

## NATIONAL

Vice President U Henry Van Thio attends second meeting of the National Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

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A child presents a bouquet of flowers to President U Win Myint as a welcome gesture at the Lashio Airport in northern Shan State yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

## President meets northern Shan State officials

PRESIDENT U Win Myint met with administrative, legislative and judicial officials in northern Shan State yesterday, sharing a message of unity and co-operation, which he said were essential in forming a democratic federal union.

The President, accompanied by Union Ministers Lt-Gen Kyaw Swe, Dr. Aung Thu and U Thein Swe, Shan State Chief Minister Dr. Linn Htut, and other officials, arrived at Lashio Airport in northern Shan State, where they were met by North East Command Command-

er Maj-Gen Aung Zaw Aye, state minister U Nyi Nyi Aung, and other officials. In Lashio, the President and his entourage were also welcomed by traditional dance troupes.

The President then attended a meeting with officials from the state government, the state high court, members of the Self-Administered Division and Zone, the state Hluttaw and state/district/township department officials at the Lashio town hall.

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State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi shakes hands with Mr. Huang Kunming, member of the Politburo of the Communist Party of China (CPC), in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

## State Counsellor receives CPC delegation, World Bank's Vice President

STATE Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi received a delegation led by Mr. Huang Kunming, member of the Politburo of the Communist Party of China (CPC), Secretary of the Central Committee Secretariat and Head of the CPC Propaganda Department, at the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

At the meeting, they cordially and frankly discussed matters related to promoting bilateral relations and cooperation

between Myanmar and China, especially close cooperation in cultural and information sector between the two countries.

Also present at the meeting were Union Minister for Information Dr. Pe Myint, Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture Thura U Aung Ko, Union Minister for International Cooperation U Kyaw Tin, Deputy Minister of the Office of the President U Min Thu and officials concerned.

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## 10 NCA signatories, northern alliance arrive in Nay Pyi Taw for peace conference

TEN signatories of the NCA (Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement) and members of the northern alliance arrived in Nay Pyi Taw on 9 and 10 July to attend the third session of the

Union Peace Conference-21<sup>st</sup> Century Panglong.

Representatives of the UWSA, KIO, the AA, the TNLA and the MNDAA, which are all members of the northern alli-

ance, accompanied by Mr. Sun Guoxiang, Special Envoy for Asian Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China, arrived in Nay Pyi Taw from Kunming,

China, and were welcomed by Peace Commission Vice Chairman U Thein Zaw, consultant group member U Hla Maung Shwe and other officials.

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# President meets northern Shan State officials

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President U Win Myint said the visit to northern Shan State was conducted with the aim to understand and observe the strengths and weaknesses of the reform processes being conducted for the national benefit. Policies were laid down for reform, with officials from relevant departments expected to carry them out. Only then can the socio-economic situation of the country develop. The administrative sector should be people-centred and oriented towards public interest, he said.

For instance, civil society organizations and local elders need to cooperate and work together in conducting anti-narcotic work, the President said. Arrangements are being made to provide cash rewards to informants who provide information that result in drug arrests. The rewards will vary depending on the total value of the buildings, vehicles and materials seized. Anti-narcotic work is to be conducted as a national duty, and will be more successful if all the people cooperate and participate, the President said. Information and reports on narcotics can be made to state/region governments and departments of the Ministry of Home Affairs. For special occurrences and high-profile cases, information and reports can be made to the Office of the President and the Anti-Narcotics Task Force.

The President also said that policies laid down by the State should be followed in handling the matter of seized land and farms. Assessments should be



President U Win Myint attends a meeting with officials from the state government, the state high court, members of the Self-Administered Division and Zone in Lashio, Shan State, yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**



made quickly in order to release and return the seized land and farms to their original owners. Legal work should be done expeditiously so that the released land and farms can be utilized by the original owners as quickly as possible.

Anti-corruption work is being conducted effectively according to the Anti-Corruption Commission Law. Anti-corruption commission offices are being formed at the state/region level, and all should cooperate in eradicating corruption, the President said.

“Action according to law will be taken against corruption at all levels, be it high or low”, the President said. “We are striving towards a corruption-free society”.

In the judicial sector, the

country is striving toward unbiased trials, the President said.

“Responsibility should be taken at every level of states and regions”, he said. “Trials are to be conducted according to Union Judiciary Law and enacted laws on judiciary. Everyone is equal in the face of the law”.

The President pointed out that public servants are enjoying salary, wages and other benefits according to the state budget.

“Enjoy the rights and perform the duties and responsibilities accordingly”, he said. “Public servants are being paid from public funds, and they are to conduct public work according to the law and to the full extent of duties assigned to serve the public”.

Reviews are to be conducted with a mindset toward reform,

the President said.

“Development work for the country can only be conducted when reform is made”, the President said. “All need to work diligently and fully for the country and the people. The beauty of public service is in serving the public”.

Next, State Chief Minister Dr. Linn Htut reported on the regional development work being conducted by the Shan State government.

In conclusion, President U Win Myint said that the aim is to march towards the establishment of a democratic federal union. Work is being implemented for the proportionate development of all states and regions. Solutions are made through political dialogues based on the Panglong spirit to fulfill the

desire of the ethnic nationals. Special emphasis is placed to move towards a stable, peaceful and eternal existence of the union. All have the responsibility to be fair. Implementing fairness strengthens the society and supports the establishment of a democratic federal union. Only through the establishment of a democratic federal union can there be unity, peace and development. All are to play their respective parts, the President said.

After the meeting, the President met with meeting attendees. Later, the President and party left Lashio by Tatmadaw special plane and arrived in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. Earlier in the week, the President was in southern Shan State.—Myanmar News Agency ■

## Chinese Communist Party delegation leaves Nay Pyi Taw

MR. Huang Kunming, member of the Politburo of the Communist Party of China (CPC), Secretary of the Central Committee Secretariat and Head of the CPC Propaganda Department, and delegation left Nay Pyi Taw by air yesterday afternoon.

The Chinese delegation was seen off at the Nay Pyi Taw International Airport by Deputy Minister for Information U Aung Hla Tun, Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Hong Liang, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Deputy Director-General U Aung Ko and officials.—Myanmar News Agency ■



Chinese Communist Party delegation led by Mr. Huang Kunming, seen at Nay Pyi Taw International Airport before departure. **PHOTO: MNA**

## UN assistant secretary-general arrives in Myanmar

UNITED Nations Assistant Secretary-General and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Assistant Administrator and Director for Asia-Pacific office Mr. Haoliang Xu arrived in Myanmar yesterday morning.

During his visit, Mr. Haoliang Xu will meet with union ministers and partner organizations to discuss matters related to UNDP's new project for Myanmar and the implementa-

tion of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed on 6 June between the Myanmar government, UNDP and United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

In addition to this, he will attend the third session of the Union Peace Conference-21<sup>st</sup> Century Panglong to be held on 11 July and also open a new UN office that includes offices of the 12 UN organisations.—Myanmar News Agency ■



We cannot bank our hopes on possibilities. We must put our trust in ourselves, in our capabilities, efforts and strength, and preparations not only for our success but also to avoid our own defeat.

(Excerpt from the address made by Bogyoke Aung San at AFPFL Supreme Council Session, August 1946)



## State Counsellor receives CPC delegation, World Bank's Vice President

### FROM PAGE-1

#### State Counsellor meets with World Bank's Vice President

Similarly, State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi received the delegation led by Ms. Victoria Kwakwa, Vice President of the East Asia and Pacific Region of the World Bank Group, at 11:30 am yesterday at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw.

During the meeting, the Vice President of the World Bank pledged support for peace, social inclusion and economic transition in Myanmar and exchanged views with the State Counsellor on priorities for programming the Bank's concessional financial support for Myanmar. They also discussed matters on providing the Bank's technical and financial support to Myanmar's efforts towards achieving sustainable development in line with

the goals laid out in the Myanmar Sustainable Development Plan – MSDP and to assist in creating job opportunities and development of the regions where peace has returned.

Moreover, they exchanged views on progress in repatriation and resettlement of the displaced persons from Rakhine State, creating economic opportunities for all communities including those who are in conflict-affected areas in Rakhine State, development of projects focusing on micro-and small-enterprise development, and access to essential social services.

Also present at the meeting were U Kyaw Tin, Union Minister for International Cooperation, U Set Aung, Deputy Minister for Planning and Finance, and senior officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.—Myanmar News Agency ■



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, right, welcomes Ms. Victoria Kwakwa, Vice President of the East Asia and Pacific Region of the World Bank. PHOTO: MNA

## VP U Henry Van Thio attends second meeting of the National Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

VICE President U Henry Van Thio, Chairman of the National Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, delivered a speech at the committee's second meeting held at the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Present at the meeting were committee Vice-Chairmen Union Minister Dr. Win Myat Aye and U Aung Ko Myint, committee members including Deputy Ministers, Nay Pyi Taw Council members, state and region ministers for social affairs, Vice-Chairman of the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission, Permanent Secretaries, Directors-General,

officials from the Myanmar Federation of Persons with Disabilities and representatives from a diverse number of associations for various disabilities.

There are one billion living with some form of disability around the world, according to the 2010 World Report on Disability conducted by the World Health Organization (WHO) and the World Bank, said the Vice President. He also said that persons with disabilities (PWDs) have a harder time accessing healthcare and education, entering society, politics and the economy, and finding employment, compared to the rest of us. He added that PWDs face

higher rates of poverty and unemployment and receive a lower income.

The UN's Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) was adopted in 2006 to reduce the aforementioned inequalities and to ensure all persons with all types of disabilities can enjoy human rights and fundamental freedom, said the Vice President.

Myanmar signed the CRPD on 7 December 2011 and since then the Union Government has been working to make certain the 2.3 million PWDs in Myanmar can exercise their rights and are entitled to their freedom.

