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State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi meets with locals in Htamanthi Village, Homalin

STATE Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, the Chairperson of the Central Committee for Development of Border Areas and National Races, met with the residents of Homalin, Sagaing Region, yesterday and discussed several issues, including 24-hour electricity supply, fighting the drug problem, amending the Constitution, and improving healthcare services.

The State Counsellor, along with Union Ministers, Sagaing Region Chief Minister Dr. Myint Naing, and officials, flew over the Chindwin River and the Uru Creek and inspected the environmental damage caused by mining.

At the meeting with locals in Htamanthi, the State Counsellor listened to their concerns.

The residents of Htamanthi outlined their requirements, including round-the-clock power supply, construction of a bridge to link Htamanthi and Leshi, and prevention and control of drug use. They also discussed the role of people in amending the Constitution, ways to ensure sufficient supply of drinking water in the village, and the need for assigning a doctor at the local station hospital.

In response to their requests, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi said the nationwide electrification plan would cover 50 per cent of Myanmar. She said she will check whether Htaman-



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi meets with local people in Htamanthi Village. PHOTO: MNA

Steps were being taken at the Hluttaw to amend the Constitution, and the people have an important role in this, said the State Counsellor.

thi Village was included in the plan.

Regarding the bridge over the Htamanthi River, the State Counsellor said the construction on the infrastructure would start when the authorities received the budget allocation for the bridge.

To eliminate the drugs abuses in the region, she said it was difficult for a government to achieve success in fighting the drug abuses without participation of the people and it was found that drug users became the traffickers later.

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PYITHU HLUTTAW

Second Pyithu Hluttaw's eleventh regular session holds 22nd meeting

By Aye Aye Thant (MNA)

THE 22nd meeting of the eleventh regular session of the Second Pyithu Hluttaw was held at the Pyithu Hluttaw meeting hall of the Hluttaw building in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

At the meeting asterisk marked questions were raised and answered, a report on the bill read and a motion discussed and approved.

Asterisk marked question

First asterisk marked question for a plan to remove squatter shops on a road owned by Construction Ministry in Putao Township, Myoma Ward was raised by U Moe Shwe of Putao constituency. Deputy Minister for Construction U Kyaw Linn replied that even though the question mentioned 8 shops, there were in fact 13 shops beside the said road.

A meeting was held between the shop owners who rented the shops and departmental organisations on 24 January 2019 where 10 shops agreed to remove the shops by end February 2019. Later the shop owners submitted their



Deputy Minister for Construction U Kyaw Linn.

difficulties in relocating to a new place in time and pledged to remove the shops by end June 2019. Putao based Tactical Commander and Tactical Operations Command was being coordinated to remove the remaining 3 shops that were operated for the Putao cantonment welfare said the Deputy Minister on behalf of Kachin State government.

A question by U Kyaw Shwe of Yanbye constituency on a plan to construct a Bailey bridge or a reinforced concrete bridge over Hone creek in Yanbye Township for ease of transport of Rakhine and Chin villages in the area was then answered by Deputy Minister U Kyaw Linn again. The



Deputy Minister for Education U Win Maw Tun.

Deputy Minister said the subject wooden bridge was constructed by the locals themselves but is now required to be upgraded as a reinforced concrete bridge. A fund was earmarked in the fiscal year 2019-2020 Rakhine State government fund and implementation will depend upon allocation of fund explained the Deputy Minister.

Following this, questions raised by U Maung Myint of Mingin constituency, U Aung Myint Shein of Mabein constituency, U Kyaw Min of Letpadan constituency, U Myint Ngwe of Kyauk Kyi constituency and Daw Thandar of Einme constituency were answered by Myanmar In-

vestment Commission member Deputy Minister for Planning and Finance U Set Aung and Deputy Minister for Construction U Kyaw Linn.

Basic Education Bill

Next, Deputy Minister for Education U Win Maw Tun tabled a Basic Education Bill and Pyithu Hluttaw Bill Committee member Dr. Wai Phyo Aung read and explained a report on the bill.

An announcement was then made by Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat for Hluttaw representatives who want to table an amendment motion to register their names.

Hluttaw approves motion on reviewing permitted investment on state owned properties and businesses

Afterward a motion tabled by Daw Khin San Hlaing of Pale constituency urging the Union Government to review permitted investment on state owned lands, buildings and businesses, take effective action including rescinding the investment permit if an investment is not in accordance to the pledges made, to

implement new projects that are beneficial to the citizens, people in the region and businesses and make best uses of state-owned assets was discussed by the Hluttaw.

U Soe Aung Naing of Kyonpyaw constituency, U Saw Thalay Saw of Shwegyin constituency, U Aung Htoo Myint of Aunglan constituency, U Tin Tun Naing of Seikkyi-Khanaungto constituency, U Maung Maung Oo of Insein constituency, U Aung Myint of Thayawady constituency, U Nyan Linn of Shwepyitha constituency, U Nyunt Aung of Monywa constituency, Daw Mar Mar Khine of Thaton constituency, U Tin Ko Ko Oo of Bilin constituency, U Maung Myint of Mingin constituency, U Kyaw Aung Lwin of Sedoktara constituency, U Phone Myint Aung of DaikU constituency, Daw Tin Tin Yi of Kyunsu constituency, U Thet Naing Oo of Yebyu constituency, Dr. Daw Kyi Moh Moh Lwin of Singaing constituency, U Myint Han Tun of Budalin constituency, U Ye Lwin of Ahlon constituency and U Nyan Hein of Thanbyuzayat constituency discussed the motion.

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AMYOTHA HLUTTAW

Second Amyotha Hluttaw's eleventh regular session holds 22nd meetingBy Aung Ye Thwin,
Lu Maw (MNA)

22nd meeting of Second Amyotha Hluttaw's eleventh regular session held at Amyotha Hluttaw building in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning saw questions answered, a bill discussed, Hluttaw informed of receipt of bills and a motion discussed.

Question and answer session

A question posed by U Khin Maung Latt of Rakhine State constituency 3 on plan to take back cows and buffaloes stolen to Bangladesh and to apprehend the suspect thieves and robbers through bilateral discussion was first answered by Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Maj-Gen Aung Thu. The Deputy Minister said the matter was being raised through Border Relation Offices and flag meetings such as Myanmar-Bangladesh Battalion



Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Maj-Gen Aung Thu.

Commander level meeting and Myanmar-Bangladesh Border Forces Commanders meeting.

Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation U Hla Kyaw on the other hand responded to a question raised by U Whey Tin of Chin State constituency 11 on a plan to construct a 40x30 ft. office building and six-room staff houses at head of Township Agriculture Department Office in Chin State, Paletwa Township,



MP U Khin Maung Latt.

Myoma (Myaynigon) Ward during the fiscal year 2019-2020 first six-month budget term. The fund to construct 80x40x12 ft. reinforced single-storey office building and 60x30x10 ft. two-room staff house was requested from State Government fund for fiscal year 2019-2020 and once the fund is allocated, Agriculture Department will implement the construction said the Deputy Minister.

In the same way questions

raised by Dr. Khin Ma Gyi of Kachin State constituency 8, Daw Thiriyadana of Mon State constituency 12 and U Win Maung of Magway Region constituency 6 were answered by Deputy Ministers Maj-Gen Aung Thu and U Hla Kyaw.

Hluttaw discusses bill amending Union Civil Service Board Law

After the question and answer session U Myo Win of Mon State constituency 8 discusses a bill amending Union Civil Service Board Law.

Hluttaw announce receipt of bills

Next Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than informed the Hluttaw of the receipt of bill amending Bar Council Act and a second bill amending Penal Code approved by Amyotha Hluttaw being returned by Pyithu Hluttaw with amendments and announced for

Hluttaw representatives who want to discuss the matter to register their names.

Hluttaw discusses a motion to set up single mapping and land registry

A motion urging the Union Government to setup a single mapping system and a land registry as part of a long term scheme raised by U Hla Myint @ U Hla Myint Than of Mon State constituency 11 was then discussed by U Win Myint of Magway Region constituency 8, U Kyaw Myint Oo of Mandalay Region constituency 10, Dr. Khun Win Thaug of Kachin State constituency 11, U Shayrel Shu Maung of Kayah State constituency 2 and Daw Htu May of Rakhine State constituency 11. The 23rd meeting of the eleventh regular session of the Second Amyotha Hluttaw is scheduled to be held on 11 March.

(Translated by Zaw Min)

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi meets with ...

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She continued to say that the Union Government was giving special emphasis to the tasks to prevent and control narcotic drugs while promoting the capacity of the police.

Steps were being taken at the Hluttaw to amend the Constitution, and the people have an important role in this, said the State Counsellor.

She continued to say that people were needed not to forget their role in the country as the role of each and every citizen was important not only in Myanmar but also in other countries.

Measures taken by Mem-

Measures taken by Members of Parliament represented the people and every issue in the country concerns each and every citizen:
State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi.



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi poses for documentary photo together with doctors and staff of the Monywa People's Hospital. PHOTO: THET AUNG

bers of Parliament represented the people and every issue in the country concerns each and every citizen, said State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi.

