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President U Win Myint receives CPPCC Vice Chairman Mr. Wang Zhengwei



President U Win Myint meets with Vice Chairman of CPPCC Mr. Wang Zhengwei in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

PRESIDENT U Win Myint received Vice Chairman of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) Mr. Wang Zhengwei and party at the Presidential Palace, yesterday morning.

At the meeting, they discussed and openly exchanged views on bilateral cooperation in all sectors, One Belt One Road, promoting bilateral relations and cooperation, and Rakhine State matters.

Present at the meeting, along with the President were Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than, Union Minister for International Cooperation U Kyaw Tin, Deputy Minister U Min Thu from the

Office of the President and other officials, while the delegation led by the CPPCC Vice Chairman was accompanied by Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Hong Liang. — Myanmar News Agency ■

Myanmar objects to Bangladesh on illegal border occupants

MYANMAR officially filed an objection to Bangladesh on the increased number of illegal occupants in the area near the border. Occupancy in that area is prohibited by the bilateral border agreement.

The Myanmar border guard force filed the objection at the battalion commander-level meeting on 16 May in Taungpyo Letwe in Maungdaw Township and also urged the Bangladeshi side to prevent infiltration of ARSA terrorists. At the meeting, the Bangladeshi side said they had not provided assistance to the occupants living near the border line since the 2017 conflict.

The Bangladesh border guard also said they want to cooperate with Myanmar in solving another issue, that of infrastructure being built near the international border line. The Bangladesh side said that human habitation exists due to the support of international donors and organizations under the humanitarian aid programme. The two sides also discussed stability at the border areas.— MNA ■

VP U Henry Van Thio reviews development works in Chin State during five-day visit

VICE President U Henry Van Thio concluded his five-day tour of Chin State on 20 May after assisting in its regional socio-economic development, disaster preparedness and eco-tourism.

The vice president visited Lungrang Klang Limestone Mountain in Bonzone region near Layawm Village in Haka Township on Sunday.

After hearing the report

on re-measuring the project of the limestone mountain carried out from 17 October 2017 to 31 March 2018, the vice president said according to the results of the survey, Haka has owned the prospects for building a 5,000-tonne cement plant, urging the officials concerned to pay attention to minimizing the environmental impacts when the factory is established.

Haka has owned the prospects for building a 5,000-tonne cement plant...

The cement plant, which is expected to produce 5,000 tonnes per day, can benefit not only Chin State but also the nearby Magway and Sagaing regions by cutting down transport costs, as they currently have to transport cement from far away regions in Myaingkalay in Kayin State and Kyaukse in the Mandalay Region. The limestone mountain has an area of 36.8

square kilometres and houses some 511.13 million tonnes of limestone.

Before his visit to the limestone mountain, the vice president inspected the construction of the tower in View Point Resort that overlooks the local scenery. Officials explained the tower would have a traditional Chin door.

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2nd Pyithu Hluttaw's 8th regular session holds fifth-day meeting

By Aye Aye Thant
(MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY)

THE 2nd Pyithu Hluttaw's eighth regular session's fifth-day meeting was held yesterday morning.

A motion tabled by U Tin Htwe of Waw constituency urging the relevant union-level organisations to draw up and enforce the related rules in a timely manner for the enacted laws was approved by the Hluttaw.

In addition to discussing and approving the above mentioned motion, Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat informed the Hluttaw about extending the term of the Pyithu Hluttaw's Judicial and Legal Affairs Committee for another year and six asterisk-marked questions were answered.

In the question-and-answer



Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat. **PHOTO: MNA**

session, U Thaung Aye of Pyawbwe constituency first asked if there was any plan to amend the Pyawbwe Township election commission member list, as the list sent back by the Union Election Commission included the names of two persons who were not in the list submitted by the township. Union Election

Commission member U Aung Myint replied that the members for the various levels of the election commission were chosen according to the Constitution and its related laws by the Union Election Commission, and it is not mentioned in the Constitution and the laws that the members should be as submitted by



Deputy Minister for Border Affairs Maj-Gen Than Htut. **PHOTO: MNA**

the township. As such, there is no plan to amend this list, said U Aung Myint.

Responding to a question posed by U Aung Kyaw Oo of Mongton constituency on the plan to repair and upgrade the badly damaged road section between Tachilek District and Monghsat District, Deputy Min-

ister for Border Affairs Maj-Gen Than Htut said the matter was raised at a meeting between the peace representative group and ethnic national leaders of Wa Special Region-2, held at Pangkham (Panghsan) Town on 11 November 2017. At the meeting, the Shan State government requested the urgent repair of the damaged road section, and in case of difficulties, to transfer the road to the government.

Wa Special Region-2 told of its intention to transfer the road to the government and discussions were held with the Ministry of Construction to repair this road. A discussion about the repairs was also included in the National Reconciliation and Peace Centre meeting, explained the deputy minister.

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2nd Amyotha Hluttaw's 8th regular session holds fifth-day meeting

By Aung Ye Thwin

THE second Amyotha Hluttaw's eighth regular session held its fifth-day meeting at the Amyotha Hluttaw meeting hall yesterday morning. Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than announced the decision of the Hluttaw to submit to the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw the Science, Technology and Innovation Bill, over which the two Hluttaws were in disagreement.

In addition to this, six asterisk-marked questions asked by the Hluttaw representatives were answered by deputy ministers U Aung Hla Tun and U Kyaw Myo, a report read and a motion tabled.

First, U Tun Tun Oo of the Mandalay Region constituency (2) asked if there was any plan to control and manage businesses that use various media to advertise their products with exaggerated, fabricated, deceptive and fake claims. Deputy Minister for Information U Aung Hla Tun said advertisements received for advertising in the state media were first assessed by the Myanma Radio and Television censor board. It is assessed if the advertisement is according to the set policy, such as not including the national flag, emblem, and head of state, among others. Further, the company has to submit its trademark, product registration, company registration, FDA permission, recommendation of the relevant ministry



Deputy Minister for Transport and Communications U Kyaw Myo. **PHOTO: MNA**

and other necessary documents. Advertisements must not include anything that would affect the sovereignty of the nation, national territory, political statements and announcements (except those made by the Union Election Commission). It must also not affect the culture, religion, belief of any ethnic nationals or promote sex, crime, terrorism, gambling, drug use and human trafficking, among others. It must also not insult or demean people with any disability.

Even though it may be the nature of an advertisement to exaggerate a product, the ministry is following all the policies and procedures laid down for advertisement in the state media, and it is also ensuring that audio and video advertisements made by joint venture entities are doing the same. The ministry is also ready to cooperate and work with other ministries, non-gov-



Deputy Minister for Information U Aung Hla Tun. **PHOTO: MNA**

ernment local and international entities to prevent and control exaggerated, fabricated, deceptive and fake advertisements made in social media and other media that are not under the control of the ministry, said the deputy minister.

Replying to a question raised by U Win Maung of the Magway Region constituency (6) on the plans of the Ministry of Transport and Communications to prevent river bank erosion of villages along Ayeyawady River, Deputy Minister for Transport and Communications U Kyaw Myo said the ministry was using two methods — direct and indirect prevention — against river bank erosion. Direct prevention is conducted in places where river bank erosion occurs and measures such as building the retaining walls can be conducted. Indirect prevention is conducted in places where river bank erosion occurs but retaining walls cannot be built due to the water depth and other

adverse situations. In this case, measures such as reducing the water flow rate and diverting the flow direction, among others, are adopted. As a long-term project, maintaining and modifying the lower portion of Ayeyawady and Chindwin rivers are being conducted, based on the master plan of Royal Haskoning Engineering Co. Ltd. of the Netherlands, along with the assistance of the World Bank in 1988, depending upon the availability of funding. In the forthcoming three fiscal years from 2018-2019 to 2020-2021, some Ks47.77 billion has been earmarked for the project, said the deputy minister.

On the question raised by U Soe Thein of Kayah State constituency (9) about the plan to maintain the Baluchaung (Balu Creek) flowing through Kayah State capital Loikaw, Deputy Minister U Kyaw Myo said the Directorate of Water Resources and Improvement of River Systems (DWIR) was prioritising the improvement of the main rivers such as Ayeyawady and Chindwin, and its work programmes, drawn for the six-month period of April to September 2018 and fiscal year 2018-2019, do not include any funding for Baluchaung maintenance. If Kayah State government requested funding for Baluchaung maintenance in the 2018-2019 fiscal year state fund or from the emergency fund, DWIR will provide expertise and tech-

nical support, said the deputy minister.

Following this, questions raised by U Pe Chit of the Yangon Region constituency (9), U Lal Min Htan of Chin State constituency (10) and Dr. Sai Hsai Kyauk Sam of Shan State constituency (6) were answered by Deputy Minister U Kyaw Myo.

Bill committee member Sai Tun Aung then read and explained the committee report on the Science, Technology and Innovation Bill. The decision of the Hluttaw was then taken by the Amyotha Hluttaw speaker to confirm the Science, Technology and Innovation Bill, as amended by the Amyotha Hluttaw Bill Committee.

Later, U Kyaw Naing of the Yangon Region constituency 12 tabled a motion to submit to the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw the decision on the bill disagreed by the Amyotha Hluttaw and Pyithu Hluttaw. The Amyotha Hluttaw speaker then announced the decision to submit the bill to the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw.

The announcement of the Hluttaw approving the Myanmar Historical Commission Bill, approved and sent by the Pyithu Hluttaw with amendments, was made after it was approved by the Hluttaw.

The sixth-day meeting of the second Amyotha Hluttaw's eighth regular session is scheduled to be held on 23 May. ■

“ We will abolish the red tape that burdens the people and eradicate corruption and bribery that plagues all levels of society as we work to strengthen the moral fiber of our people. We will draw out from our past experiences as a civilian government overcoming various obstacles and hardships, as we work to the best of our ability for the immediate present and head towards the future of a democratic nation that respects human rights and is free from all stains of corruption.

(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 Daw Aung San Suu Kyi receives Ms. Mary Ann Peters in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

State Counsellor receives Carter Center Chief Executive

DAW AUNG SAN SUU KYI, State Counsellor and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar received Ms. Mary Ann Peters, Ambassador (ret.) and Chief Executive Officer of the Carter Center at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

yesterday at 4:00 pm. During the meeting, matters related to democratic transition and peace process in Myanmar and explored ways for Carter Center to contribute in sharing its experiences and supporting Myanmar's efforts were discussed.—MNA ■

VP U Henry Van Thio reviews development works in Chin State during five-day visit

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The vice president then travelled to milepost 17/5 on the Haka-Gangaw Road to inspect the construction of a bridge that passes over a landslide-prone area and the installation of a vetiver grass system in the retaining walls on the hillsides.