Myanmar's legislature

passed the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Law in 2015 and the bylaws on 27 December 2017. Additionally, the National Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities was formed on 14 September 2017, with Union Government Announcement (70/2017) and is serving as a beacon of hope for the PWD community. The committee held its first meeting on 28 December 2017.

The Vice President said he believes the crucial first steps for the PWD community were taken at the committee's first meeting, when decisions were made to form state- and regional-level sub-committees and the Nay Pyi Taw sub-committee, the

Ministry of Construction made plans to make transportation more disabled inclusive, and the Ministry of Education arranged for children with disabilities to have access to free education. He added the Working Committee for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities was formed during the first meeting as well.

The Vice President said there are future plans to form a Fund Management Group, various relevant sub-committees under the working committee, and a Technical Support Group for the national committee backed by the Department for International Development (UK).

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Due to limitation of space we are only able to publish "Letter to the Editor" that do not exceed 500 words. Should you submit a text longer than 500 words please be aware that your letter will be edited.

## Shwedagon Pagoda's donated estate tender sales cancelled

THE Shwedagon Pagoda trustees have decided against selling land, buildings and apartments, which were donated through a legal contract to the Shwedagon Pagoda, through a competitive tender system, according to the pagoda trustees.

"We have completely decided against our plan," said an official from the Shwedagon Pagoda trustees.

The land, buildings and apartments, which had been donated under contract include a two-storey house located on 11<sup>th</sup> Street, a two-storey house on 12<sup>th</sup> Street, a two-storey house on Hledon Street, two ground floor apartments on Shwe Taung Dan Street, a two-storey house on Sin Oh Dan Street, all in Lanmadaw Township, a two-storey house on Htee Tan -1 Street in Kyeemyindine Township and

Shwedagon Pagoda is the most famous landmark of Myanmar. **PHOTO: GNLM/PHOE KHWAR**

a ground floor apartment on Ingapu Street in Sangyoung Township.

The pagoda trustees had put an announcement in *Myanma Alin Daily* and the *Mirror*

*Daily* newspapers on 30 June regarding selling the houses and apartments through a competitive tender system, in order to get funds for the pagoda, with the permission of donors.

However, the pagoda trustees have announced in the *Mirror Daily* newspaper on 10 July the cancellation of the plan to sell the houses and apartments.—Nyein Nyein ■

## Agricultural garden planned in Mandalay Myotha

BY planting over 30,000 trees, an agricultural garden is planned to be set up in the Mandalay Myotha industry park project area. Authorities have planted over 4,000 trees on 8 July, as part of a monsoon tree planting ceremony.

The ceremony was attended by Mandalay Region Planning and Finance Minister U

Myat Thu, Hluttaw representatives, officials from related departments, Mandalay Myotha Industrial Development chairman U Aung Win Khine, local residents from around the project area and students.

"It is a good idea to plant trees in the project area, located in the Myanmar central region, in order to make it green,"

said Minister for Mandalay Region Planning and Finance.

The agricultural garden, established in July, will have over 30,000 trees of eight different species. Currently, authorities have already planted 4,000 trees such as padauk, eucalyptus and gold mohur tree.

"Previously, this region was a dry area. Even if the re-

gional government goes ahead with the green project with the help of many companies, the most important thing is for local residents to participate.

Now, we have already arranged to receive sufficient water to set up the agricultural garden, said U Aung Win Khine.—Min Htet Aung (Mandalay Sub-Printing House)

## Workshop on preservation of Chatthin wildlife sanctuary held

FRIENDS of Wildlife (FOW) conducted a workshop on the preservation of the Myanmar golden deer and Chatthin wildlife sanctuary in cooperation with Norway Environmental Agency (NEP) at Shwe Si Myaing hall, Kanbalu District cooperative office, Sagaing Region, on 9 July.

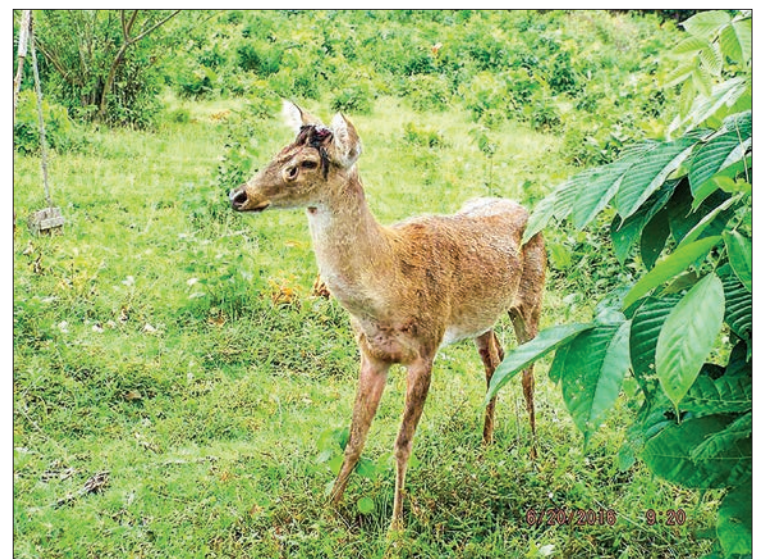
"The workshop was conducted with the aim of identifying the current difficulties with regard to drawing up an administration project on the preservation of the Myanmar golden deer and Chatthin wildlife sanctuary, to get effective information on drawing up a conservation project, which can effectively provide security to the Myanmar golden deer and Chatthin wildlife sanctuary, and to cooperate with local res-

idents after enhancing their knowledge on the conservation of the Myanmar golden deer and Chatthin wildlife sanctuary," said U Min Swe, administrator of the wildlife sanctuary.

Chatthin wildlife sanctuary was established as a forest protection area on 19 June 1941, covering an area of 66,560 acres. However, 2295.58 acres of farming, village and religious land, which belonged to three villages, were excluded from the sanctuary.

Now, 4264.42 acres remain and are located in Kanbalu Township in Kanbalu District and Kawlin Township in Katha District.

There were over 3,000 golden deer in Chatthin wildlife sanctuary in 2000. Now, the golden deer are facing extinc-



Golden deer seen in Chatthin wildlife sanctuary.

**PHOTO: AUNG WIN NYEIN**

tion and only 889 deer live in the sanctuary.

The golden deer is a rare species of deer found in Myanmar, mostly in the Shwesettaw and Chatthin wildlife sanctuaries. The sanctuaries have been conserved for over 77 years, he added.

The workshop was attended by district management com-

mittee chairman U Kyaw Zarni Lwin and committee members, township management committee chairman U Zaw Naing Win and departmental staff, officials from Kyunhla Township departments and administrators and local residents from over 30 villages near the Chatthin wildlife sanctuary.—Aung Win Nyein (Kanbalu) ■



## Actual amount of FDI registered at \$1.3 billion, approved amount at \$842 million in three months

By May Thet Hnin

THE actual amount of Foreign Direct Investments (FDI) in the past three months was worth US\$1.3 billion and the amount approved by the Myanmar Investment Commission (MIC) was registered at \$842 million, according to the MIC.

“Investment differs from trading. Investment is for the long run. Approved enterprises might

not bring in the entire submitted capital immediately, which means some investments flow in three or four years. Otherwise, only a small amount of approved investments might flow this year and the large capital can be made in the years to come,” said U Aung Naing Oo, secretary of MIC.

MIC releases the actual amount of foreign investments every three months. A total of 44 foreign enterprises were ap-

proved by MIC from April to the first week of July, with a capital of \$692 million, including increased investments, while Thilawa Special Economic Zone absorbed an investment of \$149 million.

China tops the list with the largest investment, while Hong Kong, Singapore, India, South Korea and Viet Nam also saw FDIs over the past three months. Agriculture, industrial estates, hotels and tourism, manufacturing and

other service sectors attracted foreign investments.

MIC intends to receive \$3 billion during the six-month interim period from April to September prior to the next fiscal year. Approved investments in the past three months were worth only \$800 million and there is difficulty in reaching the target amount. However, if projects with large investments, which are delayed by some ministries, are permit-

ted, the target can be exceeded, said U Aung Naing Oo.

Fifty domestic investments approximately valued at Ks710.63 billion were permitted by MIC. MIC is endeavouring to speed up the processing time of investments as soon as possible.

The actual amount of FDIs for the 2017-2018 financial year is \$4.34 billion and the amount approved by the MIC is \$6.11 billion, according to the MIC. ■

## China's purchase price, transportation hurdles bring down rice prices

THE price of rice exported from Mandalay Region is on the decline, as China is lowering the purchase price, in addition to difficulties faced during transportation, according to rice depot officials.

Chinese merchants are reducing the price of rice, as exported rice is sent from various townships to the Sino-Myanmar border trade channel. In addition, there is tight confiscation along the trade route, as China considers rice that exceeds the quota, as illegal. This being so, the price of rice is decreasing, said a merchant. Rice meant for export is primarily produced in Magway, Yamethin and Sagaing areas. The price of rice has decreased from Ks24,000 to Ks22,000 per bag weighing 30.75 viss (one viss equals 3.6 lb). The rice market needs to be traded through a government-to-government agreement or policy change. Nevertheless, the price of rice is likely to continue to be on the decline.—Min Htet Aung (Mandalay Sub-Printing House) ■



A man checks rice as summer paddy is being harvested at a field in Mandalay.  
**PHOTO: MIN HTET AUNG (MANDALAY SUB-PRINTING HOUSE)**

## More demand for Pakokku textiles from Japan

AFTER Myanmar displayed its Pakokku textiles at the Myanmar Festival, which was held in Japan for two days, the fabrics have been seeing an increasing demand from the Japanese market, according to Galonmin Nyi Naung textile business in Pakokku.

