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# THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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President U Win Myint presents the ruby brick to State Ovadacariya Sayadaw Abhidaja Maharatthaguru Bhaddanta Kavisara. **PHOTO: MNA**

## Cornerstone laid for building Eternal Peace Pagoda

President U Win Myint places jewelry casket, lays ruby brick in centre of foundation

President U Win Myint attended a cornerstone laying ceremony for building of a pagoda dedicated to eternal peace in Myanmar held in Nay Pyi Taw Dekkhinathiri Township yesterday.

At the ceremony, the President placed a jewelry casket in the centre of the pagoda. First, he presented the jewelry casket, stone inscription and ruby brick, which would be placed in

the centre of the pagoda, and offertories to State Ovadacariya Sayadaw Abhidaja Maharatthaguru Bhaddanta Kavisara.

Vice President U Myint Swe also presented a stone in-

scription, diamond brick, jewelries and offertories to Paukmyaing Sayadaw Abhidaja Maharatthaguru Bhaddanta Janinda.

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## Myanmar objects to growing population near border line in Bangladesh

Myanmar objected to Bangladesh's installation of four CCTV cameras and 10 solar-powered security lamps and to growing population near the borderline prohibited by bilateral border agreement.

The Myanmar border guard force lodged the complaint at the Myanmar-Bangladesh Border Guard Force Battalion commander-level meeting on Wednesday held on the Bangladesh side near the Friendship Bridge, reiterating neighbouring authorities to remove the installation as soon as possible as they break the rules of the United Nations.

At the meeting, Bangladesh urged Myanmar to reduce the announcements delivered over loudspeakers near the border, as the noise caused anxiety for their nationals living in Bangladesh, and to reduce the volume of the broadcasts as there are schools and trainings nearby on their side.

The Bangladesh border guard said there are still difficulties in repatriation, though high-level bilateral meetings are being held regarding this.

They urged Myanmar's security forces to inform Bangladesh when they carried out security measures along the border.

The Bangladeshi side also reminded the Myanmar side of holding a proposed regional commanding officer-level meeting.

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## Pyidaungsu Hluttaw

Fourth day of eighth regular session of 2<sup>nd</sup> Pyidaungsu Hluttaw held

U Tun Myint.



U Maung Maung Win.



U Thant Sin Maung.



Dr. Myo Thein Gyi.



U Khin Cho. PHOTO: MNA

IN the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw session yesterday, officials from two ministries answered questions on foreign loans and MPs discussed a report from the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission for 2017.

Firstly, the Hluttaw put on record President U Win Myint's travel record to Singapore and a letter of appointment from the President's office assigning Colonel Than Tun Aung to Sagaing Region's Ministry of Security and Border Affairs.

Next, Deputy Minister for Planning and Finance U Maung Maung Win submitted a bill from the union government amending the National Budget Use Law.

#### Ministries explain use of foreign loans in detail

The Ministry of Transport and Communications and Ministry of Education then explained the use of foreign loans obtained with approval from the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw in their projects up till 31 March 2017.

Union Minister for Transport and Communications U Thant Sin Maung explained that his ministry acquired foreign loans and used them in 11 projects during the first Pyidaungsu Hluttaw's term and for three projects during the second Pyidaungsu Hluttaw's term. The projects are classified as nine projects for the transport sector and five projects for the communication sector. The Directorate of Water Resources and Improvement of River Systems has acquired US \$100 million in foreign loans for use in the Ayeyawady Integration River Basin Management Project from 2015-2020.

The union minister said the department has also obtained a loan from South Korea to finance the construction of the Twantay Canal Development Project. The canal was initially constructed in 1970, but the area is under threat from a collapsing riverbank. The union minister said no money from the loan was

used yet, and the project period is from 2018 to 2024.

Other projects on the list that are financed by foreign loans include expanding the Yangon port into the Thilawa area, upgrading the Yangon-Mandalay railway, purchasing and repairing locomotives and other related machinery, purchasing 100 passenger cars (rail), developing the communications sector, and expanding the GSM/UMDS mobile network.

Union Minister for Education Dr. Myo Thein Gyi explained that his ministry had three projects financed by foreign loans with approval from the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw. Two foreign loans of \$60 million and \$20 million are being used to provide financial support to schools to reduce dropout rates and increase actual learning among students. The ministry has also obtained a \$98-million loan from the Asian Development Bank for capacity-building projects for youth working in the Depart-

ment of Educational Research, Planning and Training, the Department of Technical, Vocational Education and Training, the Department of Basic Education, and the Ministry of Industry.

MPs discuss Human Rights Commission; suggests adding ordinary citizens to MNHRC

Next, the MPs discussed a report from the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission for 2017.

U Tun Myint of Bahan constituency suggested a stricter and more direct approach to deal with violations of human rights instead of simply referring the cases to relevant departments. He also suggested adding people who valued human rights and representatives of civil society organisations (CSO) as members of the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission.

U Khin Cho of Hlaingbwe

constituency suggested holding annual seminars and workshops to spread human rights awareness and information throughout the states and regions. He explained that in 2015, some 1,778 of the 2,598 submitted cases of human rights abuse were resolved, while in 2016, all 2,094 submitted cases were resolved. However, in 2017, only 106 cases were submitted, and though they were all resolved, the number of cases for that year was only five per cent of the total submitted cases from the previous years. U Khin Cho said it was worrying if the number of cases that dropped was due to people opting to not report violations of human rights. He said more efforts must be made to inform the public of when and how to report human rights abuses.

The report was further discussed by 12 MPs. The fifth day of the next eighth regular Pyidaungsu Hluttaw session will be held on 28 May.—Myo Myint, Aung Ye Thwin (MNA) ■

## Myanmar economic development likely to increase 6.8% in 2018-2019 FY

THE economic development of Myanmar is likely to increase 6.8 per cent, according to the World Bank's Myanmar Economic Monitor (MEM).

According to the report, inflation was seven per cent in the 2016-2017 fiscal year and 5.5 per cent in the 2017-2018 FY. It will drop to 4.9 per cent in the 2018-2019 FY.

The development rate of domestic production reached 5.9 per cent in the 2016-2017 FY and jumped to 6.4 per cent in the

2017-2018 FY.

The increased rate is due to the development in agriculture, service and production sectors, according to the report.

However, improvement is slow in the travel and banking sectors, and Myanmar's economic development, while steady, faces challenges that could affect it in the future, said the report.

According to the report, Ellen Goldstein, the World Bank country director for Myanmar,

Cambodia and Laos, said the macro economic development was satisfactory. The Myanmar government is striving to implement balanced economic development schemes for sustainable development in the country.

He said it was a sign of the country's transformation and financial development.

The report was released at a ceremony supervised by the World Bank and was held at UMFCI in Yangon on 17 May.—Shin Minn ■

## Advancement of southwest monsoon expected in southern Myanmar areas

SOUTHWEST monsoon is likely to advance into southern Myanmar areas, as the weather is partly cloudy over the North Bay, and partly cloudy to cloudy over the Andaman Sea and elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal, according to the Myanmar Daily weather report issued by the Department of Meteorology and Hydrology yesterday.

The forecast for Nay Pyi Taw, Mandalay and the neigh-

bouring areas for today is isolated rain or thundershowers, and the degree of certainty is 80 per cent, whereas for Yangon and the neighbouring area it is isolated rain or thundershowers, and the degree of certainty is 100 per cent.

Seas will be slight to moderate in Myanmar's waters, and the wave height will be some three-seven feet off and along Myanmar's coast.—GNLM ■



I will carry out the implementation of the priority goals of the Union Government which are as follows:

1. Rule of law and improvement of the socio-economic life of the people,
2. National Reconciliation and internal peace,
3. Amending the Constitution which is the foundation for building a Democratic Federal Republic.

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

Let me solemnly thank all our friends at home and abroad, who have helped us and are still helping us; organizations, business entrepreneurs, people from academia and professionals, and especially our people who have supported and assisted us with understanding and empathy. Those who have helped us once, we should never forget. Those who have helped us again and again are our real friends; they bring fulfillment to our lives.

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

## Cornerstone laid for building Eternal Peace Pagoda

### FROM PAGE-1

Following the recitation of parittas and holy verses of the Buddha by the members of the Sangha, Shwe Parami Tawya Sayadaw Ashin Sanda Dhika, President U Win Myint and donors placed the precious caskets, stone inscription and bricks in the centre of the pagoda.

Afterwards, Vice President U Myint Swe, Union Ministers Dr. Pe Myint, Thura U Aung Ko, U Thein Swe, U Han Zaw, Nai Thet Lwin, Chairman of Nay Pyi Taw Council Dr. Myo Aung

and donors laid bricks at designated places respectively and sprinkled the parittas water and scented water on them.

At the ceremony, wellwishers donated cash for building the Eternal Peace Pagoda through Sayadaw Ashin Sandar Dhika, President U Win Myint, Vice President U Myint Swe and Union Ministers.

The Eternal Peace Pagoda will be built on 1.3 acres of land and it will be 54 ft high when completed.—Myanmar News Agency ■



Shwe Parami Tawya Sayadaw Ashin Sanda Dhika and President U Win Myint place stone inscription at the centre of the Eternal Peace Pagoda in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

## Workshop on Public-Private Partnership in Infrastructure Development held in Nay Pyi Taw

A WORKSHOP on Public-Private Partnership in Infrastructure Development, jointly organised by the Ministry of Information and Sandhi Governance Institute, was opened at the Thingaha Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

U Aung Hla Tun, Deputy Minister for Information, made the opening remarks at the ceremony. The deputy minister said it was necessary to seek investments and cooperation from private and public partners to implement large-scale infrastructure projects in the country, as the government alone cannot handle them. Responsible officials from all three organs of the government need to understand the advantages and disadvantages of the public-private partnership system, also known as the PPP model.

“I believe this workshop will provide all the participants with enough knowledge about the PPP system,” he said. He

thanked the workshop sponsor Sandhi Governance Institute and requested it to hold similar workshops across the country.

Later, Director U Khine Win of the Sandhi Governance Institute explained the learning objectives of the workshop and

the opening ceremony came to an end.

Following the opening ceremony, the workshop on the PPP system in infrastructure development was conducted. Professor Andre Palacios, Director U Khine Win (Sandhi Governance

Institute), John Leber and Khatib Alam (IFC) discussed the PPP Regulatory Framework and Institutional Agreements, and replied to questions raised by the participants.

A total of 56 participants, including law makers from the

Pyithu Hluttaw and the Amyotha Hluttaw, and senior officials from the Union Cabinet, Attorney General's office, Auditor General's office and the Nay Pyi Taw Council, took part in the one-day workshop.—Myanmar News Agency ■



Deputy Minister for Information U Aung Hla Tun poses for the documentary photo together with attendees at the workshop on Public-Private Partnership in Infrastructure Development in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**



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# YBS must implement card payment system soon: Entrepreneurs

By Nyein Nyein

THE Yangon Bus Service (YBS) must implement the card payment system soon to solve the problem of shortage of notes and discontinue with the cash box system, according to private entrepreneurs.

