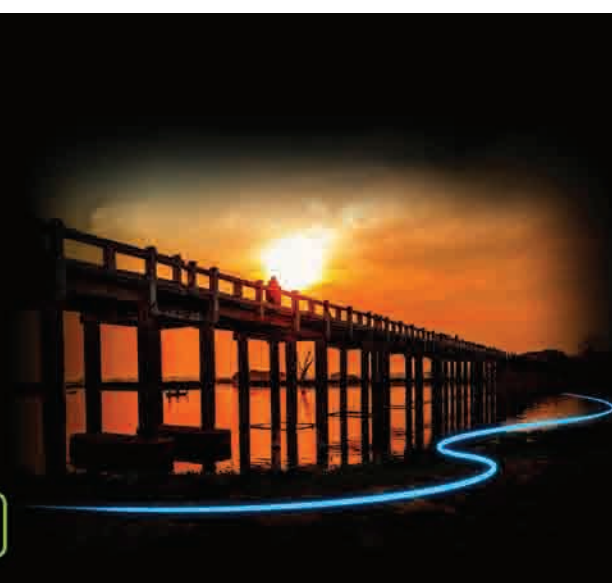
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Simultaneous interpretation (English-Burmese) will be provided

အင်္ဂလိပ်ဘာသာမှ မြန်မာဘာသာသို့လည်းကောင်း၊ မြန်မာဘာသာမှ အင်္ဂလိပ်ဘာသာသို့ ဘာသာပြန်ဆိုပေးခြင်းကိုလည်းကောင်း အချိန်နှင့်တပြေးညီ ဆောင်ရွက်ပေးမည် ဖြစ်ပါသည်။

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Htein Bin garbage dump fire being put out by sections

THE fire at the Htein Bin garbage dump in Hlinethaya Township, Yangon Region is being extinguished by zones, and the Zone C fire designated to be put out yesterday was doused using mainly water, a Fire Services official said yesterday.

U Myat Thu, Deputy Director-General of the Fire Services Department, told Myanmar News Agency that the remaining fire in Zone D will be put out by 2 May.

"Yesterday we took out the biggest fire in Zone B. We mainly used Bio Foam in extinguishing that fire. It was very effective due to the close cooperation and

participation of the Tatmadaw personnel. Today, as scheduled, we put out the fire in Zone C using mainly water. As it was linked to Zone D, fire in part of Zone D was also put out. That is why the area of fire that we extinguished today is quite big. We will carry on until night to totally extinguish the fire in Zone C. We had to take more time today" U Myat Thu said.

"Tomorrow, we'll complete Zone D. As we put out some parts of Zone D today, we'll continue on the remaining parts tomorrow. If the fire in the remaining parts were more than our expectation, we'll use Bio Foam. There'll be



Tatmadaw officers providing medical treatment to local resident affected by garbage dump fire. **PHOTO: ZAW GYI**



Firefighters work to extinguish the fire at the Htein Bin garbage dump outside Yangon yesterday. **PHOTO: PHOE KHWAH**

two parts. First is to take out the fire in the target area and the next is to take out any small fires here and there."

The fire at Htein Bin garbage dump started on the afternoon of 20 April. More than 900 personnel including responsible officials, fire service department personnel, Tatmadaw, members of the Police Force and Yangon City Development Committee personnel participated in putting out the fire.

A Tatmadaw officer who participated in the firefighting said, "Every day since 24 April, 160 of our troops participated with the fire service department personnel. We participated not only in fighting the fire physically, but also provided material support like water bowser trucks, fire engines and water pumps.

We also have a roving medical team treating smoke-affected public in Kyone Su village near the fire. A total of 362 patients, including seven sanghas and two nuns, were given medical treatment."

A fire service department personnel from Kamayut Township fire station who participated in the firefighting said, "Today's area is a bit bigger. However, the landscape was flat so it was not too difficult. We were at the front putting out the fire with hoses while Tatmadaw personnel supported us by helping in pulling and placing the hoses in position and providing other necessary assistances."