Later, the vice president visited the road specialists (12) encampment near Lamthote Village in Haka Township. U Kyaw Myo Htut, Director of State Department of Road Administration, explained the various projects his team had been undertaking in the area.

The projects include upgrading the Haka-Gangaw-Pale-Monywa road, upgrading the Haka-Matupi and Matupi-Paletwa roads that mainly connect the northern and southern parts of Chin State into tar and concrete roads this fiscal year; building retaining walls and canals along the roads to prevent landslides, and assembling a quick response team with machinery to clear blocked roads in the rainy season. U Win Tint, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Construction, gave additional information.

The vice president stressed that care must be taken to ensure

all the construction projects were built by meeting the set standards for high quality and then drove along the Haka-Gangaw road for inspection, where he was welcomed by the local people of Lone Kway Village tract.

He arrived at the Roads Department office in Mintaing Pin

one of the many sectors lagging behind in Chin State compared to the rest of the country.

He said the construction of Surbung Airport in Falam Township was underway and requested that the local people actively participate in the development projects carried out by the gov-

The limestone mountain has an area of 36.8 square kilometres and houses some 511.13 million tonnes of limestone.

Village in Pale Township in the Sagaing Region. Departmental Director U Myint Oo explained the expansion of the Monywa-Pale-Gangaw road into the ASEAN-Asia highway network.

Next, the vice president arrived at the construction site of the Taungyama Bridge on the Pakokku-Monywa road in Salingyi Township, where Director U Myint Oo explained the construction process. At the meeting with local people and authorities in Haka on Saturday, the vice president said the Union Government would focus on developing the transport sector in Chin State, as it was

ernment. An elder then read a list of sectors that needed development, to which Deputy Minister U Soe Aung replied and explained the programmes undertaken to address the issues, while the vice president gave the necessary instructions.

During his trip from 16 to 20 May, Vice President U Henry Van Thio attended three ceremonies by the Ministry of Defence to return farmlands to their original owners. At the ceremony in the Mandalay Region some 218.90 acres in Myittha Township were returned to the owners, while in the Sagaing Region some 401.04



Vice President U Henry Van Thio welcomed by local residents in Bonzone village in Haka Township. **PHOTO: MNA**

acres in Kanbalu Township were returned. Some 5,160.72 acres of virgin farmlands were returned during another ceremony.

The vice president was involved in inspecting the building of embankment walls, retaining walls, multipurpose disaster shelters and the implementation of early preventive measures in the Sagaing Region and Chin State. He reviewed the works for expanding hospitals, and nurse and maternity trainings conducted for regional healthcare centres. In the education sector, the vice

president checked on the works undertaken to help supplement the teaching faculty and upgrade schools.

He advised on boosting ecotourism at Sial Lum Fort, Reed Lake, Zaimmutaung National Park and Laitili Lake, opening border trade centres, expanding mulberry trees and coffee plantations, and inspected construction projects of Kalay-Tiddim-Tonzang-Kyikar road, Tiddim-Reedhorda-Falam-Haka road, and the Haka-Gangaw roads.—Myanmar News Agency ■

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3rd National Conference on Community Tourism to be held in Kalaw

May Thet Hnin

THE 3rd National Conference on Communities and Tourism (NCCT) will be held in Kalaw Town, Shan State, from 6 to 8 June.

Hanns Seidel Foundation (HSF), Myanmar Centre for Responsible Business (MCRB) and Myanmar Responsible Tourism Institute (MRTI) will jointly host the conference with the assistance of GIZ Myanmar (Private Sector Development Programme).

The NCCT aims to discuss the interface of communities and tourism in Myanmar. The conference intends to stimulate a dialogue on opportunities and challenges for responsible tourism development in communities in Myanmar. This includes practical issues such as operations and licencing of tourism businesses and how to develop tourism within the communities, said U Win Min, Programme Associate of MCRB.

"We have to ensure the development of livelihoods while we develop tourism industries. We will discuss the norms, responsibilities and accountability to ensure environmental and social communities are not affected while implementing the projects," he added.

At the forum, participants will discuss opportunities and challenges to responsible tourism development in communities in Myanmar, being a local entrepreneur and operating a tourism business in communities, and communities in the tourism destination planning process.

The conference will also discuss the expansion of the tourism value-chain and methods to increase the involvement of community members in the development and planning of community-based tourism (CBT), such as addressing environmental and social issues, potential areas for cooperation, and partnership among the various sectors outside the

communities to support small and micro businesses at a local level.

At the conference, officials from small and medium enterprises will also discuss matters related to businesses and tourism industries.

Some 150 participants will attend and take part in the discussion, including officials from the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism, representatives of Myanmar Tourism Federation and its member organisations, CSOs related to community work and tourism, tour operators who are supporting small-scale tourism businesses and NGOs.

Shan State has huge potential to implement the CBT project because of its many natural and beautiful sceneries, ethnic minorities and varied cultures. Shan State has already implemented numerous CBT projects. Capacity building is also important for the development of the CBT project that will attract tourists to visit Myanmar

and benefit local communities and provide them income.

"I think tourism responsibility is important because tourists come to see places where the environment and culture have been conserved and promoted. So, we need tourism to benefit communities and protect the environment. In particular, community tourism is important, because it helps people at the bottom of the pyramid, some of the poorest people in Myanmar to get incomes from tourists either through working in a tourism establishment or by making handicrafts or food items that can be sold to tourists. So, we have formed the MCRB in the last three to four years to discuss how best to promote community-based tourism in Myanmar," said Vicky Bowman, director of MCRB.

The National Conference on Communities and Tourism was held for the first and second time in Nay Pyi Taw between 2015 and 2017. ■

YBS-78 line to appoint female drivers on 1 June



YBS buses seen in downtown Yangon. Female drivers will be appointed in YBS-78 line soon. **PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR**

POWER Eleven Public Co. Ltd. will employ women drivers on the YBS-78 line from 1 June, said Ko Tayoke Lay, Managing Director of Power Eleven Public Co. Ltd.

"We will appoint women drivers on the YBS-78 line very soon. We will be appointing five women drivers for the first

time. We have already selected the five women drivers with licences and expertise," said Ko Tayoke Lay. Power Eleven Public Co. Ltd. invited applications from women drivers in 2017. Some 30 women drivers were selected and provided training. From among them, five women with driving

licences and expertise in driving were selected.

The remaining women will be appointed within a year, he said. Power Eleven Public Co. Ltd. aims to have bus lines operated by women drivers and this is the first time it is appointing women drivers. — Nyein Nyein ■

Woman dies in motorcycle accident in Bago

A 46-year-old woman, identified as Daw Khin May Than, was killed following a collision between two motorbikes on Yangon-Pyay road on Saturday morning, according to the police.

The accident occurred near Kanyintan Village in Letpadan Township, Thayawady District, Bago Region, at about 9.30 am on 19 May. Travelling to Yangon from Pyay, a motorbike driven by Aung Aung, also known as Aung Thant Zin, 38, with one passenger on board, hit the back of a motorbike driven by an unknown man with a female passenger. The woman passenger died on the spot, while the others suffered no serious injuries.

An investigation is ongoing to determine the cause of the fatal accident.

Police filed charges against the suspect motorcyclist, according to the Penal Code.—Township IPRD ■



Farmers harvest rice in Kangyidauk in Ayeyawady delta. PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR

Rice market cool due to lower demand from China

May Thet Hnin

RICE exports through the Muse border have been cool because of the low demand from China.

“The rice market is cool because of the low demand from China, as well as the Muse conflict. High quantities of rice have been entering the Muse market, but the demand has been low. Therefore, we are selling rice at a lower price. The price of rice has declined to Ks2,000 per bag,” said U Than Oo, secretary of Bayint-naung rice depot.

With the price of rice declining in the Muse market, traders have reduced their rice purchasing volumes. Rice from the Bago Region is still selling at

the current price, but rice from the Ayeyawady Region, which has stopped producing rice, is not selling in the market. Therefore, the volumes of rice entering the Muse market from the Ayeyawady Region are low.

“Although lower volumes are entering the market, the price is not on a downward spiral. I think the prices of rice and broken rice are not likely to decline,” he added. Moreover, exporters do not need to buy rice urgently because rice exports via the sea route have been deferred to July instead of June. Therefore, the price of rice in the market is stable.

The price of 25-mark rice is Ks19,000 per bag, while the price

of 5-mark rice is Ks21,000 per bag.

Some 30,000 rice bags entered the Muse rice depot on 21 May, but only 25,000 were sold. The situation is better now compared with the last few days, said U Min Thein, deputy chairman of Muse rice depot.

The price of 25-mark rice is likely to increase if the summer paddy runs into difficulties in the monsoon. Also, the Bago Region’s northern part will stop producing rice after two weeks. Therefore, the price of 25-mark rice is likely to increase in July, said U Than Oo. Earlier, the price of exported rice increased after the water festival period but the rice market is still calm this month. ■

Teak, hardwood to be produced in 2018-2019 FY

The Forest Department expects to produce teak weighing 15,000 tonnes and hardwood weighing 350,000 tonnes in the 2018-2019 fiscal year.

The teak and hardwood will be produced in Bago Yoma, Kayah State and Kayah State, as well as in other states and regions. At the same time, the department will conduct a reforestation plan in the selected areas.

The reforestation plan will include not only the Myanmar Timber Enterprise (MTE) but also private timber enterprises. The department expects to pro-

duce more timber in the Sagaing Region, which has many forest plantations. Earlier, MTE suspended its timber production owing to the reforestation plan, but has restarted it.

“We are planning to carry out the reforestation plan in the production areas. As for Bago Yoma, the timber extraction process will be suspended for a 10-year period because Bago Yoma has experienced the worst deforestation in Myanmar. We will produce the timber through the reforestation plan. It can make up for the deforestation. We will

also take legal action against those who are producing timber illegally,” said U Khin Maung Kyi, deputy general manager of MTE.

There are 167 million acres of land area in Myanmar and nearly 44.14 per cent are forested. Forests in Myanmar are divided into three categories: reserved forests with 28,123,634 acres, public protected forests with 11,718,129 acres and unclassified forests with 9,607,490 acres.