Regarding the health care service in Htamanthi, the State Counsellor informed the local people that a doctor for the

Htamanthi Station Hospital was on the way to Htamanthi, adding that the Ministry of Health and Sports had issued a directive to the outgoing medical professionals to leave their hospitals only after they had handed over their duties properly to the incoming doctors.

She also promised that a survey would be carried out in the village to supply drinking water sufficiently. The State Counsellor asked the people to cooperate with the government as it was carrying out the development of the whole country.

After the meeting, State

Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi visited the Homalin People's Hospital and comforted the patients receiving medical care there. In the inspection tour, the State Counsellor fulfilled the requirements including doctors and X-ray machine for the hospital and gave instructions to the doctors on providing health care to the people. Afterwards, she inspected the Chindwin Bridge (Homalin) over the Chindwin River.

The Chindwin Bridge (Homalin) was constructed and inaugurated in the time of the incumbent government. The reinforced-type bridge is 2,762 ft long.

Afterwards, she went to the Monywa University and formally opened the Literature and Cultural Committee Office of the Shan and Chin ethnic people.

Afterwards, the State Counsellor encouraged the students learning at the practical rooms of Physics, Chemistry and Geology at the university.

She also met with the students during the visit to the university and urged them to study diligently for the country and the people.

Afterwards, the State Counsellor greeted the local people, faculty members, students and town elders at the University and in Monywa. — MNA ■



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi meets students from the Monywa University yesterday . PHOTO: MNA

Union Minister U Min Thu meets GAD staff of Sagaing Region

The Union Minister for the Office of the Union Government, U Min Thu, met with staff of the Sagaing Region General Administration Department at the State GAD office in Monywa Township yesterday.

Firstly, the head of the Sagaing Region GAD, U Tin Maung Swe, introduced the Union Minister to everyone in attendance and explained about the State GAD's processes and performances. The Union Minister then delivered a speech.

History of the GAD

The Union Minister said the GAD had always strived to implement a firm administrative mechanism for the nation and the people through successive political systems. He said he believes the GAD would continue this task of fulfilling the people's needs and succeed in reforming itself to be in line with the political system chosen by the people of the nation.

GAD workshop produced good results

The Union Minister said a workshop on reforms was held in Nay Pyi Taw with GAD staff from 26 to 28 February. It was attended by all the government secretaries of the states, regions and Nay Pyi Taw Council together with district administrators. The workshop discussed reform measures for the GAD based on its staff. The Union Minister said staff participated enthusiastically in the workshop and discussed the reforms with empathy. He



Union Minister U Min Thu meets with staff from Sagaing Region General Administration Department in Monywa yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

said this has increased the belief in the GAD's fresh steps towards undertaking reforms.

Vision, mission of the GAD

The Union Minister said the workshop produced a vision statement: 'Building good administration and mechanism based on the people'. This is the long-term objective chosen by the GAD staff. He said the mission statements made at the workshop included promoting the rule of law and community peace, implementing State Policy, establishing a good administrative system, and carrying out people-centred regional development. These mission statements were adopted by the GAD staff and thus they

must undertake them with deep consideration, said the Union Minister.

Values of the GAD

He said that the GAD staff at the workshop also decided on six departmental values: be effective and skilled, be honest, be responsible and accountable, be trusted by the public, practice equality and inclusiveness, and be in line with rules and regulations. These were the standards required for all GAD staff to implement while discharging their daily duties.

Three main reform tasks

The Union Minister said the workshop also facilitated the emergence of 3 tasks for

reform: (1) reforming policies, (2) reforming regulations and managerial components, and (3) establishing regional development and good practices.

The first reform task included reviewing amending laws, by-laws, written orders and directives as necessary. The Union Minister said this task required some preparation as the GAD had been transferred to his ministry and included the need for some flexibility and lessening of restrictions. He said this task would be undertaken on a step-by-step priority basis.

The second reform task included handling the GAD's manual, organization, administrative management, e-Government and the digital platform,

capacity development, and public interaction. These would also be arranged and implemented on a priority basis.

The third reform task would also sort out and prioritize steps to be taken towards establishing good practices that were in line with the current political system, and to produce noticeable regional development.

Conclusion

The Union Minister said the reform tasks needed to be carried out at the same time in uniformity with each other and with the One State-One Township project. The Nay Pyi Taw workshop also produced 5 compulsory facts for the project and 9 facts to be added if necessary.

In his conclusion, Union Minister U Min Thu urged the GAD staff to systematically carry out the necessary reforms as change was a natural part of life that was not to be feared and occurred every day. He said if these reforms were implemented in line with the vision and mission statements adopted by GAD staff themselves, there was no reason why success could not be achieved.

Afterwards, GAD staff in attendance submitted requirements to the Union Minister, who gave necessary suggestions and directions and then urged the staff to respect and follow the policies and procedures of the Ministry of the Office of the Union Government. —MNA (Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

Myanmar, Thailand prepare for return of verified Myanmar nationals from Thailand



The Third Meeting of Myanmar-Thailand Joint Working Group on the preparation of the return of verified Myanmar nationals from Thailand being convened in Chiang Rai, Thailand. PHOTO: MNA

The Third Meeting of Myanmar-Thailand Joint Working Group on the preparation of the return of verified Myanmar nationals from Thailand was con-

vened in Chiang Rai, Thailand in the morning of 6 March 2019. The Meeting was co-chaired by the Permanent Secretaries of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and the Kingdom of Thailand. Myanmar delegation was led by U Myint Thu, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of For-

eign Affairs and comprised of U Myo Myint Than, Ambassador of Myanmar to the Royal Kingdom of Thailand and Officials from the Consular and Legal Affairs Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Border Affairs, Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population and Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement. Thai delegation was led by Mrs. Busaya Mathelin, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Thailand and comprised of officials from various Ministries. During the meeting, both sides deliberated on effective collaboration to receive the verified Myanmar nationals in a systematic and orderly manner as well as future cooperation between Myanmar and Thailand to have a sustained repatriation.

Furthermore, the delegations considered and adopted the summary of discussion of the Second Meeting of the Joint Working Group and the Guidelines on the return of verified Myanmar nationals from Thailand.

The Meeting also reviewed the recent return of 565 verified Myanmar nationals from 20 to 22 February 2019. Both sides also exchanged views on the establishment of Sufficiency Economy Philosophy (SEP) Learning Centres and the implementation of SEP Community Development Projects in Taninthayi Region, Mon State and Kayah State as well as the provision of education, health services, socio-economic development and vocational and job opportunities for the returnees from Thailand.—MNA

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat receives EU Ambassador

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat received Mr. Kristian Schmidt, Ambassador of the European Union (EU) to Myanmar, yesterday, at the Pyithu Hluttaw Hall, Hluttaw Building, in Nay Pyi Taw.

During the meeting matters relating to strengthening EU-Myanmar relationship and cooperation between the parliaments, Constitution amendment matter conducted in the Hluttaw, other legislative matters, election matters, protection of children rights, arbitration of labour disputes and maintaining tax exemption agreement on Myanmar products were cordially and openly discussed and views exchanged. — MNA ■



Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat receives Mr. Kristian Schmidt, Ambassador of the European Union to Myanmar, in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. PHOTO:MNA

Joint Committee to amend 2008 Constitution holds meeting 3/2019



Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Tun Tun Hein addresses Meeting 3/2019 of the Joint Committee to amend 2008 Constitution in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. PHOTO:MNA

Meeting 3/2019 of the Joint Committee to amend 2008 Constitution was held at Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Building D in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

The meeting was attended by Chairman of the Joint Committee Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Tun Aung @ U Tun Tun Hein, Deputy Chairman

of the Joint Committee Amyotha Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Aye Tha Aung, Joint Committee secretary Dr. Myat Nyana Soe, joint secretary U Htay Win Aung @ U Pyone Cho and members who were representatives from political parties and Tatmadaw Hluttaw representatives and officials from Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Office. — MNA

Ministries take steps to hold Children's Literary Festival in Bago from 28 to 30 March

A coordination meeting to successfully convene Children's Literary Festival (Bago) was held at Ministry of Information meeting hall in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

At the meeting, Union Minister for Information Dr. Pe Myint said special programs were included in the Children's Literary Festival to provide knowledge and information to the children and youngsters and relevant ministries are also exhibiting knowledge booths.

For the public to know about ethnic literature and traditional culture, an ethnic literature and tradition culture exhibits were included in the Children's Literary Festival held in Myitkyina in addition to poem recitation and story-telling competition in ethnic languages, said the Union Minister.

Next, Union Minister for Education Dr. Myo Thein Gyi said Ministry of Education was arranging to include not only

the exhibits of universities in Bago Region but also the exhibits of technological universities from Yangon Region in the Children's Literary Festival (Bago). The aim of Children's Literary Festival is to raise the reading rate of children and youths so reading competitions, innovations and games should also be included in the festival. There also should be games where not only children but elderlies could also participate, said the Union Minister.