“Most of the Japanese are interested in Myanmar’s Pakokku fabrics. We did good business there and also saw a lot of demand. Three Japanese businessmen offered to send us updated textiles. The Japanese Prime Minister’s wife, Madam Akie Abe, also visited the Myanmar Festival and said she liked our Myanmar textiles. She also bought the Pakokku fabrics, which were displayed. Some of the Japanese businessmen, who want to sell Pakokku textiles in Japan, were buying them from us even after our arrival at the Japan airport to return to Myanmar,” said Daw Nilar, director of Galonmin Nyi Naung Textiles Co. Ltd. in Pakokku.

The price of textiles in the Japan market is double the price in the Myanmar market. The Japan market demands longyis, skirts, cushion covers, bags and linen, she added.

“From the SME point of view, when SME businessmen find new markets for textiles, the whole supply chain of SME businesses will be developed, said Daw Myint Myint Thein, deputy director of SME in Magway Region.—Zaya Tu (Magway) ■

## IPPA negotiation meeting held between Myanmar and Singapore

A TWO-day negotiation meeting on the Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement (IPPA) between Myanmar and Singapore was inaugurated in the Myanmar Investment Commission (MIC) Office, Yangon, on 9 and 10 July, according to re-

cent information from the MIC.

The agreement aims to minimise investment barriers, facilitate investments, and create more opportunities for Singapore expatriate workers in Myanmar as well as people from Myanmar working in Singapore.

Also, IPPA would govern the labour exchange between the two nations and protect investors in both countries from government-imposed work stoppage or confiscations.

Eleven countries, including China, India, Thailand and Ja-

pan, have already entered into the IPPA with Myanmar.

Singapore’s investment in Myanmar has reached US\$19 billion so far, since the 1988-1989 fiscal year, according to statistics released by MIC. —Ko Khant ■



# VP U Henry Van Thio attends second meeting of the National Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

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Various strategic goals and projects are being implemented with international organizations to provide support, rehabilitation and personal development to a wide range of people with disabilities in Myanmar, said the Vice President. These include a project to develop blind massage training for people with visual impairment, a project to enable people with auditory impairment easy access to news and information, a project to provide vocational training to people with physical disabilities, and a project to provide personal development to people with mental disabilities, such as autism and Down syndrome.

The Union Government is allotting monetary aid from its respective fiscal year budgets to fund community-based inclusion campaigns for PWDs concerning their education, healthcare, employability, legal affairs and disability awareness.

The Vice President said the people of Myanmar have inborn empathy and a willingness to help others, which can be combined with the knowledge and experience gained from the aforementioned campaigns to support the personal development and empowerment of PWDs.

The Vice President said if respective ministries in Myanmar can fulfill the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) set by the UN for 2015-2030, then PWDs, other vulnerable popula-



Vice President U Henry Van Thio addresses the committee's second meeting of the National Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities at the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

tions, and all of society can reap the benefits.

The Vice President requested all relevant government departments and other organizations to plan for more disabled inclusion in their development programmes, as regional or national development requires every member of society to be involved.

The modern world is facing a multitude of global issues which can be solved hand in hand with PWDs if we adhere to the 2017 International Day of Persons with Disabilities theme—"Transformation towards sustainable and

resilient societies for all", said the Vice President. He added that PWDs can utilise the skills they acquired from the various campaigns to aid in disaster risk management projects and rural development.

Later, Vice-Chairman of the National Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Union Minister Dr. Win Myat Aye spoke about forming committees for ensuring the success of operations for the rights of PWDs, planning laws, bylaws and strategic plans concerning PWDs, and creating job opportunities, access to education

and healthcare for the personal development and livelihood of PWDs.

This was followed by the other Vice-Chairman of the national committee and Chairman of the Myanmar Federation of People with Disabilities U Aung Ko Myint explaining plans for ensuring equal rights and opportunities for all citizens, the ability to join political and social sectors, full access to education and social benefits, non-discrimination against PWDs, and setting up policies and pre-planning for the rights of PWDs.

Next, national committee

Secretary Deputy Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement U Soe Aung gave a presentation on the implementation progress of the first meeting's decisions, the working committee's decisions and the committee's future plans.

Vice President U Henry Van Thio then took a photograph with the meeting attendees.

The second part of the meeting continued later, with the meeting attendees discussing the rights of PWDs, future plans, requirements for implementation and possible collaboration.

—Myanmar News Agency ■

## U Thaung Tun receives World Bank's VP

U THAUNG TUN, Union Minister for the Office of the Union Government, received World Bank's Regional Vice President for East Asia and Pacific, Ms. Victoria Kwakwa at 09:30 am yesterday at the Ministry of the Office of the Union Government, Office No.18 in Nay Pyi Taw.

During the meeting, they discussed matters relating to financial and technical assistance of the World Bank in support of the Myanmar's democratic transition as well as future co-operation activities between Myanmar and the World Bank.—Myanmar News Agency ■

## Union Minister Dr. Pe Myint receives Myanmar Press Council

UNION Minister for Information Dr. Pe Myint received the Myanmar Press Council (MPC) yesterday at the office of the Ministry of Information in Nay Pyi Taw.

During the meeting, they cordially discussed matters related to renting of the Myanmar Press Council office, the process of electing new council members for the next three years and the development of the Myanmar news media sector.

Present at the meeting were Deputy Minister U Aung Hla Tun, officials from the Ministry of Information, MPC Vice Chairman (1) U Ohn Kyaing, U Min Han, Daw Thin Thin Thar, U Kyaw Swar Min, U Khaing Myat Kyaw and U Zeya.—Myanmar News Agency ■



Union Minister for Information Dr. Pe Myint meets with members from the Myanmar Press Council (MPC) in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**



# Deedok U Ba Cho, a reporter at heart



By Min Thit (MNA)  
PHOTO : ZAW MIN LAT

"That was the last day we saw your grandfather," Daw Hla May told her grandson U Zaw Myint Cho about her husband Deedok U Ba Cho, who left for a meeting at the Secretariat before the martyred leaders were assassinated.

"According to my grandmother, my grandfather told her on that day that he had a strong premonition that something unpleasant is going to happen," said U Zaw Myint Cho.

Deedok U Ba Cho was working for Myanmar's independence when he was assassinated along with other martyred leaders inside the Secretariat on 19 July 1947.

"Grandfather was well-versed in astrology. He warned Bogyoke Aung San that the future of the country was bleak, and he repeated that again when 19 July was approaching. When Bogyoke asked him if he was scared, grandfather replied that he was just looking at things from an astrological point of view," U Zaw Myint Cho recounted what his grandmother said.

Deedok U Ba Cho and his wife Daw Hla May had four daughters. At the time of his death, only his wife and two of their younger daughters, Ma Khin Pu and Ma Khin Khin Oo, were left behind.

Their two elder daughters, Ma Khin Nu and May May Khin passed away during the Japanese occupation of Burma. U Zaw Myint Cho was born to Deedok U Ba Cho's youngest daughter Ma Khin Khin Oo.

Deedok U Ba Cho began publishing *Deedok Journal* in 1925 from his house at No. 84, Bogyoke Road in Pazundaung Township. The journal was at the forefront in advocating national independence, national education and preserving national culture.

"A group of grandfather's friends kept his journal running after his death for some time. We still have the publishing license, and it hasn't been renewed," said U Zaw Myint Cho.

Deedok U Ba Cho was fond of music and literature. A Myanmar harp he used to play and his written works, kept as historical records, are in the possession of his granddaughter Dr Daw Khin Hla Cho.

Deedok U Ba Cho was attending BA High School when he had to quit due to an eye disease. He later became a teacher in Paungde and Hinthada. After the emergence of national colleges, he quit his government post and taught Burmese language at one of them.

Eventually, he helped form the Hpa Hsa Pa La (Anti-Fascist People's Freedom League) and strived for Myanmar's independence. He worked together with

Bogyoke Aung San and Thakhin Mya as a member in the Constitution Drafting Committee at the Union Parliament and later served as the Minister for Information in Bogyoke Aung San's pre-independence period cabinet.

At that time, Deedok U Ba Cho's house, where he published his journal, would be crowded with politicians, journalists, musicians and astrologers visiting every day.

"Grandfather's house would turn into a place where politicians would feel at home, where they would eat and drink together. Sometimes, when they would arrive late in the evening, grandmother would prepare whatever food was available," U Zaw Myint Cho recounted his grandmother's story about his grandfather's empathy for young politicians struggling for the country's independence.

Deedok U Ba Cho's wife also received a permit to open a gas station from the BOC Company, like other family members of the martyred leaders, but she returned the permit to the company before the industry was nationalized.

"The remaining families of the martyred leaders noticed the decline of Martyrs' Day observances and felt sad, but according to prevailing circumstances at that time, we couldn't do anything. These families are now feeling glad that Martyrs' Day has resurfaced during this democratic government's administration," said U Zaw Myint Cho.

Deedok U Ba Cho's family used to offer *soon* (meals) to monks at his former house on Martyrs' Day, but recently, they started offering donations at old-aged homes. They will be doing the same this year as well.

U Zaw Myint Cho remembers his grandmother telling him that Deedok U Ba Cho upheld the principles and ethics of journalism and to report news accurately.

"If he were still alive, he would be working as a reporter," said U Zaw Myint Cho.



U Zaw Myint Cho.