Myanmar had the third-highest rate of deforestation in the world.—GNLM ■

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

တနင်္ဂနွေနေ့တိုင်း “Sunday Special” အချုပ်ပိုင် (၈) မျက်နှာပါဝင်သော The Global New Light of Myanmar နေ့စဉ်ထုတ် သတင်းစာကို အောက်ပါမြို့များတွင် ဖတ်ရှုနိုင်ပါပြီ

“Sunday Special” အချုပ်ပိုင် (၈) မျက်နှာ ပါဝင်သည်

နေပြည်တော်
မြန်မာ့အသံနှင့် ရွှေဘို (၇) နေပြည်တော်၊ သတင်းနှင့် စာနယ်ဇင်းလုပ်ငန်း (ရှမ်းချုပ်)၊ စီမံခန့်ခွဲမှုဌာန၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၆၇၄၁၂၁၀၈

နေပြည်တော်
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ရန်ကုန်
The Global New Light of Myanmar သတင်းစာတိုက်၊ အမှတ် ၁၅၀၊ ငါးတပ်ကြီးဘုရားလမ်း၊ ဗဟန်းမြို့နယ်၊ ရန်ကုန်မြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၁ ၈၆၀၅၅၃၂၊ ၀၉၅၇၄၄၂၄၁၁၄

မန္တလေး
လမ်း (၂၁ x ၂၁) ကြား၊ (၈၂ x ၈၃) လမ်းကြား၊ ပုလဲခွေ ရောင်ရမ်း မန္တလေးမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၂၃၂၇၂၉၊ ၀၂၃၂၇၅၀

တောင်ကြီး
ရှမ်းလမ်း၊ သစ်တောရပ်ကွက်၊ တောင်ကြီးမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၈၁၂၁၁၆၄၊ ၀၉၅၂၁၄၃၅၇

မကွေး
နတ်မောက်လမ်း၊ တပ်မ (၈၈) တပ်နယ်ရေး အနီး၊ မကွေးမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၆၇၂၃၇၁၂

ကျိုင်းတုံ
ဗြိသိ (၃-၈)၊ အမှတ် (၁) လမ်းသွယ်၊ ဗြိဟ္မတလမ်း၊ ကျိုင်းတုံမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၈၄၂၂၄၉၂

ကလေး
အောင်ဓမ္မရပ်ကွက်၊ ဗြဟ္မာသားကတားလမ်းအနီး၊ ကလေးမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၇၃၂၂၁၃၃

မြစ်ကြီးနား
အမှတ် (၄၁)၊ ဧရာဝတီကွက်၊ အောင်ဆန်းလမ်း၊ မြစ်ကြီးနားမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၇၄၂၂၄၆၂

စစ်တွေ
ရမ္မာတတိလမ်းနှင့် တက္ကသိုလ်ရိပ်သာလမ်း၊ မီးတက်ကြီးအနီး၊ မန်ကျည်းမြစ်ရပ်ကွက်၊ စစ်တွေမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၄၃၂၃၀၆၈

လားရှိုး
ဟူးမွန်ကျေးရွာတပ်၊ ဟူးမွန်ဆည်ဘယ်ဘက်ခြမ်း (၁၂) ရပ်ကွက်၊ မန်ဆူဘုရားရှေ့ အဝေးရာလမ်း၊ လားရှိုးမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၈၂၂၄၀၆၇

ခြောက်
မတ္တာလမ်း၊ ရှမ်းချောင်းရပ်၊ ကလေးကျေးရွာအုပ်စု၊ ခြောက်မြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၅၉၄၂၁၈၃

မော်လမြိုင်
ကြာအင်းကျေးရွာ၊ မော်လမြိုင်မြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၅၇၂၇၂၅၊ ၀၅၇၂၇၅၆

ပုဏ္ဏား
နန္ဒဝန်ရပ်ကွက်၊ ဆက်သွယ်ရေးတပ်မတော်အနီး၊ ပုဏ္ဏားမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၇၁၂၆၅၃၅၊ ၀၇၁၂၆၅၃၃

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Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat shakes hands with CPPCC Vice Chairman Mr Wang Zhengwei in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat receives CPPCC delegation led by Vice Chairman

PYITHU Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat received Vice Chairman of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) Mr. Wang Zhengwei and party in the guest hall of the Pyithu Hluttaw building in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

During the meeting, they cordially discussed and exchanged views on promoting bilateral relations and cooperation from Pauk-phaw relations to all-round strategic partnership relations, increasing co-operation in internal peace and

national reconciliation matters, increasing investments for mutual benefit, and legislative matters.

Present at the meeting were Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Tun Aung @ U Tun Tun Hein; Pyithu Hluttaw Committee Chairmen U Khin Maung Win, U Aung Min, Dr. Daw May Win Myint, U Zaw Thein, U Khin Maung Thaung, Daw Khin San Hlaing, U Khin Aye, U Win Thein Zaw; and officials from the Pyithu Hluttaw office.—Myanmar News Agency

Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than receives CPPCC Vice Chairman

AMYOTHA Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than received Vice Chairman of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) Mr. Wang Zhengwei and party at the Amyotha Hluttaw building Meeting Room in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon. At the meeting, they discussed matters relating to the Myanmar Hluttaw work processes; promoting bilateral relations between the peoples, the governments and parliaments; sharing experiences in agriculture, industry and investment sectors for development; organization setup of CPPCC and its participation in politics, administration and social



sectors. Present at the meeting were Amyotha Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Aye Tha Aung; Chairmen of Amyotha Hluttaw affairs committees such as International Relations, Inter-parliamentary Friendship and Cooperating, the

Ethnic Affairs, the health, sports and culture, the construction, industry, electricity and energy; Myanmar-China parliaments friendship group; and officials from the Amyotha Hluttaw office. — Myanmar News Agency ■

Union Election Commission chairman receives Carter Centre CEO

U Hla Thein, chairman of the Union Election Commission, received Ambassador (ret.) Mary Ann Peters, the chief executive officer of the Carter Centre, and her delegation at the guest hall of the Union Election Commission's office in Nay Pyi Taw at 2 p.m. yesterday. They openly discussed preparations for the by-election



on 3 November 2018, the Carter Centre's election observation training and civic education for watchdog groups, the Carter Centre's election observation

programmes for the upcoming by-election and the 2020 general elections, and its continued support in the election process. — Myanmar News Agency ■

2nd Pyithu Hluttaw's 8th regular session holds fifth-day meeting

FROM PAGE-2

Next, Deputy Minister for Border Affairs Maj-Gen Than Htut replied to a question raised by U Zon Taint of Chipwe constituency on the plan to develop townships and regions with the highest poverty level through a special fund for regions where peace is being established. The deputy minister said the Ministry of Border Affairs would reply to the matter; and the replies from the Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation, Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement and the National Reconciliation and Peace Centre would be included in his response to the question. The Ministry of Home Affairs has conducted regional development works in the townships of Kachin State under its rural area development and poverty reduction programme by using Ks1 billion

annually from 2011-2012 to 2013-2014 fiscal years, Ks1.5 billion in the 2014-2015 fiscal year and Ks5 billion in the 2015-2016 fiscal year. Similarly, township-wise development works were conducted in the townships of Kachin State using the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw regional development fund. Ks100 million per township was used from the 2013-2014 to 2016-2017 fiscal years.

The Kachin State General Administration Department conducted the fiscal year-wise regional development works using Ks20 million from the rural development fund. Six rural development works were thus fully implemented.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation has provided nearly Ks36 billion for rural development from its ordinary expenditure (union-supported fund) and rural development and poverty reduction fund (un-

ion-supported) in the 2016-2017 fiscal year and from its capital expenditure from the 2013-2014 to the 2016-2017 fiscal years.

The Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement is conducting mitigation works for the development works affected by natural disasters and is providing support to the affected people through livelihood and re-development works. The National Reconciliation and Peace Centre is supporting the livelihoods of the people in the conflict areas with the union-government fund, especially with funds from the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, National Reconciliation and Peace Centre fund and donations from local and foreign donors.

Although the union government is conducting relevant development projects with the ministerial departments concerned for regions to develop in tandem,

owing to various circumstances, some regions still require development projects. However, as the union government will continue to conduct development projects, no special fund has been allotted for this, said the deputy minister.

Questions raised by U Yan Kyin Kan of Kunlong constituency, U Wom Hla of Nanyun constituency and U Sai Kyaw Moe of Mongpan constituency were also answered by Deputy Minister for Border Affairs Maj-Gen Than Htut.

Later, a motion tabled by U Tin Htwe of Waw constituency urging the relevant union-level organisations to draw up and enforce the related rules in a timely manner for the enacted laws was discussed by Daw Mar Mar Khine of Thaton constituency, Daw Khin Hnin Thit of Padaung constituency, U Mya Sein of Dagon Myothit (Seikkan) constituency, Daw Thandar of Einme constituency,

U Aung Htoo Myint of Aunglan constituency, Dr. U Myint Thein of Nyaunglebin constituency, U Khin Maung Latt of Myanaung constituency and Dr U Aung Khin of Pyin Oo Lwin constituency.

Deputy Attorney General U Win Myint supported the motion but explained there were some delays due to the requirement for coordination with related departments, entities, international organisations and consultations with foreign experts, but still the ministries and departments were striving towards the timely enacting of the rules.

Following the discussion and after the decision of the Hluttaw was obtained, Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat announced the motion as approved by the Hluttaw. The sixth-day meeting of the second Pyithu Hluttaw's eighth regular session is scheduled to be held on 23 May. ■

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker hosts dinner in honour of CPPCC Vice Chairman

PYIDAUNGSSU Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than hosted a dinner for Vice Chairman of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) Mr. Wang Zhengwei and his party at Max Hotel, Nay Pyi Taw, yesterday evening.

The dinner was attended by Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat, Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Tun Tun Hein, Amyotha Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Aye Tha Aung, Hluttaw affairs committee chairmen and secretaries, and other officials.

At the dinner, Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than delivered a message of greeting.