Afterwards, Information and Public Relations Department Director-General U Ye Naing and Bago Region minister for Kayin Ethnic Affairs Daw Naw Pwai Say explained about arrangements made to successfully convene Children's Literary Festival.

This was followed by discussions of officials from Ministry of Home Affairs; Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture; Ministry of Health and Sports; Ministry of Planning

and Finance; and Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement about sector-wise arrangements and Union Minister Dr. Pe Myint coordinated on the discussions. The meeting was also attended by Deputy Minister for Information U Aung Hla Tun, Permanent Secretary U Myo Myint Maung and officials from ministries.

The Children's Literary Festival (Bago) will be held at Bago University convocation hall for three days from 28 to 30 March. Children's Literary Festivals were jointly organized by Ministry of Information, Ministry of Education and relevant State/Region governments and were held with the aims to make children like and live with books and literature, become life-long learners, participate happily in the festival and gain the habit of working together, become learned, knowledgeable and sociable youths who will become future leaders. — MNA ■



Union Minister for Information Dr. Pe Myint addresses the coordination meeting to successfully convene Children's Literary Festival (Bago). PHOTO:MNA

Sun Outage might interrupt TV, Radio transmission from 6 to 17 March

A sun outage occurs when the apparent path of the Sun across the sky it directly behind the line of sight between an earth station and a satellite.

All satellites can be affected by sun outages.

A sun outage is a natural phenomenon and occurs every year. Sun outages usually occur one time in March, one time each in late September and early October.

The time for sun outage and signal interruption can vary depending on a satellite, size of TVRO receiver and location.

TV Channel and Radio programs of the MRTV which uses Thaicom-6 can be affected by the sun outages from 6 to 17 March for three minutes to 15 minutes, according to the Myanma Radio and Television.— MNA

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing attends 16th ACDFM in Thailand

Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing attended the 16th ASEAN Chiefs of Defence Forces Meeting held at the Royal Cliff Hotel, Pattaya, Thailand yesterday.

The meeting was attended by Tatmadaw Commander-in-Chief Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and party and ASEAN Chiefs of Defence Forces and parties. At the meeting, the meeting chair Commander-in-Chief of the Royal Thai Armed Forces (RTAF) General Ponpipat Benyasri first delivered an opening speech and posed for commemorative group photo with ASEAN Chiefs of Defence Forces. Later the ASEAN Chiefs of Defence Forces watched the video record of the informal 16th ACDFM meeting.

Next the outcomes of the 16th ASEAN Military Intelligence Informal Meeting and 9th ASEAN Military Operations Informal Meeting were addressed by Lt-Gen Nathapol Boonngam, Chief of RTAF Directorate of Joint Intelligence and Lt-Gen



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing attends the 16th ASEAN Chiefs of Defence Forces Meeting in Pattaya, Thailand. **PHOTO: OFFICE OF THE C-IN-C OF DEFENCE SERVICES**

Suphot Malaniyom, RTAF Director of Joint Operations respectively.

Afterwards, meeting chair Commander-in-Chief of RTAF General Ponpipat Benyasri led the ASEAN Chiefs of Defence Forces in a country-wise discussion in alphabetical order where Tatmadaw Command-

er-in-Chief Senior General Min Aung Hlaing discussed about "Responding to terrorism for sustainable security of ASEAN."

Later Tatmadaw Commander-in-Chief, wife and party attended a luncheon hosted by RTAF Commander-in-Chief.

After the luncheon the second part of the meeting

was continued where the two-year work program of ASEAN armed forces for 2018-2019 was discussed and the joint declaration of 16th ACDFM was signed. Commander-in-Chief of RTAF then delivered a closing speech and handed over the role of the 17th ACDFM Chair to Chief of the General Staff of the Viet Nam

People's Army Senior Lt-Gen Phan Van Giang.

The meeting came to a close after the Chief of the General Staff of the Viet Nam People's Army delivered an acceptance speech.

After the meeting Tatmadaw Commander-in-Chief Senior General Min Aung Hlaing met separately with Malaysia Armed Forces Chief of Defence Forces General Tan Sri Dato Seri Panglima Hj Zulkifli Bin Hj Zainal Abidin, Chief of the General Staff of the Viet Nam People's Army Senior Lt-Gen Phan Van Giang and Deputy Defence Minister of the People's Republic of Laos and Chief of Staff of the Lao People's Army Lt-Gen Souvone Leuangbounmy.

During the meetings further enhancing the friendship between the militaries, cooperating in training, and exchanging rank wise friendly visits were discussed according to the news from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services. — MNA

(Translated by Zaw Min)

Union Attorney-General U Tun Tun Oo receives EU Ambassador

Union Attorney-General U Tun Tun Oo received a delegation led by EU Ambassador Mr. Kristian Schmidt at his office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

They discussed the MyJustice programme for supporting fairness, equitability and justice in Myanmar, which receives financial and technical assistance from the European Union, current and completed tasks for cooperation with the Union At-

torney-General Office. They also discussed promoting the role of lawyers in implementing the rule of law and developing justice, amending the Bar Council Act, and maintaining adherence to international conventions and standards in drafting the Protection Against Hate Speech Bill and the Prevention and Protection of Violence Against Women Bill in Myanmar. — MNA

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)



Union Attorney-General U Tun Tun Oo receives EU Ambassador Mr. Kristian Schmidt at his office in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

Implementation Committee on Central Provident Fund System holds first meeting

The first meeting of the Implementation Committee of the Central Provident Fund System was held at the Ministry of Planning and Finance in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Speaking at the meeting, MoPF Union Minister U Soe Win said the yearly increase of the number of people living on pensions and the rise in life expectancies pushes the expenditure on pensions year after year. He said the current pension expenditure uses 1.5 per cent of the nation's GDP, one-sixth of the national revenue, and adds up to 10 per cent of the national expenditure every year.

The Union Minister said we need to follow global practices and adapt a pension system based on a provident fund so that our national pension system is sustainable and the national budget expenditure can withstand the strain in the long run. He said we must enact a suitable law on the central provident fund and design a master strategy to implement it in a timely manner.

Following the Union Minister's speech, committee chair-



Union Minister U Soe Win addresses the first meeting of the Implementation Committee of the Central Provident Fund System in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

person Deputy Minister U Maung Maung Win said the current national pension system derives its finance directly from the national budget, has no fund accumulation programmes, and is assignment-based. He said we must set up a central provident fund system for a sustainable pension system and head towards a national system that encompasses staff from the private sector in the future.

Next, committee secretary Dr. Wah Wah Maung, Director-General of the Pension Department, explained the long-term and short-term procedures

for reforming the national pension system, drafting the Central Provident Fund Bill, and forming a technical committee to research international experiences regarding this matter.

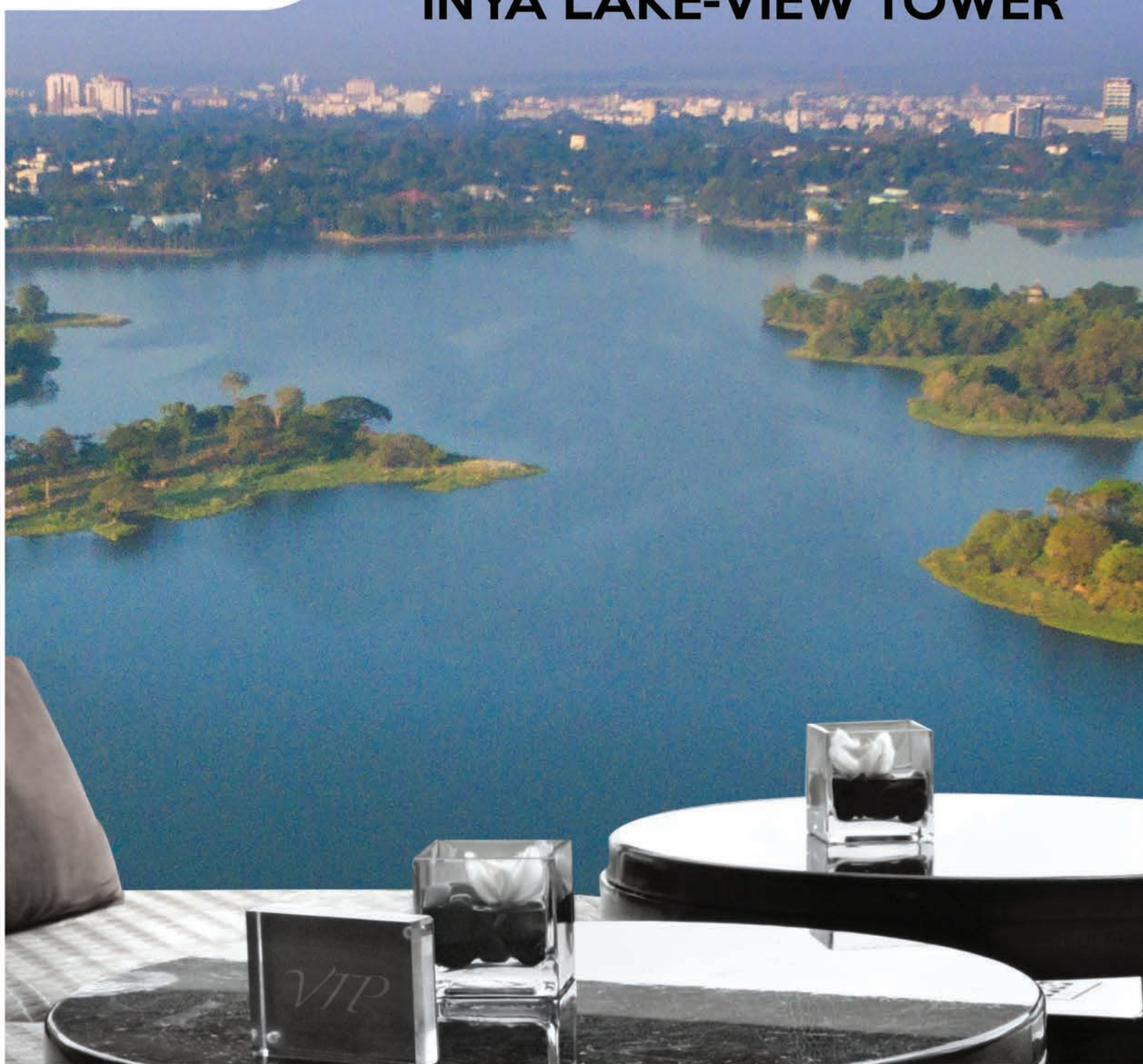
The Implementation Committee of the Central Provident Fund System was formed on 19 February with Order No. 27/2019 from the Office of the President to work towards ensuring civil servants and staff from the private sector can afford housing, have access to healthcare protection, and monthly pensions upon their retirement. — MNA (Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)