Deedok U Ba Cho

(24 April 1893 - 19 July 1947)

- \* He was born on Monday, 24 April 1893 in Myaungmya. His parents were Saya U Boe Sar and Daw Myit.
- \* While he studied at Myaungmya Primary School, he was awarded a scholarship. He also matriculated in A Grade and earned an honourable scholarship again.
- \* Deedok U Ba Cho was attending BA High School when he had to quit due to an eye disease. He later became a teacher in Paungde and Hinthada. After the emergence of national colleges, he quit his government post and taught Burmese language at one of them.
- \* In 1920, he married Daw Hla May. Deedok U Ba Cho and his wife had four daughters. At the time of his death, only his wife and two of their younger daughters, Ma Khin Pu and Ma Khin Khin Oo, were left behind. Their two elder daughters, Ma Khin Nu and May May Khin passed away during the Japanese occupation of Burma.
- \* Deedok U Ba Cho began publishing *Deedok Journal* in 1925 from his house at No. 84, Bogyoke Road in Pazundaung Township. The journal was at the forefront in advocating national independence, national education and preserving national culture.
- \* He worked together with Bogyoke Aung San and Thakhin Mya as a member in the Constitution Drafting Committee at the Union Parliament and later served as the Minister for Information in Bogyoke Aung San's pre-independence period cabinet.
- \* With other national leaders he was assassinated on 19 July 1947 at 10:37 am, and later succumbed to his injuries at 1:45 pm.



# Democracy demands responsibilities from civil servants

THE contributions of civil servants are essential for those who have borne the responsibility of holding an elected office. The role of civil servants is becoming of even greater importance as Myanmar moves further towards a truly democratic system.

Members of an elected government may come and go, but a government machinery with civil servants goes on forever. It is civil servants who enable the ship of State to maintain a steady course.

Democracy demands responsibilities from civil servants. For establishing democracy in our country, the most important thing is for civil servants to be aware of their part of the responsibility and accountability. It is not just the responsibility of the elected government.

To say that the success of a democracy is totally in the hands of government is oxymoronic, because democracy by definition is people-based.

The policies of government are implemented by civil servants from the administrative, judicial and legislative sectors.

Today, we are all getting a rare opportunity to transform from an old to a new system. Therefore, all civil servants should be proud of what they do, and of what they can contribute every day towards the realization of the aspirations of the country's people for a peaceful, secure and prosperous future.

At the same time, all should understand that they are at the assigned posts to serve the public and not to misuse their rights.

They are to serve the people, be loyal to the State and follow the laws, rules, procedures and instructions.

At the same time, they will have to follow the rules and regulations of their respective entities. All civil servants are encouraged to come up with innovative ideas for improving the efficiency of government processes, cutting administrative waste, breaking down inter-departmental and inter-ministerial silos, and enhancing the effectiveness of government as a whole.

Care must be taken so that whatever they do benefits the State and the people.

They are to respect and value the people and conduct themselves with fairness and according to the law.

Civil servants are accountable to the government elected by the people, and must act with integrity, professionalism, intelligence and dynamism in delivering the government's programmes.

We would like to pay tribute to the civil servants, who today are working across our nation, often in challenging circumstances, not for recognition or personal gain or glory but simply to be of service to the public.

# Eternal memories of an extraordinary man, our Bogoyoke

By Than Phyto Naing  
(Ka Nyin Kyoe)

AS Martyrs' Day approaches, it always moves me into tears whenever I reflect on a poem, composed by poet Daung Yin Thway in tribute of Bogoyoke (General) Aung San, that I came across on the social media. The beautiful poem is an accolade to our Bogoyoke, composed with poetic words such as 'the July rains', 'sobbing and heavy crying', 'an extraordinary man made for eternal memories', and 'a human being missed by one and all'.

Martyrs' Day has now entered its 71st anniversary. The gloomy dark day of 19 July 1947 is a day of mourning when Bogoyoke Aung San and seven Arzarni (martyred) leaders, namely, Thakhin Mya, Deedok U Ba Cho, U Abdul Razak, U Ba Win, U Mahn Ba Khaing, U Sao San Tun and U Ohn Maung were gunned down.

## Annual observance of the Martyrs' Day

Amidst the July rains, it is an unforgettable day indeed for middle-aged 35-year old citizens, like me, or the seniors who have a sound knowledge about Bogoyoke Aung San and other Arzarni leaders, gained through different sources at different times. It was told as bedtime stories by parents, lectured by teachers at school up till the end of high school, or listened at events, such as poem reciting competitions, music performances, essay writing contests, and so on.

Moreover, on each and every Arzarni Day on 19 July, whether rain or shine, we gathered at school and rallied round the national flag flying at half mast, and saluted it at the dot of 10:37 am, by staying in silent for one minute with tears welling up in our eyes.

In cities and towns across the country, loud siren calls are heard to alert all vehicles and citizens to stand still in silence as a gesture of mourning for the Arzarni leaders. Who cannot be saddened by seeing trains stopping at mid-rail tracks among rice fields, blowing their loud train sirens as a respect to the fallen Arzarni leaders?

## Always on my mind

Despite the fact that our beloved martyrs are not going to be brought back to life, the whole nation annually observes this mourning day by paying tributes through meritorious deeds and sharing the merits thus gained.

The Arzani leaders are always on our mind with eternal memories. What is the reason we could never ever forget them? Each and every one of us knows that these martyrs have sacrificed their lives for the country. However, at this time of the year, at least, we would like to share

and reminisce about the Arzarni leaders just for the sake of keeping them in our memory.

At this juncture, I would like to share about Bogoyoke Aung San, for which I could make endless talks without feeling tired or thirsty. In fact, Bogoyoke had amazing and marvelous mental strength compared to others. That is why we will all never forget Bogoyoke, embedded in our hearts as our Arzarni hero, in loving memory forever.

## Exemplary characteristics of our Bogoyoke

Without any doubt, we have accepted Bogoyoke as an ideal and exemplary leader with high moral character and in excellent mental and physical conditions. As Bogoyoke happened to be an ultimate and perfect organizer, leaders of today are sure to emulate the role model of Bogoyoke in their performances in the line of duty, as we work together in elevating the image of the country.

Bogoyoke had high moral characters, such as that of extreme honesty with an workaholic mindset, that of truth-loving and patriotism, that of selfless but extreme love for the country, that of avoiding self-interest but of sacrificial unto

death, that of discarding power and authority, that of extreme simplicity of life without flamboyance, that of avoiding a single dime from the government budget for personal advantage, that of high moral character, and that of devotion and faithfulness to family life. One could endlessly praise him.

## Disgusted with corruption

The most respectable character of his life was he hated corruption and greatly abhorred graft. Furthermore, when he received some sort of gifts in cash and kind, he converted them to funds for the independence struggle. He was a man of vision who inclined his thoughts only for the good of the nation and its people, a man with pure simple heart just to work for the country. As a result, there is no person that dislikes Bogoyoke, the situation of which had sadly created a security vacuum atmosphere with no bodyguards for our Bogoyoke.

## Things to be emulated from Bogoyoke

It is undeniable that Bogoyoke was the architect of our independence and stood out as the ideal person to be emulated and followed by all

citizens. He was equipped with all the fine characteristics, such as that of a good citizen, that of the perfect way of living, and that of serving for the nation and the people.

Bogoyoke paved the way of a noble life as he could stand against the litmus test of overall quality and standard criteria of a good leader, working for the nation until the day he was assassinated. The most salient point of his character was that he had hard rock mentality with good faith in working for the people and the nation.

Youths of today should study about the lifestyle of Bogoyoke and his biography, including the dresses that he wore during his different capacities and diverse portfolios while serving for the country.

## Every parent must nurture heroes

There is a most popular local song entitled 'Asian Heroes', in which the lyrics contain some phrases or sentences, like, 'all parents must nurture heroes like Bogoyoke Aung San', and 'parents must raise Arzarni kids'. In other words, parents must take care of and train their kids into heroic youngsters.

## To follow his policy and work for the country

In conclusion, the author of this article would like to urge all that we should remember Bogoyoke not only during the July rains, but to reflect throughout the year, come summer, rain or winter, on what he and other Arzarni leaders have done for us and for the country.

We have our own duty to fulfill wherever our country needs us, such as that of national unity, the eternal peace, and the development of the country. These tasks should be carried out with a similar mindset of Bogoyoke. While we remember Bogoyoke forever in our hearts, we must also work like Bogoyoke, and parents must train and nurture kids to grow up like our heroic Bogoyoke.

*Translated by UMT (HK)*

## Myanmar Writers Association lauds third session of Union Peace Conference-21<sup>st</sup> Century Panglong

MYANMAR Writers Association, which propagates peace, accepts with acclamation the forthcoming third session of the Union Peace Conference-21<sup>st</sup> Century Panglong that will be held with the purpose of achieving internal peace and national unity.—Myanmar Writers Association

## Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Tuesday 10th July, 2018)

**BAY INFERENCE:** Monsoon is strong over the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal.

**FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF THE 11th JULY, 2018:** Rain or thundershowers will be isolated in Lower Sagaing and Magway Regions, scattered in Mandalay Region and Kayah State, fairly widespread in Naypyitaw, Upper Sagaing Region, Shan and Chin States and widespread in the remaining Regions and States with isolated heavy falls in Yangon, Ayeyarwady and Taninthayi Region, Kachin, Kayin and Mon States. Degree of certainty is (100%).

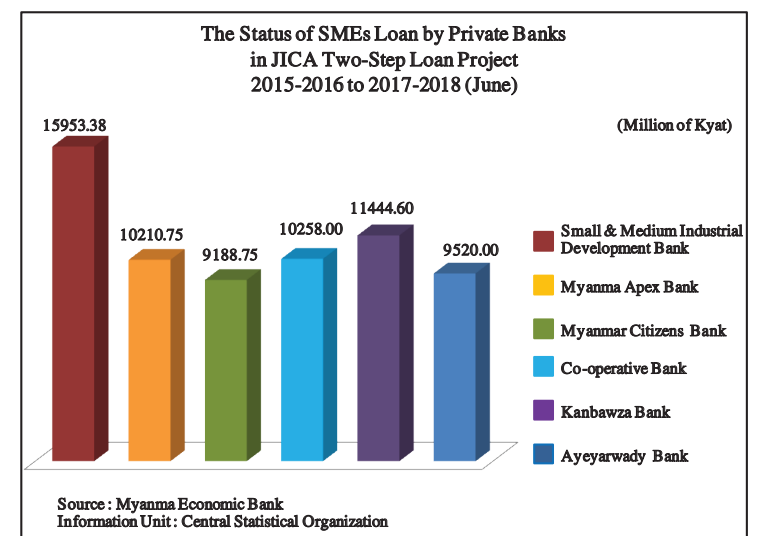
**STATE OF THE SEA:** Squalls with moderate to rough seas are likely at times off and along Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (30-35)m.p.h. Wave height will be about (6 - 9)feet off and along Myanmar Coasts.

**OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS:** Strong monsoon.

**FORECAST FOR NAYPYITAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 11th JULY, 2018:** Some rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

**FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 11th JULY, 2018:** Some rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

**FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 11th JULY, 2018:** Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).





# Thura U Shwe Mann receives Czech Ambassador

CHAIRMAN of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw's Legal Affairs and Special Cases Assessment Commission Thura U Shwe Mann received Ambassador of the Czech Republic to Myanmar Mr. Jaroslav Dolecek at the Hluttaw Building (I-

11) in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

During the meeting, they exchanged views and cordially discussed matters related to bilateral friendship and co-operation.— Myanmar News Agency ■



## New steps toward peace

By Maw Si,  
Hmway Kyu Zin  
PHOTO: AYE THAN

THE third session of the Union Peace Conference-21<sup>st</sup> Century Panglong will be held in Nay Pyi Taw from 11 to 16 July, after unified steps were taken toward peace by seeking solutions through dialogue.

The Union Peace Dialogue Joint Committee (UPDJC) did their utmost to hold the third session of the Union Peace Conference-21<sup>st</sup> Century Panglong in a grand manner and reach accords that are part of the Union agreement.

Numerous meetings were conducted by ministerial department representatives representing the government, Tatmadaw representatives, a group that includes Hluttaw representatives, a group representing ethnic armed organisations (EAOs) that had signed the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA) and a group representing political parties that were part of UPDJC.

Following are the words of UPDJC secretariat members on the policy papers submitted regarding the political, economic, social, land and environment, and security sectors and agreements reached after the conclusion of the 16<sup>th</sup> UPDJC meeting.

### U Zaw Htay, secretariat member, UPDJC

Seven points were submitted in the political sector. Two were agreed upon. The economic sector submitted 11 points, of which one was agreed upon. The land sector submitted five points, out of which two were agreed upon. The social sector submitted nine points and seven were agreed upon. These will be discussed

in some groups. After this discussion, there can be further agreements – two to three in the economic sector; one in the social sector and about two in the political sector.

In the final meeting for the conference, the UPDJC achieved a total of 12 agreements. By the time the conference is held, this could increase to 13, 14 or 15 agreements. The government side had proposed them in the last UPDJC and it had officially proposed again in this UPDJC. The last conference achieved 37. Only 12 were achieved for this conference. Our government side had proposed a draft decision of the 700 representatives attending the conference. This draft was submitted in today's meeting. The political parties group supports this. The EAOs side needs further permission, so they are taking it back. If permission is granted, the decision of the conference representatives will be announced. The promise made is the desire of the government. During the remaining period of 2018, another conference will be held. In 2019, two more conferences will be held. All of us will try to hold these three conferences. Once these three conferences are held, attempts will be made toward laying a democracy and federal foundation. The agreement of this conference is for the conference representatives to strive toward this end.

In the last conference, there was no decision made. During the term of President U Thein Sein, decisions were made at the peace conference. But this was not carried on when the new government came in. Once the forthcoming UPDJC approves this, attempts will be made toward making a conference decision.

A proposal from the EAOs side to the three conferences was to conduct political discussion according to the framework. The government side only proposed federal framework and democracy was not included. As they want to include the democracy framework, we amended the words. After the amendment was made, the EAOs side openly asked why the government wants to issue this. They asked what is being aimed to be done after the conference. We explained in detail as this was the policy mentioned by the State Counsellor at the last NCA signing event. We are doing this so that the policy set by the government is confirmed in the conference.

Thirty-seven agreements were reached in the second conference. Those were reviewed mainly for strengths and weaknesses. Meanwhile, we do things according to process. As we try it in such a way, a total of 12 agreements to be submitted to UPDJC were obtained. Three or four more agreements, or at the most a total of about 20 agreements, could be reached this time. For this, we must not despair. Looking at international peace processes, we could see that those were far worse off than we are. Some even went backward. Till now, we haven't gone backward.



U Zaw Htay.

We are going forward but we will have to calibrate how much forward we can go.

In the forthcoming conference, the entire seven (groups) from the north (northern alliance) will participate. We want decisive leaders who can discuss and meet with our seniors. We want to discuss thoroughly with them, too. We are inviting real decision makers to come. Based on this, there'll be meetings with the State Counsellor and Tatmadaw Commander-in-Chief. All depend upon who is attending from their side.

### U Sai Kyaw Nyunt, secretariat member, UPDJC

In the political sector, all agree on two points. Agreement can still be reached on some more points in the following days. In the economic sector, all agree on one point. Of the 11 points in the economic sector, agreements on many more points could still be reached. Seven points were agreed upon in the social sector and two points were agreed upon in the land and environment sector. Proposals obtained and agreements achieved will be submitted to the conference.

Discussions and coordination were conducted on proposals made to the work committee by the government group, the EAOs



U Sai Kyaw Nyunt.

group and political parties. As per work guidelines, matters agreed upon by all will only be submitted to the conference. Discussions were conducted in the best possible way. Some were not agreed upon by all and we should accept that as how it is.

After each conference is completed, reviews had to be conducted. The government side will review these for sure. Reviews had to be conducted to find ways on how to complete the peace process smoothly and quickly. Our political group will also review it. I believe that the EAOs group will also review on how to overcome this stage. Are any other ways in which things can be done quicker? How will we do things according to NCA? This is what I believe.

### U Myo Win, secretariat member, UPDJC

The security sector is at a stage where discussion is to be conducted at the union level. To conduct union-level discussion, working discussions were held four times between the government and EAOs on the security sector. Collections of opinions were obtained from the four discussions that are very good results for future security sector work. These will be submitted to the conference. ■



U Myo Win.



## Four reporters arrested for extortion



Ki Aung Min, Maung Soe, Aung Phyo Wai and Maung San with their seized materials. **PHOTO: MNA**

FOUR men were arrested yesterday for disguising themselves as police officers on special duty and demanding money from local businessmen in Nanmawleik Village-tract in Phaungpyin Township, Sagaing Region.

The four men, describing themselves as representatives of the intelligence unit, the criminal oppression unit and the Special Branch of the Myanmar Police Force, demanded a total of K1.5 million from 10 businessmen running sawmills in the village on 9 July. The men, who are crime reporters for the *Nay Pyi Taw Times*, arrived at the village on 9 July and asked Ks150,000 each from them after they allegedly found about one ton of illegal wood in a house in the village.

Police said that Maung San, 36, Aung Phyo Wai, 21, of Shauktaw Village, Pwintbyu Township, Maung Soe, 54, of Kangyi Village, and Ki Aung Min, 46, of Kyanthar Village, Kalay Township, threatened the businessmen with arrest and torture if they denied their demands.

According to local au-

thorities, the four reporters also extorted Ks20,000 from a grocery in Hehlaw Village in Phaungpyin Township on 1 July, accusing the owner of selling alcohol illegally.

Action will be taken against the four reporters, said local authorities.

The Ministry of Home Affairs issued a statement to state media on 17 January, warning reporters for media outlets not to wear uniforms similar to State security organisations and not to demand money from people.

The statement was released after it was found that some reporters were found gambling, providing legal counsel, extorting money, collecting fees from people applying for “press membership,” and accepting monthly payments from illegal criminal work.

Crime reporters, as well as reporter associations, are registered under the association registration law, and if they are found to not follow the rules enacted, the renewal of their registration will be rejected. —Myanmar News Agency ■

## Evacuees from bank erosion provided with relief items

The Department of Disaster Management provided relief items to the family members whose homes have been relocated due to bank erosion of the Sittaung River.

The ceremony was held at the office of the General Administration Department in Shwegyin, Bago Region,

yesterday.

Officials led by Staff Officer Daw Chan Nyein Thu from the Department of Disaster Management presented Ks.339,900 and 10 different kinds of relief supplies to the nineteen evacuees from three families from Shwegyin Township. —Khin Ko/MDN ■



NCA signatories and members from northern alliance arrive at Nay Pyi Taw International Aripport. **PHOTO: MNA**

## 10 NCA signatories and northern alliance members arrive in Nay Pyi Taw

**FROM PAGE-1**

The representative group includes Deputy Secretary-General of the UWSA U Pao Yu Yi and Kyauk Kaw An, General Gun Maw and

Sinwa of the KIO, Dr. Nyo Tun Aung of the AA, TNLA Deputy Chairman Tar Ku Lan and 36 members of the MNDAA delegation led by Yan Win Zhong and Phone Shwin.

Similarly a 21-member del-

egation led by U San Pae of the NDAA arrived on Monday night, and a delegation led by U Hse Htin of the Shan State Progress Party (SSPP) arrived in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.—Myanmar News Agency ■



Advertising promotion for MDN's website and mobile application event held in Yangon. **PHOTO: MNA**

## Advertising promotion for MDN website held in Yangon

AN advertising promotion for the website and mobile application of Myanmar Digital News (MDN) was held at the Park Royal Hotel in Yangon yesterday morning.