Next, the Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker and CPPCC vice chairman had dinner together with the other attendees. —Myanmar News Agency ■



Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than delivers greeting speech at the dinner for CPPCC Vice Chairman Mr. Wang Zhengwei in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday evening. **PHOTO: MNA**



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing receives Carter Center CEO Ms. Mary Ann Peters in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing meets Carter Centre CEO

Commander-in-Chief Senior General Min Aung Hlaing received Carter Centre's Chief Executive Officer Ambassador (retd) Mary Ann Peters and her delegation at Bayinnaung Guest Hall in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

They openly discussed lasting peace in the multi-party democracy system in Myanmar, the government and military's efforts for peace in the country, and the Carter Centre's possible aid in this matter. —Myanmar News Agency ■

Dawei District IRPD's library upgraded to Community Centre

A ceremony to open the community centre of the Dawei District Information and Public Relations Department and to commission its mobile library into services was held at the office in Dawei yesterday.

The library of the Dawei IRPD was jointly upgraded to the Community Centre by the ministry's Information and Public Relations Department and Daw Khin Kyi Foundation. The Community Centre was formally opened by Union Minister for Information Dr. Pe Myint, Taninthayi Region Chief Minister Dr. Le Le Maw, Director-General of the Information and Public Relations Department U Ye Naing and Member of the Daw Khin Kyi Foundation Dr. Thant Thaw Kaung. Afterwards, the Union Minister, the Chief Minister and officials sprinkled the scented water over the mobile library and visited the community centre.

Speaking at the opening ceremony, Union Minister Dr. Pe Myint said the ministry is carrying out its duties of "to inform, to education and to entertain" for the people through its broadcast,

print and digital media.

Meanwhile, the ministry's Printing and Publishing Department is carrying out its tasks for presenting national literature awards and Sarpay Beikman Manuscript awards, for arranging book sales and publishing 100 Myanmar classic series. IRPD has also been promoting the relations with the communities by establishing children libraries and mini museums at its departments nationwide.

Besides, the IRPD has also conducted trainings, public talks

and reading and discussion at its offices to attract the local people to the offices as part of efforts for upgrading the libraries to community centres, he added.

He continued to say that IRPD is taking measures for establishing Book Club, Youth Club and Women's Club at the community centres. IRPD conducted more than 100 Public Talks nationwide. Chief Minister Dr. Le Le Maw and Dr. Thant Thaw Kaung also delivered speeches at the opening ceremony. —Khaing Htoo (IRPD)



Union Minister Dr. Pe Myint, Chief Minister Dr. Le Le Maw and officials presents gifts to children at the Dawei District IRPD. **PHOTO: KHAING HTOO**

Union Minister Lt-Gen Kyaw Swe receives Deputy Prime Minister of Thailand



Union Minister Lt-Gen Kyaw Swe poses for the documentary photo with Thailand Deputy Prime Minister and party. **PHOTO: MNA**

UNION Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Kyaw Swe received invited guest Thailand's Deputy Prime Minister cum Minister of Justice Air Chief Marshal Prajin Juntong and his delegation at the Union Minister's guest hall in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

The two sides discussed collaboration over anti-narcotics and anti-drug campaigns, rehabilitating drug addicts, implementing alternative development solutions to drug cultivation, sharing of informa-

tion related to drug trafficking, and increasing the rule of law and security along the two countries' borders.

Later, the Deputy Prime Minister and his delegation toured the Nay Pyi Taw and visited the National Museum, the Gems Museum, and paid homage at Bodh Gaya, and Uppatasanti Pagoda.

The Deputy Prime Minister returned to Bangkok, Thailand, via a 7 pm flight yesterday. —Myanmar News Agency ■

Ray of hope for farmers

MYANMAR'S foreign trade in April has registered an increase of more than US\$300 million compared to the same period in the 2016-2017 fiscal year.

In April, Myanmar's export value reached \$866 million, while its import value reached \$1.414 billion.

The country exports agricultural products, fishery products, minerals, animal products, forest products and finished industrial goods, among other things, while capital goods, personal goods and industrial raw materials are imported into Myanmar.

Among its major exports are finished industrial products, followed by agricultural products.

However, we need to make efforts to protect the rights and enhance the farmers' law for their economic welfare, provide inputs and quality seeds, improve investment and technology to increase production, as well as offer support for the grievances and losses caused by natural disasters.

crops will be increased from Ks20,000 to Ks50,000 per acre.

For the upcoming rice planting season, the Myanma Agricultural Development Bank recently began granting loans to farmers in regions and states.

Another significant achievement is that the Myanmar Rice Federation announced the basic index price for rice as Ks500,000 for 100 baskets on 6 March, as part of its efforts to guarantee the rights and interests of the country's farmers, who make up 70 per cent of the population in the agro-based country. Meanwhile, the government is making efforts to establish wholesale markets for crops and develop contract farming for farmers.

These efforts have shown that there is a ray of hope for developing the socio economic life of farmers. If they can enjoy the fruits of these efforts, they no longer need to sell their lands, and the next generation need not walk out of their lands to find jobs in foreign countries.

However, we need to make efforts to protect the rights and enhance the farmers' law for their economic welfare, provide inputs and quality seeds, improve investment and technology to increase production, as well as offer support for the grievances and losses caused by natural disasters.

It is important that Union-level ministers, regions and state governments, as well as working committees, consisting of delegations from non-government organizations and private entrepreneurs, collaborate in this effort. ■

Apology

The Global New Light of Myanmar would like to apologise for an error in an editorial on Page 8 in the 21 May 2018 edition of the Global New Light of Myanmar. In the editorial titled "Myanmar will rise again", the correct number should be 32, instead of 321 in the sentence "... in the Human Development Index, and be lower than 321 on the Economic Vulnerability Index."— GNLM

Enhancing Rural Water Supply and Sustainable Water Management in Myanmar

By Khin Aung Thein
(Anyar Myay) and GNLM

ATTENDED the Launching Ceremony of the Project for Rural Water Supply, held in Pay Taw village of Magway Region on 11 April, 2018. Pay Taw is just a small village situated on the outskirts of Yenangyaung and Magway Townships in rural Myanmar.

With the help of the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF), the Department of Rural Development and local people have built a solar-powered door-to-door water distribution system in the region. Thanks to these efforts, underground water can be pumped, by using solar power, into a tank fixed to a high stand, and is then distributed by underground pipelines to every house via a water meter. As a result, the supply can be accessed at any time of day or night and many villages have benefited from this project.

Myanmar is endowed with abundant water resources. Therefore the north-south direction of Myanmar's mountain ranges is reflected in the flow of its major rivers, of which two are international.

There are many river basins: the Ayeyarwady –the Chindwin river basin, the Sittaung river basin, the Thanlwin river basin, Rakhine coastal basin and the Tanintharyi coastal basin.

Generally, Myanmar receives good rainfall, except in the central dry zone, and has many rivers and natural lakes, as well as groundwater aquifers.

Many parts of Myanmar receive a large volume of rainfall every year, but the Magway Region has experienced scarcity of water because it lies in the dry zone of the country. As such, this region has to face shortages of drinking water, making it very

difficult to access. Thanks to this water distribution system, many households of the villages can get water pumped straight to their homes.

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

In September 2015, the UN General Assembly adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development that includes seventeen Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Building on the principle of "leaving no one behind", the new agenda emphasizes a holistic approach to achieving sustainable development for all.

The SDGs also explicitly include Clean Water and Sanitation and in support of the achievement of SDG 6. Ensuring availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all has been a topic at the United Nations and the priority is now turning the new vision of water related SDGs of the 2030 Agenda into reality. Water and sanitation are at the core of sustainable development and the range of services they provide, underpin poverty reduction, economic growth and environmental sustainability.

It is of great importance to manage the water resources and the way it delivers water and sanitation services for the people. Majority of people are in need of easy and reliable access to safe water and sanitation and sound management of freshwater ecosystems are essential to human health and to environmental sustainability and economic prosperity.

Water Supply

As for the Magway Region Government, efforts have been made to implement some 122 tasks in the region, utilizing Ks.

563.0407 million on urban water supply facilities including sinking artesian wells for security of drinking water and rural water supply facilities including digging wells and lakes.

With the aim of improving the socio-economic life of the rural populace, the government has implemented some 398 tasks, spending Ks. 4362.6339 million on rural water supply projects such as digging wells and lakes, and some 193 tasks including construction and maintenance of the irrigation dams and canals in the region.

With a shortage of rainfalls, the region largely relies on water fed creeks and rivers such as the Ayeyawady, the Mone, the Mann, the Salin, the Yaw, the Pin and the Myinttha as well as reservoirs, lakes and natural lakes for agricultural purposes. Apart from that, dams and embankments were renovated plus reclamation of new mechanized farmland for the agricultural development.

The extension of spillways of Ohngyi-Ohnwa dam in Pwintpyu Township was carried out to ensure the safety of local people and effective flood prevention. As a result, new mechanized farmland and quality species of seeds were distributed for farmers to enjoy higher yields of crops.

Like other countries, Myanmar is facing pollution problems because its water resources are not being effectively maintained. Moreover effective management would result in fair water allocation among ministerial-level water users and better water and budget sharing among states and regions. There is so much potential for the utilization of water resources in Myanmar.

As an agro-base country, it is clear that the physical potential for further development of



Township Rural Development Department has implemented the earthen lake construction project to supply drinking water to some 125 households in Hsihsongon Village, Taungtha Township, Mandalay Region, which is located in the central arid zone and faces water shortage annually, especially in the summer season.

water resources in Myanmar is quite substantial. However with the increase in population and enhanced need for water for economic activities, there is increasing pressure on use of surface water and extraction of groundwater. The management of surface water and groundwater is therefore important for sustainable development of the country in future.

The demand for water in Myanmar is on the rise, with the increase in population and urbanization, while the demand for water in the rural areas has also increased due to expanding cultivation and other rural-based economic activities.

Cooperation is essential to develop the water-related

sectors, such as water supply and water treatment, sanitation, personal hygiene and clean environment, agriculture, livestock, hydro power, industry and tourism, while avoiding an impact on the environment to promote awareness and sharing of information among the people.

The relevant ministries should raise awareness and share knowledge with the general public through education and the sectors concerned to convey the importance of water resources for the economic, social and all-round development of all the sectors and their protection.

As for the Government, concerted efforts have been

made to reduce water-related natural disasters, ensure sustainable water utilization, and to cooperate with neighbouring countries and international organizations for mutual benefit. ■

References:

1. <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdg6>
2. Performance of Magway Region Government in 2nd Year in Office
3. Vice President U Henry Van Thio's Speech on the World Water Day 2018 celebration in Nay Pyi Taw

Translated by William Ko

Thuta Swesone Winners Announced

SWESONE MEDIA GROUP announced the winners of the 13th Thuta Swesone literary awards yesterday.