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Fulfilling one's duty to the nation

THE people of the Union have designated their territory and their particular race in each of the state or region they are living in but they have also acknowledged that a variety of other ethnic races are living peacefully in the same area with them. This peaceful coexistence is a mark of pride for one's region and is also a pride of the entire Union.

No matter where they are living in the country, all ethnic races are living together in harmony based on the Union spirit. This is both noble and honorable. To achieve this status requires working towards and fulfilling strengthening the nation, procuring prosperity, peace and stability. Myanmar is not a developed country yet so we have some way to go before we

achieve equitable rights and reduction in wealth inequality.

Genuine development assures everyone the same improvements and prosperity. A country's wealth can be measured in the skills and capabilities of its people. Only when the people are skilled will the nation be on the right path to achieving its objectives. These remarks were made by the State Counsellor during her meeting with the local residents of Khamti Township on 6 March.

The stakeholders of Myanmar are paving the way towards a democratic federal Union that promises all-encompassing peace and development in the country. With this comes the responsibility to ensure that development is uniform across all levels of the nation. This responsibility rests squarely on the shoulders of those who have assumed office but there is also a certain degree of shared responsibility with each citizen.

The State Counsellor mentioned on that same day that the most important duty of a citizen is to first be conscientious towards one's nation, and then to one's state or region, then to one's township or ward or village, and then finally to one's family and social circle.

The unity, cohesiveness, and conscious adherence to one's duty of each citizen is the driving force for national development. The strength gathered through diversity is a recipe for success, and everyone must realize their duty to the Union to prevent our differences from separating us.



2019 International Women's Day: "Think Equal, Build Smart, Innovate for Change"

By United Nations Country Team in Myanmar

INVESTING in women is the most effective way to lift families, communities, businesses, and countries. Women's participation makes peace agreements stronger, societies more resilient and economic growth more sustainable. Empowering women will benefit us all.

As the women's rights movement is making significant advances around the world, we in Myanmar also "Think equal, build smart, innovate for change," as is suggested in the theme of the 2019 International Women's Day.

Today, we celebrate women in Myanmar as industry leaders, social entrepreneurs, activists, scientists, artists and innovators. We also acknowledge the remarkable strength of the women who have been displaced and the survivors of gender-based violence for their resilience as they continue to contribute to their family, community and the country.

On this occasion, we are also looking at how we can support the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar in creating conditions for women to increase their impact on the on-going transitions from conflict to peace, from military rule to democratic governance, and from a closed to a liberalized economy.



After 2015 election, the number of the women MPs increased to 13%. PHOTO: ASO

Women Can Strengthen the Peace Process

The Myanmar Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement together with the Framework for Political Dialogue paved the way for women to be better represented in the peace process. The progress has been promising. At the third Pan-

glong conference in 2018 the proportion of women had increased to around 20 per cent. Continued progress is needed to reach the recommended minimum of 30 per cent female participation in peace talks, as outlined in the government's strategy. Research shows that the strong influence of

women in the negotiations correlates with a higher likelihood of successfully implementing peace agreements. The UN is working with the government, CSOs and other actors to ensure that women and girls have a greater influence in building sustainable peace. We are providing technical assistance

and capacity strengthening to the Union and State Governments; promoting advocacy efforts and alliance building among women's CSOs; and implementing targeted programming to empower and protect conflict- and crisis-affected women, including through the sexual violence in conflict agenda.

Geographically, these activities are carried out mainly in Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Mon, northern Shan and Rakhine states. As we consider peace a priority, just like the government, we are open to expand our programmes.

Women Essential for Democratic Transition

Women's participation is a key indicator for the strength of a democracy. The 2015 elections saw significant increase in women in political leadership as the number of elected women parliamentarians has doubled to 13 per cent. The composition of the Myanmar civil service is now close to gender parity, but the decision-making structures and leadership are male-dominated. Only 1.5 per cent of senior civil service positions are occupied by women. At the local level, the gender imbalance in the leadership is most visible as women make up only 0.25 per cent of ward or village tract administrators. To promote greater participation of women in leadership across all levels of government, the UN is helping to implement the National Strategic Action Plan for the Advancement of Women (2013-2022). We are focusing on the provision of gender-responsive laws, policies, programmes, statistics and budgets including through the roll-out of gender mainstreaming and gender-responsive budgeting principles across all ministries.

SEE PAGE-12

Health authorities across the WHO South-East Asia Region must recognize and embrace their role in promoting gender equality

By Dr Poonam Khetrpal Singh, WHO Regional Director for South-East Asia

INTERNATIONAL Women's Day is an opportunity to celebrate the courage, strength and capacity of 'ordinary' women to drive extraordinary change. It is also an opportunity to recommit to our common goal: gender equality and the empowerment of women. Though achieving this outcome requires a whole-of-society approach, the health sector has a crucial role to play. Health authorities across the WHO South-East Asia Region must recognize and embrace it.

Recent progress demon-

strates the impact health sector initiatives can have on women's well-being, a key dimension of their empowerment. Between 1990 and 2015, for example, the Region reduced maternal mortality by 69%. Between 2001 and 2015 contraceptive use increased from 46% to 60%. In the same period, the total fertility rate dropped from three to 2.4 children per woman. The human papilloma virus vaccine, so crucial to preventing cervical cancer, is meanwhile gaining traction as global calls to eliminate the disease grow.

There is, however, a long way to go: In the health sector and beyond, gender equality and women's empowerment must be

a core priority, both to fulfill the human rights of women and girls across the Region, as well as to leverage the society-wide benefits it guarantees.

As per the focus of this year's International Women's Day – 'Think equal, build smart, innovate for change' – a good place to start 'thinking equal' is to improve adolescent health. In doing so, young women will not only be healthier; they will also be empowered to choose their own destiny. Increasing access to family planning services more generally will reduce the number of women treated for abortion-related complications and will also reduce unwanted pregnancies that can

affect women's health and limit their life-choices.

Health authorities should likewise 'build smart' in their approaches to universal health coverage. Whether for reasons of gender inequality, poverty, ethnicity, education or other factors, many women continue to face barriers to access, even as the coverage and quality of health services increases. These barriers must be addressed as a matter of priority. Importantly, when both women and men can access the services they need, as they need them, the burden of unpaid care in families (which typically falls on women and girls) is reduced and gender equality advanced.

To 'innovate for change', creative approaches to grassroots engagement and the use of new technology can be channelled. That could mean working with women's groups to find ways to address gender-based violence or helping change norms around early marriage. It could also mean reducing the digital gender divide and rolling out Health technologies to enhance women's and girls' health literacy and encourage timely health-seeking.

On International Women's Day, as every other day, WHO is committed to achieving gender equality, to eliminating all forms of discrimination against women and ensuring that women's right to

health is respected, protected and fulfilled. To this end, sustaining the Region's achievements, accelerating progress and harnessing the full power of innovation are imperative. Only then will women's health and the empowerment it promotes be advanced. And only then will the Region be poised to achieve gender equality – an outcome that will benefit all.

WHO's South-East Asia Region comprises the following 11 Member States: Bangladesh, Bhutan, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, India, Indonesia, Maldives, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Timor-Leste. ■

UN Secretary-General's Message on International Women's Day 2019

8 March 2019

GENDER equality and women's rights are fundamental to global progress on peace and security, human rights and sustainable development. We can only re-establish trust in institutions, rebuild global solidarity and reap the benefits of diverse perspectives by challenging historic injustices and promoting the rights and dignity of all.

