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Message of Greetings sent by President U Win Myint to the International Anti-Corruption Day celebrations

(7 December 2018)

ON the occasion of International Anti-Corruption Day and the 15th Anniversary of the UN Anti-Corruption Convention, I send this Message of Greetings and good wishes on behalf of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

For protection against corruption and combatting corruption regarding the role of the UN Anti-Corruption Convention, in order to raise awareness, 9th December has been designated as the International Anti-Corruption Day and events have been organized annually, all over the world, to mark this day.

Myanmar signed the Convention on 2005 to become a member and ratified it in 2012. In 2013 the Anti-Corruption Act was enacted and in accordance with this law the Anti-Corruption Commission was established in 2014. Since then the task of combatting corruption was carried out as a national duty. During the tenure of the People's Government, with the aim of bringing forth a clean government with a system of good governance, the Anti-Corruption Act was amended to meet international standards. The Commission has been given additional duties

and powers to combat corruption and protect against corruption with full force and momentum. At the same time, it has been permitted to conduct investigations, take action and initiate legal proceedings.

When I took the oath of office as President of the Union on 30th March 2018, I said "we need to take more forceful action to combat corruption". Furthermore, in my speech to the Union on the first day of the Myanmar New Year (ME 1380), with regard to combatting corruption, I pointed out that corruption has become deeply embedded like an accepted custom in most departments; and in taking more forceful actions to combat corruption, there was a need to undertake a reassessment to ensure that there was proper balance between rights and benefits and duties of public service personnel. This was to be done by each individual department by taking responsibility. In addition to the Anti-Corruption Commission, the media and the people need to seek out and report truthfully.

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President of Republic of India and wife to visit Myanmar in near future

AT the invitation of U Win Myint, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and wife Daw Cho Cho, His Excellency Shri Ram Nath Kovind, President of the Republic of India and wife Smt. Savita Kovind will pay a State Visit to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar in the near future.—MNA

State Counsellor, French Ambassador discuss promotion of bilateral relations, cooperation

DAW Aung San Suu Kyi, State Counsellor and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs, received Mr. Christian Lechervy, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the French Republic to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, at 10:00 am on 6 December 2018 at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Nay

Pyi Taw.

During the meeting, they cordially exchanged views on matters pertaining to the promotion of bilateral relations and cooperation between Myanmar and France, particularly in agriculture, water resource management, vocational training and energy sectors. — MNA



State Counsellor holds talks with French Ambassador Mr. Christian Lechervy in Nay Pyi Taw Yesterday.

PHOTO: MNA

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Pyidaungsu Hluttaw

Seventh-day meeting of tenth regular session of Second Pyidaungsu Hluttaw held

THE Second Pyidaungsu Hluttaw tenth regular session held its seventh-day meeting at the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw meeting hall yesterday.

Replacement of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Joint Bill Committee member

At the meeting Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat announced the Hluttaw's agreement and confirmation of replacing Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Joint Bill Committee member Daw Kyein Ngaik Man of Chin State constituency 7 with U Soe Moe of Ayeyawady Region constituency 1 after Hluttaw's agreement was obtained.

Hluttaw approves Traditional Medicine Council Bill

Next Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Joint Bill Committee joint secretary Dr. Myat Nyana Soe tabled a motion on clauses in Traditional Medicine Council Bill in which the two Hluttaws are in disagreement. Dr. Than Win of Mandalay Region constitu-



Seventh-day meeting of tenth regular session of Second Pyidaungsu Hluttaw being convened in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

cy 1, U Soe San Thet Htun of Myinmu constituency, Dr. Kyaw Than Tun of Mandalay Region constituency 3, U Myint Oo of Thanatpin constituency, Dr. Win Myint of Bago Region constituency 11, Dr. Sein Mya Aye of Dala constituency and U Naing Htoo Aung of Natogyi constituency discussed the matter and

obtained the Hluttaw's decision clause by clause.

Discussion on second six month tax collection and finding of Joint Public Account Committee Reports

Afterwards Hluttaw representatives discussed Fiscal Year

2017-2018 second six month tax collection and finding of Joint Public Accounts Committee Report (11/2018). Daw Nan Htwe Thu of Pasawng constituency, U Khin Cho of Hlaingbwe constituency, Naw Chris Tun @ Dr. Arkar Moe of Kayin State constituency 7. U Kyaw Myo Min of Monyo constituency, U Maung Maung

Ohn of Ayeyarwady region constituency 5, U Yan Lin of Kyaukse constituency, U Khin Win of Magway Region constituency 2, U Khin Myo Win of Taninthayi Region constituency 12, U Zaw Hein of Taninthayi Region constituency 7, Dr. Khun Win Thaung of Kachin State constituency 11, U Than Soe @ Than Soe (Economic) of Yangon Region constituency 4, Daw Shwe Shwe Sein Latt of Bago Region constituency 3, U Kyaw Tint of Tatkon constituency, U Kyaw Swe of Magway Region constituency 11, Dr. Sein Mya Aye of Dala constituency, U Win Naing of Mogaung constituency, U Thet Naing Oo of Yebu constituency, U Myo Win of Mon State constituency 8, U Tin Tun Naing of Seikkyi-Khanaungto constituency and Daw Wint War Tun of Shadaw constituency discussed the matter.

The eighth-day meeting of the tenth regular session of the Second Pyidaungsu Hluttaw is scheduled to be held on 10 December it is learnt.—Aung Ye Thwin ■ (Translated by Zaw Min)



Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat shakes hand with Italian Ambassador Mrs. Alessandra Schiavo. **PHOTO: MNA**

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker meets Italian Ambassador

THE Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker, U T Khun Myat, met with the Italian Ambassador to Myanmar, Mrs. Alessandra Schiavo, at the Pyithu Hluttaw guest hall of the Hluttaw Building in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

At the meeting, they dis-

cussed strengthening the bilateral friendship, continuing cooperation in culture, agriculture, the development of water resources, and the protection of the natural environment, and the development of the Hluttaw. —MNA ■ (Translated by Zaw Min)

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker meets Norwegian Auditor General

THE Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker and Joint Public Accounts Committee Chairman, U Tun Tun Hein, met with the Auditor General of Norway, Mr. Per Kristian Foss, at the Thabin Hall of the Hluttaw Building in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

At the meeting, they discussed matters related to

the strengthening of bilateral friendship and cooperation, assistance for Myanmar's democratic transition, peace, and development, the Joint Public Accounts Committee's contribution to the audit reports of the Auditor General's Office, cooperation between the auditor general offices of Norway and Myanmar, and reviews and

suggestions from Norway on audit laws that are in keeping with the international norms.

The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Joint Public Accounts Committee Vice Chairman 1, U Aung Min, Vice Chairman 2, U Saw Than Htut, and officials from the Pyithu Hluttaw Office were also present at the meeting.—MNA ■ (Translated by Zaw Min)



Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Tun Tun Hein holds talk with Auditor General of Norway, Mr. Per Kristian Foss at the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Message of Greetings sent by President U Win Myint to the International Anti-Corruption Day celebrations

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It is also very important to make reports on cases where people with positions and power become involved by trying to intervene and interfere. These cases should be reported with full facts and supporting evidence. I have also urged that in combatting corruption with increased momentum, the Anti-Corruption Commission should work harder than before by formulating plans. When I met the Anti-Corruption Commission on 11 April 2018, with regard to the duties of the Commission, I underscored the need for the Commission to take effective and clear-cut actions in accordance with the law regardless of name, position or social strata.

In order for the people to realize that corruption is a despicable erosion of moral character and to also realize and understand the evil effects of corruption, we have encouraged stepped-up efforts for educating and mobilizing the people by conducting numerous workshops to make them realize that corruption is a dangerous disease which has taken deep roots in Myanmar society. We have permitted the conduct of workshops with the theme “Let’s take responsibility to increase efforts to combat corruption” attended by representatives from government departments,

entrepreneurs, and CSO – Civil Society Organizations. I have also given permission for the setting up of CPU’s – Corruption Prevention Units.

We are also taking necessary actions to raise our status in the World Bank index for good management in combatting corruption. This is being done by reducing the loss of public funds through transparency, responsibility and accountability. Furthermore, with regard to corruption which has been rampant among public sector organizations like a well-entrenched system, action is being taken to reduce the incidents of corruption significantly. In addition, the Union Government will take effective administrative steps to rectify the weak areas so that the index for assessment of combatting corruption will improve.

The Union Government has been working to improve sectors such as administrative, legislative, judiciary, political affairs, and economic affairs during our transition to democracy. As we make our efforts to build a modern and developed country, we understand and realize that corruption is a major obstacle.

Corruption can harm our economic development, the living standard of our people, poverty reduction, and the smooth flow of foreign investments. That is why we have made a solemn vow to combat corruption with determination and zeal and with very

strong political will.

Our Union Government has been working strenuously to combat corruption as a national duty; we are working also for the emergence of a clean government with good governance; for more transparency, responsibility and accountability; to prevent the wastage or loss of public funds; to protect the public interest; to raise the knowledge level and character of the people; to take effective action against corruption; and for the emergence of a society free from corruption. As we intensify our efforts to combat corruption and protect our society from the dangers of corruption, we need the collective strength of government organizations, non-governmental organizations, CSO’s – civil society organizations, the media and the people. Our Union Government has urged this point already.