U Zwe Yan Naing of ERSS-DO said, "Our organisation has been assisting since the first day of the fire with trucks carrying

water and ambulances. We also provided drinking water, tonic drinks and food to those fighting the fire and those who are helping them in the best we possibly can. Today, we donated 150 dinner parcels and 50 packs of drinking water. We'll continue doing this in the following days, too." Ko Hla Myint, who lives near the fire, said, "Smoke is still coming out. But it is not damaging to the surrounding area. Due to the direction of the wind, smoke was mostly drifting toward Kyone Su village in the evening. But the emission of smoke was reduced, and it is not as bad as the time when the smell was very bad." The fire is now being put out mainly by water. Bio Foam is being used only in areas where it is required.

— Zaw Gyi ■

Yangon Health Department planning to expand health facility in Hlinethaya Tsp

By May Thet Hnin

THE Yangon Region Health Department is preparing to expand its rural and urban health centres, as well as recruit more health workers, in Hlinethaya Township, said Dr Tun Myint, deputy director-general of the department.

The health department has planned to open five rural health centres and five urban health centres. The number of health centres is calculated based on the transport facility, township population, location and 20 social and economic criteria.

There are more than 670,000 legal residents in Hlinethaya Township, and its population

exceeds 900,000 if squatters are added. Therefore, the union minister for health and sports has directed the department to extend the health facility in the township, said Dr Tun Myint.

"Hlinethaya's population is expected to reach more than 900,000 with the increasing number of squatters. However, only 19 midwives are available for the growing population. The extension of the health facility will cover the township population to a certain extent," he maintained.

The Yangon Region Health Department will construct rural health centres in villages that have a population of more than 30,000.

"Our main challenge is land use. Increasing urbanisation leads to difficulties in accommodation," said Dr Tun Myint.

The township has a 200-bed hospital, a Shwelinban station hospital, two local health branches and one rural health centre, with some 203 health workers, including 10 specialists, 47 medical officers and 86 nurses.

This plan was initiated prior to the dump fire in Hlinethaya Township.

Hlinethaya is a populous township in the Yangon region. Its population is prone to infectious diseases, and the township recorded the highest number of malaria cases. ■

Government to distribute free bamboo saplings in Lashio

The Township Forest Department is working to offer bamboo saplings to growers in every ward and village in Lashio Township in northern Shan State during the 2018-2019 financial year, according to a report in Myawady Daily.

An official of the department said the authorities would distribute 1,500 bamboo saplings, along with 2,000 plants of vetiver grass, free of charge through this programme. The plants were developed by the forest department, according to the guidelines provided by the Ministry of Natural Resources

and Environmental Conservation. The move aims to provide quality species of marketable plants that will benefit growers.

Currently, authorities are promoting the commercial cultivation of bamboo in some parts of the country in anticipation of healthy exports.

According to traders, the country has a great future in bamboo-based handicrafts, with the demand even exceeding supply sometimes. The country currently exports bamboos and bamboo-based products to Bangladesh, Singapore and Korea.—GNLM ■

Marx at 200: Germany torn over revolutionary's legacy

TRIER (Germany) — As Germany prepares to mark Karl Marx's 200th birth anniversary, the revolutionary philosopher's legacy remains divisive more than a quarter century after the fall of the Berlin Wall.

With scars from the Cold War still fresh, people from capitalist former West Germany and the once communist East are of two minds about the 19th-century philosopher.

Some hail Marx as a visionary scholar who foretold the ills of the market economy, while others revile him for inspiring Stalinist regimes.

In the western town of Trier, the icon's birthplace which is planning 600 events for his bicentenary, it is not lost on critics that the centrepiece of the celebrations is a gargantuan statue offered as a gift from communist China.

"I never had a need for him," retiree Helene Schmidt, 76, told AFP, voicing her opposition to the statue, which is 5.5 metres (18 feet) tall and is to be unveiled on Saturday, Marx's birth anniversary. For many Germans, their feelings are shaped by where and when they grew up.