Advertising promotions will be offered by MDN on its website, on its mobile application and also on its Facebook account for their clients if they purchase advertising. Users can read the *Myanma Alinn*, the *Mirror* and the *Global*

*New Light of Myanmar* newspapers using MDN's mobile application. The advertising promotion offers birthday wishes, wedding anniversary announcements and obituary notices.

In addition, users can make their restaurant advertisements interactive. For instance, a pop-up mini video of the birthday celebrant, family and friends can be seen after clicking on

the advertisement. Myanmar Digital News (MDN) is operating its advertisements on its website and mobile application with the cooperation of Megalink Advanced Technologies Co. Present at yesterday's ceremony were businessmen, clients from advertising agencies from the *Myanma Alinn*, the *Mirror* and the *Global New Light of Myanmar*. —Aye Hnin Nyo ■



# KIO vice chairman: 'We are hoping for the best'

UPON arrival in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday for the Union Peace Conference-21<sup>st</sup> Century Panglong, the KIO vice chairman expressed optimism and hopefulness for a successful outcome from the meetings between the KIO and the Tatmadaw, who have a long history of conflict.

"I want to tell the government and Tatmadaw that we are here to meet, and we are hoping for the best", said General Gun Maw, Vice Chairman (1) of the KIO.

The KIO Vice Chairman added, "We come with hopes. Holding discussions are not a priority. The main thing is to re-establish the contact that was broken. We have to find a link to continue the peace work. Let's meet tomorrow morning."

Two members of the northern alliance, the NDAA and the SSPP arrived in advance of the parties that came from Kunming to attend the conference.

Peace Commission Vice Chairman U Thein Zaw and Secretary U Khin Zaw Oo went to meet with the seven groups from the northern alliance at Horizon Lake View Resort in Nay Pyi Taw.



Vice Chairman (1) of the KIO General Gun Maw arrives at Nay Pyi Taw International Airport yesterday. **PHOTO: PHOE HTAUNG**

"It is good that the vice chairman came to the conference. The chairman wanted to come, but was unable to do so because of a health situation. It is not related to the conference, but they will meet officially with State

leaders. When they meet, they can discuss about their views. After this discussion, it will be easier to follow up at a lower level", the Peace Commission secretary said.

Of the three peace confer-

ences, China took up the responsibility of bringing the seven groups from the northern alliance starting from the second conference.

Commenting about the current peace process, Union Peace

Dialogue Joint Committee (UPDJC) secretary U Hla Maung Shwe said, "It is good that the seven groups from the northern alliance are participating in the peace process. I heard that they will meet with responsible officials. This is a process of building trust. Hope to find ways for this."

Later in the evening, Mr. Sun Guoxiang, Special Envoy for Asian Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China, hosted a dinner for the leaders of the seven groups, the UWSP/UWSA, the NDAA, the KIO/KIA, the SSPP/SSA, the TNLA, the MNDAA and the AA, all members of the northern alliance, at Horizon Lake View Resort in Nay Pyi Taw.

Also present at the dinner were Ambassador of China to Myanmar Mr. Hong Liang, Peace Commission Chairman Dr. Tin Myo Win and secretary U Khin Zaw Oo and UPDJC secretary U Hla Maung Shwe.

The third session of the Union Peace Conference-21<sup>st</sup> Century Panglong will commence today at the Myanmar International Convention Centre II in Nay Pyi Taw. — Ye Khaung Nyunt ■

## Rakhine implementation committee holds sixth meeting

THE coordination meeting 6/2018 of the Implementation Committee on Recommendations on Rakhine State was held at the meeting hall of the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

Present at the meeting were Committee Chairman Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr. Win Myat Aye, Joint Chairman Rakhine State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu, Committee Vice-Chairman Deputy Minister for the State Counsellor's Office U Khin Maung Tin, Secretary Deputy Minister for Border Affairs Maj-Gen Than Htut, Joint Secretary Deputy Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement U Soe Aung, committee members and departmental officials.

In his opening speech at the meeting, the committee chairman said today's meeting was the 6<sup>th</sup> coordination meeting in

2018, as well as the 15<sup>th</sup> committee meeting since the committee has been formed.

"We have been implementing the main three points; security and socio-economic development of the whole Rakhine State, and getting the right entitlements according to rules and regulations. Of the 88 recommendations made on Rakhine State, all are urged to suggest and discuss the remaining recommendations. Regarding the publications of the implementation measures, efforts had been made to release the second report of the committee in the state-owned media with Myanmar language on 2 June, and English version on 17 June. We are also carrying out to release the third report and to review ground situation, with the cooperation of the Rakhine State government", the chairman said.

Joint Chairman Rakhine

State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu said, "As for the state government, we are striving to implement works and remaining processes and to close down the internally displaced people (IDP) camps systematically. Currently, arrangements are being made to close down the Kyauktalone IDP camp in Kyaukpyu Township. Moreover, plans are under way to set up the regional development scheme and the process of NV cards is gaining momentum. We are working hard to bring about harmony between the different communities in the state and to give priority to restoring security and stability, of cooperation local residents", he said.

Committee Vice-Chairman and Deputy Minister for the State Counsellor's Office U Khin Maung Tin said, "Efforts are being made to increase the numbers of government staff at the IDP camps from different min-



Union Minister Dr. Win Myat Aye and Rakhine State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu attend the sixth coordination meeting of Rakhine Implementation Committee in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

istries -- the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population and the Ministry of Home Affairs. The Ministry of Border Affairs has been conducting to form the Hla Poe Khaung management committee and to construct the Maungtaw-Shwezar-Pyinphyu Tar Road, which leads to Hla Poe Khaung.

Next, Secretary Deputy Minister for Border Affairs discussed the work being carried out by the ministry, the process of closing down the IDP camps

and construction of the road.

Following this, U Soe Aung, Joint Secretary Deputy Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, presented important matters to the committees such as timely monthly reports, to increase staff number and to provide requirements of the staff. Officials from the ministries then discussed the works conducted ministry-wise in Rakhine State, future work and requirements. — Myanmar News Agency ■



# All 12 boys and coach rescued from Thai cave

MAE SAI (Thailand) — The final five members of a young football team were rescued from a flooded Thai cave on Tuesday after spending 18 harrowing days trapped deep inside, completing an astonishing against-the-odds rescue mission that captivated the world.

Elite foreign divers and Thai Navy SEALs extracted the final batch of four boys, plus the 25-year-old coach, on Tuesday afternoon via a treacherous escape route that required them to squeeze in darkness through narrow, water-filled tunnels.

“All 12 ‘Wild Boars’ and coach have been extracted from the cave,” the SEALs said in a Facebook post, referring to the boys by the name of their football team.

“All are safe,” they added, then signed off with what has become their trademark “Hooyah” that they used to celebrate the successful extractions of the other eight boys over the previous two days.

The children, aged from 11 to 16, and their coach, ventured into the Tham Luang cave in mountainous northern Thailand on 23 June after football practice and got trapped when heavy rains caused flooding that forced them to take shelter on a muddy ledge.

They spent nine days in darkness until two British divers found them, looking gaunt but offering smiles to the divers and appearing to be in remarkably good spirits.

The initial euphoria at finding them dissipated as authorities struggled to devise a safe plan to get them out, with the shelf more than four kilometres (2.5 miles) inside the cave and the labyrinth of tunnels leading to them filled with water.

## Mission Impossible

Authorities mulled ideas such as drilling holes into the mountain or waiting months until monsoon rains ended and they could walk out, with the rescue

chief at one point dubbing the efforts to save them “Mission Impossible”.

With oxygen levels in their chamber falling to dangerous levels and monsoon rains threatening to flood the cave above the ledge where the boys were sheltering, rescuers decided on the least-worst option of having divers escort them out through the tunnels. The escape route was a challenge even for experts — a former Thai Navy SEAL diver died when he ran out of oxygen in a flooded area of the cave on Friday while trying to prepare the escape route.

Many of the boys could not even swim and none of them had diving experience, so the rescuers trained them how to use a mask and breathe underwater via an oxygen tank.

One fear had been that they would panic while trying to swim underwater, even with a diver escorting them.

Thai Prime Minister Prayut Chan-O-Cha revealed on Tuesday the boys had been given some medication to help them remain calm.

“It was a minor tranquiliser to prevent (the) boys from being anxious,” Prayut told reporters.

The ups and downs of the rescue bid entranced Thailand and also fixated a global audience, drawing support from celebrities as varied as US President Donald Trump, football star Lionel Messi and tech guru Elon Musk.

“On behalf of the United States, congratulations to the Thai Navy SEALs and all on the successful rescue of the 12 boys and their coach from the treacherous cave in Thailand,” Trump tweeted. “Such a beautiful moment - all freed, great job!”

Manchester United also invited the “Wild Boars”, as well as those involved in the rescue, to travel to England and visit the club.

“Our thoughts and prayers are with those af-



An ambulance allegedly transporting rescued members of the children's football team leaves Tham Luang cave area in Khun Nam Nang Non Forest Park in the Mae Sai district of Chiang Rai province on 10 July, 2018. **PHOTO: AFP**

fect. We would love to welcome the team from Wild Boars Football Club and their rescuers to Old Trafford this coming season,” the club said in tweet.

## Health concerns

Now they are out, concerns are set to focus on the physical and mental toll of the ordeal.

Experts warned that

drinking contaminated water or otherwise being exposed to bird or bat droppings in the cave could lead to dangerous infections.

They also said counselling would be needed to deal with the psychological trauma of spending so long not knowing whether they were going to survive.

But there were some promising initial signs.

Medical chiefs reported on Tuesday morning that the eight boys rescued on Sunday and Monday were in relatively good mental and physical conditions.

“All eight are in good health, no fever... everyone is in a good mental state,” Jedsada Chokdamrongsuk, permanent secretary of the public health ministry, said before all 13 had been rescued.