Currently, passengers using the YBS bus lines have to drop the fare into a cash box. However, there have been complaints of passengers not having the exact change or paying torn and counterfeit damaged notes. Some passengers do not pay the full fare, according to the entrepreneurs.

"We need to discuss all these complaints. We also heard that the YBS bus line communities are discussing these matters. Our private bus lines are also facing these problems," said Ko Tayote Lay, managing director of Power Eleven Public Company.

Two clerks from the Power Eleven Public Company inspected the passenger fare payment on 1 May in five YBS-78 bus lines. They found a payment gap of 50 per cent in the

A passenger drops money into a cash box in the YBS bus in Yangon. **PHOTO: NYI ZAW MOE**

cash box, said Ko Tayote Lay.

Similarly, some YBS buses under the supervision of the Yangon Urban Public Transport Company (YUPT) are also facing similar problems, said U Ko Ko Naing, vice-chairman of YUPT.

The Yangon Region government will implement the card payment system in 2018 to

solve the problems, according to Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein.

"The card system will be implemented for the public. The Yangon Region government is planning to provide the card payment system to eliminate the problems of shortage of small notes and the need for bus con-

ductors. We are currently making arrangements to implement the card payment system project. We can introduce this card system three months later," said Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein at the Yangon Investment Forum 2018 media conference, which was held on 9 May. ■

## Myanmar objects to growing population near border line in Bangladesh

**FROM PAGE-1**

They also asked the Myanmar side to inform them when they build infrastructure near the borderline.

At the meeting, Myanmar objected Bangladesh's turning a blind eye to human habitation and a growing population near the borderline prohibited by bilateral border agreement and that the action constitutes Bangladesh's support of illegal activity.

Myanmar authorities said the announcements sent over loudspeakers are meant to warn and control the illegal human habitation of families. Myanmar said they would not need to do this if Bangladesh cooperated with Myanmar.

The Myanmar border guard also reminded the Bangladeshi border guard of Myanmar's offer to hand over five Bangladeshi people who were found on a fishing boat and are currently

Myanmar-Bangladesh battalion commander-level meeting held on Wednesday in Bangladesh. **PHOTO: INFORMATION COMMITTEE**

under detention in Myanmar. Bangladesh has not replied, Myanmar authorities said.

The Myanmar side also proposed to promote exchange of information between the two countries.

At the meeting, Myanmar also repeated their request for

Bangladesh to stop construction of any structures in the non-construction zone near the borderline and objected to Bangladesh's sending rations and giving escorts to those who come to the illegal structures to deliver the rations.— Myanmar News Agency

## Two killed as tanker truck overturns on An-Minbu road

A 12-WHEEL tanker truck carrying 4,400 gallons of diesel overturned near 73/2 milepost on An-Minbu road, An Township, Rakhine State, on 24 May.

The tanker truck heading towards An Township from Minbu Town, driven by Kyaw Thura, along with his wife and a truck conductor on board, overturned due to brake failure and plunged down the road.

The truck driver and his wife were killed on the spot, while the truck conductor was seriously injured.

He is undergoing medical treatment at the An Township general hospital. Officials from An Township police and fire services department arrived at the scene and provided emergency rescue services.— Han Lin Naing ■



## “This (fuel price increase) is an international problem, which we cannot avoid”: Secretary of Myanmar Petroleum Trade Association

*Dr Win Myint, secretary of Myanmar Petroleum Trade Association, in an interview with the Global New Light of Myanmar, talks about the fuel oil price increase of Ks100 per litre in the domestic market.*

By May Thet Hnin

**Q: The fuel price keeps going up. How much has the price increased?**

**A:** The fuel oil price has increased by Ks100 per litre by 17 May compared with the price on 2 April. The price is gradually increasing, and it has reached a remarkable high within a month.

**Q: What is your view on the increasing fuel price?**

About 95 per cent of the fuel oil is imported into the country. Therefore, the domestic fuel oil price depends on the purchase price. The second factor is the dollar exchange rate. We purchase imported fuel oil in dollars and sell them in Myanmar currency. The third factor is the taxation policy. Since the last two years, the taxation policy has not changed. These factors have contributed to the increasing fuel price. When we analyse the fuel prices on 17 May and on 2 April, we notice that the taxation policy has not changed. The policy is much better than before, because earlier, two per cent of the advance income tax was being paid. Now, the Self Assessment System (SAS) helps taxpayers calculate their tax liability precisely. Earlier, retailers added extra charges. The SAS will help eliminate the unnecessary additional charges. A better taxation system facilitates consumers. The US dollar exchange rate on 2 April was Ks1,330. The rate soared to around Ks1,350 per dollar. There is a gap of Ks19 between the exchange rate in early April and the current rate. This affects the price of imported items. This being so, I would like to mention that the increasing fuel price is attributed to the high exchange rate.

Next, the global fuel oil price is up by US\$10 per barrel compared to last month. We calculate the value of goods on the basis of the high global fuel oil price and the kyat depreciation. Thus the cost of fuel on 17 May increased by Ks110 over the previous months. So, the sales price is going up in the market. The wholesale price of fuel oil is up by Ks100 per litre. The retail price of diesel has increased, while the gasoline price is up by Ks50 per litre.

**Q: According to the market condition, the original cost is up by Ks110, while the sales price has risen by Ks100. Can we determine the loss?**

**A:** I would like to point out that the current price is still less than the original cost of imported fuel oil from foreign countries. Whether it is a loss or not depends on the individual company that sells the fuel oil. Some companies have a stock and so, they are selling the fuel oil at a profit. However, the fuel oil price is fluctuating. They might make a loss when the oil is

out of stock. We cannot simply determine whether the company makes a profit or loss, which is based on the foreign exchange rate and the international price. We cannot calculate it and set a steady price as companies import the fuel oil on different days. Our sales price is less than the imported oil price as we still have stocks left.

It is unreasonable to remark that the sales price is up for no particular reason. We were bitterly criticised for two years. We neither monopolise the market nor maximise profits exorbitantly. We are controlled by the market-oriented system and cannot manipulate the price. Otherwise, the competitive market means no market power to profitably raise the market price of goods. This is a better way for competitive markets having no monopoly. Authorities cannot intervene in this according to the current market conditions. Also, businessmen cannot negotiate each others on setting the price.

**Q: What's the short-term forecast**



A worker fills a car with fuel at a refilling station in Yangon. PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE

**for the domestic fuel market?**

**A:** I do not want to make a statement for the short term on account of the unstable economic climate. If the US president lifts the sanctions against Iran, the petrol price is likely to drop immediately. Similarly, if the Russian president sells the country's stock, the price will plunge. Thus, it is not possible to forecast the domestic market condition.

**Q: Fuel oil plays a crucial role in the country. If the price keeps rising, what will be the impact on the economy and who will suffer the most?**

**A:** This is an international problem, which we cannot avoid. Fuel oil is a fundamental good, as oil is used for transport,



Dr Win Myint, secretary of Myanmar Petroleum Trade Association.

as well as in the food chain. Therefore, it will affect all kinds of sectors, such as manufacturing and transport. However, we can review its impact. We need to consider whether the family expenditure will rise due to the rising fuel oil prices. As far as I am concerned, consumers will not re-

**A:** On average, we distribute 200,000 tonnes of gasoline and some 400,000 tonnes of diesel each month. While sometimes the prices can help save on consumption, it is possible it affects demand to a certain extent.

**Q: The government controls the price in some countries. Will that kind of intervention result in a stable price?**

**A:** The existing market-oriented economic system is the most effective economic framework, which allows an open market system. Prices are free to fluctuate in a free market economy and so, no intervention is possible.

Controlling the price is against the free market economy, which has its merits and demerits. Some countries adopt this system. The price controlling system will give gross profit margins and companies will not make a loss. This system provides market indication and prevents the rise in price. At the same time, we offer discount services. The control pricing system with a regulatory framework is expected to correct the market. It cannot always depend on the purchase price, as the price may vary, and sellers cannot trade together at the same price in the open market. This being so, we need to study further how other countries practise the control pricing mechanism. Nevertheless, there is no official response from the government concerning the control pricing system. However, the officials concerned are considering this system. I believe the government will carry out an effective framework to facilitate consumers and also not harm businessmen.

**Q: As you said, companies that have massive stocks will not incur a loss. What are the difficulties faced in the storage of fuel and maintaining the stock condition?**

**A:** There is no problem. We can stock and import fuel oil. But, the permits are separate for individual groups for the construction of fuel oil tanks and for importers. Importers have to store the stocks in the tanks of other authorised companies. Some businessmen still require to construct fuel tanks keeping up with the authorised groups.

**Q: How many companies and fuel stations are present across the country?**

**A:** There are 2,000 fuel stations and 50 companies in Myanmar.

**Q: Please explain the fuel market price in Myanmar being the second lowest among ASEAN member countries.**

**A:** The reference has been taken from the website: [www.globalpetrolprices.com](http://www.globalpetrolprices.com). Malaysia recorded the lowest fuel price and Myanmar stands at the second place.

■





Thura U Shwe Mann meets with Singaporean Ambassador Ms. Vanessa Elisabeth Chan Yuen Ying in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

## Thura U Shwe Mann receives Singaporean Ambassador

CHAIRMAN of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw's Legal Affairs and Special Cases Assessment Commission Thura U Shwe Mann received Singaporean

Ambassador to Myanmar Ms. Vanessa Elisabeth Chan Yuen Ying at the Hluttaw Building in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

During the meeting, they cordially discussed legal affairs and bilateral cooperation between the two countries.—Myanmar News Agency ■

## Japan-backed Myanmar mobile operator launches point reward programme

Myanmar Post and Telecommunications, the country's biggest mobile service operator jointly run with two Japanese companies, has partnered with eight product and service brands to launch a rewards programme for over 25 million subscribers.

The state-backed company says it kicked off last week the MPT Club programme enabling users to earn and use points on mobile service fee payments and purchases at various locations like convenience stores, food and consumer electronics outlets and shopping malls.

MPT has operated mobile services with Japanese counterpart KDDI Corp. and trading house Sumitomo Corp. since 2014. Its users can earn one point for every 200 kyat (\$0.10) spent through fee payments or shopping.

Of the eight brands, the most notable are ABC Convenience

Store with the largest number of outlets in Myanmar and the country's leading supermarket chain City Mart.

Toshitake Amamiya, CEO of the MPT joint service and former KDDI executive officer in charge of global consumer business, told NNA that the MPT Club is expected to extend its partners to 30 to 40 companies by the end of this year to cover a wide range of consumers.

The MPT Club gives 50 bonus points to members when they sign up and will award double points in the initial promotional campaign phase through the end of June.

Under the 2014 agreement signed for the MPT joint service, KDDI and Sumitomo have committed to invest over \$2 billion in 10 years to accelerate the development of MPT and Myanmar's telecom industry, according to MPT.—Kyodo News ■

## New rice variety Jatiluhur experimentally grown in Leiktho Town, Kayin State

OFFICIALS and staff from the Agriculture Department conducted an experimental cultivation of the Jatiluhur rice variety on the hill terraces in Daro Village tract, Leiktho Town, Kayin State on 21 May.

They also provided awareness about the advanced growing techniques of turmeric, which would help access more markets and increase the income of farmers.