"My mother told me once that Karl Marx is a communist and that was that. And now he is standing before us," said 92-year-old Anne-Lise, somewhat puzzled by the imposing statue, which is positioned near



A worker covers the head of a massive Chinese-made statue of revolutionary German philosopher, economist, political theorist and sociologist Karl Marx in the town of Trier ahead of the 200th anniversary of his birth there on 5 May. **PHOTO: AFP**

a set of recently installed special edition traffic lights featuring the philosopher.

As she was growing up in the West, she rarely heard mention of Marx, and it was only this year that she learned anything about the man, Anne-Lise said, declining to give her last name.

University student Sandra Konrad, 22, however has no doubts as to his lasting importance. Marx "delivered a great manifesto and no one can counter that," she said. "He should not be buried away."

While older generations in west Germany grew up with little knowledge of key Marx works such as the Communist Manifesto and Das Kapital, that has changed since reunification.

Over the last decade in particular, unbridled capitalism and its discontents have fuelled renewed interest in Marx's work on the oppression of the working class and inequality.

The theories, developed as the Industrial Revolution gathered pace in the 19th century, find resonance today as societies once again see social and political upheaval.

"There is a growing timeliness about Karl Marx — certainly the financial and economic crises played a role since 2008 when renowned contemporary economists praised him as a theorist," said Rainer Autz, director of a company set up to oversee the exhibitions on Marx's life, works and legacy.

Capitalising on Marx

But in the former East, where the work of the burly man known for his flowing mane and beard was once espoused in every school, some reject any praise for Marx because of the damage his ideas wrought. "Karl Marx developed the foundation upon which all subsequent communist dictatorships have built until today," Dieter Dombrovski, president of the Union of the Victim Groups of Communist Tyranny, told AFP. "He wrote these works; sure, he did not implement them but he developed the thought and the communist dictatorships implemented everything that he wrote word for word.

"According to our penal system today, if someone were to incite a person to commit murder, and if the other person carries out the murder, then the one who incited is also convicted, which is only right," said Dombrovski, who was once jailed by the East German dictatorship.

More people were killed under communist regimes than under Adolf Hitler, he added.

The giant statue gifted by China has also become a lightning rod. "In Germany, erecting a statue means conferring an honour to that individual. The city of Trier is therefore honouring Karl Marx and his works," said Dombrovski, also accusing it, perhaps ironically, of capitalising on the philosopher to draw more Chinese tourists.

'Great son of the city'

Officials in Trier reject the accusations, arguing that Marx cannot be blamed for regimes which distorted his theories to their own ends. "The (East German) regime treated Marx as its god, and his words were the true gospel. That discredited his ideas and philosophy. A new look has not been possible until after reunification," Autz said, stressing that the commemorations aim neither to "glorify nor vilify" Marx. For Trier mayor Wolfram Leibe, this year offers an opportunity to reassess the man and his work. "We now have 30 years of distance from reunification... which gives us the possibility to look at Marx with a critical eye without prejudice," he said, adding that the thinker should "take his place as one of the greatest sons of the city." Leibe also denied trying to attract Chinese tourists — many of whom come on a pilgrimage to visit Marx's birthplace. Only one percent of Trier's five million visitors a year are Chinese, he said, adding that the city does not have sufficient capacity to accommodate more tourists even if it wanted to. "Karl Marx formulated important ideas, and it is worthwhile to think about these ideas. If, after visiting (these exhibitions), someone then goes out to buy a book to re-examine different aspects of what Karl Marx offered, then I think we'd have achieved a lot," Leibe said.—AFP ■

Wood you like a drink? Japan team invents 'wood alcohol'

TOKYO — Discerning drinkers may soon be able to branch out after Japanese researchers said on Tuesday they have invented a way of producing an alcoholic drink made from wood.