On this auspicious occasion of International Anti-Corruption Day and the 15th Anniversary of the UN Anti-Corruption Convention, I wish to reaffirm the solemn pledge made by the Republic of the Union of Myanmar with regard to the aims and principles of the said convention. Furthermore, I send this Message of Greetings by expressing our solemn desire to work hand in hand and cooperate with other member countries as expressed in the United Nations motto “Let’s Unite to Combat Corruption”.



First Lady Daw Cho Cho (centre) visits the “Nibbana Market” festival in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: THET AUNG (D. WAVE)**

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw representatives hold ‘Nibbana Market’ charity festival in Nay Pyi Taw

REPRESENTATIVES of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw held a traditional charity festival called “Nibbana Market” in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

The charity food festival was graced by First Lady Daw Cho Cho, Former President U Htin Kyaw and wife Daw Su Su Lwin, Speaker of the Amyotha Hluttaw Mahn Win Khaing Than and wife Daw Nant Kyin Kyi, Union Minister for Ethnic Affairs Nai Thet Lwin, Chairman of the

Nay Pyi Taw Council Dr. Myo Aung and wife, Member of the State Constitutional Tribunal Daw Khin Htay Kywe and Hluttaw representatives.

In the festival, Hluttaw representatives served the guests with food while Hluttaw representatives from ethnic areas treated the guests with traditional drinks and entertained with traditional dances.—MNA

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Lin)



Former President U Htin Kyaw (Centre) and wife Daw Su Su Lwin (Right, 2nd row) visit the “Nibbana Market” festival in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: THET AUNG (D. WAVE)**



Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than and wife Daw Nant Kyin Kyi visit “Nibbana Market” festival in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: THET AUNG (D. WAVE)**

VP U Myint Swe attends 8th coord meeting of Private Sector Development Committee

VICE President U Myint Swe who is also the Chairman of the Private Sector Development Committee attended and addressed the 8th coordination meeting of the Private Sector Development Committee held in the meeting room of the Ministry of Commerce yesterday morning.

Present at the meeting were committee Deputy Chairman Union Minister Dr. Than Myint, committee members Union Ministers Dr. Aung Thu, U Thant Sin Maung, U Win Khaing, U Soe Win and U Han Zaw, Union Attorney General U Tun Tun Oo, Deputy Minister U Aung Htoo, Central Bank of Myanmar Deputy Governor U Soe Thein, chairmen and vice chairmen of five work committees, Permanent Secretaries, Directors-General, President of Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI), Myanmar Industries Association (MIA) Chairman and departmental officials.

At the meeting Vice President U Myint Swe said the Private Sector Development Committee led by the Vice President with 20 members was formed more than two years ago and five work committees were formed to implement five tasks.

The committee's first meeting was held in 28 November 2016 and this is the eighth meeting. From the first to the seventh meeting 55 decisions have been made out of which 50 were implemented with 5 remaining to be implemented. The remaining five are urged to be implemented by setting a time frame.

To support the private sector development works monthly meetings with businesses have been conducted to help resolve the difficulties they were facing. As of November 2018, 21 meetings have been held and up to the 20th meeting a total of 297 difficulties faced by the businesses were submitted and all were resolved and responded back to the businesses.

Illegal imports through the border is threatening the existence of micro, small and medium enterprises and special illegal trade prevention and control groups were formed in nine states and regions. The groups were found to be reasonably effective and in October there were a total of 59 cases of detaining



Vice President U Myint Swe address 8th coordination meeting of Private Sector Development Committee in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**



Union Minister Dr. Than Myint. **PHOTO: MNA**



Union Minister Dr. Aung Thu. **PHOTO: MNA**



Union Minister U Thant Sin Maung. **PHOTO: MNA**



Union Minister U Win Khaing. **PHOTO: MNA**



Union Minister U Soe Win. **PHOTO: MNA**



Union Minister U Han Zaw. **PHOTO: MNA**

illegal goods worth about Ks. 1.3 billion.

According to Doing Business 2019 Report published by World Bank on 31 October 2018, Myanmar ranking remains at 171 but more points were received. To increase Ease of Doing Business Ranking, a 14 member Ease of Doing Business Ranking Promotion Working Group led by Deputy Minister for Commerce was formed. Everyone knew that ten support groups for each "ease of doing business indexes" were formed.

More points were received in

Starting a Business section and ranking increased by 3. In Getting Electricity section too, more points were received and ranking increased by 7. Although more points were received in Dealing with Construction Permits section, the ranking decline by 8. In the Registering Property section, there were no changes in points received but ranking declined by 2. In Getting Credit section too there were no changes in points received but ranking declined by 1. Protecting Minority Investor section too had no changes in points received but ranking

declined by 2. The same goes in Paying Tax section where there were no changes in points but ranking declined by 1. Trading Across Borders section also saw no changes in points yet ranking declined by 5. Enforcing Contract section and Resolving Insolvency section saw no changes in both the points and rankings. Total points (Distance to Frontier-DTF) were 44.72 which is an increase of 0.51 but ranking remains at 171.

When the ten indices of the ten most progressing countries in the Doing Business 2019 Re-

port were studied, it was found that reforms were carried out in at least 5 to 7 indexes. Through studying these ten countries, appropriate reforms will be formulated and implemented for our country.

Furthermore when doing reforms, to raise the Ease of Doing Business ranking, a minimum of at least 3 reforms were required to be conducted in each indicator. Reform works were to be conducted by systematically drawing up Action Plans, said the Vice President. Only five months remain to be included in the Doing Business 2020 Report. Therefore, relevant departments were to make the best use of the remaining five months and conduct priority reform works while it is to be continued in a sustained way in the following years.

In addition to this, Public Awareness needs to be raised in a wide ranging manner so that private sector knew about the reforms correctly and answer questions sent by the World Bank to raise the points and the ranking. UMFCCI and MIA are to cooperate and participate together in the Public Awareness programs.

Meeting attendees are urged to discuss and suggest openly on future works, said the Vice President.

Next, committee Deputy Chairman Union Minister for Commerce Dr. Than Myint explained and discuss about status of works conducted for private sector development.

Afterwards, committee secretary Permanent Secretary U Yan Naing Tun explained about implementation of decisions made at the seventh meeting.

Work committee wise works and future works were explained by the respective work committee chairman and deputy chairman.

Private Sector Development Committee members in attendance also explained, discussed and suggested on various matter relating to private sector development.

Finally, Vice President U Myint Swe gave advice and comments to ensure coordination on explanations, discussions and suggestions made and concluded the meeting after delivering a closing speech. - MNA

(Translated by Zaw Min)

VP U Henry Van Thio attends ceremonies to return lands in Bhamo, Mohnyin

VICE President U Henry Van Thio, Chairman of the Central Committee for Scrutinizing Confiscated Farmlands and Other Lands attended ceremonies to return land and presenting of Temporary Land Use Permit Form 3 and Farmland Work Permit Certificate (Form 7) to farmers who were original owners in Bhamo and Mohnyin towns yesterday.

The Vice President accompanied by Deputy Ministers Rear Admiral Myint Ngwe, Maj-Gen Than Htut and U Kyaw Lin, Permanent Secretaries U Tin Myint and U Win Khant and officials arrived in Myitkyina from Nay Pyi Taw at 9:40 a.m. and were welcomed by Kachin State Chief Minister Dr. Khet Aung, State Chief Judge U Tu Ja, state ministers, State Advocate, State Auditor, ethnic national cultural troupes and officials.

From there the Vice President and party accompanied by the State Chief Minister and state ministers reached Bhamo town by Tatmadaw helicopters and attended a ceremony for returning land and presenting Temporary Land Use Permit Form 3 and Farmland Work Permit Certificate (Form 7).

At the ceremony, the Vice President said 100 acres in Bhamo Township released by the Ministry of Home Affairs, General Administration Department to 16 farmers, 16.51 acres in Momauk Township released by an artillery battalion of the Ministry of Defence to 5 farmers, 280.21 acres in Dawphonyan Township released by six regiments of the Ministry of Defence to 40 farmers, 72.8 acres in Mansi Township released by a regiment of the Ministry of Defence to 23 farmers will be returned together with Temporary Land Use Permit Form 3 and Farmland Work Permit Certificate (Form 7).

Returning agricultural lands back to the farmers in our agriculture based country where farming is the main job of 70 percent of rural people will result in more development and support socio-economic development. As such relevant departments and organizations that had confiscated land for projects are urged to release and transfer the land back if the lands are not used.

The Central Committee for Scrutinizing Confiscated Farmlands and Other Lands was formed to quickly return the released land back to the farmers who were original owners and committees were formed in the



Vice President U Henry Van Thio cordially meets with local people at the ceremony to return released land in Mohnyin District to farmers and presenting of Temporary Land Use Permit Form 3 and Farmland Work Permit Certificate (Form 7) in Mohnyin yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Nay Pyi Taw Council, States, Regions, districts, townships, wards and village tract level. Matters were being resolved with 52 clear and simple policy work processes.

Due to weakness in rule of law in areas where security is not fully covered, there'll be difficulties in implementing administrative works in accordance with the law in such areas but it will be done, said the Vice President.

On the other hand, farmers are urged to come together and conduct collective contract farming and livestock breeding, use modern technologies to increase livestock and agriculture output and yield instead of working individually in small plots of lands.

It will be mutually beneficial to all if these outputs are sold to neighboring countries where there are big market and demand for it. The Union Government on the other hand, will emphasize toward achieving good prices when outputs are produced, increase the provision of agriculture loans, conducting works to prevent and mitigating against losses from natural disasters.