In recent decades, we have seen remarkable progress on women's rights and leadership in some areas. But these gains are far from complete or consistent — and they have already sparked a troubling backlash from an entrenched patriarchy.

Gender equality is fundamentally a question of power. We live in a male-dominated world with a male-dominated culture. Only when we see women's rights as our common objective, a route to change that benefits everyone, will we begin to shift the balance.

Increasing the number of women decision-makers is fundamental. At the United Nations, I have made this a personal and urgent priority. We now have gender parity among those who lead our teams around the world, and the highest-ever numbers of women in senior management. We will continue to build on this progress.

But women still face major obstacles in accessing and exercising power. As the World Bank found, just six economies give women and men equal legal rights in areas that affect their work. And if current trends continue, it will take 170 years to close the economic gender gap.

Nationalist, populist and austerity agendas add to gender inequality with policies that curtail women's rights and cut social services. In some countries, while homicide rates overall are decreasing, femicide rates are rising. In others we see a rollback of legal protection against domestic violence or female genital mutilation. We know women's participation makes peace agreements more durable, but even governments that are vocal advocates fail to back their words with action. The use of sexual violence as a tactic in conflict continues to traumatize individuals and entire societies.

Against this backdrop, we need to redouble our efforts to protect and promote women's rights, dignity and leadership. We must not give ground that has been won over decades and we must push for wholesale, rapid and radical change.

This year's theme for International Women's Day, "Think Equal, Build Smart, Innovate for Change", addresses infrastructure, systems and frameworks that have been constructed largely in line with a male-defined culture. We need to find innovative ways of reimagining and rebuilding our world so that it works for everyone. Women decision-makers in areas like urban design, transport and public services can increase women's access, prevent harassment and violence, and improve everyone's quality of life.

This applies equally to the digital future that is already upon us. Innovation and technology reflect the people who make them. The underrepresentation and lack of retention of women in the fields of science, technology, engineering, mathematics and design should be a cause of concern to all.

Last month, in Ethiopia, I spent time with African Girls Can Code, an initiative that is helping to bridge the digital gender divide and train the tech leaders of tomorrow. I was delighted to see the energy and enthusiasm these girls brought to their projects. Programmes like this not only develop skills; they challenge stereotypes that limit girls' ambitions and dreams.

On this International Women's Day, let's make sure women and girls can shape the policies, services and infrastructure that impact all our lives. And let's support women and girls who are breaking down barriers to create a better world for everyone.—UNIC/Yangon

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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.

850,890 sit for Matriculation exams on second day

THERE are a total of 850,890 students sitting for the English subject on the second day of the Matriculation exams for 2019 at exam centres at home and abroad.

The number of exam centres totaled 1,886 with 21 based overseas and 1,865 across the country.

Out of 850,890 students sitting for their exams on the second day, 97 are taking the exam at hospitals, 24 are visually impaired, 15 are hearing impaired, 132 have physical disabilities, 182 are in prison, and 137 from Myawady, Kayin State.—MNA (Translated by Kyaw Zin Lin)

Students leave from exam room after sitting for their matriculation yesterday. **PHOTO: ZAW MIN LATT**

Conjoined star tortoises separated in 2017 thriving at Lawkananda sanctuary: officials

A PAIR of conjoined star tortoises, who were successfully separated in June, 2017, are in good health, said conservationists at the Lawkananda Wildlife Sanctuary in Bagan yesterday.

The twins were among the star tortoises, an endangered species, that hatched from 2,430 eggs laid by 106 females during the breeding season in June, 2017 at the sanctuary, which is located in Bagan, NyaungU District. Staff at the sanctuary nursed the twins carefully, and then they were sent to Dr. Tint Lwin, a veterinarian with the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS)/ Turtle Survival Alliance

(TSA), on 22 June, 2017.

"The twins were separated two weeks after they were born. They are now at the sanctuary. Their shell length is 4 cm and they weigh 20 kg," said officials. "The conjoined twins were separated after two weeks of breeding. They were under special care for two years," said Dr. Tint Lwin, who is a retired officer from the Forestry Department.

"The gender of the twins can be ascertained at the age of five or six. For now, people can see and observe the twins at the Lawkananda sanctuary," he said.—Ko Htain (Ngathayauk) (Translated by La Wonn)

Conjoined star tortoises were successfully separated at the Lawkananda Wildlife Sanctuary in Bagan. **PHOTO: KO HTAIN (NGATHAYAUK)**Engineers being repaired the route for the trains on Myitkyina Mandalay route. **PHOTO: WIN NAING (KACHIN)**

Two trains derail on Myitkyina-Mandalay route in two days

IN separate instances, two trains derailed on 6 and 7 March on the Myitkyina-Mandalay route in Mogaung Township, Kachin State, temporarily blocking rail traffic on the section.

One train, driven by U Aung Zaw Lin, derailed around 8:15 a.m. on 6 March between the 659/11 and 659/12 milestones on the Myitkyina-Mandalay route. The track was temporarily blocked for repairs.

Another train derailment

was reported the next day at 7 a.m. between the 664/22 and 664/23 milestones on the Pinbaw-Minkone section. The train, driven by U Tun Naing, was on its way to Myitkyina from Mohnyin.

Officials, engineers, administrators, and police from Mogaung Township were called in and the tracks were repaired. Train services on the route returned to normal at 1 p.m.—Win Naing (Kachin)

(Translated by La Wonn)

Nearly 60% of dried fish depots suspended due to import ban

By Aye Yamone

NEARLY 60 per cent of dried fish depots in the country have suspended operations on account of the ban on import of raw dried fish, according to the Myanmar Fish Paste, Dried Fish, and Fish Sauce Entrepreneurs Association.

Scarcity of raw products amid an increasing demand has pushed about 200 of the 300 dried fish entrepreneurs in Myanmar to suspend their businesses.

“There are around 300 dried fish entrepreneurs in Myanmar. Only 50 depots got raw dried fish because we have been banned from importing it. The Trade Department is not issuing import licenses. So, about 100 entrepreneurs are importing raw dried fish illegally,” said U Soe Naing Win, the chairman of the Myanmar Fish Paste, Dried Fish, and Fish Sauce Entrepreneurs Association.

“Although the Fisheries Department and the Myanmar Fisheries Federation are issu-



Dried fish stalls in a market. PHOTO: AUNG WIN (PYAPON)

ing recommendation letters to allow entrepreneurs to import raw dried fish, imports of only those fish and prawn species which could not be caught with-

in the country have been permitted. The Trade Department has suspended issuing of import licenses since November, 2018,” he said.

“Earlier, we paid K1.5 million in tax for importing a container of raw dried fish. But now, the tax has been increased to K4.5 million as fish are being im-

ported via Thailand,” he added.

“I prefer to operate legally because unlawful ways of doing business can cause our fisheries sector to collapse. Anyone can ask me about the laws concerning their business. If I don't know, I will ask the fisheries department and share the guidelines. It is better for us to work according to the procedures, because, if we find a striped catfish inflicted with disease, we may not know if it has been illegally imported or produced locally,” said Dr. Toe Nandar Tin, the Vice Chairwoman of the MFF.

The fisheries federation plans to raise the issue of import suspension on raw dried fish with officials from the Trade Department.

To fulfil local demand, Myanmar has been importing raw dried fish from Thailand, China, Indonesia, and Oman, according to the Myanmar Fish Paste, Dried Fish, and Fish Sauce Entrepreneurs Association.

(Translated by Hay Mar)

MIC receives enquiry for casino business

By Nyein Nyein

MYANMAR Investment Commission (MIC) has received an enquiry into operating grant for casino, said U Aung Naing Oo, Secretary of MIC.

“At present, investors are interested in casino business and submit enquiry requests to MIC. However, we have not approved this business yet”, said U Aung Naing Oo.

“Most of them who sent enquiries to MIC are from Macau. Investors from other countries

also made queries”, he added.

Despite the enquiries, MIC cannot grant permission to them. MIC can approve those business only after a Gambling Law is enacted and by-laws, rules and regulations are issued.

“Gambling is still under amendment. Even after the amended law is instituted, by-laws and rules will still need to be formulated. After the rules and regulations are done, MIC can grant permission. Therefore, we cannot provide an exact timeline for when permission

will be granted. There are still many processes to proceed. It cannot be finished within one or two months. Sure, it will take a certain period”, said U Aung Naing Oo.

U Aung Hlaing Win, a representative of Mingaladon constituency, raised a question on 9 February, 2018 at Pyithu Hluttaw as to whether a casino business can be permitted on those islands that most tourists flock to, as casinos can earn revenues and help improve the hotel and tourism business.

U Ohn Maung, Union Minister for Hotels and Tourism, responded to a question, saying the Ministry of Home Affairs has agreed to allow casinos to operate, but only after amendments have been added to the Gambling Law 1986. Under the existing law, casino businesses on tourist islands cannot be approved.