U Thein Htay from the Agriculture Department said that local farmers had to settle for low income and yield owing to

their weak growing techniques and traditional farming methods. Some 80 farmers received suggestions on the systematic farming of turmeric, an important kitchen cash crop.

The experimental cultivation of the new rice variety Jatiluhur was demonstrated at U Hla Shwe's farms following an awareness campaign. This short-term new variety can produce a higher yield than the long-term varieties.

Myanmar's turmeric is exported to China, Bangladesh and India.—IPRD/GNLM ■

## Monsoon agricultural loan amounting to Ks97 billion distributed in Magway Region

THE Myanma Agricultural Development Bank (Magway Branch) has lent more than Ks97 billion in loans to 221,540 farmers across the Magway Region to grow monsoon crops.

However, the farmers have to submit farmland form (7) as mortgage for receiving the loan, said an official from the Myanmar Agricultural Development Bank (Magway Branch).

"The bank distributed the loans to the farmers from 17 May 2018. Farmers have to return the seasonal agricultural loans by 15 April 2019. The bank provided Ks150,000 per acre of rice plantation and Ks50,000 per acre of other crops, including beans, pulses and cotton. The bank granted a total of Ks58.74465 billion in loans for 391,631 acres of farmland and Ks38.420 billion for 768,402 acres of other crops. But the bank takes farmland form (7) as mortgage from the farmer, said U Win Zaw, region manager of Myanma Agricultural Development Bank.

Last year, farmers could obtain agricultural loans from the bank by showing their household and bank accounts. But this year, they have to submit farmland



Farmers wait outside the bank branch of Myanmar Agricultural Development in Magway Township to draw agricultural loans. **PHOTO: ZAYYA TU (MAGWAY)**

form (7) as mortgage. Therefore, some farmers are demanding more loans.

"The current price of agricultural land is Ks3 million per acre. But the loan provided is only Ks50,000 per acre. Therefore, some farmers do not take loans from the government. They borrow money from other sources to get more loan amount," said U Kyin Shwe, a local farmer from Kan Pyar Village.

According to the bank data, some local farmers from Minbu, Pwintbyu, Salin, Myo Thit, Thay-

et and Aunglan townships are yet to return agricultural loans taken last year.

The farmers were disbursed loans at an interest rate of Ks8. However, farmers who failed to return the loan within the set time frame to the bank have to pay one kyat per month as fine.

Agricultural banks are required to disburse loans depending on the type of crops. In some cases, applicants were found to seek loans fraudulently for crops not included in the eligible list.—Zayya Tu (Magway) ■

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## Tatmadaw supports Amnesty International's reveal of ARSA terrorists' massacre

THE Tatmadaw True News Information team released a press release yesterday praising Amnesty International for their report on inhuman massacres, terrorist attacks and human rights abuses by ARSA in Rakhine State.

The press release read that Amnesty International showed impartiality and reported true facts in the news article, which was based on their report titled "Attacks by the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA) on Hindus in northern Rakhine State."

The press release also said the Tatmadaw has been vigilantly broadcasting news on this sit-

uation, but international media and governments have been directing one-sided accusations on the Tatmadaw and the Union Government.

The press release urged Amnesty International to continue covering true news regarding ARSA's terrorist activities on other ethnic groups as well.

The press release also called for other international media and organizations to follow the lead of Amnesty International and provide authentic facts and evidence regarding ARSA's conflicts in Buthidaung-Maungdaw, while holding meetings with officials from Myanmar. —MNA ■

## 2018 Korea-Expo opens in Yangon



An opening ceremony of 2018 Korea-Expo held in Yangon. PHOTO: MNA

2018 Korea-Expo kicked off at the Tatmadaw Convention Hall in Yangon yesterday, with 120 booths.

The four-day expo was opened with an address by Deputy Minister for Commerce U Aung Htoo.

Speaking at the ceremony, the deputy minister invited Korean investors as part of efforts for boosting trade between Myanmar and the Republic of Korea.

He said the expo is expected to explore opportunities for possible export products and services between the two countries.

To control the quality of export products of Myanmar and to reduce the costs, Myanmar and South Korea's HUBS MK Co Ltd signed an agreement in Nay Pyi Taw recently on building logistic hubs. Myanmar and South Korea established the diplomatic ties in 1975.—MNA ■

## Drug-addled man in Shan State kills six, wounds fourteen

SIX people were killed and 14 others wounded after they were attacked and knifed by a man apparently high on drugs in Ho Sin Chone Village, Man Tonpar village-tract, Laukkai Township, Shan State, police said.

The deadly attacks occurred at about 11 pm on 22 May. The man fatally stabbed his wife Daw Yang Shauk San and daughter Ma Kyin Sauk San at his home

and then killed six others and injured another 14 in the village before he died from attacks by residents, police said.

The other people killed were identified by authorities as Daw Wan Shauk San, U Li Lauk Sit, Daw Yauk Shauk Ta, Mg Kyin Wai, Wan Lauk Say and U Yaung Lauk San. The slain killer was identified as Kyin Lauk Ai, police said.—MNA ■



Rakhine State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu delivers the speech at the coordination meeting on repatriation of returnees at the building of Rakhine State Government in Rakhine. PHOTO: MNA

## Rakhine Government holds coordination meeting on repatriation

A COORDINATION meeting on the status and progress of repatriating and resettling returnees was held at the Rakhine State Government's building yesterday.

At the meeting, Rakhine State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu said restoration of peace and stability have been carried out ever since the violent attacks on 25 August 2017, and with the State Counsellor herself leading the efforts, stability is being swiftly restored. But despite these efforts, people have been leaving their homes to cross into other countries. Even though the state government tried to resolve this situation, it has grown from a state issue to an issue of national concern. Consequently, the state government is not

only performing repatriation and resettlement of returnees, but also planning for their long-term socio-economic development in collaboration with the union government.

Next, Vice Chairman (2) of the Repatriation and Resettlement of Returnees Committee U Khin Maung Tin, who is also the Deputy Minister for the Office of the State Counsellor, explained the process of implementing directions from the President's Office, preparing temporary lodging for returnees at the reception centres, distributing humanitarian aid, preparing transportation, providing security, and keeping records of all activities.

Afterwards, State Minister for Security and Border Affairs Colonel Phone Tint and State

Minister for Agriculture, Livestock, Forestry and Mining U Kyaw Lwin, both of whom are Joint-Chair (1) and (2), respectively, of the Committee for Aiding Repatriation and Resettlement of Returnees, explaining the preparation processes for before and after the arrival of repatriates.

This was followed by departmental officials in attendance explaining their completed processes and collaboration between relevant ministries, to which the Deputy Minister and Chief Minister provided suggestions and discussions.

Also present at the meeting were State Chief Justice U Kyauk, state ministers and invited officials.—Tin Tun (IPRD) ■

## Myanmar law information system website launches in Myanmar, English

THE Union Attorney General's office has launched a website for a Myanmar law information system at [www.mlis.gov.mm](http://www.mlis.gov.mm), which will be available in English and Myanmar.

The website was launched at a ceremony held at Hilton Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. A mobile service is also reportedly in progress.

The website has information on constitutional laws, union laws, region or state laws, self-administered division/zone laws, subordinate legislation union laws, subordinate legislation region or state laws, subordinate

legislation self-administered division/zone laws, international treaties and precedents.

The website will soon upload information on announcements, executive orders, rules and regulations, and cooperate with other ministries to include laws and bylaws, and other legal news relating to them.

The system was formed with collaboration from the Korean International Cooperation Agency (KOICA).

At the ceremony, Permanent Secretary Daw Nu Nu Yin said they would need other ministries to relay information

quickly to update information pertaining to them.

The website will also have information on abolished laws, and detailed facts on amendments to existing laws.

"Some international treaties require the passing of new laws after signing. The website will also link these laws to the convention related to them," said Daw Nu Nu Yin. "We will also upload rulings by the Union Supreme Court. One advantage of the website is the ease of editing amendments to the existing laws and displaying the original law at the user's fingertips."—MNA ■



## Modern methods, training key for new agricultural system adaptable to climate change

THE agriculture sector continues to play a large part in development of the country. The change in the global agriculture sector has brought opportunities to our farmers and stakeholders in the industry.

In addition, the Pyithu Hluttaw gave a nod to MPs to discuss a motion urging the Union Government to implement nationwide agricultural training courses and seminars to improve agricultural knowledge, and thus enhance the livelihoods of farmers.

To reach one of our goals of boosting the country's economy based on the agriculture sector, we need to disseminate modern agricultural methods to farmers and provide them with better inputs, quality seeds and better logistics and marketing arrangements.

Myanmar has a surplus of rice, other crops, meat and fish, in addition to ideal weather conditions and land for agriculture, but the general populace requires skills to use them effectively.

To boost agricultural and livestock products, it is needed to fulfil the needs of our farmers, who are major producers in the agriculture sector, in accordance with the law.

We need to promote agricultural education and training, as it can play a strategic role in helping our country's youths to develop productive careers in agriculture and related agri-businesses.

crops — rice, beans, and pulses.

The agriculture sector accounts for 26 per cent of GDP.

Favourable weather conditions and increased external demand caused agricultural output to rise by an estimated 2.5 per cent in this fiscal year.

Therefore, the government needs to support the farmers so that they can expand the growing of crops as much as possible in areas throughout the country.

In addition to rice, which is a staple food for us, various types of pulses such as mung beans, pigeon peas, green grams, peanuts, sesame seeds, and fruits and vegetables including corn, watermelons, muskmelons, mangoes, onions, ginger, tea leaves and coffee beans, among other things, are shipped to foreign countries.

One of the challenges we are facing today is shortage of farm labourers that is also occurring in developed countries, where youths from rural areas walk away from farms to take jobs in cities.

To overcome that, we need to promote agricultural education and training, as it can play a strategic role in helping our country's youths to develop productive careers in agriculture and related agri-businesses.

Now is the time to change our country's weaknesses in performing research for a new system of agriculture that can be adaptable to climate change.

For that, we need agricultural education and trainings for our farmers. ■

By Khin Maung Myint

FOR many years, since the scientists recognized the presence of the climate change: its causes identified and its effects anticipated, they had been endeavoring to address those problems. However, we haven't seen much improvements. Resolutions to curb the global warming and hence, to control the climate change are already ratified and in force, thanks to the United Nation Framework Conference on Climate Change for getting the Paris Agreements ratified by 195 nations. However, some large emitters of the greenhouse gases are still dragging their feet to abide by them.

If this trend continues, the goal to maintain the temperature at 2° Celsius and to eventually bring it down to 1.5° Celsius above the pre-industrial period average, as required by the Paris Agreement would be quite difficult to achieve. That would place us in dire situations and the consequences unthinkable.

The planet's climate has constantly been changing over geological time. The global average temperature today is about 15°Celsius, though geological evidence suggests it has been much higher and lower in the past. However, the current period of warming is occurring more rapidly than many past events. Scientists are concerned that the natural fluctuation, or variability, is being overtaken by a rapid human-induced warming that has serious implications for the stability of the planet's climate. The most common human involvements are: over-logging, excessive use of fossil fuels, slash and burn agricultural practices, etc.