Farmers who received the land back are urged to understand the Union Government's efforts and strive to support the country's development through first working toward sufficiency of the family, said the Vice President.

Next, State Committee for Scrutinizing Confiscated Farmlands and Other Lands Chairman State Chief Minister Dr. Khet

Aung explained about works conducted toward releasing and returning farmlands and other lands in Kachin State.

Afterwards, representatives of the Ministry of Defence and General Administration Department transferred documents relating to released land to Bhamo District Administrator U Htway Myint.

State Chief Minister Dr. Khet Aung, Deputy Ministers Rear Admiral Myint Ngwe, Maj-Gen Than Htut and U Kyaw Lin, state minister U Mya Thein, Ministry of Home Affairs Permanent Secretary U Tin Myint and Ministry of Transport and Communications Permanent Secretary U Win Khant presented Temporary Land Use Permit Form 3 and Farmland Work Permit Certificate (Form 7) to the farmers.

On behalf of the farmers who received the lands, farmer U Than Oo spoke words of thanks.

After the ceremony the Vice President cordially greeted the ceremony attendees.

Later, Vice President U Henry Van Thio and party arrived in Mohnyin town by Tatmadaw helicopters and attended a ceremony to return released land in Mohnyin District to farmers and presenting of Temporary Land Use Permit Form 3 and Farmland Work Permit Certificate (Form 7).

At the ceremony Chairman of the Central Committee for Scrutinizing Confiscated Farmlands and Other Lands Vice President U Henry Van Thio said the day's ceremony was to release 114.23

acres of land in Mohnyin District, Mohnyin Township to 15 farmers by two regiments of the Ministry of Defence, releasing 81.86 acres of land in Mogaung Township to 10 farmers by four regiments of the Ministry of Defence, releasing 137.48 acres of land in Phakant (Kamine) Township to 14 farmers by the Ministry of Defence and presenting of Temporary Land Use Permit Form 3 and Farmland Work Permit Certificate (Form 7). A total of 39 farmers were given back 333.57 acres, said the Vice President.

As benefits can be gained rapidly if land confiscated for various reasons that were not used were returned by relevant departments and organizations to the farmers who were the former owners as quickly as possible, the government has established transparent and sustainable long term development policies and 52 work processes to conduct this systematically.

While striving to return the released land, the Central Committee for Scrutinizing Confiscated Farmlands and Other Lands and States, Regions, districts, townships, wards and village tract level committees were formed to systematically and legally look into and resolve complaints and protests against land confiscations, said the Vice President.

Land resources are limited, and are a basic, most valuable and essential. When these resources are utilized, care must be taken that there is no affect

to the natural environment and must be sustainable. Only then will the farmer have sustainable resources for livelihood.

Farmers are to invest and develop the land so that following generations can benefit from it. They are to work on it not only for their food sufficiency but to produce more and export, said the Vice President.

Next, State Committee for Scrutinizing Confiscated Farmlands and Other Lands Chairman State Chief Minister Dr. Khet Aung explained about works conducted towards releasing and returning farmlands and other lands in Kachin State.

Afterwards, a representative of the Ministry of Defence transferred documents relating to released land to Mohnyin District Acting Administrator U Nyunt Ngwe. This was followed by State Chief Minister Dr. Khet Aung, Deputy Ministers Rear Admiral Myint Ngwe, Maj-Gen Than Htut and U Kyaw Lin, state minister U Mya Thein, Permanent Secretaries U Tin Myint and U Win Khant who presented Temporary Land Use Permit Form 3 and Farmland Work Permit Certificate (Form 7) to the farmers.

On behalf of the farmers who received the lands, farmer U Than Swe spoke words of thanks.

After the ceremony the Vice President cordially greeted the ceremony attendees. The Vice President and party then left Mohnyin town for Myitkyina by Tatmadaw helicopters.—MNA

(Translated by Zaw Min)

Union Minister U Thaung Tun meets with Russian Security Council Secretary Mr. Nikolay Patrushev

Union Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations and National Security Advisor U Thaung Tun visited the Russian Federation from 2 to 5 December 2018 as Special Envoy of the State Counsellor. The Union Minister met with Mr. Nikolay Patrushev, Secretary of the Security Council of Russia in Moscow on 3 December.

They discussed issues related to Myanmar-Russia Security cooperation as well as cooperation in international fora. The Union Minister apprised the Secretary on Myanmar government's efforts for national

reconciliation and peace as well as the latest developments in Rakhine State.

The Union Minister also met with the Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Mr. Igor Morgulov on 4 December. At the meeting they exchanged views on bilateral relations and a wide range of issues including cooperation within the UN. The Union Minister also received Mr. M.A. Dmitriev, President and Senior Vice President of the Russian-Myanmar Association for the Friendship and Cooperation at the Myanmar Embassy on 5 December.—MNA

4th steering committee meeting for projects on rule of law, human rights held



Fourth steering committee meeting on rule of law and human rights being held at the Union Attorney General's Office. **PHOTO: MNA**

THE fourth steering committee meeting to discuss projects on rule of law and human rights was held at the meeting hall of the Union Attorney General's Office at 1 pm yesterday. The meeting was co-chaired by the Union Attorney General U Tun Tun Oo and the Ambassador of the Kingdom of Denmark to Myanmar, Mr. John Nielsen.

The Union Attorney General's Office and the embassy of the Kingdom of Denmark signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on 1 December, 2016, to draw up yearly schemes of work and to carry out the implementation of the schemes.

In his opening speech at the meeting, the Union Attorney General said that drafts of strategic plans for the rule of law and judicial affairs had been drawn up for the coor-

dination team and would be released soon, after taking suggestions from relevant organizations.

"To improve human rights, research works have been conducted to implement the ICESCR. It would be beneficial to study rule of law and legislature from Denmark.

Moreover, cooperation from the embassy of the Kingdom of Denmark will be sought to improve the human rights and legal sectors.

Programs for 2019 were discussed at the meeting," he said.

Also present at the meeting were the Deputy Attorney General, the Permanent Secretary, and officials from the Embassy of the Kingdom of Denmark and the ICJ.—MNA

(Translated by Win Ko Ko Aung)

International Anti-Corruption Day Forum held in Yangon



International Anti-Corruption Day Forum being convened in Yangon yesterday. **PHOTO: HLA MOE**

TO commemorate the International Anti-Corruption Day that falls on 9 December a 2018 International Anti-Corruption Day Forum was held under the theme "Enhance Accountability to Prevent Corruption" at the Rose Garden Hotel, Yangon yesterday morning.

Increasing the responsibility against corruption is the backbone and essential strategy to eradicate Systematic Corruption that had permeated throughout the entire country and there are four stages in it said Myanmar Anti-Corruption Commission Chairman U Aung Kyi in his opening remark at the forum.

First is to consistently monitor and evaluate your own department's corruption free conducts and to take responsibility toward improving it. Recognition and award to be made when there are progress. Penalties and punishments to be made when there are no progress. Here, it is important to amend and reform the way works is conducted, processes, rules and regulations in corrupt departments and reduce the numbers of offenders. Second is to listen to the voices of the public, businesses, media and civil service organisations. There ought to be a mechanism in the department to accept and resolve complaints made by victims. Corruption in the department is to be analyzed and reviewed. Comments and advices against corruption coming from third parties need to be accepted and considered.

Third is to bring in an outside agency to audit, monitor and review the department's performance. It is not a shameful thing or a shameful matter to invite public organisations and third parties to review and assess your department. In fact it is firm as-

urance that there is transparency and responsibility and thus is an honorable thing to be proud of.

Fourth is the fact that corruption is not something that occurs impulsively or a spur of a moment thing but is a crime of calculation. We all need to accept and believe in this and institutional leaders themselves need to lead and tackle it to change the situation. As we all understand that people who have more income are liable to corruption when they have the authorities and rights to do things, people are taking calculated risk on whether to take bribe or not depending upon the value of the bribe, whether the bribery can be discovered and punishment meted out rather than he/she had low or high income in the first place. Leaders who want to eradicate corruption and want reform are to ensure that no one is set-free without punishment for any act of corruption. Only then can there be no corruption. It is important to monitor so that information is obtained at the earliest possible time, take effective action as soon as information is obtained, provide incentive depending upon individual's ability or take effective action. The forum is jointly conducted by Myanmar Anti-Corruption Commission, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and will be held for two days it is learnt. Anti-Corruption Commission Chairman said there is no country in the world where corruption and intimidation for bribes are permitted by law. However, it is not possible to sue and take action against everyone who did this and we do not expect them to realize their wrongs and stop doing it. That is why we need to make the people who conduct

Systematic Corruption lost their balance. The Commission alone could not do this. All need to form an Integrity Pact and eradicate it in a unified momentum.

In the first part of forum economist U Myint, Dr. Aung Tun Thet, U Khin Maung Nyo (economics), Dr. Tin Maung Than (Thint Ba Wa) discussed under the titles "corruption: cause, affect and remedy," "Stop Corruption," "The Role of Political Institution to Promote Accountability" and "Towards Accountability Program" respectively.

In the afternoon session a talk circle under the title "Enhance Accountability to Prevent Corruption" was moderated by Dr. Aung Tun Thet with panelists consisting of Directorate of Investment and Company Administration Director General U Aung Naing Oo, National Education Policy Commission Director General (Retired) Dr. Khaing Mye, The Voice Journal editor U Zeya Thu, UMFCI joint secretary general Daw Khine Khine Nwe, Max Myanmar Chief Executive Officer U Chris Tun, A2JI Vice Chairman U Thwin Lin Aung and MATA Coordinator U Ye Lin Myint.