The researchers at Japan's Forestry and Forest Products Research Institute say the bark-based beverages have woody qualities similar to alcohol which is aged in wood barrels. They hope to have their "wood alcohol" on shelves within three years.

The method involves pulverising wood into a creamy paste and then adding yeast and an enzyme to start the fermentation process.

By avoiding using heat, researchers say they are able to preserve the specific flavour of each tree's wood.

So far, they have produced tipples from cedar, birch and cherry.

Four kilogrammes (8.8-pounds) of cedar wood gave them 3.8 litres (eight pints) of liquid, with an alcohol content of around 15 per cent, similar to that of Japan's much-loved sake.

Researchers experimented with both brewed and distilled versions of the new beverage, but "we think distilled alcohol appears better", researcher Kengo Magara told AFP.

Wood fermentation is al-

ready used to produce biofuel but the product contains toxins and is flavourless, making it far from a suitable cocktail component.

"But our method can make it drinkable, and with a wood flavour, because it does not require high heat or sulphuric acid to decompose the wood," Magara said.

The institute has a broad mandate for scientific study related to Japan's extensive woods and forests, but Magara acknowledged "wood alcohol" might not be the most obvious application for their research resources.

"We thought it would be interesting to think that alcohol could be made from something



Raw material? Japanese researchers say they have invented a way to produce alcoholic drinks from cherry trees and other types of wood. **PHOTO: AFP**

around here like trees," Magara said.

"It's a dream-inspired project."

The government institute aims to commercialise the venture with a private-sector part-

ner and to have the lumber liquor on shelves within three years.

"Japan has plenty of trees across the nation and we hope people can enjoy wood alcohols that are specialised from each region," Magara said.—AFP ■

Myanmar national team to play Leeds United FC at AYA Bank Tour 2018

THE Myanmar national football team will play against Leeds United from England Championship Club at Mandalay Thiri Stadium in Mandalay on 11 May (6 p.m.).

The Myanmar national football team released its list of selected footballers for the match against Leeds United.

The head coach will be U Soe Myat Min, whereas assistant coaches are U Aung Kyaw Moe (YDNB) and U Zaw Lin Tun (SUFC). The goalkeeper (GK) coach is U Aung Kyaw Kyaw.

The goalkeepers of the team are U Kyaw Zin Phyo (Magwe) and U Phone Thitsar (SUFC), while the defenders are Thein Than Win (YDND), Myo Ko Tun (YDNB), Zaw Ye Tun (YDNB), Ye Yint Aung (YDNB), Zaw Min Tun

(YUFC), Htike Htike Aung (SUFC) and Tin Win Aung (SUFC).

The midfielders are Hlaing Bo Bo (YDNB), Yan Naing Oo (SUFC), Wai Yan Oo (MWD), Maung Maung Soe (Magwe), Si Thu Aung (YDNB), Yan Kyaw Htwe (ZUFC) and Nay Lin Tun (SUFC), and the forwards are Zaw Min Tun (SUFC), Dway Ko Ko Chit (SUFC) and Win Naing Soe (YDNB).

The English Championship club Leeds United, as part of AYA Bank Tour 2018, will come here to play two friendly matches against Myanmar National League All Star team at Thuwanna Stadium in Yangon on 9 May and Myanmar national team in Mandalay on 11 May — GNLM ■

MNL All Star announces football team for Leeds United game

THE Myanmar National League (MNL) All Star announced its football team for the match against Leeds United at Thuwunna stadium in Yangon on 9 May (6 p.m.).

Leeds United Football Club is a professional association football club in Leeds, West Yorkshire, in England. The club was formed in 1919. They play in the Championship, the second tier of the English football league system. Leeds United have won three English league titles, one FA Cup, one League Cup and two Inter-Cities Fairs Cups.

The MNL All Star released the list of footballers selected from the MNL Facebook Page yesterday.