Nevertheless, the boys would remain in quarantine in hospital until doctors were sure they had not contracted any infections from inside the cave.—AFP ■

## CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V ARCA VOY. NO. (1823/1824)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V ARCA VOY. NO. (1823/1824) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 11-7-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T/TMT where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

## CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V SINAR BIMA VOY. NO. (414N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V SINAR BIMA VOY. NO. (414N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 11-7-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

## CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V ALS SUZURAN VOY. NO. (008N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V ALS SUZURAN VOY. NO. (008N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 11-7-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

## CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V TOVE MAERSK VOY. NO. (1819/1820)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V TOVE MAERSK VOY. NO. (1819/1820) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 11-7-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

Phone No: 2301185



# Trump names Kavanaugh to Supreme Court, Senate battle looms

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump on Monday nominated conservative judge Brett Kavanaugh to the US Supreme Court, a decision likely to cement a rightward tilt on the top judicial body with momentous implications for American society.

Trump's decision stands to be among the most consequential of his presidency as he seeks to shape the high court to his conservative leanings for decades to come. With Kavanaugh a mere 53 years old, he could serve for a generation or more.

"Judge Kavanaugh has impeccable credentials, unsurpassed qualifications, and a proven commitment to equal justice under the law," Trump said as he introduced his nominee in a prime-time address from the White House, praising him as "one of the finest and sharpest legal minds of our time".

After days spent teasing his highly-anticipated decision, Trump ended up picking a jurist with extended federal bench and administration experience to fill the vacancy left by retiring Justice Anthony Kennedy.

Kavanaugh worked for president George W. Bush, who appointed him in 2003 to the US Court of Appeals in Washington — where he was finally confirmed by the Senate in 2006 after years of Democratic obstruction.

He is also a robust supporter of the executive power of the presidency.

Kennedy was long a swing vote on the nine-member court, and Trump's choice — his second opportunity in 18 months to fill a Supreme Court seat — stands to dramatically affect many aspects of American life, from abortion to voting rights to immigration.

While conservative on firearms and election financing,



Brett Kavanaugh shakes hands with President Donald Trump after being nominated to the Supreme Court. **PHOTO: AFP**

Kennedy showed a more progressive streak on issues such as abortion and affirmative action. An example of this came in 2015, when, thanks to him, same-sex marriage was legalized across the United States.

But Kavanaugh, who grew up in Washington as the son of a schoolteacher, has the reputation of a staunch conservative, one who many Republicans no doubt hope could help overturn *Roe v Wade*, the landmark 1973 decision that guarantees women the right to an abortion.

He has ruled on hundreds of cases, and contributed to prosecutor Kenneth Starr's report into president Bill Clinton's affair with White House intern Monica Lewinsky, which outlined several grounds for Clinton's impeachment.

Later he was part of Bush's legal team working on the 2000 Florida recount, which resulted in Bush winning the presidency.

Kavanaugh recently voiced

disagreement with a court decision allowing an undocumented teenage immigrant to get an abortion.

## #StopKavanaugh

The nominee made no mention of his leanings in brief remarks at the White House, where he was joined by his wife and their two daughters.

"My judicial philosophy is straightforward. A judge must be independent and must interpret the law, not make the law," he told the assembled dignitaries, as Trump beamed.

"I believe that an independent judiciary is the crown jewel of our constitutional republic. If confirmed by the Senate... I will always strive to preserve the constitution of the United States and the American rule of law."

Kavanaugh heads to Capitol Hill this week to make his case for confirmation, and he will face deep skepticism and outright opposition from most if not all

Democrats.

The minority party — unable to block the nominee unless they lure some Republican senators to their side — have stressed the high stakes of the president's decision as they prepare for the confirmation battle ahead.

In selecting Kavanaugh, Trump "has put reproductive rights and freedoms and health care protections for millions of Americans on the judicial chopping block," tweeted Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, adding the hashtag #StopKavanaugh.

Schumer and other Democratic senators have blasted Trump for having chosen Kavanaugh from a list pre-approved by rightwing outside groups, including the conservative Federalist Society.

Liberal Democratic Senator Bernie Sanders said in a tweet that if Kavanaugh is confirmed "it will have a profoundly neg-

ative effect on workers' rights, women's rights and voting rights for decades to come. We must do everything we can to stop this nomination."

Republican Senator John McCain, key to a Republican 'yes' vote, endorsed the new nominee.

He said Kavanaugh has "impeccable credentials & a strong record of upholding the Constitution. He is widely respected as a fair, independent & mainstream judge."

"I look forward to the Senate moving forward with a fair & thorough confirmation process," McCain tweeted.

Trump's nominees edged out three other reported front-runners: Raymond Kethledge, a strict interpreter of the US Constitution; Amy Coney Barrett, a devout Catholic and social conservative; and Thomas Hardiman, a staunch gun rights advocate.

The Senate's top Republican, Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, hailed a "superb choice" in Kavanaugh and urged senators to "put partisanship aside and consider his legal qualifications with the fairness, respect, and seriousness that a Supreme Court nomination ought to command."

Democrats have sounded the alarm that by shifting the ideological balance of the top court Trump could place women's reproductive rights, health care and LGBT rights at risk, and demonstrators gathered at the Supreme Court Monday night in protest at the nomination.

Trump indeed said during the 2016 campaign that he would put "pro-life justices on the court", thrilling his grassroots base although polls show most Americans support abortion rights.—AFP ■

# Canada extends NATO mission in Latvia to 2023: Trudeau

RIGA, Latvia — Canada has extended its leadership of the NATO battalion based in Latvia until 2023, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said on Tuesday in Riga, a day ahead of the alliance's summit in Brussels.

Canada leads one of four battalions deployed by the Western defence alliance on its

eastern flank in 2017 in a deterrence and defence posture following Russia's annexation of Crimea in 2014. "We are ready to support our allies while facing global threats to security," said Trudeau, adding that Canada's current mission initially slated to expire in 2019, "will be prolonged for four years."

"Canada will not change its attitude towards security of the Baltic countries," Trudeau told reporters at a press conference with his Latvian counterpart Maris Kucinskis. The Latvian premier hailed Ottawa's decision to extend its mission as "the perfect gift to Latvia on its centenary". Later on Tuesday,

Trudeau was due to visit some 450 Canadian troops deployed for Operation Reassurance, which is Canada's largest sustained military presence in Europe in more than a decade.

In total, over 1,000 NATO troops from nine other alliance members are deployed in the Latvian battalion. The other

three NATO battalions are based in Estonia, Lithuania and Poland and are led by Britain, Germany and the United States, respectively. Trudeau's visit is the first ever by a Canadian head of government to Latvia, his office said. He now heads to Brussels for the NATO summit on 11 and 12 July.—AFP ■



## Habit of cleaning at World Cup a chance to spread Japanese culture

TOKYO — The routine of cleaning up stadium stands by Japanese supporters that became the standard at the World Cup in Russia is spreading to soccer fans of other countries.

While most people in Japan are well-acquainted with cleaning rituals from their school-days, the practice of tidying up stadiums from a worldwide perspective is extremely unusual.

Now not only has cleaning — including the Samurai Blue's immaculate treatment of the bench and dressing room at stadiums in Russia — become a hot topic of the World Cup but it has gone beyond the scope of sports as a way of spreading "Japanese cleaning culture."

"It has been 10 years since I started to attend international football matches as a spectator, but this is the first time I have cleaned with supporters of opposing teams," said Hirokazu Tsunoda, a well-known Japanese supporter from Chiba Prefecture, east of Tokyo, who notably wears a "chonmage" traditional topknot wig as part of his outfit.

After Japan's first match in the group stage of the World Cup, a Colombian supporter unexpectedly asked Tsunoda for trash bags, and then proceeded to help the Japanese group of supporters with the cleanup effort in the stands at Mordovia Arena in Saransk.

"I was surprised because I assumed that he just wanted trash bags as a souvenir," the 55-year-old Tsunoda said.

According to Tsunoda, the stadium cleanup activities date back to when Japan debuted at the World Cup in France in 1998.

In the beginning, Japanese supporters brought blue trash bags with them because blue is the national team's color and they would use them to turn the stands blue. Gradually, however, supporters began to use them



A Japanese football fan collects litter after a World Cup Group H match against Senegal on 24 June, 2018, in Ekaterinburg, Russia. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**

not only to cheer on the team but as the actual trash bags they were meant to be.

Participants in the cleanups have increased over the years.

In Japan, cleaning is almost revered as a spiritual practice from the time children are young. Students, in fact, develop a custom of cleaning their schools from an early age.

This is in stark contrast with many Western countries where generally cleaning is left to sanitation workers, experts say. "In Japan where cleaning is closely linked to education, it is prized as good conduct," said Midori Otake, an honorary professor at Tokyo Gakugei University who specializes in home economics.

The response to the supporters' cleanups has been big on social media, and their conduct has given the Japanese team a reason to be proud as well. Japanese players have even been questioned by foreign media about the custom of leaving areas spick-and-span.

"In Japan, we have a saying that you leave a place cleaner than when you came," Japan defender Maya Yoshida said when answering a question about Japanese supporters cleaning stadiums at a press

conference during the tournament. In recent years, picking up garbage has caught on in cities and towns overseas.

Green bird, a nonprofit organization established in Tokyo's Harajuku district in 2002 whose volunteers are dedicated to keeping streets clean, says in the past several years it has received an increasing number of inquiries from overseas about how to conduct cleanups.

Members of the NPO who have relocated abroad have expanded their cleaning activities to various cities, including Dakar, Helsinki, Paris and Shanghai. Initially, they would often receive bizarre looks from people wondering why they go out of their way to pick up litter. Slowly, their continued efforts have borne fruit. In Paris, the number of participants grew suddenly after the local media drew public attention by reporting on the trend.