The forum today was attended by Yangon Region Chief Minister, Yangon Region Hluttaw Speaker, Yangon Region ministers, Hluttaw affairs committee chairmen and secretaries, representatives from UNODC and UNDP, partner organisations, state/district level departmental officials, officials from civil service organisations, post graduate students from Ministry of Education, university students and media. The theme of this year International Anti-Corruption Day is "United Against Corruption."—Ye Gaung Nyunt ■ (Translated by Zaw Min)

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Invest in Ayeyawady Region, reap good returns

THE Union and regional governments are working hard to attract much-needed foreign investment into the country.

When the new Investment Law was enacted, there were 6 foreign investors in the Ayeyawady Region and now there are 16. This signals brighter prospects for the region.

The Ayeyawady Region's coastline has a lot of potential. So, if a deep-sea port were to be established there then a lot of foreign investment would pour into related businesses. The region's 272-mile coastline also offers several opportunities for resorts.

If regional experts collaborate with professionals and international entities, then they will be able to create a variety of job opportunities. This will add to the national revenue as there is a lot of potential for regional investment.

The Union Government has designed a strategic plan to attract investments as far as 2030 and is working in line with the national investment promotion strategy to implement each stage.

The recent investment forum in the Ayeyawady Region will show positive results in the future and will help attract more foreign investment. We hope the Ayeyawady Region will lay more concrete roads to Yangon in the future. We are sure that the much-needed electrification projects as well as economic zones will be set up soon, which will benefit not only the region but the entire country.

In fact, the delta region has investment potential for oil and natural gas ventures, recreational areas, tourism industry, and in many other areas.

The Ayeyawady Region also has several regional projects, including housing projects and economic zones. We can say that foreign investment will bring about job opportunities and development in the region.

That's why the regional government is working with Japanese organizations to attract more foreign investors. This will help the international community learn more about the region and encourage them to conduct business there.

The Patheingyi Economic Zone has been set up in the region to push investment and so far, the zone has attracted more domestic investors than foreign investors.

The Ayeyawady Region has abundant resources for investment opportunities. Time is ripe to invest in the delta region. We are confident that investments in the Ayeyawady Region will bring good returns to you, and to us.

■

Talks held on simple ways to advance national development

By Shin Min, Photo: Aye Than

MRTV aired a live program on talks under the Theme—National Development through simple ways - in which Deputy Minister for Commerce U Aung Htoo, General Manager of YESC U Tin Aung, Secretary of YCDC Daw Hlaing Maw Oo, and Executive of UMFCGI U Zeya Thura Mon were the speakers.

(Continued from Yesterday)

Daw Hlaing Maw Oo: After the necessary trial on the plan is being tested, adapted and improved, then risked based system would be applied in the issue. Another subject is that during the medium term period of nine months, point markers would be awarded if the things are done during the time frame. The ground inspection is to be carried out by combined government departments, not through the single team.

In this regard, all the departments under the YCDC are prepared to carry out collective inspection. We are still negotiating with the Fire Services Department, and we are committed to cooperate with them.

Regarding the long term work program, they advised to switch into online scheme. During May 2018, we agreed with IFC to work on with the application of international norm, and already signed with the World Bank. The necessary process is on the agenda. In this issue, our presentation is rather sketchy, and therefore, the World Bank is considering for a new proposal in detailed.

Based on this circumstance, we would be able to start in the early part of 2019 over the risk free buildings which could be ascertain through scrutiny over the online system.

For all the cash payment and financial settlement, we have YCDC banks and the banks under referral would undertake settlement matters and collaborate with other banks. Eventually, we would incorporate and integrate with the mobile banking system. The remaining high risk issues would be streamlined through the online system during 2019.

We have weakness on our side as we are not in a position to explain the full information on the working procedures and each process to the business people. We are also weak in transparency and communications. We have many applica-



U Aung Htoo

tions in our hands that are not completed to put into proper process.

When we asked the business people to revise and regularize the application forms, they thought that they have had completed on their part. After their submission, they never look back to make necessary amendment, and that they never communicate back following one or two months. Therefore, we reminded in writing to come and make required modification. However on the part of the business people, they thought that they have already done their part. Therefore, we told them that it would be complete when the World Bank accepted the matter in written acknowledgement. It is in line with the practice of many countries in the world.

There are misconceptions on the side of the business people. They customarily waited for approval or they wanted to negotiate the matter. That is ground reality. If the application is complete with the necessary requirement, it would be faster, otherwise it would be delayed. If the process is being carried out through the online system, then the incomplete application would be rejected from the very beginning.

Another advantage is that the online system could be streamlined into mobile checking system whether it is in accordance with the required framework. We are planning to start working in 2019.

In the earlier days, the online application could be filed at the Office of the YCDC at the



U Tin Aung

Town Hall. Over the years, online application has been carried out. It means that there are (33) townships in the jurisdiction of the YCDC. The remaining places also have the facility for online application. However, no one submitted the online application.

We review over the online system before we engage with the World Bank as we were doing only partially on that matter. Applications are submitted online, but the cash settlement is accepted in person, resulting with the dealing of person to person.

We are planning to work in two parts. The first part is through the online system in submitting application or doing business through one stop service. Currently in Mandalay, SMS is being used through step by step in the application of construction permit. We are in the process of ongoing discussions among Nay Pyi Taw, Mandalay and Yangon. It is because of the fact that doing business is required to get consent among the metropolitan cities.

When we informed the matter to the World Bank, they responded that it is not necessary as we could track the situation and the progress. For those who could not comply with this procedure, then "one stop service" is to be facilitated.

U Aung Htoo: I have noticed that there are two factors when I heard the earlier discussions. The first issue is the Myanmar tradition in addition to the customary outlook. The deep-rooted cause is the fear of government offices. When they are scared of the government offices, they sought help from



Daw Hlaing Maw Oo

the brokers.

The other factor is about the change of technical knowhow. Pushing away and setting aside the practice of dealing person to person, it is best to work it out through technological approach. Not engaging person to person means to apply the online system. When we are doing business through online system, there would be no corruption and bribery. The main solution of the state is approaching through technology for e-government.

I would like to say that the e-government system would overcome and surpass the hurdles and difficulties that we are now experiencing. The e-government is the most effective and useful way for doing business in Myanmar.

U Tin Aung: Regarding the application on electricity meter, we have regulated procedures on the processing time and the cost which have been made public at every township. When the electricity for domestic consumption is applied, it is being approved in one single day. If the application is meant for power meter consumption, the complete installation is done in one week.

Regarding the installation of private transformer, the Ministry has instructed us to implement within one month, and that the matter is being informed to the public in every township. However, we have few drawbacks that in some cases it takes a little more than one month. In this regard, the application must be comprehensive. When we found the application is in accord with the full and complete requirements, we



U Zeya Thura Mon

granted the permit. If it is not complete, then we have to ask for reapplication, and it might cause delays. For this matter we would like to inform the public.

The desire to supply electricity to the public is the aim and purpose of the Ministry of Energy. Moreover, we are trying our utmost to avoid electricity black out and load shedding. We are implementing our tasks in short term, medium term and long term.

The YESC is endeavoring to avoid black out of electricity. To ensure continuous electricity supply, we need additional power lines. The resupply of electricity to a black out area might be delayed if the area has only one single power supply line. Therefore, we are trying to supply electricity in Yangon through the additional supply line, and that we would like to convey this message to the public.

Another point is that the public must be involved in the electricity issue. When there is a blackout, phone numbers of township offices and call centers have already been made public. All the necessary information written on large vinyl is posted in townships. Complaints are immediately attended. In the city of Yangon electricity offices, intercommunication phones are installed. If a person is speaking and calling, everyone can hear the communication, and therefore, prompt and quick response is facilitated. We are trying to reduce the power outage as far as possible.

U Zeya Thura Mon: We would like to inform all the people including the business people,

lawyers, accounting firms, advisory firms, private companies, regarding the current trend that we are all patching up and fixing them all as much as we could in cooperation with the World Bank. Despite the fact that we have already done our part, the official records might be missing in the files of the World Bank, and therefore, we are updating these matters.

Moreover, data amendment is also carried out. In doing so, the World Bank has collected data and information from our side. When the questionnaires are raised by the World Bank, the answers from the respondents are not in line with the data and information that the World Bank has recorded. When there are discrepancies, the World Bank got confused and remained through the wait and see attitude. Possibly, in the upcoming year, this might be cleared, and we could gain point markers.

Some respondents gave incomplete answers. Those who are giving answers from the side of business community are important. If they answer "yes", they may have to continue for the next question. As they do not wish to continue, they answer "no", and that has resulted with the deprivation of point markers for us.

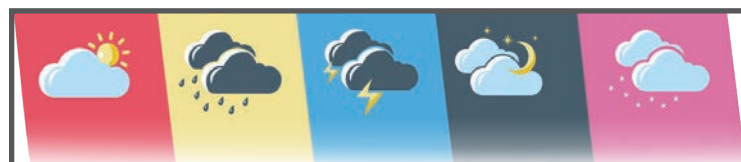
If they do not understand the questions, there are call centers to assist. All the indicators have established the call centers. I have already checked the matters myself, and that the right information is being provided, as they are working systematically. The Deputy Minister has taken up the matter personally for the necessary inspection. If we could provide the right and correct answers then we would be awarded with point markers next year and would arrive at a good ranking. Moreover, good ranking may elevated our businesses with high value. In fact, we are trying to prove to the world that we are indeed not citizens of a poor nation.