According to the announcement, U Tin Kha (Tekkatho Tin Kha) was selected for Lifetime Achievement Literary Award; Hein Latt for the Transalation Award; Sein Win Sein for International Affairs Award; Kyaw Htet Tun for Biography Award; Myint Thein Hlaing for Belles-letters Award; Than Win Hlaing for Reference Literature Award; Dr. Khin Maung Nyo for Arts and Science Award; Prof. Thein and Dr. Su for Applied Science.

The Thuta Swesone literary awards have been presented by Swesone Media Group and winners of the 13th Thuta Swesone Literature Awards were announced on April 21, 2018.

This year, the lifetime achievement winners will get Ks 2 million, and literary award winners in other categories will receive Ks 1 million each.

The Thuta Swesone Literature Awards have been held annually since 2006.—Myanmar News Agency

Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Monday 21st May, 2018)

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

FORECAST VALID UNTIL MORNING OF THE 22nd MAY, 2018: Rain or thundershowers will be fairly widespread in Upper Sagaing and Taninthayi Regions, (Northern and Southern)Shan, Chin and Mon States, scattered in Naypyitaw, Lower Sagaing Region, Kachin, Eastern Shan, Rakhine, Kayah and Kayin States and isolated in the remaining Regions and States. Degree of certainty is (80%).

STATE OF THE SEA: Seas will be slight to moderate in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about (3- 7) feet in off and along Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Likelihood of the advancement of Southwest Monsoon into the Southern Myanmar areas.

FORECAST FOR NAYPYITAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 22nd MAY, 2018: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 22nd MAY, 2018: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 22nd MAY, 2018: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

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

Public Talk titled “Youths and Drugs” held in Dawei

PUBLIC Talk titled “Youths and Drugs” was held in Dawei, Taninthayi Region, yesterday, as part of efforts for promoting democratic practices among the people. The move is aimed at promoting opportunities for discussion between governmental officials and the people, encouraging discussion over issues in local communities and promoting habits of participation in public talks in accordance with the democratic practices.

The Public Talk was attended by Union Minister for Infor-

mation Dr. Pe Myint, Taninthayi Region Chief Minister Dr. Le Le Maw and officials of the local authorities and young people.

At the talk, Taninthayi Region Social and Development Affairs Minister U Ho Pin led the public talk speaking about the menace of drugs and its ill affects. Chief Justice of the High Court of Taninthayi Region U Tin Aung gave talk on legal affairs related with drugs and judiciary sector, Taninthayi Region Police Force's Police Col Nay Myo on actions taken against drug cases

and Medical Superintendent of Dawei People's Hospital Dr. Aye Aung and Head of Taninthayi Region Public Health Department Dr. Zaw Min Tun on treatment and rehabilitation. In his remarks, Union Minister Dr. Pe Myint urged the people to cooperate in cultivation of democratic practices starting from the Public Talk, saying that people should avoid criticizing individuals and organizations when they take part in discussion in accordance with the democratic practices.—Khaing Htoo (IPRD) ■



People take part in the Public Talk in Dawei, Taninthayi Region, yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Independent media group arrives in Sittway IDP camps



Independent media group interviews locals in Takapyin IDP camp in Sittway yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

AN independent media group including foreign journalists arrived in Sittway Airports at 4:35pm yesterday.

The media group will gather news on Rakhine State's peace, security and development pro-

cesses and repatriation of returnees among other topics of interest. The media group visited Takapyin IDP camp in Sittway.

The media group included journalists and reporters from Tokyo Shinbum, TV Asahi, Nik-

kei Shinbum, Yunnan, Xinhua, Guangming Daily, CRI, Myanmar Time, Financial Time, ARD (German TV), RFI (Radio France International), and Belgian Newspaper.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw holds event to explain Tax Management Bill

The Tax Management Bill was explained in an event held at the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Thabin Hall yesterday.

Attending the event were the Deputy Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw, Vice-Chairman (1) of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Joint Bill Committee, Chair-

persons and secretaries of the Pyithu and Amyotha Hluttaws Joint Bill Committees, members of the Legal Affairs and Special Cases Assessment Commission, officials from the Ministry of Planning and Finance, member of IMF Resident Representative

Mr. Yasuhisa Ojima, Economist U Khine Tun, advisors Mr. Michael Oomen and Mr. Gregory James Topping from New Zealand and Australia respectively, and officials from Pyidaungsu, Pyithu and Amyotha Hluttaws. —Myanmar News Agency ■

Mekong MOU on Drug Control, senior officials meeting commences

THE opening ceremony of the Mekong MOU Senior Officials Committee Meeting (SOC) on Drug Control was held at Nay Pyi Taw's Thingaha Hotel yesterday.

Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Maj-Gen Aung Soe, who is also a member of the Central Committee for Prevention and dangers of narcotic drugs and Psychotropic Substances delivered the opening speech.

Present at the ceremony were Secretary of the Central Committee for Prevention and dangers of narcotic drugs and Psychotropic Substances, Police Chief of Myanmar Police Force, Aung Win Oo, the representative from the United Nations Office on Drugs and

Crime (UNODC) Mr. Jeremy Douglas and his delegation, and representatives from Cambodia, China, Laos, Thailand, and Viet Nam.

Deputy Police Chief Aung Naing Thu of Myanmar Police Force acted as the Chair.

The representatives discussed the ten projects implemented as part of the Mekong-Lancang countries, financial situations, prioritized projects, future collaborations, projects for 2019, the project roadmap for Mekong region, the Mekong MOU Ministerial Level meeting for 2019, and other general discussion.

The meeting continues today. — Myanmar News Agency ■

Union Supreme Court sits to hear cases and pass judgments

Union Supreme Court sits at Union Supreme Court room number 1 yesterday morning with Chief Justice of Union Supreme Court U Htun Htun Oo and all Union Supreme Court

judges to pass judgments to five special criminal appeal cases and six special civil appeal cases and hear five special civil appeal cases. — Myanmar News Agency ■

Myanmar-Bangladesh conduct coordinated patrolling

Following coordination between the two countries, the Myanmar Border Police and Bangladesh Border Police forces conducted coordinated patrolling along the respective sides of the border, it is learnt. The security forces conducted coordinated patrolling from border post 46 to 47 on 14 May, from border post 47 to 48 and border post 38 to 39 on 16

May, from border post 48 to 49 on 17 May, from border post 49 to 50 and border post 39 to 40 on 20 May. Coordinated patrols along the land border were conducted 14 times in February, seven times in March and 15 times in May, totaling 36 times. Coordinated patrols along the Naf River were conducted four times, it is learnt. — Myanmar News Agency ■

Three ministries hold press conference on second one-year performance in Nay Pyi Taw

THE Ministry of Education, Ministry of Transport and Communication and Ministry of Ethnic Affairs held a joint press conference on the three ministries' second year in office performance at the Ministry of Information yesterday afternoon.

At the press conference Union Minister Dr. Myo Thein Gyi said 313 high schools, 1,612 middle schools, 840 primary schools, 173 sub high schools, 735 sub middle schools, 968 post primary schools and 459 sub primary schools totaling 5,100 schools were upgraded in academic year 2017-2018.

As more emphasis was placed toward upgrading middle and high schools starting from June 2017, for the first time, academic year 2017-2018 saw a total high school level students (Grade 10 and Grade 11) exceeding a million.

Through the cooperation between Ministry of Education and Ministry of Ethnic Affairs, starting from December 2017 a total of 5,161 local ethnic nationals with a minimum education of passing Grade 10 were appointed as Teaching Assistants to teach ethnic national languages and other subjects under a daily rate system paid by month.

To change the curriculum, starting from 2016 April, JICA provided



Ministry for Education, Ministry of Transport and Communications and Ministry of Ethnic Affairs hold press conference on their performance in second year in office in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

technical assistance for basic education primary level while ADB (Asian Development Bank) and EU (European Union) provides technical assistance to prepare middle and high school level text books and teachers guide. KG + 12 system was started in academic year 2016-2017 and is expected to be completed in academic year 2022-2023.

Education assessments were conducted in July, October, December and February matriculation examination results were being posted in the Ministry of Education website.

As for other reforms, starting from April 2016 full salary payment for teachers, issuing of national identification cards for students reaching 10 years of age in cooperation with Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population and

education supports for all handicap students, assigning the school construction works to state/region governments in academic year 2016-2017 and assigning the school construction works to Ministry of Construction in education year 2017-2018 were conducted.

Starting from April 2016 and throughout the whole year, basic reading and writing skill trainings were conducted in cooperation with university students, teachers and local volunteers.

From 2016 to March 2018, a total of 37,386 elders were able to learn basic reading and writing skills through 3,765 teaching circles taught by 4,295.

In the technical and vocational sector, a total of 63 schools consisting of three government technical college, 22 government technical science schools,

34 government technical high schools, three vocational (ELPS/SMVTI/NVTI) schools were in existence in 2017-2018.

During the two-year period, short term courses were conducted in government technical colleges, government technical science schools and government technical high schools enabling to teach a total of 62,257 students.

In 2017-2018, there were 49 arts/science universities, degree colleges and colleges, 60 technical computer universities and 25 education college, totaling 134 were providing courses.

In the higher education sector reform, in the past, matriculation graduates were directly applying to university entrance assessment group in Yangon. Starting from those who passed the ma-

trication examination in 2017, arrangements were made to apply for university entrance directly to 17 universities explained the Union Minister.

Ministry of Transport and Communications second one-year performance press conference

Permanent Secretary U Win Khant said that, pertaining to air transportation, around 10 million passengers used airlines in 2017. Myanmar currently has three international airports and thirty-three domestic airports.

The Nyaung-U Airport in Mandalay Region will be upgraded into the first green airport in South-east Asia using a grant from JICA and the first airport for Chin State will be constructed in Falam Township by Fiscal Year

2020-2021.

Airlines in Myanmar generated US\$ 104 million for Fiscal Year 2017-2018 and surveillance radars were installed in Yangon, Mandalay, and Nay Pyi Taw airports for increased safety.

Concerning water transportation, there are nine ports along Myanmar's coastline and Yangon Port handles 90 per cent of the entire countries sea trade. Within two years 6 additional jetties were constructed throughout the country bringing the total number up to 39. Myanmar Port Authority also reports handling 6 million more tons of cargo than the previous year.