Today, we are experiencing the severe climate changes around the world. As the climate change dictates the weather patterns, we are being subjected more and more to extreme weather conditions. The two most prominent weather patterns are the El Nino and the La Nina phenomena affecting us alternately. Due to these freak weather patterns, we are experiencing weird weather

er conditions, such as: extreme temperature rises, extreme colds, heavy rainfalls, severe droughts, unprecedented snowfalls in places where there were no snowfall in the past and decreased snowfalls where there were usually heavy snowfalls, storms becoming more frequent and more stronger, extraordinarily extreme hot and cold weathers, severe and frequent earth quakes etc.

The consequences of these freak weather conditions led to desertification, extensive flooding, depletion of arable land, shrinkage of inhabitable space for humans. These are causing the pastures, grazing grounds and habitats for domestic animals and wildlife to disappear fast, people to suffer from poverty and starvations, and the number of displaced persons are on the rise. Natural disasters and social woes are becoming more pronounced.

The rising temperatures, severe droughts and human induced degradation of the land dried up the natural water resources and are rendering the land to become arid and in extreme cases causing damages.

According to one group of scientists, the global temperature rise of 1.5°Celsius (2.7 °F) above current levels would be enough to start the thawing of permafrost in the Arctic, especially in Siberia. The permafrost is an earth science concerned with the solid Earth, the rocks of which it is composed, and the processes by which they change over time. Permafrost accounts for 24% of exposed land in the Northern Hemisphere. When the permafrosts thawed, the earth and rocks, which are bound by freezing water become loose and the structures built on them are rendered unsafe. Today in many places in the Arctic regions are facing those problems and settlements had to be move to firmer grounds.

These melting ice together with the rain water, collapsing rocks and earths from the erosions of the shorelines that are being dumped into the seas and oceans are causing the water level rises. Which in turn led to flooding of low-lying grounds close to the shores. The worst hit by the floods



Vanishing island in the Pacific.

cap will shrink to record lows. Similar melting are taking place on the Himalayas and other Alpine glaciers. Due to heavy melting of the ice glaciers everywhere around the world and the heavy rainfalls brought on by the extreme weather patterns, are causing extensive inundating in low lying places. They cause erosion of the shorelines and the land masses are shrinking, decreasing the areas of arable land and habitable spaces.

The disappearance of some low-lying islands in the Pacific Ocean and elsewhere are being on the happening now. Rising sea levels that submerge entire islands were supposed to be a distant possibility of an apocalyptic future. However, that future is now, as five of the Solomon Islands have completely disappeared under water over the past seven decades, one was as recently as 2011, according to a study published in Environmental Research Letters. Another six islands have lost more than 20% of their surface area, forcing communities to relocate as the shoreline closes in on their homes.

Climate change and rising sea levels are already making life in low-lying tropical islands in the Pacific difficult. Increases in global temperatures mean that many of these islands are likely to be completely submerged in the coming years. A report published by The Center for Climate and Security in June 2017 titled "Episcenters of Climate and Security: The New Geostategic Landscape of the Anthropocene" highlights the plight

in the region is Bangladesh. That country is prone to flooding due to being situated on the Ganges Delta and the many tributaries flowing into the Bay of Bengal. Coastal flooding, combined with the bursting of river banks is common, and severely affects the landscape and society of Bangladesh. About 80% of Bangladesh is floodplain, and it has an extensive sea coastline, rendering the nation very much at risk of periodic widespread damage.

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of the small Pacific island nations of Kiribati, Tokelau, Tuvalu and the Marshall Islands.

Climate changes will affect everyone, but some populations will be at greater risk. Countries whose coastal regions have a large population, such as Egypt and China, may have to move whole populations inland to avoid flooding. The effect on people will depend on how well we can adapt to the changes and how much we can do to reduce climate change in the world. After all, the climate changes are human-induced. The new NASA chief had expressed doubt about human-caused climate change in the past, but lately said that he knows Earth's climate is changing, and that humans contribute to it "in a major way".

Let us see how the deteriorating climate change could impact Myanmar. According to the Myanmar Climate Change Alliance (MCCA) the following climate change hazards had been observed in Myanmar:-

**\* An increase in the prevalence of drought events** - Drought were frequent in the 1980s and the 1990s, the severest drought was in 2010.

**\* An increase in intensity and frequency of cyclones/strong winds** - Noteworthy cyclones include Cyclone Mala (2006), Nargis (2008) and Giri (2010). Cyclone Nargis hit the Ayeyarwady Delta in May 2008; caused 138,373 deaths and affected a further 2.4 million people. Cyclone Giri hit Rakhine State in October 2010; destroyed 21,242 houses and affected at least 224,212 people.

**\* Rainfall variability including erratic and record-breaking intense** - Over the period 1960-2009, there were shorter rainfall seasons combined with erratic and intense rainfall that resulted in numerous flooding events; from July to October in 2011, there was heavy rain and flooding in the Ayeyarwady, Bago, Mon and Rakhine Regions/States.

**\* An increase in the occurrence of flooding and storm surge** - From 1910 to 2000, 12 major floods in the country. In June 2001, a severe flash flood in the Wundwin Township in central

Myanmar, swept away a number of villages. In June 2010, intense rains resulted in excessive sedimentation of paddy fields in Rakhine State. July and August 2015 flooding and landslides displaced 1.6 million people, caused almost 120 deaths, and damaged agriculture and infrastructure.

**\* An increase in extreme high temperatures** - During summer 2010, 1,482 heat related illnesses were reported and 260 heat-related deaths occurred across Myanmar.

**\* Sea-level rise** - Between 2001 and 2010, sea-level rise in coastal areas caused cultivated lands inundated, and ground water contamination.

Based on the preceding facts, I would like to conclude that the threats of the climate changes are real and imminent and thus no one should ignore or reject them. It's undeniably evident that, we, the humans are most responsible in letting the climate go berserk. For that matter, we are the ones who must put the rein on the ravages of the climate changes. Thus, scientists, environmentalists, politicians, citizens and leaders of all nations must join hands to fight climate change. Though most of us living today may not be around when the world faced destructions of catastrophic proportions, we should at least do everything we can to leave our planet a liveable place for the future generations. Even now, there are already mass migrations of humans going on as a result of the climate change. If these situations couldn't be addressed in time, the worst case scenarios, such as: social unrests and eventually flare up into wars, which the climate scientists had envisioned, will definitely become realities. ■

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Impact of Climate Change and the Case of Myanmar - Myanmar Climate Change Alliance report.

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## U Ko Ko Shein appointed as Non-Resident Ambassador of Myanmar to the Republic of Kazakhstan

THE President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has appointed U Ko Ko Shein, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the Russian Federation, as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar concurrently accredited to the Republic of Kazakhstan.

Myanmar News Agency

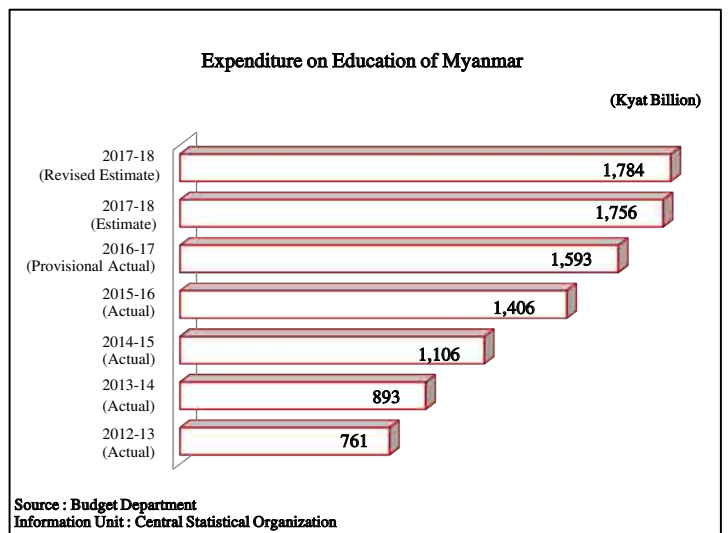
## Public Announcement for remonstrations

Democratic Party for a New Society headquartered at No. 124, 4th floor, at the corner of 57<sup>th</sup> Street and Mahabandoola Road in Pazuntaung Township in Yangon, has submitted its application for registration as a political party in accord with Section 9 of the Political Parties Registration Law. In their application they mention that they will use the emblem as described hereunder:

In accord with Section 14 (d) of the Political Parties Registration Rules, it is hereby announced that those who want to remonstrate with the UEC about the party's emblem may submit a complaint along with the supporting evidence within seven days starting from issuance of this announcement.—Union Election Commission



Democratic Party for a New Society's Emblem.





# Italian PM nominee begins work on forming cabinet

ROME — Italy's prime ministerial nominee Giuseppe Conte on Thursday began lining up a cabinet after being endorsed to lead a populist coalition government.

Conte's appointment could herald an end to more than two months of political uncertainty in the eurozone's third-biggest economy — but the coalition's eurosceptic and anti-immigrant stance has alarmed senior European officials.

President Sergio Mattarella on Wednesday approved Conte's nomination to be prime minister of a government formed by the anti-establishment Five Star Movement and the far-right League.

Five Star member Conte survived a battering in the press over claims he exaggerated his CV.

On Thursday he was locked in consultations with delegations from political parties in order to put together the country's new government.

He said he would present his cabinet line-up within "the next few days," after a nearly two-hour meeting with President Mattarella Wednesday.

The list of ministerial candidates must be endorsed by Mattarella before it can seek parliamentary approval.

Italian media reported that League chief Matteo Salvini would become interior minister while Five Star leader Luigi Di



Giuseppe Conte's appointment could herald an end to more than two months of political uncertainty. **PHOTO: AFP**

Maio would be in charge of the economic development ministry.

Conte, a 53-year-old lawyer, struck a conciliatory tone towards Europe when speaking to journalists at the presidential palace.

"I'm aware of the necessity to confirm Italy's place, both in Europe and internationally," said the prime ministerial nominee, who cast himself as the "people's lawyer".

"My intent is to give life to a government of the people that looks after their interests. I'm ready to defend the interests of Italians in Europe and internationally, maintaining dialogue with European institutions and representatives of other countries."

EU Economic Affairs Commissioner Pierre Moscovici said Wednesday it was a "good sign"

that Conte had called for dialogue.

## -EU concerns

Mattarella had reportedly been concerned about plans by the two coalition parties to name staunch eurosceptic Paolo Savona as economy minister.

A joint government programme unveiled by the parties on Friday pledges anti-austerity measures such as drastic tax cuts, a monthly basic income and pension reform rollbacks.

Di Maio and Salvini claim the measures will boost growth.

But EU officials have voiced concern that Italy could trigger a new eurozone crisis by refusing to stick to public spending and debt targets set by Brussels.

Moscovici had said on Wednesday that Italy must deliver a "credible" response on how it will reduce its debt, the

eurozone's second largest in proportion to GDP.

The government programme also includes plans to speed up expulsions of illegal immigrants and crack down on trafficking.

Nearly 700,000 people have landed in Italy since the migrant crisis exploded in 2013.