The Public Affairs Management Committee submitted the 2018 gambling bill, which included six chapters and 23 sections, to Pyithu Hluttaw on 22 August, 2018.

Nevertheless, the two Hluttaws have misunderstandings about the 2018 gambling legislation. Regarding this bill, the Bill Committee presented parts of each section and staged a debate on the tenth day of the meeting of the Second Pyidaungsu Hluttaw 11th regular session held on 26 February 2019. Following this, the Bill Committee received suggestions from the members.

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Imports decline by \$365.9 mln in Oct-Feb

THE value of imports for the period from 1 October to 22 February in the current fiscal year dropped to \$7.17 billion from \$7.53 billion in the previous FY, according to data released by the Ministry of Commerce.

The import values of consumer, capital, and intermediate goods fell slightly during the October-February period.

Myanmar imported consumer goods, such as pharmaceuticals, cosmetics, and

palm oil, worth \$1.3 billion. Consumer goods imports by both the private as well as the public sector declined by \$116 million compared with the same period in the last fiscal.

Meanwhile, imports of capital goods, such as auto parts, vehicles, machines, steel, and airplane parts, reached \$2.3 billion, a decline of \$178 million from the same period in the last FY.

Intermediate goods made

up most of the imports, with petroleum products and plastic raw materials being the main import items. Imports of raw materials stood at \$2.6 billion, a decrease of \$219 million from the same period in the 2017-2018 fiscal.

In addition, raw materials worth \$917 million were imported for the CMP (cut-make-pack) garment sector. —GNLM

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

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Yangon Region Chief Minister hosts luncheon in honor of Czech Republic Deputy FM

YANGON Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein hosted a luncheon in honor of Czech Republic Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs Mr. Martin Tiapa at Chatrium Hotel, Yangon yesterday.

Earlier in the day Czech Republic Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs attended a discussion titled "Economic Transition: The Czech Experience and its Relevance for Myanmar" held at the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI), Min Ye Kyaw Zwa Road, Yangon.

At the event UMFCCI Vice President Dr. Maung Maung Lay delivered a



Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein shakes hands with Mr. Martin Tiapa, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic. PHOTO: MNA

message of greeting and Czech Republic Deputy Minister for Foreign Af-

fairs spoke about difficulties and challenges faced by the Czech Republic

during the economic transition period, innovation in market economy system and competitions, sharing attractive opportunities for investors and developing economic transition of Myanmar in a balanced way.

Attending local and international business persons then raised questions on increasing trade and investment to which the Czech Republic Deputy Minister provided suggestions and discussions.

The event at UMFCCI was attended by officials from the Czech Embassy in Myanmar, officials from UMFCCI and sister organisations and interested business persons. —MNA

Second Pyithu Hluttaw's eleventh regular session holds 22nd meeting

FROM PAGE-2

On behalf of Myanmar Investment Commission (MIC) and Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations Myanmar Investment Commission member Deputy Minister for Planning and Finance U Set Aung then discussed the motion and said relevant ministries will take action against investors who obtained state owned lands, buildings and businesses but did not conduct works ac-

cording to the pledges made. MIC and relevant ministry will conduct field surveys to ensure strict following of the agreements and if required, the agreement itself will be reviewed and re-discussed. To prevent giving permission easily to incapable investors, President's Office had issued instructions and guidelines to lease state-owned lands, buildings and businesses through a transparent and competitive tender system.

Furthermore, works

were being conducted so that only true investors are provided (leased) with the required land and building. MIC and relevant ministries were also jointly reviewing agreements made and will re-negotiate and discuss where amendments were required. As the matters mentioned in the motion were already being conducted together with better arrangements in future, the motion is recommended to be put on record said the Deputy

Minister. As the motion proposer wish for the motion to be approved, Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker obtained the decision of the Hluttaw through a vote where there were 215 for, 117 against and 4 abstaining. Accordingly an announcement was made of the motion being approved by the Hluttaw.

The 23rd meeting of the eleventh regular session of the Second Pyithu Hluttaw will be held on 11 March.

(Translated by Zaw Min)

Kyat likely to strengthen against US dollar in pre-Thingyan days

PRIOR to Thingyan festivals, the value of Kyat is expected to gain against the US dollar in domestic currency market, according to currency market forecast of businesspersons.

Starting from early March, the US dollar tends to fall against the Kyat and it touched a low of K1,505 per dollar last Wednesday, according to money exchangers.

Normally, dollar rate is on the rise in the beginning of the months. This month witnessed weakening dollar forex on account of drop in import and surge in export, said money exchangers.

During October last year, a US dollar exchange rate hit the highest of K1,600. Thereafter, it gradually turned into down side and fell to below K1,500 in the end of February 2019.

The Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) bought over US\$11 million from private banks at its set exchange rate in three days (24, 26 and 27 December) when dollar exchange rate was around K1,540-1,560 in local currency market in late 2018. Again, the CBM bought \$5 million from private banks at its set rate on 3 January.

The weighted average market exchange rate of

the CBM was K1,516 per dollar on 6 March 2019.

In the second quarter of 2018, the minimum and maximum exchange rates were K1,345-1,407 in June, K1,384-1,443 in July, K1,442-1,570 in August, K1,538-1,650 in September, K1,515-1,600 in October, K1,565-1,595 in November and K1,510-1,577 in December. — Ko Htet

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

2019 International Women's Day: "Think Equal, Build Smart, Innovate for Change"

FROM PAGE-9

We are also supporting the efforts to introduce measures to enable women's equal participation from the level of civil servants, village tract and township administrators, and members of parliament, to electoral candidates and voters.

Women Can Unlock Myanmar's Economic Potential

With the rapid strides in economic growth, we need to ensure that women are not left behind. Today, only half of women are in the labour force, compared to 85.6 per cent of men. Women are paid less and most work in the informal sector, or in low-paying, low-status jobs. Many migrate for employment and are in vulnerable and unprotected forms of domestic work. They are constrained by lack of access to assets and resources. Most of the unpaid and care work disproportionately falls on the shoulders of women. Yet women can also hold the key to boosting economic growth. By realizing the potential of women and enabling their entry into

the labour market, Myanmar can generate its own brand of economic growth driven by a "gender dividend". The gender dividend can be unlocked by creating jobs. But for this to happen, women need equal rights to education, health-care, credit, land, and decision-making positions. The UN has taken steps to support the Government to promote women's access to decent, safe, fair and quality work. We are also supporting programmes preventing and mitigating human trafficking and other forms of violence against women, including working women. However, more needs to be done and we are prepared to help.

Women and girls are as much part of the Myanmar's future as men and boys. We are part of the movement for women's rights and empowerment. We stand with women, listen to them and learn from them. We are ready to step up our cooperation, build smart and innovate for change in partnership with the government. We think equal and we are committed to achieve gender parity latest by 2030.

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Consignees of cargo carried on M.V BLPL TRUST VOY. NO. (1905N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 08-03-2019 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.I.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.

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Russia's Arctic plans add to polar bears' climate woes

MOSCOW (Russia) — Last month's visit by roaming polar bears that put a Russian village on lockdown may be just the beginning.

For as Moscow steps up its activity in the warming Arctic, conflict with the rare species is likely to increase.

More than 50 bears approached Belyushya Guba, a village on the far northern Novaya Zemlya archipelago, in February. As many as 10 of them explored the streets and entered buildings.

Local authorities declared a state of emergency for a week and appealed for help from Moscow.

Photos of the incident went viral, with some observers blaming officials for ignoring a sprawling garbage dump nearby where the animals feasted on food waste.

But polar bear experts say the main reason the



Current instructions to Russians in the Arctic focus on how to ward them off, but one expert insists: 'Put yourself inside a cage and let the bears roam around'. PHOTO: AFP

Arctic predators came so close to humans was the late freezing of the sea. It was this that kept them from hunting seals and sent them looking for alternate food sources.

And as Russia increases its footprint in the Arctic,

pursuing energy projects, Northern Passage navigation and strategic military interests, experts expect more clashes between humans and bears.

"Development in the Arctic will definitely increase conflict with hu-

mans, especially now that the polar bear is losing its life platform in several regions and coming ashore," said biologist Anatoly Kochnev, who has studied polar bears in the eastern Arctic since the 1980s.

World's fastest-melting ice

Novaya Zemlya, an archipelago of two islands between the Kara and Barents seas, is a good example of Moscow's new frontier that falls inside the polar bear habitat.

Bears in the Barents Sea are seeing the fastest ice reduction of the species' range, having lost 20 weeks of ice a year over the last few decades, according to Polar Bears International.

"Ice monitoring shows that previously, ice near Belushya Guba formed in December," said Ilya Mordvintsev from the Severtsov Institute in Moscow, who was in a group of scientists flown out to aid the village.

"For thousands of years, they migrated this time of year to hunt seals. This year they came to the shore and there was no ice."

Since the incident, ice has formed and the bears have left land to hunt, he said. "But it's impossible to rule out a repeat of the situation in the coming years."