The Directorate of Water Resources and Improvement of River Systems has completed 13 water route improvement projects and 23 projects to protect from coastal erosion by constructing retaining walls and dykes measuring a total of 20,905 feet in Fiscal Year 2017-2018. Myanmar Shipyards via Myanmar Shipyards-Dong A Joint Venture Co. Ltd. has constructed 21 new water vessels and repaired 54 old water vessels.

Myanmar Railways has transported 46.489 million passengers and 1.744 million tons of cargo in Fiscal year 2017-2018.

SEE PAGE-12

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V MCC HALONG VOY. NO. (1813-1814)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V MCC HALONG VOY. NO. (1813-1814) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 21-5-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T/M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V ALS SUZURAN VOY. NO. (003N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V ALS SUZURAN VOY. NO. (003N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 21-5-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S INTER ASIA LINES**

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V MANDARIN EAGLE V-1119

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V MANDARIN EAGLE V-1119 are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 22-5-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MITT 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 CA SHIPPING PTE LTD.**

Phone No: 2301928



Union Minister for Education Dr Myo Thein Gyi, Permanent Secretary U Win Khant and Ministry of Ethnic Affairs Director-General U Hla Maw Oo attend the press conference on second one-year performance in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST (CONSULTING SERVICES – FIRMS SELECTION)

MYANMAR

South East Asia Disaster Risk Management Project Project ID. P160931

Assignment Title: Component 1 Review of governance and legal structure of Southeast Asia Disaster Risk Insurance Facility (SEADRIF).

Reference No. C1 CS2

The Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has applied for financing from the World Bank toward the cost of the South East Asia Disaster Risk Management Project, and intends to apply part of the proceeds to finance the preparation and establishment of SEADRIF, a regional joint facility to secure access to sovereign disaster risk insurance.

The Consulting Services (“the Services”) shall consist of conducting a legal review on options for the legal structure of SEADRIF in a selected jurisdiction, and options for Myanmar joining and participating in SEADRIF under the various legal structures identified in the Terms of Reference and Inception Report.

The duration of Work is estimated at about six (6) weeks.

The Ministry of Planning and Finance will be implementing this component and now invites eligible consulting firms (“Consultants”) to indicate their interest in providing the Services. Interested Consultants should provide information demonstrating that they have the required qualifications and relevant experience to perform the Services.

The short listing criteria: (1) extensive legal experience in countries similar to Myanmar and across ASEAN, in particular in structuring legal and financial vehicles such as trusts, foundations, and/or mutual insurance companies; (2) experience in areas related to public financial management, finance, trusts, constitutional and devolution of power, and/or insurance; (3) team member (preferably at a senior level), fully qualified to practice law in Myanmar and provide legal advice; (4) strong communication, writing, editing, interpersonal, outreach, and facilitation skills; (5) availability of experienced and qualified staff (but not individual experts’ biodata).

The attention of interested Consultants is drawn to paragraph 1.9 of the World Bank’s *Guidelines: Selection and Employment of Consultants [under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits & Grants] by World Bank Borrowers* dated January 2011 and revised in July 2014 (the “Consultant Guidelines”), setting forth the World Bank’s policy on conflict of interest.

Consultants may associate with other firms in the form of a joint venture or a sub consultancy to enhance their qualifications. Such association may take the form of a joint venture (JV) or a sub consultancy. In case of a JV, all members of the JV will be evaluated jointly for the purpose of short listing and shall be jointly and severally liable for the assignment and shall sign the contract jointly in case of award is made to that JV. Interested consultants should clearly indicate the structure of their “association” and the duties of the partners and sub consultants in their application. Unclear expression of interests in terms of “in association with” and/or “in affiliation with” and etc. without indicating the status of the partnership and designation of the lead partner may not be considered for short listing.

A Consultant will be selected in accordance with the Selection Based on Consultant’s Qualification (CQS) method set out in the Consultant Guidelines.

Further information can be obtained at the address below during office hours [9:30 a.m to 4:30 pm Monday to Friday].

Expression of Interest must be delivered in a written form to the address below (in person, or by mail, or by fax, or by e-mail) **by Friday, June 1, 2018 before 4:00pm** (local time).

TREASURY DEPARTMENT

Contact Person: *Daw Ni Ni Than*
Project Director and Director of Debt Management Division
Treasury Department, Ministry of Planning and Finance
1st Floor, Office No. 34, Treasury Department
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Telephone: +95 -67-410-171, +95 -67-410-172

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E-mail for applications: sisipyone@gmail.com, ninithan07@gmail.com, thinthinsu29@gmail.com, kayzinlatt26@gmail.com, and ssh.mopf@gmail.com

Website: <http://www.mopf.gov.mm/eng>

Three ministries hold press conference on second one-year performance in Nay Pyi Taw

FROM PAGE 11

Construction of the Myitnge Passenger Car Factory was completed in March 2018 and has started to build twenty-one passenger cars with airbags to be completed by 2018-2019. The Nay Pyi Taw locomotive factory was also completed in March with a loan of US\$ 47.9156 million from China. The factory is set to build ten 2,000 horsepower locomotives by March 2019.

The Yangon-Man-dalay railway upgrade project (2017-2023) has been allotted Japanese Yen 20 billion for phase one and Japanese Yen 25 billion for phase two. Tenders for CP-101, CP-102, CP-103 for repairing the Yangon-Taungoo railway sections are completed. Installation of signals at Yangon Central Railway Station is 90 per cent complete.

The Road Transport Administration Department has registered 1.3 million motor vehicles as of March 2018, bringing the total number to 6.8 million registered motor vehicles. The department also increased the period for motor vehicle licenses to two years. They adopted an online booking system in 27 December 2017 to cut down on waiting time for license renewals and converted driver’s licenses into smart cards. The Department of Post and Telecommunications reports that mobile users in Myanmar have reached 110.43 per cent and mobile networks throughout Myanmar are comprised of MPT (90.01 per cent), Tel-enor (89.6 per cent), and Ooredoo (90.5 per cent). Myanma Post has 83 next-day delivery offices, 120 same-day delivery offices, international express delivery to 102 countries, 41 online shopping delivery offices, 178 EMS interna-

tional delivery offices, 136 CB Bank delivery offices, 334 My Kyat offices, and 78 OK Dollar offices.

The Department of Meteorology and Hydrology has installed three weather radars from Japan and a total of 50 weather monitoring devices in state and region offices by 2017. In collaboration with Singapore’s Nanyan Technological College has installed 29 seismographs in Bago, Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway, Shan and Rakhine State. In collaboration with the Indian Government, eight earthquake detection centers were opened in Taunggyi, Katar and Nyaung-U Townships with future plans for new centers underway in Taungoo, Kanbalu, Thibaw, Gwa, and Dawei.

Next, Ministry of Ethnic Affairs Director General U Hla Maw Oo explained about maintaining and raising the literature and culture of ethnic nationals, strengthening the union spirit by protecting the rights of ethnic nationals and aims toward socio-economic development of ethnic nationals.

Policies on education, health, economy and road communication for ethnic nationals were set and implemented.

The aim is unity among ethnic nationals, strengthening union spirit through mutual respect and assistance, working toward acquiring all ethnic national rights prescribed by the law, maintaining and preserving the language, literature, history, arts, culture and traditions of ethnic nationals, creating good neighborhood to retain the character of ethnic nationals, and developing and raising the socio-economic lives consisting of education, health, economy and road communication in the region of the ethnic nationals.

To maintain and preserve the ethnic national languages 5,161 Technical Assistant to teach ethnic nationals in their own languages were appointed in states/regions and Nay Pyi Taw.

Ministry of Education was coordinated to conduct ethnic national literature and culture courses in schools during summer holiday.

Law protecting the ethnic right was translated and distributed in 44 ethnic national languages.

Coordination was done with relevant ministries on regional development matters submitted to the ministry. Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation was coordinated to install solar panels for electrical power in about 30 villages in Yangon Region and Ayeyawady Region.

Upgrading of schools in Rakhine State, Kyauktaw Township, Kyeinchaung Village and Taninthayi Region, Kyaung Taung village were conducted in coordination with Ministry of Education while constructing an extension building to Khaya Atwin Ywa in Kayin State, Hpa-an Township was also coordinated with Ministry of Education.

As future works, construction of new buildings for office of the director will be constructed in fiscal year 2018-2019, employment of additional staffs, arranging to make documentaries of near extinct ethnic nationals, conducting research works in cooperation with other entities and posting of an official ministry’s website will be conducted said U Hla Maw Oo.

Local and international media personnel then clarify and raised questions about the ministries with the relevant officials.—Han Hmway, Lin Naing (MNA) ■

Labour reform bill likely to pass Diet after accord with opposition

TOKYO — The ruling bloc agreed on Monday with some opposition parties to modify a key bill on labour reform aimed at tackling Japan's chronic overwork problem, paving the way for its passage during the ongoing Diet session through 20 June, lawmakers said.

The ruling Liberal Democratic Party and its

junior coalition partner Komeito aim to pass the controversial bill, possibly on Wednesday, through a House of Representatives committee overseeing it. They now have the support of two small opposition parties, the Japan Innovation Party and the Party of Hope.

While the ruling parties account for a comfort-

able majority in the 465-seat lower house, they do not want the public thinking that the bill would be rammed through parliament without the consent of the opposition camp.

"This is a major step for the ruling parties. The people can be assured now that the ruling and opposition parties have agreed to some extent,"

Norihisa Tamura, a senior LDP lawmaker, said after a meeting involving the four parties.

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's government sees the reform of working practices as its most important agenda item in the current parliament session.

The bill consists of three pillars — setting

a legal cap on overtime work, ensuring equal treatment for regular and nonregular workers, and exempting skilled professional workers with high wages from working-hour regulations. Under the plan agreed on Monday, the workers would be able to withdraw from being subject to the last item, known as the "white col-

lar overtime exemption" and sought by business lobbies, even after they have once accepted it.

But it is still unclear whether Diet deliberations will move forward smoothly amid protests by the leading opposition Constitutional Democratic Party of Japan and other opposition parties. —Kyodo News ■

Coordinated bombs rock 'peace progress' claims in Thai south



Thai military bomb squad inspect a damaged bank's ATM station next to a gold shop in Bacho district in the restive southern province of Narathiwat on 21 May, 2018 following an overnight attack by suspected militants. **PHOTO: AFP**

BANGKOK — Muslim insurgents detonated more than 20 homemade explosives across Thailand's south, the army said on Monday, in a night of violence undermining junta claims of headway in peace talks with the rebels.