"Our goal is not to simply cleanup, but rather to raise public awareness about littering and the environment through cleanup," said green bird representative Toshinari Yokoo, 37.

"I'm confident that picking up garbage will firmly take root overseas as well as cool Japanese culture." — Kyodo News ■

## 'Ant-Man and Wasp' builds buzz at the box office

LOS ANGELES — Marvel's "Ant-Man and the Wasp" swatted away the competition over the weekend to log \$75.8 million in domestic ticket sales, box office data showed on Monday.

The superhero movie has outpaced the opening weekend for 2015's "Ant-Man" by about a third, industry watcher Exhibitor Relations reported.

The 20th release in Disney's Marvel Cinematic Universe sees ex-con Scott Lang (Paul Rudd) languishing under house arrest in San Francisco after being caught as his shrinkable superhero alter-ego fighting some of the other Avengers in "Captain America: Civil War" (2016). Struggling to balance home life and his responsibilities as Ant-Man, he's confronted by old flame Hope Van Dyne (Evangeline Lilly), alias the Wasp, with an urgent new mission.

The dynamic insect duo far surpassed sales for the weekend's runner-up, Universal's "Jurassic World: Fallen Kingdom," which is in its third week and has already passed the \$1 billion mark globally.

The movie, which took \$28.6 million, has Chris Pratt and Bryce Dallas Howard struggling to contain dinosaurs rescued from a tropical Pacific island and shel-

tered temporarily at a California mansion. A shade behind at \$28.4 million was "Incredibles 2" — a big enough weekend to push the superhero adventure past Pixar stablemate "Finding Dory" (2016) as the top-grossing animated film of all time. Written and directed by Brad Bird, who helmed the original, the sequel has earned \$503.8 million at home and another \$268.5 abroad. Fourth spot went to another Universal-distributed film, the newly released "The First Purge," at \$17.4 million.

The dystopian horror — the fourth movie in the series — is a prequel set during the original "purge," a 12-hour period when all crime is legal but certain government officials may not be harmed. In fifth was Sony's "Sicario: Day of the Soldado" with \$7.6 million in its second week. The action thriller has Benicio Del Toro and Josh Brolin teaming up to fight drug cartels smuggling terrorists across the Mexican border. All the top five were sequels or prequels, Exhibitor Relations noted. Rounding out the top 10 were:

"Uncle Drew" (\$6.6 million)  
"Ocean's 8" (\$5.1 million)  
"Tag" (\$3 million)  
"Won't You Be My Neighbor?" (\$2.6 million)  
"Deadpool 2" (\$1.7 million)  
—AFP ■



Evangeline Lilly (AKA "The Wasp") is seen at last month's Los Angeles premiere of "Ant-Man and The Wasp," which dominated weekend ticket sales in North America. **PHOTO: AFP**

## Australia monster croc caught after eight-year hunt

SYDNEY (Australia) — An elusive monster saltwater crocodile weighing 600 kilograms (1,328 pounds) has finally been caught after an eight-year hunt in Australia, officials said on Tuesday.

The 4.7-metre (15.4-foot) beast was found in a trap downstream from the northern out-

back town of Katherine after first being spotted in 2010.

Authorities had tried in vain for years to bag the croc, which is estimated to be 60 years old.

"We've called it a lot of things over the years because it's been so hard to catch," senior wildlife officer John Burke told broad-

caster ABC. "It is a bit of a thrill, but you've also got to admire the size of the animal and how old it is. You've got to have a bit of respect for it."

The animal was taken to a crocodile farm to keep it separate from the local human population, said Northern Territory wildlife

operations chief Tracey Duldig.

"He is the biggest crocodile ever removed from the Katherine River by the Wildlife Operations Unit," Duldig said in a statement.

Wildlife rangers capture around 250 "problem crocodiles" each year.

Saltwater crocodiles are a

common feature of Australia's tropical north and kill an average of two people a year.

The crocodile population has exploded since they were declared a protected species in the 1970s, with the killing of an elderly woman last year reigniting calls to curb their numbers.—AFP ■



## England thrive in World Cup 'bubble' ahead of Croatia semi-final

REPINO (Russia) — As excitement builds in England in the run-up to the country's first World Cup semi-final for 28 years, midfielder Dele Alli insists Gareth Southgate's team are keeping a cool head in their tournament "bubble".

England's matches so far in Russia have attracted huge television audiences at home and wild celebrations, with affable coach Gareth Southgate and his vibrant young squad capturing the hearts of a nation.

In sharp contrast to the feverish atmosphere, Alli and his teammates are in relaxed mood in the sleepy seaside resort of Repino, 45 kilometres (28 miles) northwest of Saint Petersburg.

"You are in your own little bubble when here — training camp, coming back, getting ready for the next game. It is not until you look at social media and the internet that you realise how big it is," Alli said on Monday.

"Obviously we know we are playing in the World Cup, in the semi-final. We are so focused on the games that you forget what we have done so far.

"It is important that we stay like that, keep going and hopefully we achieve something to make it even more special to get to the final and win it." Alli scored his first World Cup goal as England cruised into the last four with a 2-0 win over Sweden on Saturday.

A much tougher test is ex-



England's midfielder Dele Alli is interviewed at England's media centre in Repino on July 9, 2018, during the Russia 2018 World Cup. **PHOTO: AFP**

pected in Moscow on Wednesday against a Croatia side that swept past Argentina in the group stages and boasts the midfield talents of Real Madrid's Luka Modric and Ivan Rakitic of Barcelona.

But while many pundits and even England fans are surprised by their progress, Alli says the squad always believed they could go far. "We had to believe and we know how talented we are as a squad," he added. "We know we have some unbelievable players and a great manager and everyone is clear on what we want to do. "When you have such a solid foundation, you have the basics and clear understanding of what we want to do and achieve, it's not a surprise that it's going well for us."

### Croatia defy controversy

The calmness in England's camp on and off the field is in stark contrast to Croatia's experience.

In the latest in a series of

controversies, former international Ognjen Vukojevic was kicked out of their delegation on Monday and fined by FIFA for posting a pro-Ukraine video clip following their penalty shootout victory over Russia on Saturday.

Defender Domagoj Vida, who scored against Russia, escaped with just a warning from FIFA, which bans political statements, for also appearing in the video and shouting "Glory to Ukraine!" Earlier in the tournament, AC Milan striker Nikola Kalinic was sent home, reportedly over a disagreement with coach Zlatko Dalic about his fitness.

Croatia's build-up to the tournament was overshadowed by the graft trial of former Dinamo Zagreb chief Zdravko Mamic and charges against captain Modric for alleged false testimony in that case.

Despite that, Modric's three man-of-the-match performances and two winning penalties from Rakitic in shootout wins over Denmark and Russia have seen them match Croatia's best-ever World Cup performance 20 years ago in France. Physical exertions to reach the last four could take their toll but Dalic believes his side will have the energy reserves to end England's dream.

"Of course there is some power left for the English," said Dalic. It will be a battle again but I trust us. I have belief in us." —AFP ■



Myanmar player Ye Yint Aung (l) and a Malaysian player vie for the ball during their match yesterday at Gelora Delta Stadium, Sidoarjo in Indonesia. **PHOTO: MFF**

## Myanmar loses to Malaysia but advances to semi-finals

The Myanmar U-19 youth football team lost to the Malaysia team, with a score of 1-0 yesterday in Group B of the 2018 AFF U-19 Championship, but advanced to the semi-finals, which will be played on 12 July in Indonesia.

The Myanmar team will compete against the Thailand team of Group A at the semi-finals, whereas the Malaysia team will play against Indonesia. Both semi-final matches will be played on 12 July.

A total of 11 teams from two groups of five and six teams took part in the 2018 AFF U-19 Youth Championship. In Group B, Myanmar competed against Malaysia, Cambodia, Timor-Leste and Brunei, while there were six

teams in Group A—Thailand, Indonesia, Viet Nam, Laos, the Philippines and Singapore.

Myanmar played four matches in Group A, of which they won two, drew one and lost one. They now have seven points, while Malaysia have 10 points.

The final and third place matches of the 2018 AFF U-19 Youth Championship will be held on 14 July at Sidoarjo in Indonesia.

So far, the top scorers of the 2018 AFF U-19 Youth Championship are Bounphachan Bounkong from Laos with six goals, followed by Win Naing Tun from Myanmar and Korrawit Tasa from Thailand with five goals each.

—GNLM ■

## Jaded Croatia look to master Modric to carry them through against England

REPINO, Russia — "We keep hearing the same question and we give out the same answer", said Croatia's Ivan Perisic last week.

Every time a Croatian player appears before the media at this World Cup, he knows a question about Modric is coming, and every time the answer reflects the admiration there is in the squad for their captain.

The 32-year-old has been outstanding in his team's run to a semi-final against England in Moscow on Wednesday, picking up the man-of-the-match award in three of Croatia's five

matches.

Modric has scored twice in Russia, including a fabulous goal in the 3-0 win over Argentina in the group stage, and twice netted in nail-biting penalty shootouts against Denmark and Russia.

The coolness displayed by the Real Madrid playmaker in the last-16 tie against the Danes was particularly impressive — having missed a penalty late in extra time, he still stepped up to score another spot-kick only a few minutes later.

After once again starring as Real won a fourth Champions League crown in five seasons by

beating Liverpool in Kiev in May, Modric will be almost assured of winning the Ballon d'Or if he can lead Croatia all the way to improbable World Cup glory.

"I've known Luka for a number of years, not only with the national team. We played at club level as well," says striker Mario Mandzukic, who played with Modric at Dinamo Zagreb a decade ago before the latter joined Tottenham Hotspur.

"He deserves all the accolades he gets from the media and public. He has worked very hard to get to this point." —AFP ■