And as more humans come to Novaya Zemlya, the likelihood of human-bear conflict increases.

A Soviet-era nuclear weapons testing site, Novaya Zemlya remains a restricted territory. But following a post-Soviet hiatus, the military has put up new buildings and an aerodrome.

A new port is under construction, in tandem with imminent plans to mine the giant Pavlovskoye lead and zinc deposit. New contingents of military police were deployed to Belyushya Guba in 2018.

The community, which has schools and a large sports complex for military families, numbers over 2,000 people.—AFP ■

**In the matter of Myanmar Companies Law and
MYANMAR UPTRON HOLDINGS CO., LTD
Notice of holding Creditors' Meeting and Notice to Creditors
[Notice under Section 361 (b)]**

Notice is hereby given that the Creditors' Meeting of Myanmar Uptron Holdings Co., Ltd will be convened at Peninsula Plaza, 111 North Bridge Road # 10-04/05, Singapore 179098, Singapore on March 30th, 2019 at 10:00 a.m just after holding the shareholders' Special General Meeting, for the following purposes:-

1. To appoint a suitable liquidator (or) liquidators for the purpose of winding-up the affairs and distributing the assets of the Company under Section 363; and
2. To appoint, if they deem fit, a Committee of Inspection under Section 364.

It is also notified that creditors are required to put up their claims together with supporting documents at the above address on or before the meeting date, failing which their claims will not be entertained in the liquidation and distribution of the assets.

Mr. Sameer Singh Purain
Director
Myanmar Uptron Holdings Co., Ltd

**In the matter of Myanmar Companies Law and
ITALIAN - THAI DEVELOPMENT (MYANMAR) CO., LTD
Notice to Creditors
[Notice under Section 361 (B)]**

Notice is hereby given that the Creditors' Meeting of Italian - Thai Development (Myanmar) Co., Ltd will be convened at Room No. 2D, Rose Condominium, No. 182/194, 1st Floor, Botahtaung Pagoda Road, Pazundaung Township, Yangon Region, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar on March 29th, 2019 at 10:00 a.m just after holding the shareholders' Special General Meeting, for the following purposes:-

1. To appoint a suitable liquidator (or) liquidators for the purpose of winding-up the affairs and distributing the assets of the Company under Section 363; and
2. To appoint, if they deem fit, a Committee of Inspection under Section 364.

It is also notified that creditors are required to put up their claims together with supporting documents at the above address on or before the meeting date, failing which their claims will not be entertained in the liquidation and distribution of the assets.

Mr. Premchai Karnasuta
Managing Director
Italian - Thai Development (Myanmar) Co., Ltd

TRADEMARK CAUTION

Myanmar Trade Fair Management Company Limited, a company incorporated and existing under the laws of Republic of the Union of Myanmar, and having its registered office at 42A, Pantra Street, Dagon Township, Yangon, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, hereby declares that the Company is the Owner and Sole proprietor of the following Trademark:



Reg. No. IV/15540/2019 (29 January 2019)

The above Trademark is used in respect of "Organization of exhibitions for trade, business and commercial purposes; organization of trade fairs for commercial or advertising purposes; advertising and business management consultancy in the field of printing industry; business advisory services relating to the organisation of congresses, conferences, exhibitions and trade fairs; advertising services; organization of promotional events; business management and administration services; provision of business and trade information; distribution of publicity materials, pamphlets and samples; demonstration of goods" in **Class 35**; and "Organization of exhibitions, conferences, seminars and workshops relating to science, technology and engineering; provision of training, seminars and workshops relating to the printing industry; organisation and conducting of expositions, shows and exhibitions for education purposes; arranging and conducting of entertainment and cultural events; online publication (non-downloadable); online publication of printed matter, leaflets, newsletters and journals" in **Class 41**.

Any fraudulent imitation or unauthorized use of the above Trademark or other infringements whatsoever thereto will be dealt with according to law.

Daw Yee Mon Aung, (Advocate)

For **Myanmar Trade Fair Management Company Limited**
c/o **Baker & McKenzie Limited**

Level 18, Unit 18-03, Sule Square, 221 Sule Pagoda Road, Kyauktada Township, Yangon, The Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Dated: 8th March 2019

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Report to the People submitted by the Committee for Implementation of the Recommendations on Rakhine State, on its activities from September to December 2018



This report to the people covers the activities of Ministries, Government Organizations and Rakhine State Government involved in the Committee for Implementation of the Recommendations on Rakhine State, during the period from September to December 2018.

A thorough assessment of these recommendations will show that while some of them are easily discernible by facts and figures, others remain more subtle and pervasive, likely to take more time to follow them step by step, until a certain stage is reached to comprehend the whole process. This report covers activities and progress which can be easily shown in facts and figures, but is silent on such factors as social cohesion and long-term economic development, which can be seen only on the long-run.

Economic and Social Development of Rakhine State

- Registered (73) Companies**
Company registration of 73 local business firms has been undertaken in order to promote local participation in investment sector.
- 8th November 2018**
Framework Agreement on Deep Seaport Project, Kyaukphyu Special Economic Zone was signed on 8th November 2018.
- (151) Workers**
A mobile team has visited remote areas which are not easily accessible and completed labour registration of 151 workers.
- Total (6975) Workers**
Labour registration has been undertaken in all townships in Rakhine State.
- 7th and 8th December 2018**
Dual functions of labour registration and job fair were undertaken at Rakhine Job Career Market Place, held in Rakhine State on 7th and 8th December 2018.

1

- Employment M(57%), F(43%)**
Out of the total registered labour force, 428 workers, including 242 Males and 186 Females have been employed.
- (28) courses (893) trainees (Male/Female)**
28 courses of vocational training covering 21 categories have been conducted for 893 trainees (Male/Female).
- (21) males (758) females**
30 courses of training covering 8 categories, with special preference for females have been conducted for 21 male trainees and 758 female trainees.

Road and Communication

- Out of 24 bridges under construction, construction of 4 bridges had been completed.
- Construction of 29 bridges under the new project has already started and present completion is 14%.

Construction of Mayyu Mountain Passes	Type of work	Kyauchaung-Goatpi Mountain pass	Kyaukpannu-Indin-Zelipyin road
	Earthen road work	9 miles 7 furlongs	9 miles
	Cut and fill work	8 miles	9 miles
	20' Sub-grade work	4 miles	9 miles
	Box Culvert work	9	46

Transportation Sector

- Construction of Kissapanadi -3 vessel in Japan has been already completed and the vessel will be operating in Rakhine State beginning from April 2019.
- Construction of Kissapanadi vessel (100%) Completed
- In order to ensure sea-worthiness of ships and vessels operating in Rakhine State, Life Saving Appliance – LSA Certificate has been issued for 103 times.

Air Transport

Air transport in Rakhine State amounts to 13% of total air traffic within the country.

Mrauk-U New Airport Project

Agreement to call for tenders under P.P.P system was signed with Nippon Koei Co.,Ltd on 27th November 2018.

2

- Telephone and Internet Communication Sector**
- 126 GSM mobile radio stations were expanded.
- 17 new lines installed for auto telephone.
- 12 new lines of ADSL Internet installed.
- Extension of postal services to Sane and Kyainchaung villages was installed on 10th September 2018.
- OK \$ (Mobile Money) system was installed in 17 townships and 16 villages on 24th December 2018.

Electricity

National Grid System

- 30th October 2018**
Electrical supply out of national grid was extended to Buthidaung and 13 outlying villages on 30th October 2018.
- 22nd December 2018**
A further extension of electrical supply was made to 5 wards within Maungtau township and 7 outlying villages on 22nd December 2018.

Electrical Supply under National Grid System

Construction of 3 new transformers, 3 new service lines and 4 new sub-stations was accomplished during the period under review.



Extension of electrical supply to villages in Rakhine State amounts to 53% of the national grid system. Out of 3524 villages, 1890 villages are now enjoying the electrical supply.



Township-wise, out of 26 townships in Rakhine state, 20 townships are currently enjoying electricity under national grid system and 6 townships by other means.

Wind Power Electrical Supply System Commenced on 1st November 2018



A new project for electrical supply with wind power to Mahnaung township and 5 outlying villages, to the tune of USD 2.5 million, under the terms of a MOU signed with Denmark has already commenced on 1st November 2018.

3

Electrification by Solar Energy



Solar Light (8023)units

The project for electrical supply of 8023 units under solar system in 72 villages of 43 village tracts in Buthidaung, Maungtau and Yathetaung is already completed.

Solar Light (13394)units

A contract has also been signed for supply of a further 13394 units during 2018 – 2019 fiscal year.

Water Supply

Water Supply Project Stage: 2 for Sittwe,

Water supply project stage: 2 for Sittwe, which is being implemented with JICA has been completed.

Water Supply for Villages

Respective tenders for water supply from 5 shallow wells, 30 manual wells, 63 ponds, 16 installations from water springs and 5 other water resources, to 113 villages are now under examination.



Emerald Green Village Project

Formation of funds supervision committee and training programme for implementation of 75 units under Emerald Green Village Project are now in place.