The mainly Buddhist kingdom's southern border provinces have been plagued by a 14-year fight between ethnic Malay militants and the Thai state that has left nearly 7,000 dead.

On Sunday suspected rebels launched their most sweeping attack in recent months, striking 14 ATM booths, two electricity poles and other public spaces and security posts.

No one was killed by the blasts, which went off across the four Muslim-majority provinces bordering Malaysia, but the coordinated offensive marked a brazen challenge to the ruling junta's

efforts at peace negotiations.

"They always look for a way to create chaos and inconvenience," army spokesman Colonel Pramote Prom-in said of the insurgents.

"This time they went after the easy targets," he added.

Attacks are common during the Muslim fasting period of Ramadan, which began last week.

Pramote brushed aside a question on whether the violence would affect the junta's ongoing talks with a group that claims to represent the rebels.

The military recently said the two sides had made progress in designating a "safe zone" in one district of the insurgency-roiled region.

But analysts have long doubted that the rebel interlocutors have genuine sway over fighters on the ground.

"It's (the rebels') way of reminding the Thai security apparatus that they have the will and capacity to discredit them," Don Pathan, a Thailand-based independent analyst, told AFP.

"And a reminder that they are not part of the so-called peace process," he added.

It remains unclear how a change of guard in Malaysia, where elections brought a new government to power earlier this month, will affect the negotiations that have been facilitated by Kuala Lumpur. The culturally distinct "Deep South" was annexed by Thailand more than 100 years ago and has incubated waves of secessionist bloodshed.

The latest flare-up reignited in 2004, with violence playing out far from Thailand's tourist destinations and garnering little international attention. —AFP ■

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST (CONSULTING SERVICES – LOCAL ADVISOR)

Client: Treasury Department, Ministry of Planning and Finance
Country: Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Project: South East Asia Disaster Risk Management Project
Loan No.: 60800 – MM
Reference No.: C1-CS1 (as per procurement plan)

The Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has received financing from the International Development Association (IDA) in the form of a loan toward the cost of the South East Asia Disaster Risk Management Project, and intends to apply part of the proceeds to finance the preparation and establishment of SEADRIF, a regional joint insurance back liquidity mechanism to secure access to sovereign disaster risk insurance.

The Consulting Services ("the Services") shall consist of facilitating country engagement in the preparation and establishment of SEADRIF, disaster risk financing and insurance within Ministry of Planning and Finance (MoPF), and supporting MoPF to systematically mainstream disaster and climate resilience into public investment planning and development process, in coordination with other relevant line Ministries and National Disaster Management Committee (NDMC).

It is envisaged a one year contract, renewable for up to 12 months subject to satisfactory performance and a 3 month probationary period in the first year.

The MoPF now invites eligible national advisor ("advisor") to indicate his/her interest in providing the Services. Interested advisor should provide information demonstrating that he/she has the required qualifications and relevant experience to perform the Services. Curriculum Vitae (should include a description of education and general qualifications, similar assignments, experience in similar conditions, etc, and the names, business contacts and email addresses of three referees).

The successful candidate must have (essential qualifications and knowledge/experience): (1) **an advanced degree or bachelor degree** in finance, economics, public administration, or similar; (2) **professional experience in finance, insurance, public financial management, insurance management, or similar**; (3) similar work experience that may include project coordination, multistakeholder coordination, and experience with working on donor financed project; (4) willingness to deliver insurance and re-insurance training to MoPF staff on day-to-day basis, (5) must be computer literate in the use of Microsoft office, outlook, and email, (6) strong communication, writing, editing, interpersonal, outreach, and facilitation skills; (7) fluent spoken and written in Burmese and English.

The attention of interested advisor is drawn to paragraph 1.9 of the World Bank's *Guidelines: Selection and Employment of Consultants [under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits & Grants] by World Bank Borrowers* dated January 2011 and revised in July 2014. ("Consultant Guidelines"), setting forth the World Bank's policy on conflict of interest.

An advisor will be selected in accordance with the Individual Consultant Selection method set out in the Consultant Guidelines.

Further information can be obtained at the address below during office hours [9:30 a.m to 4:30 pm Monday to Friday].

Expression of Interest must be delivered in a written form to the address below (in person, or by mail, or by fax, or by e-mail) **by Friday, June 1, 2018 before 4:00pm (local time).**

TREASURY DEPARTMENT

Contact Person: DawNi Ni Than
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Website: <http://www.mopf.gov.mm/eng>



(FILES) In this file photo taken on 14 May, 2018, actor Ryan Reynolds attends the special screening of "Deadpool 2" at AMC Loews Lincoln Square in New York. Another weekend, another \$100-million-plus superhero opening: This time it was 20th Century Fox's "Deadpool 2," with an estimated \$125 million take in North American theaters and a huge debut overseas, box office tracker Exhibitor Relations said on 20 May, 2018. **PHOTO: AFP**

'Deadpool' sequel surges to box office lead

LOS ANGELES — Another weekend, another \$100-million-plus superhero opening: This time it was 20th Century Fox's "Deadpool 2," with an estimated \$125 million take in North American theaters and a huge debut overseas, box office tracker Exhibitor Relations said on Sunday.

The Marvel Comics film netted \$176 million abroad, the biggest foreign debut ever for an R-rated title, according to the Hollywood Reporter.

The movie features Ryan Reynolds playing the foul-mouthed and irreverent title character as he forms an X-Force team to protect a young mutant from the evil Cable (Josh Brolin).

For an uber-bad guy, Brolin is having a very good week. He also plays world-destroying villain Thanos in "Avengers: Infinity War," which led North American ticket sales before "Deadpool" bumped it off.

Still packing a decent punch, "Avengers" — starring Robert Downey Jr, Benedict Cumberbatch, Scarlett Johansson and Chris Hemsworth — took in \$28.7 million over the three-day weekend, pushing its global take past \$1.8 billion.

Third in theaters was Paramount's new rom-com "Book Club," at \$12.5 million. The film

stars Jane Fonda, Diane Keaton, Candice Bergen and Mary Steenburgen as aging friends who decide to read the steamy "Fifty Shades of Grey" and find it, um, expanding their literary and personal horizons.

In fourth was "Life of the Party," a Warner Bros comedy, at \$7.7 million. Melissa McCarthy, who co-wrote the script with director Ben Falcone, plays a newly divorced mother who returns to college, only to find herself in class with her (deeply embarrassed) daughter.

And in fifth was Universal's thriller "Breaking In," at \$6.5 million. Review website Rotten Tomatoes dismissed the film as a "disposable action thriller" but praised Gabrielle Union's performance as a mother trying to protect her children from hostage-takers. A weekend surprise (see below) was Magnolia's "RBG," about US Supreme Court justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, a feisty 85-year-old, with unusually strong ticket sales for a documentary.

Rounding out the top 10 were:

"Show Dogs" (\$6 million)
"Overboard" (\$4.7 million)
"A Quiet Place" (\$4 million)
"Rampage" (\$1.5 million)
"RBG" (\$1.3 million)

— AFP ■

Over 29 million watched royal wedding in US: monitor

WASHINGTON — More than 29 million people watched on television in the United States as Britain's Prince Harry married American actress Megan Markle, according to Nielsen ratings released on Sunday.

The estimated 29.2 million

viewers for Saturday's ceremony exceed the number for the 2011 wedding of Harry's brother Prince William to Kate Middleton, which was watched by 22.8 million people. Harry and Meghan tied the knot in a ceremony at Windsor Castle, where

they were greeted by around 100,000 people lining the streets. The couple will not be taking a honeymoon immediately, as they are due to attend a charity garden party for Prince Charles, the heir to the throne, at Buckingham Palace on Tuesday.— AFP ■



Prince Harry, duke of Sussex, (R) and Meghan Markle, duchess of Sussex, leave Windsor Castle after their wedding. **PHOTO: AFP**

Chinese filmmaker Zhang Yimou receives Boston University honorary degree

BOSTON — Famed Chinese filmmaker Zhang Yimou on Sunday was greeted with cheers and applause of an enthusiastic crowd after he received an honorary Doctor of Humanize Letters from the Boston University at its 145th Commencement.

"It's my greatest honour to present Zhang Yimou for the Boston University honorary degree," said Boston University President Robert Brown at the 2018 commencement.

Zhang Yimou's films "offer not only a perspective on the people and culture of China, but also a window into the universal qualities of human nature and yearning," he told about 7,000 graduating students and their parents.

He also praised Zhang Yi-

mou's other work including ballet, opera and especially Olympic ceremonies.

"The opening and closing of the 2008 Beijing games left the world in awe at their unparalleled beauty and magnificence. Earlier this year, you dazzled once again with the Winter Olympics handover ceremony," he continued.

"Boston University is proud to confer upon you (Zhang Yimou) the degree Doctor of Humane Letters, honoris causa", the university president announced amid students' big and warm hail and applause.

"I'm honoured. This is a recognition of my work and creation personally, and moreover, it demonstrates the big influence of films which can be seen as

the visiting card of a country," the world famous director told Xinhua on Sunday.

Zhang Yimou is one of China's leading directors in the movie industry. His films, which include Raise the Red Lantern, House of Flying Daggers, and The Great Wall, have won prizes at the Cannes Film Festival, the Venice Film Festival, and the Berlin International Film Festival, and six of his films have been nominated for Academy Awards, according to an introduction posted on the Boston University's website.

More recently, Zhang directed the Beijing portion of the handover ceremony at the close of the 2018 Winter Olympics in PyeongChang, South Korea.—Xinhua ■

Celebrity chef Mario Batali accused of sexual assault: report

NEW YORK — Already accused of sexual harassment and groping, US celebrity chef Mario Batali now faces allegations that he sexually assaulted impaired

women at a New York restaurant, CBS television's "60 Minutes" reported on Sunday.

Batali had already stepped away from his eponymous gas-

tronomic empire over previous allegations of sexual misconduct.

One woman who was employed at one of Batali's establishments said he invited her

to a party at "The Spotted Pig" restaurant, in which he had invested, where she drank white wine with him. "I remember a moment where I was on his lap,

kissing him. Like, he was kissing me. And then I remember throwing up — in a toilet. And that is all," the unidentified woman told "60 Minutes." — AFP ■

Italian artist sculpts a Fiat 500 out of marble

TURIN (Italy) —A young Turin-based artist has spent months sculpting a life-size Fiat 500 car out of a 15-tonne block of white Carrara marble in a work he sees as a critique of today's consumerist, throw-away society.