Translated by UMT (Ahlon)

Appointment of Ambassador agreed on

THE Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has agreed to the proposed appointment of Mr. Nicolaos Kaimenakis as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Hellenic Republic to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar with residence in Bangkok.

Mr. Nicolaos Kaimenakis was born in 1955. He received Degree in Political Science from the University of Turin, Italy in 1978. He joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Hellenic Republic in 1989 and served in various capacities at different directorates of the Ministry and at the Greece Embassies in Canada, Portugal and Georgia. He served as Consul General of the Hellenic Republic in Podgorica, Montenegro from 2006 to 2008. He has also served as Greece Ambassador to the Philippines from 2015 to 2018. Since 2018, he has been serving as Ambassador of Greece to the Kingdom of Thailand. --MNA



Myanmar Daily Weather Report (Issued on 6 December 2018)

SUMMARY OF OBSERVATIONS RECORDED AT 09:30 hrs MST: During the past (24) hours, weather has been partly cloudy in Sagaing, Mandalay and Taninthayi regions, Kachin, Shan and Chin states and generally fair in the remaining regions and states. Night temperatures were (2°C) below December average temperatures in Kachin and Northern Shan states, (2°C) above December average temperatures in Bago and Taninthayi regions, (3°C) to (4°C) above December average temperatures in Kayin and Mon states and about December average temperature in the remaining regions and states. The significant night temperatures were (0°C) in Haka, (4°C) in Loilin, (5°C) each in Heho and Ramthlo and (6°C) in Namhsam.

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

FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF 7 December 2018: Isolated light rain in Taninthayi Region. Degree of certainty is (80%). Weather will be partly cloudy in the remaining regions and states.

STATE OF THE SEA: Sea will be slight to moderate in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about (3-5) feet in off and along Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Likelihood of isolated light rain in Taninthayi Region, Kayin and Mon states.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 7 December 2018: Partly cloudy.

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 7 December 2018: Partly cloudy.

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 7 December 2018: Partly cloudy.

EARTHQUAKE NEWS (Issued at 02:15 hour MST)

A slight earthquake of magnitude (3.9) Richter Scale with its epicenter inside Myanmar (about (2) miles north of Pyinmana), latitude 19.77°N, longitude 96.20°E, focal depth (6)kilometers about (4) miles east of Nay Pyi Taw seismological observatory was recorded at (01)hr (47)min (00)sec MST on 6 December 2018.

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MoI, DW Akademie host workshop on Public Broadcasting Service

THE Union Minister for Information, Dr. Pe Myint, attended the Workshop on “Public Broadcasting Service- An Opportunity for Myanmar?” at Ministry of Information in Nay Pyi Taw at 9 a.m. yesterday.

Deputy Minister U Aung Hla Tun, Hluttaw representatives, officials from DW Akademie, international media experts, and guests attended the discussion entitled, ‘Public Broadcasting Service - An Opportunity for Myanmar?’

In his opening speech at the workshop, Union Minister Dr. Pe Myint discussed emergence of private media in Myanmar during the country’s transition to democracy; lack of relevant law and bylaws thus causing implementation of broadcasting effectively;



Union Minister for Information Dr. Pe Myint addresses the workshop on “Public Broadcasting Service—An Opportunity for Myanmar” in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

trial run of a community radio in cooperation with DW Akademie; points to be taken into account for reforming the state media to Public Service Media; legal point of views for transforming the state-run MRTV

to Public Service Media or for turning the state-run media into Public Service Broadcaster and State Broadcaster; funds for and managing the Public Service Broadcaster and State Broadcaster if they are decided to be

established.

He also urged the participants of the workshop to discuss how to overcome the challenges.

The Head of Department from DW Akademie, Mr. Michael Karhausen, also delivered the

opening remarks.

The discussion at the workshop focused on topics, including possible steps towards public service broadcasting, setting up a public service television and broadcasting board, securing public service television and broadcasting funds, and transforming public service television and broadcasting.

The workshop was co-hosted by the Ministry of Information and the DW Akademie. A broadcasting expert from DW Akademie, Mr. Hendrik Bussiek, the deputy director of Thai PSB, Mr. Anupong Chaiyarithi, and Mongolia Public Broadcasting Managing Director, Dr. Batzori Tovuu took part in the discussion. —MNA (Translated by Win Ko Ko Aung)

17 Bangladeshi citizens handed over to Bangladesh after jail time in Myanmar

SEVENTEEN Bangladeshi citizens were handed over to the Bangladeshi authorities on 5 December after they served jail time in Myanmar.

At a flag meeting between the two countries held at the No.1 entry/exit post (POE), a Myanmar delegation led by U Htein Lin, Deputy Director of the Maungdaw District Immigration Department handed over the prisoners to Bangladeshi side led by Lt-Col MD Asadud-Zaman Chowdhury of Bangladeshi border guard force.

Among the seventeen Bangladeshi citizens served prison time in Myanmar, 14 were arrested after they found strand-



Myanmar officers (Right) exchange documents with Bangladeshi officers to hand over 17 Bangladeshi citizens. **PHOTO: IPRD**

ed in Myanmar, three others who were arrested over various crimes.

They were brought back

in three water craft by Bangladeshi troops.—Maungdaw District IPRD

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)

Police seizes K4.9 bln worth of Yaba pills in two cases in Maungdaw Township

POLICE in Maungdaw seized 2525250 Yaba pills in two cases in Maungdaw Township, Rakhine State, yesterday, according to police source.

Acting on a tip-off, the anti-drug squad searched the house in Kyehyoepyin Village in Maungdaw Township and confiscated K1.17 billion worth of 585,000 Yaba pills hidden in three bags. Authorities are continuing their investigation into the case under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.

Likewise, acting on a tip-off, the authorities stopped a vehicle on Buthidaung-Maungdaw road and seized K3.8 billion worth of 1,940,250 Yaba pills, hidden in the noddle packages yesterday.



Nyi Myo Naung and Azi Zulaung. **PHOTO: MPF**

Police have filed charges against driver Nyi Myo Naung and Azi Zulaung under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law. —GNLM

(Translated by JT)

Silver Muse cruise ship with 425 tourists docks at Thilawa Port

THE Silver Muse vessel with 425 cruisers from the United States and Australia and 404 crews made her call at Thilawa Port in Yangon yesterday, according to Myanmar Port Authority.

She is the eighteenth cruise ship to call at Myanmar in 2018 and the tour packages are arranged by Myanmar Voyagers Travels & Tours.

The Silver Muse cruise

ship called Yangon through the Phuket port in Thailand for its second time in this open season.

Langkawi in Malaysia is her next port of call.

In 2019, about cruise ships are expected to call at Yangon Port and mega cruise will also call southern coast areas of Myanmar.—MNA

(Translated by Win Ko Ko Aung)



Myanmar women in ethnic dresses welcome tourists from Silver Muse vessel at the Thilawa Port in Yangon yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

management@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

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Ten companies shortlisted for building Yangon Elevated Express Way Project Phase-1

THE Ministry of Construction yesterday announced the names of 10 companies that have been shortlisted to build the elevated express way in Yangon. The Ministry of Construction and the Yangon Regional Government received 12 prequalification applications from potential investors for the project, which is to be built as a public private partnership (PPP).

"Of these, ten companies met the criteria to be considered as prequalified bidders.

The prequalified bidders will be invited to access relevant data and documentation related to the project and participate in the tender and submit bids," stated an announcement from the Ministry of Construction.

Four Chinese companies, one company each from France, Japan, and Korea, a Thailand-Japan-Myanmar joint venture company, a Thailand-China joint company, and a China-Myanmar joint venture company have been in-

cluded in the shortlist, it said.

The next step in the tender process is the issuance of Request for Proposals (RFP) and draft concession agreements to prequalified bidders.

The Yangon Elevated Expressway is being given priority by the Government. The project aims to alleviate the severe traffic congestion in Yangon and improve connectivity for businesses and communities in the country's commercial hub.—GNLM



Rice worth \$479 mln exported

THE volume of Myanmar's rice and broken rice exports from 1 April to 23 November has been estimated to be 1.39 million metric tons, worth US\$479 million, said the Myanmar Rice Federation.

Over the last eight months, Myanmar has shipped over 1 million metric tons of rice to 46 countries, earning \$398 million. The country has exported over 269,500 metric tons of broken rice, worth \$80.9 million, to 21 countries.

Trade on the border has been comparatively higher than sea, accounting for 52.7 per cent of the total rice exports. The export of rice and broken rice through border checkpoints have earned an estimated \$258 million. Exports over sea have fetched \$220.7 million. Since the



Labourers carry rice bags at Botahtung Harbour in Yangon.
PHOTO: PHOE KHWAH

second week of October, China has tightened controls on importation of rice, sugar, and corn through the Muse checkpoint, resulting in suspension of trade. As a result, FOB prices of low-quality rice have declined, according to the Bayintnaung market. Over

100,000 bags of rice are entering the Bayintnaung market daily.

In the 2017-2018 Fiscal Year, Myanmar exported 3.6 million tons of rice and broken rice, worth \$1.13 billion.—GNLM
(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Demand from China drives red corn sales

SALES of red corn have risen this year on account of an increase in demand from China, according to domestic traders.