Bullish League leader Salvini has responded forcefully to criticism of the programme. On Thursday he appeared to take aim at Brussels.

"Finally, we're getting off the ground. I hope there are no more attempts, from Italy or abroad to stop the change: Work first, security first," he tweeted. "#ITALIANSFIRST. We will never again be anyone's slaves."

## 'Worrying programme'

At the 4 March election, Five Star became the country's largest single party in parliament with 33 per cent of the vote.

The nationalist League won 17 per cent within a right-wing coalition that topped the polls. Unhappy with the Five-Star League programme, the League's former allies— including Forza Italia, the party of political heavyweight Silvio Berlusconi — have placed themselves in opposition to the nascent government.—AFP ■

## WORLD BRIEFS

### New platform to boost China's AI research and education

BEIJING—An open platform has been set up to share data and tools on artificial intelligence (AI) research in China, according to China Science Daily on Thursday. Under the guidance of the Ministry of Education, the platform was jointly organized by Microsoft Research Asia and four Chinese universities, namely Peking University, University of Science and Technology of China, Xi'an Jiaotong University, and Zhejiang University. According to Zhou Li-dong, assistant managing director of Microsoft Research Asia, the platform will provide technological support, data, tools, as well as courses on AI to Chinese universities. Based on Microsoft's AI development platform and tools, the open source AI platform will further promote AI innovation, Zhou said.—Xinhua ■

### Mobile apps help Chinese police find nearly 3,000 missing children

BEIJING—Chinese police have found nearly 3,000 missing children by collaborating with the tech sector to spread information on popular mobile applications, according to the Ministry of Public Security.

The ministry said police had logged 3,053 missing children on the "reunion" system over the past two years. A total of 2,980, or 97.6 percent of those reported missing, have been found.

The system, whose fourth upgrade was completed Thursday, was developed with tech giant Alibaba. It is linked to 25 mobile apps and new media platforms, the ministry said. After a missing child is logged, the information pops-up on apps opened by people living nearby, allowing them to report information to police quickly and easily.—Xinhua ■

### Gold price opens higher in Hong Kong

HONG KONG—The gold price in Hong Kong went up 22 Hong Kong dollars to open at 12,130 dollars (about 1,545.22 U.S. dollars) per tael on Thursday, according to the Chinese Gold and Silver Exchange Society. (1 US dollar equals to 7.85 HK dollars)—Xinhua

# Death toll from India's Nipah virus outbreak rises to 12

NEW DELHI—The death toll from Nipah virus outbreak in India has risen to 12, with the death of two more persons in the southern state of Kerala in the past 48 hours.

"One of the two died in intensive care at a hospital in Kozhikode district Thursday. The deceased was a 62-year-old man, the father of the two men of a Kerala family who contracted the virus first by drinking water from a bat-infested well in their house," a health official

said.

Apart from the 12 deaths in Kerala's Kozhikode and Mallapuram districts, some 94 people have been quarantined in their homes while 17 others are under treatment in hospitals. "All steps to prevent the spread of the virus have been taken," state Health Minister K.K. Shailaja said.

The latest death came a day after the Indian Health Ministry claimed to have contained the virus. "It was a high-

ly localised infection and we have been able to contain it well," Indian Health Secretary Preeti Sudan told the media late Wednesday evening.

Health officials have identified the bat-infested well in the house in Kozhikode district as the likely epicentre of the outbreak of Nipah virus in this country. "Some bats were caught and sent for laboratory examination. The well has been sealed," an official said.

This is the third outbreak

of Nipah virus in India. Two other outbreaks of the virus were reported in 2001 and 2007, respectively, in eastern state of West Bengal, which claimed 50 lives. Nipah virus is an emerging infectious disease that first broke out in a Malaysian village in 1999. Health experts say there is no vaccine for the virus that causes fever and breathlessness in affected patients as initial symptoms, and only intensive care can help.—Xinhua ■



# German carmakers dismayed as US weighs auto tariffs

PARIS — German auto-makers reacted with dismay Thursday as the US Commerce Department said tariffs on car imports could be on the horizon, potentially opening a new front in a burgeoning transatlantic trade conflict.

“One-sided protectionism has never helped anyone in the long term. Only free and fair trade secures increased prosperity,” a spokesman for industry behemoth Volkswagen told AFP.

American Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross had announced Wednesday he had initiated a so-called Section 232 investigation on auto trade -- which would provide the legal basis to impose tariffs, if his department finds imports threaten US national security — after speaking with President Donald Trump on the matter. Ross promised “a thorough, fair, and transparent investigation into whether (auto) imports are weakening our internal economy and may impair the national security.”

The move comes as a 1 June deadline approaches for the White House to decide whether imports from the EU will remain exempt from border taxes slapped on steel and aluminium.

Trump’s recourse to national security argu-



Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross announced he initiated a so-called Section 232 investigation on auto trade, which would provide the legal basis to impose tariffs if his department finds imports threaten US national security. **PHOTO: AFP**

ments for potential tariffs echoes his justification for the metals duties.

In a separate statement released by the White House, the president said “core industries such as automobiles and automotive parts are critical to our strength as a nation.” Germany’s Federation of the Automotive Industry (VDA) noted that German carmakers employ some 36,500 people in the US and car parts producers 80,000 more.

And it highlighted German firms’ “significant contribution to the American balance of trade in cars” with their exports to third countries.

“An increase in tariff barriers should be avoided,” the body said, saying it had “always spoken out in favour of mutual reductions in tariffs and for free-trade agreements”.

German carmakers

exported 494,000 vehicles to the US last year, the VDA said, while the Chambers of Commerce and Industry (DIHK) calculated for 28.6 billion euros (\$33.6 billion) of Germany’s 111.5 billion euros in exports to the US. Shares in Volkswagen, high-end BMW and Mercedes-Benz maker Daimler were among the worst performers in the DAX index of blue-chip German shares just before midday (1100 GMT) Thursday.

Global outcry

Imposing car tariffs would open yet another front in the Republican president’s confrontational rows over trade that have drawn global outcry from allies and partners.

“Evidence of significant economic damage due to the trade conflict is mounting,” tweeted economist Marcel Fratzscher

of the DIW think-tank in Berlin.

“The Trump administration now adding new threats with tariffs on European cars could make things a lot worse.”

The latest announcement comes as negotiations with Canada and Mexico over revamping the continent-wide North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) have stalled over auto demands.

Trump had earlier blamed the US neighbours to the north and south for being “difficult” in talks to renegotiate the pact.

The contrast with a Thursday visit by German Chancellor Angela Merkel to Chinese premier Li Qiang could not have been starker.

“China and Germany are on the path of promoting multilateralism and bolstering free trade,” Merkel said in Beijing.

Meanwhile Japan’s trade minister Hiroshige Seko said Thursday that car tariffs would “plunge the world market into confusion” and be “extremely regrettable.”

Passenger cars make up around 30 per cent of Japan’s total exports to the United States and Tokyo has already threatened Washington with retaliation at the World Trade Organization for the steel tariffs.—AFP ■

## TRADEMARK CAUTION

**Monster Energy Company**, a company registered under the laws of Delaware, United States of America, which is located at 1 Monster Way, Corona, California 92879, United States of America, is the sole owner of the following trademark:



Myanmar Reg. No. 3341/2018  
Pakistan Application No. 469337

In respect of **Class 32**: Non-alcoholic beverages, including carbonated drinks and energy drinks; syrups, concentrates, powders and preparations for making beverages, including carbonated drinks and energy drinks; beer.

**Monster Energy Company** claims the trademark rights and other relevant intellectual property rights for the mark as mentioned above. Monster Energy Company reserves the rights to take legal measures against any infringer who violates its intellectual property or other legal rights in accordance with the concerned laws of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Daw May Thwe Hlaing, LL.B., LL.M., (H.G.P.)

For **Monster Energy Company**

**Tilleke & Gibbins Myanmar Ltd.** No. 1608, 16th Floor, Sakura Tower, 339 Bogyoke Aung San Road, Kyauktada Township, Yangon, Myanmar

Email address: [myanmar@tilleke.com](mailto:myanmar@tilleke.com)

Dated: 25<sup>th</sup> May 2018.

## TRADEMARK CAUTION

**AERO CLUB**, an Indian partnership firm, and having its registered office at 867, Joshi Road, Karol Bagh, New Delhi-110 005, India is the owner and proprietor of the following Trademark:



Myanmar Reg. No. 4/9214/2005 (29 November 2005)

In respect of “Clothing, footwear and headgear” in **Class 25**; and “Leather and imitation of leather, and goods made of these materials; animal skins, hides; trunks and traveling bags” in **Class 18**.

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

Daw La Min May, H.G.P

For **AERO CLUB**,

C/o **Kelvin Chia Yangon Ltd.**,

Level 8A, Union Financial Centre (UFC),

Corner of Mahabandoola Road & Thein Phyu Road,

Botahtaung Tsp, Yangon,

**The Republic of the Union of Myanmar.**

Dated 25<sup>th</sup> May 2018

lmm@kcyangon.com

## KONOIKE ASIA (MYANMAR) CO., LTD.

Notice of Resolution under Section 206 (1) of  
The Myanmar Companies Act  
(Voluntary Winding Up)

According to the Extraordinary General Meeting of the shareholders of the Konoike Asia (Myanmar) Co., Ltd. held at No. (225/227), Room 1301, 13<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Olympic Tower, Bo Aung Kyaw Street, Kyauktada Township, Yangon on 18<sup>th</sup> May, 2018, it passed the special resolutions that Company was wound up voluntarily and U Shine Ko Ko Naing, Attorney-at-Law was appointed as a Liquidator in order to liquidate such company. For above resolutions, all persons claiming to be creditors of the Company are, therefore, requested to submit details of their claims together with any documentary evidence in their possession, to the Liquidator at the address given below at the day on 25<sup>th</sup> June, 2018 or before that day.

U Shine Ko Ko Naing

Liquidator

#712, 7<sup>th</sup> Floor, La Pyayt Wun Plaza,

No. 37, Alanpya Pagoda Road,

Dagon Township, Yangon, Myanmar

Tel: 01-382 527

## CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V UNI AMPLE VOY. NO. ( )

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V UNI AMPLE VOY. NO. ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 25-5-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of HPT where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT**

**MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY**

**AGENT FOR: M/S EVERGREEN SHIPPING LINES**

Phone No: 2301185

## CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V PATHEIN STAR VOY. NO. ( 020N/S )

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V PATHEIN STAR VOY. NO. ( 020N/S ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 25-5-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MIP where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT**

**MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY**

**AGENT FOR: M/S CONTINENTAL SHIPPING LINE PTE LTD**

Phone No: 2301185

[marketing@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com](mailto:marketing@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com)

ကြော်ငြာရောင်းချမှုနှင့် ကြော်ငြာအခွင့်အလမ်းများအဖွဲ့သည် ကြော်ငြာ  
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# US-led strike on regime positions kills 12 in east Syria: monitor

BEIRUT — A US-led coalition air strike on Syrian army positions overnight killed at least 12 pro-regime fighters in an area where both sides have been battling holdout jihadists, a monitor said Thursday.