The team manager is Sivaji, head coach is U Ngwe Tun, and the assistant coach is U Aung Zaw, while U Aung Thet is the GK coach, U Pyae Phyo Aung is the medical expert and U Pyae



MNL All Star will play against Leeds United on 9 May at Thuwanna Stadium in Yangon. **PHOTO: MFF**

Sone Naing is the kit manager.

The goalkeepers will be Pyae Phyo Aung and Naing Zay Tun, whereas the defenders are Nanda Kyaw, William, Kyaw Zin Lwin, Win Min Htut, Nay Myo Aung, Thet Naing and Thet Lwin Oo. The midfielders are Joseph Mpande, Phyo Mg Mg Swe, Mg Mg Win, Ye Ko Oo, Akakapo Komi Biova, Lee Hankuk, Hla Aye Htwe, Si Thu Aung, Matsu-

moto Ken and Than Hteik Aung, while the forwards are Aung Myint Tun and Christopher.

As part of the AYA Bank Tour 2018, the visiting Leeds United team will play against the MNL All Stars team at Thuwunna stadium in Yangon on 9 May and the Myanmar national team on 11 May at Mandalay Thiri stadium in Mandalay. — GNLM ■

Schalke suspend Meyer over bullying allegations

BERLIN — Schalke on Monday hit back at allegations from Max Meyer that senior club officials bullied him by suspending the Germany midfielder for their last two games.

Meyer's contract expires at the end of the season and despite being linked to Arsenal, Liverpool and Paris Saint-Germain, he has yet to reveal his plans.

Schalke moved quickly after Meyer told German daily Bild that he "felt bullied" out of the club by sports director Christian Heidel and chairman Clemens Toennis.

"We cannot tolerate this approach and these statements — even more so the incorrect allegations which disturb us and we strongly reject," said Heidel.

Schalke's coach Domenico Tedesco, who has steered the club to second in the Bundesliga behind Bayern Munich, also slammed Meyer.

"I am disappointed with his personal attacks and I cannot understand them, because they just are not true," said Tedesco.

Meyer, 22, has been suspended from the first-team squad, effectively cutting his ties after nine years with the German club he joined as a junior.

Having made the last of his four appearances for Germany in 2016, Meyer recently informed Schalke he will not renew his contract.

His suspension follows a season-long stand off as Schalke tried to persuade him to stay after losing Germany midfielder Leon Goretzka to Bayern for next season.

Heidel publically confirmed last week that Meyer will leave and the relationship quickly soured. The box-to-box midfielder reportedly rejected an offer of 5.5 million euros (\$6.6m) per season to stay and insists his motivation to leave is not based on money. "I has never been about money, otherwise I would have accepted the second improved offer," Meyer told Bild on Monday. — AFP ■



Schalke have suspended Max Meyer after the midfielder said club officials bullied him. **PHOTO: AFP**

Liverpool great McDermott to sell European Cup medals

LONDON, UNITED KINGDOM — Liverpool great Terry McDermott is selling his three European Cup winners' medals just days before his former club look set to appear in the Champions League final. The 66-year-old former England midfielder will also put up for sale five league winners medals and his player awards at British auction house Sotheby's on 22 May, according to Britain's Sun newspaper.

McDermott won both the Professional Footballers' Association and Football Writers' Association awards in 1980. Liverpool's Mohamed Salah, who won the FWA award on

Tuesday, has emulated that feat this season. McDermott, who scored the opener in Liverpool's 1977 European Cup final win over Borussia Moenchengladbach and was pivotal in the 1978 and 1981 wins over Bruges and Real Madrid, said he does not need the money.

It is hoped the auction will raise £150,000 (\$205,000) — less than the reported weekly salary of £185,000 that Salah would receive in a new deal.

"I might get some stick for it in Liverpool but I don't really care," he told the Sun.

"I don't need the money. But I don't need medals to be proud of what I've done. I already know — and that will not go away. "I've got three kids who are doing very nicely, but I want to give them something before I die. They can pay off the mortgage," added McDermott, who was capped 25 times. — AFP ■