"Red corn started to be harvested in early November. At the time it entered the Mandalay pulses and beans market, it fetched Ks43,000 per three-basket bag. At present, the prices stay low at Ks33,000 due to plentiful supply," said U Soe Win Myint, a depot owner from

Mandalay. "Red corn fetched only Ks30,000 during this period last year. This year, both demand and price have risen. In spite of China suspending imports of rice, sugar, paddy, and some varieties of corn, red corn is in high demand," he added.

Red corn is an annual crop in Myanmar. During winter, people in China use it as a brew as it is said to be beneficial for health. The Lishaw ethnic people from

Mogok, Mongmit, and Manglon areas also use them in brewing.

Earlier, Myanmar cultivated white, yellow, and red corns. Red corn began to be cultivated on a trial basis two decades ago. It is now grown across the country as it is a climate-resilient crop and has a good yield. Most corn farmers in the country primarily grow red corn.—Min Htet Aung (Mandalay Sub-printing House)
■ (Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Exports of finished goods up \$477 mln in current FY

MYANMAR exported finished industrial goods worth US\$1.17 billion between 1 October and 23 November in the current fiscal year, an increase of over \$477.7 million from the same period last year, according to data released by the Ministry of Commerce.

During the same period last year, Myanmar's exports stood at \$693 million.

Myanmar's manufacturing sector largely comprises garment and textiles businesses, which make products on a cut-make-pack (CMP) basis. CMP has emerged as a promising industry in the export sector.

While the value of CMP exports was only \$850 million in the 2015-2016 Fiscal Year, it tripled within two years to touch \$2.5 billion in the 2017-2018 FY, according to the Myanmar Global Investment Forum 2018 held on 12 September.

In the last mini-budget period (April-September this year), exports of clothes made under the CMP sys-

tem totalled \$2.27 billion, doubling in value over the last year. Over \$160 million worth of CMP products were shipped in the current fiscal year.

Garment producers are eyeing Myanmar for investment because of inexpensive labour, although the issue of payments has at times led to conflicts between garment factory owners and labourers, said market watchers.

Japan is Myanmar's largest apparel market, followed by the European Union. Local entrepreneurs have expressed concern over a possible revoking of the EU's Generalized Scheme of Preferences as it can harm the manufacturing industry. There are currently over 400 garment factories in Myanmar, employing over 300,000 workers.

The manufacturing sector is likely to maintain its top position in attracting FDIs in the current fiscal year.—GNLM
(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

CO₂ emissions up 2.7%, world 'off course' to curb warming: study

PARIS—Global emissions of carbon dioxide mainly from fossil fuel burning will rise 2.7 per cent in 2018, scientists said Wednesday, signalling a world “completely off course” in the fight against climate change.

Last year, CO₂ pollution increased by 1.6 per cent after a three-year hiatus that raised hopes manmade greenhouse gas emissions had finally peaked despite an expanding world economy.

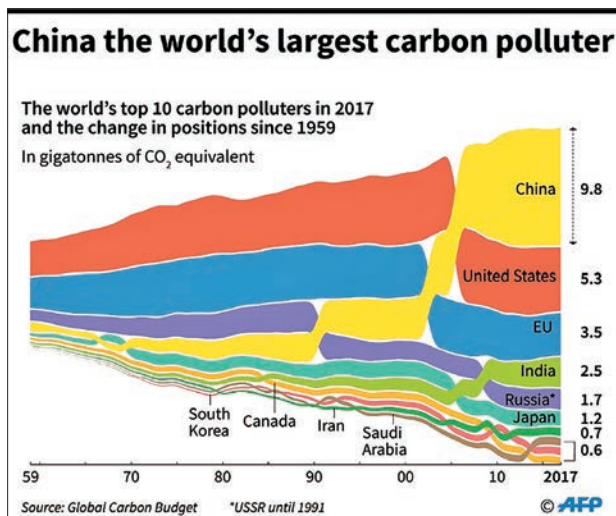
“This growth in global CO₂ emissions puts the goals set out in the Paris Agreement in jeopardy,” lead author Corinne Le Quere, director of the Tyndall Centre of Climate Change Research at the University of East Anglia, said in a statement.

“It is not enough to support renewables,” she added. “Efforts to decarbonise need to be expanded throughout the economy.”

The findings, co-authored by a team of nearly 80 scientists, were published in the journal *Open Access Earth System Science Data*.

Rapid deployment of solar and wind power, along with gains in energy efficiency, have been outpaced by growth in demand for freight, personal transport, shipping, and aviation, the research showed.

The 2015 Paris climate treaty calls for capping global warming at “well below” two degrees Celsius



The world's top 10 carbon polluters in 2017 and how positions have changed since 1959. **PHOTO: AFP**

(3.6 degrees Fahrenheit), a goal that scientists say could soon slip out of our grasp if planet-warming continues to climb.

Even a 2°C ceiling above pre-industrial levels may not be enough to avoid catastrophic impacts, the UN's climate science panel concluded in a landmark report in October.

Coal use in China

A single degree of warming to date has seen a rise in deadly heatwaves, droughts, floods, and superstorms made worse by rising seas.

“Emissions will continue to rise, rhetoric is increasing but ambition is not — we are completely off course,” said co-author Glen Peters, research director at the Centre for International Climate and Environmental Research in Oslo.

“While there has been positive progress on clean energy and electric vehicles, this is currently too small to impact the onward march of fossil fuels.”

The UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has said that CO₂ emissions must drop 50 per cent by 2030 — and reach “net zero”, with no additional leakage into the atmosphere — by 2050 if the rise in Earth's temperature is to be checked at the safer limit of 1.5°C.

The uncertainty range for the 2.7 per cent increase is 1.8 to 3.7 per cent.

Fluctuations in global emissions over the last five or six years have tracked changes in coal consumption, the study revealed.

In particular, “the trends have a lot to do with the ups and downs of coal use in China,” Le Quere told journalists in Paris.

Globally, coal-fired power accounts for 40 per cent of CO₂ emissions, and more than two-fifths of the world's electricity.

Oil and gas use have grown almost unabated over the last decade.

China's emissions accounted for 27 per cent of the global total, and will likely show growth of 4.7 per cent in 2018.

Smell the coffee

Coal is likely to dominate the Chinese energy system for decades, even if the skyrocketing growth of the mid-2000s is unlikely to return, the researchers said.

The United States will account for 15 per cent of CO₂ pollution in 2018, an increase of about 2.5 per cent. Most of that growth can be traced to an exceptionally hot summer and cold winter.

Despite attempts by Donald Trump to revive a moribund domestic coal industry, US emissions are expected to resume their downward trend in 2019 as cheap gas, wind and solar power continue to displace coal. India's emissions, seven per cent of the total, continued their upward spiral, increasing more than six per cent, with growth across all three major fossil fuels. The European Union is set to see a small decline in 2018, and will account for about a tenth of the total.

—AFP ■

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR MINISTRY OF ELECTRICITY AND ENERGY NATIONAL ELECTRIFICATION PROJECT SPECIFIC PROCUREMENT NOTICE

Date : 6th December, 2018

Invitation for Bids

IDA, Credit No : 5727-MM

Contract Title : Installation of Distribution Lines and Transformers for Yangon

Reference No: MOEE-NEP/C1-W10/18

1. The Republic of the Union of Myanmar has received financing from the World Bank towards the cost of the National Electrification Project, and intends to apply part of the proceeds towards payments under the contract for Installation of Distribution Lines and Transformers **MOEE-NEP/C1-W10/18 for Yangon.**

2. The Ministry of Electricity and Energy now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for **Installation of Distribution Lines and Transformers MOEE-NEP/C1-W10/18 for Yangon** in the following locations.

The number and identification of lots comprising this installation bidding **MOEE-NEP/C1-W10/18** process for Yangon is:

Lot 1: Yangon North District-67 villages

Lot 2: Yangon North District- 45 villages

Lot 3: Yangon South District -61 villages

3. Bidding will be conducted through the National Competitive Bidding procedures as specified in the World Bank's Guidelines: Procurement of Goods, Works and Non-Consulting Services under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits & Grants by World Bank Borrowers (“Procurement Guidelines”), and is open to all eligible bidders as defined in the Procurement Guidelines. In addition, please refer to paragraphs 1.6 and 1.7 setting forth the World Bank's policy on conflict of interest.

4. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from Project Management Office (National Electrification Project), Project Manager and nep.pmomoep@gmail.com and inspect the bidding documents during office hours [09:30 to 16:00 hours] at the address given below.

5. A complete set of bidding documents in English may be obtained free of charge by interested eligible bidders upon the submission of a written application to the address below. The Bidding Documents will be issued through email only.

6. Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before **7th January, 2019, (10:00 A.M.)** - Myanmar Time. Electronic bidding will not be permitted. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be publicly opened in the presence of the bidders' designated representatives and anyone who choose to attend at the address below.

7. All bids must be accompanied by “Bid-Security”

8. The address (es) referred to above is (are):

Attention: **Project Manager**

Project Management Office (National Electrification Project)

Office Building No.27, Ministry of Electricity and Energy City: **Nay Pyi Taw**

Country: **The Republic of the Union of Myanmar**

Telephone: **+95 67 3431175**

Facsimile number: **+95 67 3431176**

Electronic mail address: nep.pmomoep@gmail.com

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V MCC MERGUI VOY. NO. (1833/1834)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V MCC MERGUI VOY. NO. (1833/1834) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 7-12-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P/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.