Syrian state media reported the strike but said it only caused material damage, while the coalition did not immediately comment on the incident. The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, which relies on a broad network of sources across Syria, said the raid hit army positions south of Albu Kamal, a town on

Syria's border with Iraq. "At least three vehicles were destroyed by the strike," said Observatory chief Rami Abdel Rahman. He said that the 12 pro-regime fighters killed in the incident were not Syrians, but he could not provide more details on their identity. A military source quoted by state news agency SANA said that "some of our military positions between Albu Kamal and Hmeimeh were hit this morning in an aggression by American coalition warplanes". Albu Kamal and Hmeimeh lie in Syria's eastern Deir Ezzor province, where

Russian-backed Syrian troops and the US-led coalition have been waging separate offensives against the Islamic State group. A "de-confliction" line in place along the Euphrates River since last year is meant to keep the two assaults from crashing into each other. Loyalist troops are present west of the river while the US-backed Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) are on the east. A military source from forces allied to Syria's government said the strikes had targeted two regime military positions near a frontline with IS.—AFP ■



A French Rafale fighter jet lands on the deck of France's aircraft carrier Charles-de-Gaulle operating in the eastern Mediterranean on 9 December 2016, as part of an international coalition against the Islamic State group. **PHOTO: AFP**



THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION  
OF MYANMAR  
MANDALAY REGION GOVERNMENT  
MANDALAY CITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE  
AMARAPURA WATER WORKS



## Invitation for Bids

Loan/Grant No. & Title: Financing Agreement CBU 1005, Amarapura Water Supply and Sanitation Project

Contract No. WTSN\_AMPA\_WORKS\_2018-01 and Title: - Amarapura Water Works

Deadline for Submission of Bids **23/07/2018 at (3:00 PM)**

- The Mandalay City Development Committee has received financing from the Agence Française de Développement (AFD). Part of this financing will be used for payments under the Contract named above. The eligibility rules and procedures of AFD will govern the bidding processes.
- The Mandalay City Development Committee (MCDC) ("the Employer") invites sealed bids from eligible Bidders for the construction and completion of Amarapura Water Works which includes:
  - Improvement of the existing production tubewells;
  - Construction of a chlorination house at BPS 10 and Kyantan sites;
  - Construction of a reservoir and pumping station at Kyantan site;
  - Rehabilitation of BPS 10 pumping system;
  - Replacement of existing and installation of new distribution networks (around 20 km), including service connections.
- Interested Bidders must demonstrate their specific experiences or capabilities by their:

### Financial situation:

- Historical Financial Performance
- Average Annual Construction Turnover
- Availability of Financial Resources- Cash Flow Capacity

### Construction Experience:

- Contracts of Similar Size and Nature
- Construction Experiences in key Activities

The qualification criteria are more completely described in the Bidding Document.

- National Competitive Bidding (NCB) will be conducted in accordance with AFD's Single-Stage: One-Envelope bidding procedure and is open to all Bidders from eligible countries as described in the Bidding Document.
- To purchase the Bidding Documents in English, eligible bidders should write to the address below requesting the Bidding Documents for contract named above, pay a non-refundable fee of eighty-five thousand Myanmar Kyats (**85 000**) MMK in cash to the Project Management Office located in MCDC compound, 26<sup>th</sup> street, Mandalay.
- Deliver your bid to the address below on or before the said deadline for submission of Bids together with a **Bid Security (15 000 Euros)** as described in the Bidding Documents.
- A pre-bid meeting will be organized on **14/06/2018 at (9:00AM)** in MCDC compound.
- To obtain further information and inspect the bidding documents, Bidders should contact:

DAW KHIN MAY HTAY, Project Manager, MUSIP  
Project Management office, MCDC compound, 26<sup>th</sup> Street, Mandalay, Myanmar  
Tel: +95-2-61631; Fax: +95-2-36170; Email: [pmomusip@gmail.com](mailto:pmomusip@gmail.com)

- Mandalay City Development Committee (MCDC) will not be responsible for any costs or expenses incurred by bidders in connection with the preparation or delivery of bids.

## Hot cars under sun may kill trapped kids in one hour

WASHINGTON — American researchers revealed how different types of cars warmed up on hot days when exposed to shade and sunlight and how these differences would affect the body temperature of a hypothetical two-year-old child left in a vehicle.

A study published on Thursday in the journal *Temperature* reported that a young child trapped in a car under the sun for one hour may suffer heat injury or even die from hyperthermia.

Scientists can not predict exactly the temperature when a child will suffer a heatstroke, but most lethal cases involve a child's core body temperature rising above 40 Celsius degrees for an extended period.

In this study, the researchers from Arizona State University and the University of California at San Diego used data to model a hypothetical two-year-old boy's body temperature.

The team found that a child trapped in a car in the study's conditions could reach that temperature in about an hour if a car is parked in the sun, and just under two hours if the car is parked in the shade.

Researchers used six vehicles for the study with two identical silver mid-size sedans, two identical silver economy cars, and two identical silver minivans. During three hot summer days with temperatures above 37 Celsius degrees in Arizona, researchers moved

the cars from sunlight to shade for different periods of time throughout the day, and measured interior air temperature and surface temperatures.

For vehicles parked in the sun during the simulated shopping trip, the average cabin temperature hit 46.7 Celsius degrees in one hour. Dash boards averaged 69.4 Celsius degrees, steering wheels 52.8 Celsius degrees, and seats 50.6 Celsius degrees in one hour.

For vehicles parked in the shade, interior temperatures were closer to 37.8 Celsius degrees after one hour. Dash boards averaged 47.8 Celsius degrees, steering wheels 41.7 Celsius degrees and seats 40.6 Celsius degrees after one hour.—Xinhua ■

## One security personnel killed in blast by left-wing rebels in central India

NEW DELHI—At least one Indian security forces personnel was killed and one more injured in a blast triggered by left-wing Naxalite rebels in the central state of Chhattisgarh on Thursday, police said. The deadly attack on the para-military Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) took place at Puswada village in the

state's Sukma district while they were on a routine combing operation. "One official of the CRPF was killed and one constable was injured in the attack. The injured security personnel has been sent to state capital Raipur for further treatment," Inspector General of Chhattisgarh Police Vivekanand Sinhna

told the media. Chhattisgarh is often hit by Naxalite violence. The rebels say they are fighting for land rights for tribal people and the rural poor. Their insurgency began in the eastern state of West Bengal in late 1960s, spreading to more than one-third of India's 600-plus administrative districts.—Xinhua ■



# Two dead, 20 injured after train smashes into truck in Italy

ROME — Two people were killed and 20 others injured after a train crashed into a rig truck near the northern Italian city of Turin and derailed, Italian media said Thursday.

The incident occurred late Wednesday when the train hit a large truck that had stopped on a functioning level crossing af-

ter crashing through the barriers,” RFI, which manages Italy’s rail network, said in a statement.

Local police said there were between 40 and 50 people in the train, which was the last one running from Turin to the suburb of Ivrea.

Media reports said four of the injured were in serious condition.

“According to early information, the driver of the train was killed and many other passengers have been injured,” the statement added.

—AFP ■



# 12 killed, over 120,000 affected by severe weather in Sri Lanka

COLOMBO — At least 12 people have been killed and over 120,000 affected by strong winds and heavy rains that lashed out across Sri Lanka since last Saturday, Sri Lanka’s Disaster Management Center (DMC) said in its latest update on Thursday. With more rains predicted, the water levels in major rivers across the country have continued to rise, leading to emergency evacuations of people living in low areas. DMC spokesperson Pradeep Kodippoli said hundreds of people in the north central and south of Sri Lanka had been evacuated on Wednesday night and housed in temporary shelters. He said the police and military were also engaged in search and rescue

missions and to provide relief to those who were affected by the rising water levels. President Maithripala Sirisena on Wednesday instructed relevant authorities to immediately provide relief to the affected people. The president directed officials to provide relief supplies to those affected and take steps to provide all requirements. Sri Lanka is facing its annual southwest monsoons with the Meteorological Department in its latest weather report warning of more rains in several districts across the country in the coming days. Over 200 people were killed and 78 people missing when the southwest monsoons caused severe floods and landslides across Sri Lanka last year.—Xinhua ■

ပြင်ဆင်မှုဆိုင်ရန် ချိန်းဆိုသည့်နေ့ရက်ကို လျှောက်ထားခံရသူသို့ အကြောင်းကြားစာ ရန်ကုန်တိုင်းဒေသကြီးတရားလွှတ်တော် ၂၀၁၇ခုနှစ်၊ တရားမပြင်ဆင်မှုအမှတ် ၁၉၇

ဒေါ်ခင်ကလျာထွန်း နှင့် ၁။ Global New Light Of Myanmar (၄င်း၏ အခွင့်ရကိုယ်စားလှယ် ဦးမောင်မောင်သန်း) ၂။ Famous Media

(လျှောက်ထားသူ) (လျှောက်ထားခံရသူများ)

၂၀၁၇ခုနှစ် ဇန်နဝါရီလ ၁၃ ရက်စွဲပါ ရန်ကုန်အနောက်ပိုင်းခရိုင် တရားရုံးတော်မှ ၂၀၁၆ ခုနှစ်၊ တရားမကြီးအမှတ် ၅၁၈ အမိန့်ကိုပြင်ဆင်မှု၊ တိုက်အမှတ်(၄၃)၊ အခန်း(C-4)၊ မဟာမြိုင်အိမ်ရာ ၄၁တိုးချဲ့ရက်ကွက်၊ ဒဂုံမြို့သစ်(မြောက်ပိုင်း)မြို့နယ်၊ ရန်ကုန်တိုင်းဒေသကြီး နေ ဦးသန်းဇော်လင်း(Famous Media Co., Ltd)၏အဖွဲ့ဝင် (ယခုနေရပ်လိပ်စာမသိသူ) သိစေရမည်။

ယခုအမှုတွင် ရန်ကုန်အနောက်ပိုင်းခရိုင်တရားရုံးတော်က ချမှတ်ပေးသည့် အမိန့်ကို လျှောက်ထားသူ ဒေါ်ခင်ကလျာထွန်းက ပြင်ဆင်မှုတင်သွင်းရာ ဤရုံးတော်တွင် မှတ်ပုံတင်စာရင်းတင်သွင်း၍ ထိုပြင်ဆင်မှုကို ၂၀၁၈ ခုနှစ်၊ ဇွန်လ ၁၈ ရက်(၁၃၈၀ ခုနှစ်၊ ပထမဝါဆိုလဆန်း ၆ ရက်) နေ့တွင် ဆိုင်ဆိုရန်ကြိုရုံးတော်ကချိန်းဆို လိုက်သည်။ သင်ကိုယ်တိုင်ဖြစ်စေ၊ သင့်ရှေ့နေဖြစ်စေ၊ဤပြင်ဆင်မှုတွင် သင့်အတွက်ဆောင်ရွက်ရန် ဥပဒေအရခွင့်ပြုထားသူ ကိုယ်စားလှယ်ဖြစ်စေ၊ မလာရောက်ခဲ့လျှင် ၄င်းပြင်ဆင်မှုကို သင်မရှိသည့်အခါတွင် တစ်ဖက်သတ်စီရင်ဆုံးဖြတ်လိမ့်မည်။

၂၀၁၈ ခုနှစ်၊ မေလ ၂၂ ရက်နေ့ ဤရုံးတော်တံဆိပ်ရိုက်နှိပ်၍ ကျွန်ုပ်လက်မှတ်ရေးထိုးထုတ်ပေးလိုက်သည်။

အမိန့်ဆင့်စာလွှတ်။ အမိန့်အရ ၆၄ ရရှိပြီး (ထင်ကျော်) လက်ထောက်ညွှန်ကြားရေးမှူး ရန်ကုန်တိုင်းဒေသကြီးတရားလွှတ်တော်

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Ministry of Education  
Invitation for Bids

Date:	25 May 2018
Loan/Grant No. and Title:	MYA 3472 – Equipping Youth for Employment
Contract No. and Title:	MYA3472/EYE/NCB/Goods/CBMSC/Furniture/02
Deadline for Submission of Bids:	26 June 2018

1. The Government of Myanmar has received financing from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) towards the cost of **Equipping Youth for Employment Project (EYE)**. Part of this financing will be used for payments under the Contract named above. Bidding is open to Bidders from eligible source countries of ADB.