Armed with his circular saw and a face mask to keep away the dust, Nazareno Biondo began work on the piece last year, slowly and meticulously hewing out of stone a copy of the iconic "Topolino", the original small two-door rear-engined city car that still symbolises, 60 years after its launch, Italy's post-war

economic boom.

"It's my biggest work so far," the thirty-something sculptor told AFP in his atelier on the outskirts of Turin, a city which is also home to the famous car brand.

Biondo, who graduated from Turin's Albertina Academy of Fine Arts, specialises in working in marble, and has already carved gold ingots, bundles of dollars and even a Vespa motor scooter out of the white stone.

But far from being a symbol of the "Dolce vita", his "Cinquecento" will be an evocation "of a bygone era, where the



Italian artist Nazareno Biondo poses on his ongoing sculpture made with Carrara's marble representing the iconic car Fiat 500. **PHOTO: AFP**

future of my generation could still be decided," he said.

Once it is completed, prob-

ably in a few months, the work will look like a car ready for the scrapyard, "because my pieces

are a reflection of consumerism, of the waste of contemporary society," he said. —AFP ■

Night tours draw foreign tourists to Tokyo's buzzing Shibuya district

TOKYO — Already known for its boutiques, bars, restaurants and that famous "scramble crossing," Shibuya's appeal as a destination for foreign visitors is being given a further boost by its local tourist association, which has begun tours to introduce the area's nightlife — from backstreet izakaya pubs to the "love hotel" quarter.

The tours, which give tourists a taste of Shibuya after dark, are also aimed at boosting the nighttime economy.

Starting from Hachiko Square, a popular meeting place, they take in a number of landmarks, including a local shrine, the Shibuya Hikarie shopping complex and the much filmed and photographed pedestrian intersection in front of Shibuya Station."

"I have never seen anything like this," Emi Estrada, a 70-year-old solo traveler from the United States, says as she is guided by

Shogo Nomura, 24, to Nonbei Yokocho (Drunkard's Alley).

Nomura explains the history of the narrow, untidy strip of tiny bars and restaurants, decorated with "akachochin" red lanterns, which dates back to the postwar period. "I was able to see a side of Shibuya that I could not have seen on my own," Estrada said after the tour, adding, "I enjoyed the gleaming buildings and trains and buses passing by."

While various other guided tours of the area are available, what makes this particular tour unusual is that it is hosted by Shibuya City Tourism Association Inc, which started the English-language nightlife tours in April.

According to the Japan Tourism Agency, it is rare for a local tourism association to conduct night tours. One of the night tours includes the chance to savor Japanese food and drink, including

sushi, takoyaki — balls of diced octopus cooked in batter — and sake. Participants also walk through a district of love hotels, Japan's version of the "no-tell motel," watch live entertainment featuring Japanese "idols," and stop by 100-yen discount stores.

Nomura says he sometimes goes out with his customers once his work is done. "After the tour, there are times when I'll be invited out for drinks by the foreign tourists."

Describing what motivated the association to launch tours of the area's nightlife, spokesperson Kyoko Hori says, "People used to say Shibuya is only for taking photos." However, the area's clubs, bars and other nighttime attractions are still relatively unknown to foreign visitors, Hori believes.

The association's plan to start evening tours were realized when the country relaxed its regulations earlier this year to allow non-certified tour guides to offer paid services.

Japan has noted the economic boost that a thriving night scene brings other countries. When London started operating subway services around the clock on weekends, for example, the positive impact on the city's nightlife is said to have had economic benefits for the British economy worth 4 trillion yen (\$36.39 billion), according to the Japan Tourism Agency.—Kyodo News ■



Emi Estrada (R), a tourist from the United States, in this photo taken in April 2018, listens to guide Shogo Nomura (L) during a night tour of Tokyo's Shibuya district organized by a local association. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**

A Bob Dylan guitar fetches \$495,000 at auction

NEW YORK — A guitar that played a key role in Bob Dylan's artistic evolution from folk music to rock fetched a half million at auction on Saturday.

The guitar, a 1965 Fender Telecaster that belonged to Robbie Robertson, Dylan's guitarist, was used by Dylan, Eric Clapton and George Harrison, Julien's Auctions said on Saturday.

It had been expected to fetch between \$400,000 and \$600,000.

The guitar marked the singer's path from folk stylings like "The Times They Are A-Changin'" (1964), to electric rock, like his 1965 hit "Like a Rolling Stone."

Other famous guitars went under the hammer on Saturday: George Harrison's first electric

guitar, a \$40,000 Hofner Club 40, and a Fender Telecaster rosewood guitar made for Elvis Presley in 1968, priced at a cool \$115,200. More than 40 years after his death, Elvis items still fetch a handsome price.

A heavily decorated Elvis belt, which he wore during a concert in Hawaii in 1972, sold for \$354,400. A star-shaped diamond ring donated by Elvis to an admirer at a concert in 1975 brought in a sparkly \$100,000.

The sale also included show costumes that belonged to artists from Elton John, to Britney Spears and Michael Jackson.

A leather jacket and pants suit from the late "Thriller" singer, with a yellow shirt, brought in \$217,600, Julien said.—AFP ■



A Bob Dylan/Robbie Robertson 1965 Fender Telecaster guitar is displayed during a media preview in New York as part of the Music Icons auction. **PHOTO: AFP** ■

Rain helps Nadal claim stunning eighth Rome Masters title

ROME, Italy — Rafael Nadal won the Rome Masters for the eighth time on Sunday when he defeated defending champion Alexander Zverev 6-1, 1-6, 6-3 after a stunning comeback.

German second seed Zverev was 3-1 up in the decider before two rain stoppages halted his momentum.

Top seed Nadal raced away with the last five games to secure a 32nd Masters title and ensure a return to the world number one spot.

The 31-year-old also showed why he will once again be the runaway favourite when Roland Garros begins in a week where he'll be bidding for an 11th French Open title.

Zverev, 21, came to the court riding a 13-match win streak which included last weekend's trophy in Madrid.

However, by the end of Sunday's rain-hit final, his record against the Spaniard stood at five defeats in five meetings.

Nadal was 3-1 down at the first rain break but cut the gap

on the resumption.

After a further half an hour off court during the second interruption, Nadal came back out firing, winning four straight games to wrap up the win on his second match point.

"The rain break was so important, I didn't think it would help me but it did. I was able to come back out with clear ideas, I'm very happy," said Nadal.

"To win Rome eight times is amazing, it's hard to describe. To have the chance to win here again is so great.

"As for Roland Garros, I'm going to enjoy this victory and think about Paris in a few days.

"For Alexander it's amazing to have won that many matches in a row," Nadal said after winning in just over two hours.

"Today this trophy is with me for a short time, but I'm sure you will get it again."

He added: "This was a very difficult match played at one of the best events of the world.

"To win again after my first (Rome title) in 2005 is amazing,

the 2005 final was one of the best memories of my career."

Nadal remains the best clay-courter of the Open Era with an astonishing 408-36 record.

He will next seek an 11th French Open crown to match the 11 he owns from Monte Carlo and Barcelona.

"You are an amazing champion and you proved that today," Zverev told the Spaniard at the trophy presentation.

"You are the greatest clay player of all time, we all saw that. I'm disappointed that my streak is over, but I did lose to Rafa, so maybe it's OK.

"I was so close but I lost it at the end."

With the sun shining, Nadal made light work of what looked like a disastrous start to the match as he dropped serve in the opening game.

But the king of clay quickly mounted a fightback, breaking world number three Zverev to love and going on to deny the German a winning service game



Spain's Rafael Nadal waves after winning the Men's final against Germany's Alexander Zverev at Rome's ATP Tennis Open tournament at the Foro Italico, on May 20, 2018 in Rome. **PHOTO: AFP**

in the entire set.

Nadal closed out the opener in 32 minutes on an overhead smash to leave his challenger scratching for answers after losing six straight games.

Zverev finally held serve to start the second set and answered Nadal by breaking the top seed twice to reach 5-0 as

the first dark clouds of the week gathered over the Foro Italico and the conditions slowed.

Nadal temporarily stopped the rot as he won his first game of the set but Zverev levelled the match at a set each a game later.

That set the stage for the rollercoaster third set decider.—**AFP ■**

Chelsea owner Abramovich 'waiting for UK visa': report



The billionaire, pictured here in Switzerland on 18 May, did not attend yesterday's FA cup final which his team won 1-0. **PHOTO: AFP**

PARIS—Russian state media on Sunday cited an unconfirmed report that Chelsea football club owner Roman Abramovich's British visa has run out, while his spokesman declined to comment.

Russian state news agency TASS and other media picked up a report on The Bell website, which said an acquaintance of Abramovich and two in his inner circle had told it the billionaire's British visa ran out three weeks ago and he is waiting for a new one.

Amid a spiralling diplomatic crisis between Britain and Russia over the poisoning of a former Russian double agent, there have been calls in Britain for sanctions that would hurt super-rich Russians who have homes in London.

British Security Minister Ben Wallace in February said Russian oligarchs suspected of

corruption would be forced to explain their wealth in a new clampdown on organised crime.

Abramovich formally has residency in Jersey in the Channel Islands, a tax haven, but has never taken it up. The Sunday Times put his wealth at 9.3 billion pounds (\$12.5 billion) on its Rich List this year. He has owned Chelsea since 2003.

Abramovich's spokesman John Mann told AFP he could not comment because "it's a personal issue." Mann gave the same response to TASS.

The Home Office in London told AFP it would not comment on the report because it does not comment on individual cases.

The Bell published the Russian-language report on Sunday. It said it had received "no comment" responses from Abramovich's spokesman and the

Home Office. The report quoted a source in Abramovich's entourage as saying that Britain had not refused to issue a new visa to Abramovich but was considering his application.

Russia's Sport-Express website cited sources in Abramovich's entourage as saying that it had taken a long time for his application to be processed but he was due to get a new British visa shortly.

RBC media group quoted a source close to Abramovich as also saying the application process was taking longer than usual and "the reason for this is unclear."

The Bell was started by the former editor-in-chief of RBC media group, Elizaveta Osetinskaya. Under her leadership, RBC was known for high-profile investigations.—**AFP ■**