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 XIN YI HAI 55 V. 04

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V XIN YI HAI 55 V. 04 are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 7-12-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T-3 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 COSCOL (HK) INVESTMENT
& DEVELOPMENT CO., LTD.

Phone No: 2301928

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V SENTA HELENA V. 59

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AGENT FOR: M/S WILHELMSEN SHIP
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Phone No: 2301928

Pop star Ariana Grande's 'Thank U, Next' video smashes records

NEW YORK (United States) — Pop star Ariana Grande's sugary new music video for the hit "Thank U, Next" is now the fastest to rack up 100 million views on YouTube, the platform told AFP Wednesday.

After dropping Friday, the clip needed little more than three days to eclipse South Korea's Psy, whose video for "Gentleman" took a few hours longer to hit 100 million views in 2013.

Grande, 25, had teased the video—which recreates scenes from several 2000s-era teen

films including "Mean Girls" and "Legally Blonde"—for weeks after releasing the break-up anthem on November 5. "Thank U, Next" also broke the record for most views in the 24 hours after its YouTube release with 55.4 million, smashing the previous record of 45.9 million views held by Korean boy band BTS for "IDOL."

In the song, Grande reflects on former loves including rappers Big Sean and Mac Miller—who committed suicide in September—as well as the comedian and ac-

tor Pete Davidson, with whom she had a brief but heavily publicized engagement.

The track earned Grande, who launched her career acting in a series for the youth network Nickelodeon, her first number one spot on the Billboard Hot 100, a music industry standard chart based on sales along with on-line streaming and radio play.

The pop artist will release an album—also titled "Thank U, Next"—at a yet unannounced date.—AFP ■



Singer Ariana Grande performs during the March for Our Lives Rally in Washington, DC on 24 March 2018. PHOTO: AFP

Hollywood awards season kicks off with Golden Globes noms

LOS ANGELES (United States)—Hollywood's annual carnival of awards shows begins Thursday with the nominations for the Golden Globes—the starting gun in the race for the Oscars.

The announcements, which come a week before the influential Screen Actors Guild nominations, are the first major bellwether of momentum going into the Academy Awards, which take place in February.

Awards analysis website Gold Derby predicts that music romance re-

boot "A Star Is Born" and "If Beale Street Could Talk"—a tale of black love adapted from a James Baldwin novel—will top the nominations with nine each.

"A Star Is Born" stars Bradley Cooper, who also directed the film, and Lady Gaga, who are also expected to pick up nominations for their portrayal of an aging rocker and the young ingenue who unite on stage and in life.

"A Star Is Born should dominate with nominations at the Globes and Oscars," Gold Derby man-

aging director Chris Bechum told AFP.

"Beale Street"—the latest film from Barry Jenkins, who directed the best picture Oscar-winning "Moonlight"—tells the story of a young black couple in love in 1970s Harlem, and the obstacles in their path.

Beyond the frontrunners, a slew of biopics are in the mix—"First Man," the intimate recounting of Neil Armstrong's moon landing; Dick Cheney film "Vice"; and "Bohemian Rhapsody," about Queen frontman Freddie Mer-

cury.

Spike Lee's "BlacKkLansman," the true story of a black police officer who infiltrated the Ku Klux Klan with the help of a white partner, is also expected to receive recognition in the drama categories.

Another theme this season is the ravages of addiction, with "Beautiful Boy" star Timothee Chalamet—an Oscar and Globe nominee for "Call Me By Your Name" (2017), tipped to earn a nod for playing a meth addict.—AFP ■

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Dated 7 December 2018

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Brazil researchers crunched as science spending collapses

RIO DE JANEIRO (Brazil) —In her Rio de Janeiro lab, biologist Michelle Klautau paid for the \$1,400 photo machine, two air conditioning units, most of the chairs and even the paint and tiles from her own pocket. The professor is one of several Brazilian scientists who warn the sector is teetering on a precipice after losing two-thirds of state funding between 2010 and 2017. “We are reaching a point where it’s becoming impossible,” said Klautau, who specializes in marine sponges at the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro (UFRJ). “Researchers can’t continue financing research with their salaries,” she told AFP. The rapid decline in funding—which researchers say has forced them to personally finance projects or see them terminated—parallels de-funding in other areas, notably culture.

“When I saw the National Museum in Rio in flames on the TV I started to cry,” said Professor Luiz Davidovich, a respected physicist and president of the country’s Science Academy, referring to a September 2 blaze that gutted South America’s most important natural history museum. In UFRJ labs, he said “researchers are paying out of their pocket to buy material or genetically modified mice to do their research into Zika.”

Ambitions curtailed

“We are already cutting the number of students in our



A student of the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro works at a biology laboratory. PHOTO: AFP

laboratories, the number of projects, and often the scale of them,” Klautau added. One of her student assistants, Marcio Franca, pointed out a petty-cash box the team pays into to buy water, coffee and toilet paper. Brazil has traditionally been a significant player in the science world. It recently inaugurated one of the world’s most powerful particle accelerators, and regularly sees research published in science journals. The country has also enjoyed growth in several domains thanks to scientific advances—notably in the challenging field of extracting

oil from deepwater pre-salt reserves, and in soya production, which has tripled.

“It wasn’t a miracle. It was science,” underlined Professor Davidovich. His own specialty in physics was buoyed by work carried out during Brazil’s 1964-1985 military dictatorship due to the importance assigned to national security.

Boom years, corresponding with former president Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva’s 2003-2010 tenure, “were tremendous for science,” he added, with budgets expanded, more university campuses, and research infra-

structure created.

But then a record-busting recession hit, while Lula’s protegee Dilma Rousseff was in charge. After her 2016 impeachment, Rousseff’s vice president Michel Temer took over and froze government spending for 20 years, including in the non-priority science sector.

Brain drain

“Brazilian science is under threat from lack of funds,” warned Professor Marcos Farina, at the UFRJ’s biomedical sciences department. —AFP ■

Positive social relationships in neighborhood tied to high academic results

CHICAGO—A study by researchers at the University of Michigan (UM), Pennsylvania State University and California State University-Northridge suggests a complex relation between neighborhood social dynamics and a change in youths’ grade point average during middle school.

Neighborhoods rich in resources and cohesion may transfer similar positive processes to the schools. That is, teens living in the most “positive” neighborhoods had better grades than counterparts living in risky neighborhoods, the researchers said.

Researchers examined the extent that exposure to certain neighborhoods supported or inhibited academic achievement among African-American teens in 7th and 8th grades. The sample included 723 African-American families who completed surveys. Nearly 60 per cent of parents reported that they were married.

Caregivers described their neighborhood based on safety, such as racial tensions, vandalism and drug use; informal social control, which involves the perception that neighbors would intervene to stop bad situations; cohesion and trust, such as sharing similar views with others; and resource availability, including after-school programs.

Youths in the cohesive and supported environments had higher academic achievement than counterparts living in a mixed neighborhood of low safety but positive relationships, the study indicated. The study has been published in the *Journal of Black Psychology*.—Xinhua ■

SpaceX launches cargo, but fails to land rocket

TAMPA (United States)—SpaceX on Wednesday blasted off its unmanned Dragon cargo ship, loaded with supplies, science experiments and food for the astronauts living at the International Space Station but failed to successfully land its booster afterwards.

“We have had a great liftoff,” said SpaceX commentator John Insprucker, as the Falcon 9 rocket soared into the sunny, blue sky over Cape Canaveral, Florida at 1:16 pm (1816 GMT), carrying 5,600 pounds (2,500 kilograms) of gear. The mission was SpaceX’s 16th mission for NASA as part of a long-term contract to ferry supplies to space. The Dragon cargo ship successfully made it to orbit, which was the primary goal

of the launch. But the tall portion of the rocket missed its goal of securing an upright landing on solid ground at Cape Canaveral’s Landing Zone 1. After separating from the second stage, and firing its engines to return to Earth, a video camera on board showed the first stage spinning. “Grid fin hydraulic pump stalled, so Falcon landed just out to sea,” CEO Elon Musk said on Twitter. “Appears to be undamaged and is transmitting data. Recovery ship dispatched.” Later, Musk posted the full video from on board the booster, showing the rocket spiral, then stabilize, then crash sideways into the water.

“Engines stabilized rocket spin just in time, enabling an in-



In this still photo from NASA TV, SpaceX launches its unmanned Dragon cargo ship to the International Space Station—the mission is SpaceX’s 16th for NASA, as part of a long-term contract to ferry supplies to space. PHOTO: AFP

tact landing in water! Ships en route to rescue Falcon,” he wrote.

It was the first time SpaceX ever failed to land a booster on solid ground, following a string of 12 straight successes.

Ocean platform landings have proven a bit trickier, but

SpaceX has managed to stick the landing, whether on land or sea, 32 times in all.

The effort is aimed at reducing the cost of launches by re-using expensive components, instead of jettisoning them in the ocean after each mission.—AFP ■



A player from Myanmar (red) vies for the ball with a player from Viet Nam (white) at AFC U-20 Futsal Championship ASEAN Zone qualifiers at Haumark Indoor Stadium in Bangkok, Thailand yesterday. **PHOTO: MFF**

Viet Nam beat Myanmar 2-1 in AFC U-20 Futsal Championship

MYANMAR LOST to Viet Nam by a narrow 2-1 score in the AFC U-20 Futsal Championship ASEAN Zone qualifiers at Haumark Indoor Stadium in Bangkok, Thailand yesterday.