2. The Ministry of Education (represented by the Department of Education Research, Planning & Training) (“the Purchaser”) invites sealed bids from eligible Bidders for the supply of Furniture for Workshops at 15 GTHS/ITC Locations.

No.	Items’ Description	Unit	Qty
Lot 1 (Supply to 4 ITC locations)			
For supply to the following 4 locations: Pakkoku ITC, Mandalay ITC, Magway ITC, Tha Ga Ya ITC			
1	Workbench/Lab Table	Each	80
2	Officer Desk	Each	4
3	Teacher Desk	Each	10
4	Lab Chair (for Workbench/Lab Table)	Each	320
5	Swivel Chair	Each	4
6	Chair for Visitors	Each	28
7	Chair for Teacher (wooden)	Each	10
8	Classroom Desk Chairs (for Students)	Each	360
9	Toolbox Lockers	Each	10
10	File Shelf (with doors)	Each	14
11	Open File Shelf (without doors)	Each	14
12	Individual Lockers (15 cubicles)	Each	30
13	Stand White Board	Each	10

No.	Items’ Description	Unit	Qty
Lot 2 (Supply to 6 GTHS locations)			
For supply to the following 5 locations: Waibarrgi GTHS, Taungoo GTHS, Pha-An GTHS, Pathein GTHS, Mawlamyine GTHS			
1	Workbench/Lab Table	Each	120
2	Officer Desk	Each	5
3	Teacher Desk	Each	15
4	Lab Chair (for Workbench/Lab Table)	Each	480
5	Swivel Chair	Each	5
6	Chair for Visitors	Each	40
7	Chair for Teacher (wooden)	Each	15
8	Classroom Desk Chairs (for Students)	Each	540

9	Toolbox Lockers	Each	15
10	File Shelf (with doors)	Each	20
11	Open File Shelf (without doors)	Each	20
12	Individual Lockers (15 cubicles)	Each	45
13	Stand White Board	Each	15

No.	Items’ Description	Unit	Qty
Lot 3 (Supply to 6 GTHS locations)			
For supply to the following 6 locations: Nay Pyi Taw GTHS, Meikhhilla GTH, Mandalay GTHS, Lashio GTHS, Monywa GTHS and Kale GTHS			
1	Workbench/Lab Table	Each	208
2	Officer Desk	Each	9
3	Teacher Desk	Each	26
4	Lab Chair (for Workbench/Lab Table)	Each	832
5	Swivel Chair	Each	9
6	Chair for Visitors	Each	70
7	Chair for Teacher (wooden)	Each	26
8	Classroom Desk Chairs (for Students)	Each	936
9	Toolbox Lockers	Each	26
10	File Shelf (with doors)	Each	35
11	Open File Shelf (without doors)	Each	35
12	Individual Lockers (15 cubicles)	Each	78
13	Stand White Board	Each	26

**Bidders may submit bids for any of the Lots or for all the Lots, Bid Evaluation will be carried out separately for each Lot and contract will be awarded separately for each Lot.**

3. National competitive bidding will be conducted in accordance with ADB’s NCB procedure and is open to all Bidders from eligible countries as described in the Bidding Document.

4. To obtain further information and inspect the Bidding Documents, bidders should contact:  
EYE Project Management Unit (PMU)  
Department of Education Research, Planning & Training,  
Ministry of Education, Bldg No 13,  
Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar  
Telephone: +95 67407261/67407273  
Fax: +95 67407265  
E-maill address: [projectmanager.EYEPMU@gmail.com](mailto:projectmanager.EYEPMU@gmail.com)  
With copy to: [procurement.EYEPMU@gmail.com](mailto:procurement.EYEPMU@gmail.com)

5. To purchase the Bidding Documents in English, eligible bidders should

- write to the address above requesting the Bidding Documents for MYA3472/EYE/NCB/Goods/CBMSC/Furniture/02
- pay a nonrefundable Bidding Document Fee of **MMK 10,000** either by cash payment or through bank transfer to:

Bank A/C No: MD-012898  
Bank Name: Myanmar Economic Bank  
Bank Address: Thiri Kyaw Swa Street, Near Bank Zone, Zabu Thiri Township, NayPyiTaw  
Account Name: Department of Education Research, Planning & Training, Ministry of Education

6. Deliver your bid

- to the address above
- on or before the deadline: **26 June 2018 (15.00 Hours MST)**
- **together with a Bid Security as described in the Bidding Document**

Bids will be opened immediately after the deadline for bid submission in the presence of Bidders’ representatives who choose to attend. Late Bids will be rejected. Electronic Bid submission is not permitted.

7. The Ministry of Education will not be responsible for any costs or expenses incurred by bidders in connection with the preparation or delivery of bids.



# West Hollywood grants Stormy Daniels keys to the city

LOS ANGELES—Stormy Daniels was granted the keys to the Californian city of West Hollywood on Wednesday to celebrate her court battle with President Donald Trump over a sexual encounter she claims they had more than a decade ago.

The porn star is suing Trump, who denies the fling, to invalidate a non-disclosure agreement made days before the 2016 presidential election that prevents her from discussing the case.

"I'm not really sure what the key opens. I'm hoping it's the wine cellar," Daniels joked at a ceremony at an erotic apparel store, struggling to make herself heard over the clamor of press photographers.

"This community has a history of standing up to bullies and speaking truth to power, and I'm so lucky to be a part of it. I am elated and honored."

Daniels, 39, was being celebrated for her "leadership in the #RESIST movement," said officials in West Hollywood, who proclaimed "Stormy Daniels Day" at the raucous presentation.

"Out of all the chaos of the Trump administration, our own



Stormy Daniels Daniels, 39, was celebrated for her "leadership in the #RESIST movement," said officials in West Hollywood. **PHOTO: AFP**

Lady Godiva appeared on horseback," West Hollywood mayor John Duran said.

"And as you know, Lady Godiva rode naked through the streets of England to protest injustice and taxes, and we have our own Lady Godiva here in the city of West Hollywood."

Duran praised the adult

movie actress for bearing the "slings and arrows" of attacks not just from everyday detractors, but from "the most powerful person on the planet."

- 'Extreme intimidation' -

"And she's held her head up with dignity and she fought back," he said, adding that Daniels and her lawyer Michael Avenatti were

leading a struggle for all Americans "to get our country back."

Daniels, real name Stephanie Clifford, told CBS's "60 Minutes" in March she had unprotected sex with Trump once in 2006, and was threatened by a man in a parking lot in Las Vegas when she sought to sell her story five years later.

The experience left her shaking in fear and afraid she would drop her infant daughter, she told anchor Anderson Cooper.

"In these politically tumultuous times, Daniels has proven herself to be a profile in courage by speaking truth to power, even under threats to her safety and extreme intimidation," said a statement from the city, which lies wholly within the Los Angeles built-up area.

Last week Trump formally disclosed that he reimbursed Cohen more than \$100,000 last year, apparently in connection with a payment of hush money to the porn star.

The disclosure capped a series of contradictory statements from Trump and his representatives on the scandal swirling around Cohen -- which has widened to ensnare major corporations and a Russian oligarch.

The president initially denied all knowledge of the payment, which Cohen has acknowledged was intended to stop her from going public. Daniels' lawsuit has been put on hold by a judge for 90 days while Cohen faces a federal criminal investigation in New York. —AFP ■

## Making waves: Aussie surf film 'Breath' and 'toxic femininity'

LOS ANGELES—"Point Break" has its surfers robbing banks when they aren't on the water, while in "Blue Crush" they clean hotel rooms. In "Breath," they swim in the choppy waters of erotic asphyxiation.

The movie adapts Australian novelist Tim Winton's iconic coming-of-age novel of the same name that became notorious for its depiction of "breathplay" -- an extreme sex act involving strangulation or suffocation.

But the unconventional sex has proved less controversial than the tender age of one of the movie's leads, played by teen newcomer Samson Coulter, who is seduced into bed, underage, by 27-year-old Elizabeth Debicki's character.

Mark Powell, the associate pastor of Cornerstone Presbyterian Church in the suburbs of Sydney, noted in a column for Australia's Spectator magazine that Winton had been outspoken regarding "toxic masculinity."

"So, why isn't anyone con-



Premiere Of Columbia Pictures' "Peter Rabbit" - Red Carpet. **PHOTO: AFP**

cerned with the 'toxic femininity' that Winton is presenting?" he asked, noting a recent spate of sex scandals in Australia involving female teachers and their high school students.

Powell referred to a 2012 research paper on Winton's novel by Colleen McGloin of the University of Wollongong, which suggests the seduction of a 15-year-old boy by a grown woman could be read as "a representation of paedophil-

ia." "Breath" — out in the US on 1 June — is the directorial debut of veteran Hollywood actor Simon Baker, who starred in "L.A. Confidential" and "The Devil Wears Prada" but is best known in his native Australia for his television work on global hit "The Mentalist."

'Gaspers'

The 48-year-old father-of-three stars as ex-champion board rider Sando, who forms an unlikely friendship in the 1970s with teenage friends Pikelet (Coulter) and Loonie (Ben Spence).

Sando's mercurial wife Eva (Debicki) is stuck mostly in their remote coastal house thanks to a traumatic knee injury that curtailed her career as a champion freestyle skier.

Chasing danger by other means, she initiates Pikelet into the adult arena of experimental sex, coercing him into letting her asphyxiate herself with a plastic bag and a belt as they make love.—AFP ■

## ABC accused of exploitation over Michael Jackson show

LOS ANGELES \_ Michael Jackson's estate has slammed an upcoming television special about the late King of Pop, describing it Wednesday as a "crass and unauthorized" effort to exploit the singer's name.

US broadcast network ABC says "The Last Days of Michael Jackson" will feature never-before-seen interview footage and the testimony of a tour operator who was outside his mansion in southern California the day he died. The Jackson estate issued a statement saying the special, scheduled to air Thursday, "is not sponsored or approved by the estate" of the pop sensation, who died in 2009.

Disney-owned ABC, which has not responded, is accused of unauthorized use of a copyrighted photo and silhouette image in trailers and promotional materials, but those items have since been removed from the program.

"We are told ABC intends to use music and other intellectual property owned by the estate such as photos, logos, artwork and more in the program itself,



Pop star Michael Jackson. **PHOTO: AFP**

without having licensed the rights to any such material," the statement said. "Imagine if this was done with any of ABC's intellectual property. We believe the special to be another crass and unauthorized attempt to exploit the life, music and image of Michael Jackson without respect for Michael's legacy, intellectual property rights or his children."

Jackson is estimated to have sold 350 million records, including "Thriller," the best-selling album of all time. He amassed 13 Grammy Awards, 13 number one solo singles in the United States and became the first artist in history to have a top ten single in the Billboard Hot 100 in five different decades.—AFP ■





Writer/producer George R.R. Martin, winner of the award for Outstanding Drama Series for "Game of Thrones," will now see his story become an animated film. **PHOTO: AFP**

## Book by 'Game of Thrones' author to be animated film

NEW YORK—Warner Bros is set to produce an animated film based on an early book by the author of the "Game of Thrones" saga, a source familiar with the matter told AFP Wednesday.

The report, which first appeared on the specialty website Deadline, says that author George R.R. Martin will produce the film based on "The Ice Dragon," published in 1980.

The book, written for young people, appeared well ahead of Martin's "Game of Thrones" series and does not take place in the land of the Seven Kingdoms, the setting of the "Thrones" medie-

val fantasy series. George R.R. Martin fans are eagerly awaiting the sixth "Game of Thrones" series, titled "The Winds of Winter," which has been promised since 2012. In late April, the author announced that readers will have to wait at least until 2019 to see the book published.

Martin has fallen so far behind in his book writing that the hit HBO TV series has already gone past the storyline in the books.

The much anticipated eighth and final season of HBO's "Game of Thrones" is expected in 2019. —AFP ■

## Tributes pour in for literary giant Philip Roth

NEW YORK—Tributes poured in Wednesday honoring the late US literary giant Philip Roth, whose prolific career as a novelist, essayist and critic chronicled the American experience in the 20th century.

Roth's death Tuesday night in a Manhattan hospital, from congestive heart failure, was confirmed by The Wylie Agency who represented him.

He is to be laid to rest next week at Bard College, where he taught and where political theorist Hannah Arendt is also buried. A memorial is being planned in New York, possibly in September, his biographer Blake Bailey said.

His death left the literary world in mourning for a writer celebrated for exploring American themes, the Jewish experience and male sexuality, often with darkly comic humor, whose work was once extolled by Barack Obama.

"He was a giant, an artist as versatile and virtuoso as Sinatra, acidulous and subversive as Groucho, charming and formidable as Feynman, graceful and fireballing as Koufax," wrote novelist and short-story writer Michael Chabon.

Roth was widely considered the last living great, white, male American novelist, who along with Saul Bellow, Norman Mailer and John Updike helped define what it meant to be American in the latter half of the 20th century.

"We all wanted to be Philip Roth. None of us came close," tweeted Michael Green, the

producer and Oscar-nominated screenplay writer.

"Never created an uncomplicated hero, and we wouldn't have had it any other way. Remarkable writer," wrote actor, writer and musician Michael McKean.

### Nobel snub

Roth found fame with the wildly graphic "Portnoy's Complaint" in 1969 and won the Pulitzer Prize in 1998 for "American Pastoral." His "Plot against America" found renewed significance under the Donald Trump presidency and he pub-

lished "Nemesis," his final novel, in 2010, before announcing his retirement in 2012.

"He was more precise and insightful, more intellectually adept and downright witty than most any person of any age," said David Simon, creator of acclaimed drama "The Wire" who is adapting "Plot Against America" for the small screen.

"What a marvelous, rigorous mind," he tweeted.

The author of some two dozen novels, his titanic literary stature was rooted in the universality of his message. "I

don't write Jewish, I write American," he said in his own words.

A prolific essayist, critic and novelist, the 1990s were the height of his productivity, exemplified by his widely admired trilogy -- "American Pastoral" (1997), "I Married a Communist" (1998) and "The Human Stain" (2000).

The decorated author received the National Humanities Medal from Obama in 2010, and won a litany of major awards in the United States and around the world, but the coveted Nobel Literature Prize eluded him.

Being snubbed for the Nobel every year had "become a joke" for the author, said his friend, French writer Josyane Savigneau. "Every year we talked about it, it became funny," Savigneau said Wednesday.

He divided his time between New York, where he spent the winters, and his 18th century farmhouse in Connecticut, where he wrote in a converted out-house.

### 'Driven perfectionist'

Philip Milton Roth was born on 19 March, 1933 in Newark, New Jersey, the grandson of European Jews who were part of the 19th-century wave of immigration to the United States. His father was an insurance broker.

In 2012, Roth confirmed that "Nemesis" would be his last novel, after having reread all his books. —AFP ■



Then US President Barack Obama presents the 2010 National Humanities Medal to Roth. **PHOTO: AFP**

## Czech film festival to honour 'Rain Man' director Levinson



US director Barry Levinson won an Oscar for 1988's "Rain Man". **PHOTO: AFP**

PARGUE — "Rain Man" director Barry Levinson will be honoured at the Czech Republic's Karlovy Vary film festival in July, organisers said on Wednesday.

Levinson, who won an Oscar as best director for the 1988 movie, will "receive the Crystal Globe for Outstanding Contribution to World Cinema," the festival organisers said in a statement.

Also known as a writer and producer, the 76-year-old American directed "Diner" (1982), "Good Morning, Vietnam" (1987), "Avalon" (1990), "Bugsy" (1991), "Sleepers" (1996), "Wag the Dog" (1997) and "Sphere" (1998).

The 53rd edition of the festival in the western Czech spa city of Karlovy Vary, which drew more than 140,000 cinemagoers last year, will run from 29 June to 7 July. —AFP ■



## Week 8 matches of MPT MNL II 2018 to start today

THE football matches of week 8 of the MPT Myanmar National League II will start today with three matches to be played on different pitches in Yangon.

The most thrilling and most popular match could be Royal Thanlyin FC Vs Dagon FC at Thuwunna Stadium in Yangon.

Royal Thanlyin FC is in

first place in the league standings, while Dagon FC sits in third place.

The other matches include University FC against Mawyawadi FC at Padonmar Stadium in Yangon at 3:30 pm and Mountain Lion FC against Silver Stars FC at Salin Stadium in Yangon.

"It is really good that week

8 matches are starting again.

I am a fan of Royal Thanlyin FC, the current top place sitter of the MNL II table. I like the team's style of play along with football controlling and delivering.

I can see some potential footballers for our national football team from the team," said U Khun Sai Lone from Yangon.—Lynn Thit (Tgi) ■

## Sekou Sylla stands as top scorer in MNL

AFTER completion of the Week 12 matches of the MPT Myanmar National League 2018, Sekou Sylla from Yangon United stands as the top scorer with 10 goals.

Sylla, a 26-year-old Guinean footballer, is well known for his tenaciousness, close ball control, dribbling ability, and speed in the MNL, said Ko Waiyan Moe Kyaw Win, an MNL fan from Yangon. Edubat Patrick from Ayeyawady United followed Sylla with 9 goals.

Si Thu Aung, a Myanmar football star for Yadanabon FC, Aung Myint Tun, a young footballer from Magwe FC and Sunday Mathew, an expatriate player for Rakhine United FC, stand together as the third most prolific scorers in Week 12 with 7 goals each.

Joseph Mpande from Hanthawady United stands in fourth place with 6 goals.—Lynn Thit (Tgi) ■

## Ronaldo versus Salah — the Ballon d'Or on the line?

KIEV — In an age when individual awards are given ever greater importance, Saturday's Champions League final between Real Madrid and Liverpool — and Cristiano Ronaldo and Mohamed Salah — could determine the winner of the next Ballon d'Or.

After all, Ronaldo has won the prestigious prize on the back of helping Madrid to each of their recent European Cup triumphs, in 2014, 2016 and again last year.

It is reductionist in the extreme to bring Saturday's final down to just two players, given the strength in depth available — especially in attack — to Madrid and Liverpool.

But this is the era of the individual, at a time when Ronaldo and Lionel Messi have dominated the Ballon d'Or for a decade.

The status of each is such that the annual prize for the world's best player generates ever fiercer debate.

Ronaldo has won the last two, but can he really win it again, having recently turned 33?

In a World Cup year, what happens in Russia will play a big part too — it is impossible to imagine Messi not winning a sixth Ballon d'Or should he lead Argentina to the title.

But Ronaldo can certainly make his case in Kiev, while this is also a golden opportunity for Salah before he leads Egypt into the World Cup.

Ronaldo: An insatiable hunger

Ronaldo's decline in the first half of this season was as



Real coach Zinedine Zidane watches Cristiano Ronaldo in training ahead of this weekend's final. PHOTO: AFP

concerning as his reawakening in 2018 has been breathtaking.

The Portuguese star has scored 41 goals in all competitions this season, but an incredible 28 of those have come since late January.

Despite only scoring four times before La Liga's winter break, he ended up with 26 goals in that competition, behind only Messi. But it is the Champions League that really brings out the best in him.

Ronaldo scored in Man-

chester United's 2008 final win over Chelsea, and has played a decisive role in each of the three finals won by Real since 2014.

This season, despite his poor domestic form, he had scored in every Champions League game prior to the semi-final win over Bayern Munich.

Karim Benzema's brace in the second leg against the Germans was crucial, but neither he nor Gareth Bale have been close to Ronaldo's standard this season.

The 'BBC' may no longer be so fearsome as a trio, but after that difficult spell, Ronaldo's figures in 2018 mean he is making his case to be crowned the world's best again.

"Cristiano knows that a player can have difficult moments. That's why he's the best," warned Real coach Zinedine Zidane this week. "Some players suffer under pressure, others just the opposite, and he is one of them. The more you criticise him, be careful."

Salah already breaking records

This has already been a record-breaking season for the Egyptian, whose 32-goal tally was a new best in the Premier League for a 38-game campaign.

Overall, he has scored a remarkable 44 in all competitions since his arrival at Anfield from Roma, including 11 in Liverpool's memorable run to the Champions League final.

He has been ably supported by Roberto Firmino and Sadio Mane, with that threesome netting 90 goals between them in all competitions.

Nevertheless, Liverpool's hopes of winning a sixth European Cup depend to a large degree on Salah.

Whether that would be enough to land the Ballon d'Or as well is something that seems to split his team-mates.

"But what if Messi and Ronaldo win the World Cup? Do they deserve it? I don't know what do you have to look at to win the Ballon D'Or," said Georginio Wijnaldum this week.

"If it's winning a prize, if it's scoring the more goals. We will see." Defender Dejan Lovren was a little more optimistic.

"He can be in the top three best players in the world. He has the quality, the world-class experience already," he said. "He is so calm, a man down to earth and he deserves every credit for every goal he scored for now and definitely we will help him achieve this dream." —AFP ■