It was a closely fought match with both Myanmar and Viet Nam scoring a goal within the first eight minutes.

At the 14 minute-mark, Viet Nam secured the winning goal by taking advantage of some hesitation in Myanmar's defense line. Although team Myanmar fought back hard in the second half, they missed all their goal chances.

In an earlier match on Wednesday, Myanmar lost out to Malaysia. Myanmar has just

two more matches left to play against Thailand on 7 December and against Indonesia on 8 December. The matches are crucial as they will decide whether Myanmar will make it to the next stage of the championship. Viet Nam will continue their qualifying campaign on Saturday against Thailand.—Lynn Thit(Tgi) ■

Tickets for Dave Leduc vs Tun Tun Min match to be sold in advance

TICKETS for the Air KBZ Grand Final match between the current openweight Lethwei World Champion, Dave Leduc, and former champion Tun Tun Min will be sold in advance, according to the Myanmar Lethwei World Championship (MLWC) organizers.

The final Lethwei bout will take place at the Thein Phyu Lethwei Stadium in Yangon on 16 December. The lethwei cham-

pionship being supervised by the Ministry of Health and Sports and the Myanmar Traditional Boxing Federation (MTBF), and organized by the Myanmar Martial Arts Group (MMAG).

Tickets will be available at the MMAG office, MMAG and Myanmar Media Group, Building No.388, Room No.14, No.1 Industrial Road, Sayar San Quarter, Bahan Township, Yangon. For any queries, the organizers can be

contacted at 01558387, 01557787.

The championship will feature six main bouts, including the match between Dave Leduc and Tun Tun Min. The bouts will also feature Out Chin Lay (Myanmar) vs Inn Thar (Myanmar), Saw Dar Wait (Myanmar) vs Mahmoud (Iran), Byat Kha vs Wittaya (Thailand), Tun Min Latt vs Tokeshi (Japan), and Voro Nika (Myanmar) vs Tongtao (Thailand).—Lynn Thit(Tgi) ■

Icardi eyes Ronaldo match-up as Inter bid to halt Juventus

MILAN (Italy)—Mauro Icardi said he was relishing the chance to measure himself against Cristiano Ronaldo for the first time as Inter Milan travel to Turin on Friday looking to inflict the first defeat of the season on Italian champions Juventus and keep the Serie A title race alive. Juventus have set a frenetic pace this season since signing Ronal-

do, making a record start with 40 points after the first 14 games in Serie A. Napoli are second—eight points behind Juventus—with Inter Milan 11 points adrift of the champions in third. A defeat for Inter in the 'Derby D'Italia' between the two northern giants would likely be a killer blow to their ambitions and leave Juventus free to claim an eighth consec-

utive title. "I've played (Juventus) many times but this is the most important since I've been here," said Icardi. "I won't settle for a draw. We must go there without fear. "I can't wait to play against Cristiano Ronaldo, it will be a pleasure to have him up front. But he's not my problem, (defenders) Stefan de Vrij and Milan Skriniar are there."—AFP ■

Man Utd fight back again but Arsenal extend unbeaten run in four-goal thriller

MANCHESTER (United Kingdom)—Jose Mourinho accused his Manchester United players of shooting themselves in the foot as he saw his under-strength team gift Arsenal two goals in a 2-2 draw that extended their winless Premier League run to four games.

United, who started with Paul Pogba and Romelu Lukaku on the bench, showed great spirit to twice come back, with equalisers from Anthony Martial and Jesse Lingard earning a much-needed point.

But, after a defeat at Manchester City and dispiriting draws with Crystal Palace and Southampton, United are now 18 points behind leaders City and actually closer to the relegation positions than they are first place. United also trail Chelsea and Arsenal, who are now unbeaten in 20 games, by eight points in the battle for a place in the top four. And Mourinho, who saw a bad David de Gea error and Marcos Rojo own goal twice hand Arsenal the lead, believes the performance continued their run of self-inflicted harm.

"We scored four goals and we drew 2-2," joked Mourinho.

"But we scored four goals and even in matches like today where we play well, we always shoot ourselves. "Sometimes we miss chances with an open goal, other times defensive mistakes but tonight there was a fantastic spirit, good performances.

"Our problem is finding a performance like this without the mistakes we made and we had very good performances where we make mistakes and we are always punished."

Mourinho's frustration was especially understandable given that Arsenal's opening goal, after 26 minutes, featured that rarest of collector's items, a mistake by his Spanish international goalkeeper David de Gea. Chris Smalling slipped at Lucas Torreira's 26th minute corner, allowing Mustafi the space to send a free header bouncing into the ground and goalwards. It looked a routine save for United's number one but he succeeded only in pushing the ball into the air, two-handed, over his own head and over the goalline, despite Ander Herrera's desperation clearance.

But United responded within four minutes as Rojo, playing for the first time this season, unleashed a terrific free-kick which Bernd Leno kept out at the foot of his left-hand post.

Herrera responded quickly, although replays suggested he may have been fractionally offside, reaching the loose ball on the by-line and turning it into the six-yard area where Martial was able to convert. That dramatic pattern would be repeated after 68 minutes when Arsenal regained a lead they could only hold, on this occasion, for 74 seconds. Lacazette played a one-two with fellow substitute Henrikh Mkhitaryan and advanced into the area where Rojo tackled him from behind and succeeded only in turning the ball into his own net. But there could be no faulting United's response as Arsenal panicked at a long ball punted forward, almost directly from kick-off.—AFP ■



Manchester United's Jesse Lingard celebrates his equaliser in a thrilling 2-2 draw with Arsenal on Wednesday. **PHOTO: AFP**

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Survey shows rise in Ayeyawady dolphin population

AN annual survey carried out jointly by the government's Fisheries Department and the Wildlife Conservation Society (Myanmar) has found that the population of the Ayeyawady dolphin, which is an endangered and rare species, has increased from last year, despite deaths reported recently.

"Three to four deaths in a year can be considered normal. Meanwhile, dolphin births have been recorded in the river. So, the number of dolphins has increased from last year," said U Han Win, a conservationist who took part in the annual survey.

The survey to assess the population of the endangered species is conducted in February every year. According to the surveys, there were 69 adult dolphins, three babies, and three deaths in 2017, and 76 adult dolphins, eight babies and five deaths in 2018.



Fishermen catch the fish by throwing nets while a dolphin shows the position of the school of fish in the Ayeyawady River. **PHOTO: WCS**

The government has taken measures to conserve the endangered species through patrols in the Ayeyawady River and to

take action against electro-fishing, which is considered the main threat to the Ayeyawady dolphins. Up till mid-November, the

authorities have seized 15 boats and arrested fishermen for illegal fishing.—Khaing Hset Wai
(Translated by JT)

Hospital buildings under construction in Mandalay

TWO new 10-storey buildings have been undergoing construction at the Mandalay General Hospital since fiscal year 2016-2017. Funded by the Ministry of Health and Sports, the buildings will cost an estimated K 4,759.484 million.

The buildings are being constructed by the Construction special Team (2), Mandalay Region Building Department under the Ministry of Construction.

The construction of one building, which measures 100x40 feet, is 90 per cent complete, while that of the second building, measuring 70x45 feet, is 40 per cent complete.

"The construction work will be completed in fiscal year 2018-2019," said Dr. Daw Tin Tin Moe, the Superintendent of the



Two new 10-storey buildings have been undergoing construction at the Mandalay General Hospital in Mandalay. **PHOTO: MIN HTET AUNG (MANDALAY SUB-PRINTING HOUSE)**

Mandalay General Hospital.

"Our hospital is providing medical treatment not only to patients from the Mandalay Region but also from other upper Myanmar areas. The

hospital accommodate around 1,500 in-patients and over 1,000 out-patients daily. The hospital also provides around 200 emergency patients every day. It does not have enough space

to accommodate such a large number of patients.

The hospital is also providing medical education for students and plans to offer post graduate courses next year. Therefore, it needs to extend the wards," she added.

The Mandalay General Hospital started as a 250-bed facility in 1925, expanding to 350 beds in 1937, 800 beds in 1965, and 1,000 beds in 2012.

In 2013, the hospital's present nine-storey building was constructed at a cost of K3 billion, raised through state financing and public subscription.

The hospital was reopened with 1,500 beds in 2017.—Min Htet Aung (Mandalay Sub-Printing House) (Translated by Hay Mar)

Myanmar-Thai team treat over 1,000 patients in Sittway Township

A MEDICAL team comprising 15 doctors, including physicians, pediatricians, and eye specialists, from Thailand's Department of Medical Services provided free treatment to patients from 29 November to the first week of December. This was the first time a medical team from Thailand provided treatment in Myanmar.

The medical team offered

the free service, treating about 200 patients every day, in collaboration with the Public Health Department of Rakhine State under the Ministry of Health and Sports.

The team treated 1,136 patients at the Kyauktan rural health centre, the Saythamargyi relief camp, the Ohntawgyi relief camp, the Yaychanpyin rural health centre, and the

Ahmyint Kyaung rural health centre.

"Most of the patients were elderly people with complaints of knee and back pain.

We also saw some children suffering from malnutrition," said a Thai doctor from the medical team.

The health team, led by the Public Health Department Deputy Director-General, Dr.

Thaung Hlaing, also included officials from Rakhine State's Public Health Department and Sittway Township's Public Health Department.

The free treatment was organized with the aim to promote the public health as well as strengthen the friendship between the two countries.—Zin OO (Myanma Alinn)

(Translated by Hay Mar)