Rural Development Project

Rural development project is being implemented in 141 villages lying in 12 townships.

Community Driven Development Project

In terms of Community Driven Development Project (CDDP), 242 villages in Ann township and 349 villages in Gwa and Poonakyun townships are respectively engaged in 4th year and 1st year development stage of the project.

Total 100 Villages

6 fishing trawlers and three different types of fishing nets have been supplied to 57 villages involved in shrimp production and 43 villages engaged in fishery.

Mechanized Farming



In respect of mechanized farming respective machines, which are government-property, have been put to good use for tilling 6095 acres of paddy land and harvesting 4790 acres, during the period from September to December 2018.

18 manual ploughing machines and 2 flaying machines were distributed and sold with installment system.



Distribution of High Quality Seeds

In the sector of selection and distribution of high quality seeds, 15 baskets of paddy seeds, 127 baskets of beans (Matpe) seeds, 4107 baskets of ground net seeds and 112 baskets of green beans have been distributed so far.

4

(To be continued)

Large study again confirms MMR vaccine doesn't cause autism

WASHINGTON (United States)—A study following more than 650,000 Danish children for over a decade has led researchers to the same conclusion as previous efforts: the measles, mumps, rubella (MMR) vaccine does not increase a child's risk of autism. The study, which followed all Danish children born between 1999 and 2010 until 2013, compared the number of vaccinated and unvaccinated kids who were diagnosed with autism, and found no difference

"We found no support for the hypothesis of increased risk for autism after MMR vaccination in a nationwide unselected population of Danish children," researchers wrote in the US journal *Annals of Internal*

Medicine. The authors, from the Statens Serum Institut, the University of Copenhagen and Stand University School of Medicine, point out that their study comes to the same conclusion as a 2002 study that followed 537,000 Danish children. And they cite 10 other studies on childhood vaccines, including six on the MMR vaccine, which also found no links between vaccination and autism. In comparison to the hundreds of thousands of children studied for years whose data researchers say shows no link between the MMR vaccine and autism, the 1998 study that anti-vaccine proponents still often cite to claim a link included only 12 children.— AFP ■

OBITUARY

U SEIN LIN (EDWIN SINCLAIR) Colonel (Rtd.)

Director General (Rtd.) Road Transport Administration

Aged : 99 Years

U Sein Lin, son of (U Sinclair & Daw Tun Shwe), beloved husband of (Daw Hla Sein), father of (U Thayne Soe) & Daw Swanti, U Soe Aung & Daw Lily Han, Dr. Kyaw Thein, Dr. Ohmar Moe Myint & U Moe Myint; Grandfather of Sandy Soe, Saw Marlar Soe, Dr. Suu Myat Soe, Su Pyae Sone Soe, Aung Zaw Lin, Yu Lei Aung, Sithu Moe Myint, and Phone Kyaw Moe Myint; Great Grandfather of Six; peacefully passed away at No. 77 (A), University Avenue on 06 March 2019 at 09:50 pm and his remains will be cremated at Yeway Crematorium on 08 March 2019 (Friday) at 08:00 am.

Bereaved Family

"The Central Prestige" reveals its magnificent, sophisticated and unique masterpiece

THE Central announced on Wednesday that their state-of-the-art residence called "The Central Prestige" Tower celebrates its timeless craftsmanship and dedication to the highest living standards in Yangon.

The launching event of the tower will be held on March 17 evening, an exclusive soiree together with its customers and VIP guests at The Central's gallery showroom. The Central Prestige is located right in front of Inya Lake on Kabar Aye Pagoda Road, situated at the most central location



of Yangon. It boasts elegant architecture and interiors that combine the best quality materials with thoughtful touches at every turn. It is not just a magnificent architectural concept, it is

also an art form itself.

It is a masterpiece of artful living, the ultimate prestige at The Central project. "We are very much delighted to have set a benchmark for ultimate

luxury living for Myanmar. It is Yangon's first iconic living space with its matchless beauty at every corner and priceless location facing the magnificent Inya Lake. The Central Prestige

is a reflection of life lived at the pinnacle which brings to life the elegance and excitement of the metropolitan high life," said Mr. John Barnes, Director at Marga Landmark, the developer of The Central Prestige.

The two Central Prestige towers comprise of 1 to 3 bedroom units starting from 824 sqf to 2,012 sqf. Tower 1 houses the finest amenities such as the exclusive multi-function clubhouse at a sky-high 30th floor, an exclusive health and fitness facility with advanced gym equipment and perfect indulgence of the panoramic Inya Lake

view.

"Our main feature of The Central Prestige Towers is a refined elegant space with panoramic views from your private balconies. Our master bedrooms feature walk-in closets and en-suite bathrooms. We have well-appointed dining areas and kitchens which combine form and function, and come with amenities such as built-in appliances and service balcony to ensure a home which is functional and also elegant," Mr. Wilson Yeh, Head of Property Development at Marga Landmark.—GNLM ■

Moon shot: Toyota, Japan space agency plan lunar mission

TOKYO (Japan)—Toyota is teaming up with Japan's space agency on a planned mission to the Moon, with the Japanese auto giant expected to develop a lunar rover, officials and local media said on Wednesday. It will be the car manufacturer's first full-fledged entry into space exploration, after the company jointly developed a small robot sent to the International Space Station.

"We are planning to cooperate with Toyota in an exploration mission to the Moon," said a spokesman with the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA). Details will be announced by JAXA and Toyota on Tuesday next week when the space agency hosts a symposium in Tokyo, the spokesman told AFP.

Toyota also confirmed plans to announce a joint project with JAXA "on mobility and a space

probe" but declined to comment further. Jiji Press news agency said the car giant is expected to jointly develop a "mobility method" to be used on the lunar surface for the mission. The mission is part of renewed global interest in the Moon, sometimes called the "eighth continent" of the Earth, and comes 50 years after American astronauts first walked on the lunar surface.

Before humans set foot on the lunar surface again, NASA aims to land an unmanned vehicle on the Moon by 2024. So far, only Russia, the United States and China have made the 384,000-kilometre (239,000-mile) journey and landed spacecraft on the Moon. Last month, Israel launched a spacecraft that aims to join them.

In 2017, Japan revealed plans to put an astronaut on the Moon around 2030.— AFP ■

Einstein 'puzzle' solved as missing page emerges

JERUSALEM—An Albert Einstein "puzzle" has been solved thanks to a missing page of manuscript emerging in a collection of his writings acquired by Jerusalem's Hebrew University, officials announced on Wednesday.

The handwritten page, part of an appendix to a 1930 paper on the Nobel winner's efforts towards a unified field theory, was discovered among the 110-page trove the university's Albert Einstein archives received some two weeks ago. Most of the documents constitute handwritten mathematical calculations behind Einstein's scientific writings in the late 1940s. There are also letters that Einstein, born in Germany in 1879, wrote to collaborators which deal with a range of scientific and personal issues, including one to his son, Hans Albert.



Visitors look at some of Albert Einstein's manuscripts on display in the Jerusalem's Hebrew University of Jerusalem. PHOTO: AFP

The 1935 letter to his son expresses concern about the rise of the Nazi party in Germany. Nearly all the documents had been known to researchers and available in the form of copies—"sometimes better copies, sometimes very poor copies", said Hanoch Gutfreund, scien-

tific advisor to the university's Einstein archives. Gutfreund, a physics professor and former president of the university, said the eight-page appendix of the 1930 unified theory paper had never been published, though researchers had copies of it.— AFP ■

Myanmar to face Japan in AFC U-23 Championship 2020 Qualifiers

MYANMAR will take on Japan in the qualifiers for the AFC U-23 Championship 2020. The group stage for the football championship is scheduled to be held at the Thuwunna Stadium in Yangon from 22 to 26 March.

Host Myanmar has been placed in Group I along with Asian powerhouse Japan, Timor Leste, and Macau. Myanmar will play against Timor Leste on 22 March, Macau on 24 March, and football giant Japan on 26 March.

All team Myanmar matches will be held at the Thuwunna Stadium at 6 p.m. local standard time.

The drawing ceremony for the matches was held at the AFC

House in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, on 7 November. A total of 44 teams are competing in the championship, of which 24 are from West Asia and 20 are from East Asia. The teams have been divided into 11 groups of four teams.

The group stage will be conducted in a round robin style, with 11 winners and four best runners-up advancing to the AFC U-23 Championship, which will be held in Thailand in 2020.

Myanmar has selected 28 players for the national U-23 team. They are undergoing training for the qualifiers under the guidance of their head coach, Velizar Popov. —Lynn Thit (Tgi)



Myanmar team train for the AFC U-23 Championship 2020 Qualifiers. PHOTO:MNA

Team Myanmar quick, have a bright future: Niigata F.C. coach Shigetomi



Thura Aung (yellow) lifted the ball over the keeper and scored the only goal for Myanmar during the match with Niigata F.C. yesterday at Thuwunna Stadium in Yangon. PHOTO:MFF

TEAM Myanmar were quick on their feet in the match against Albirex Niigata F.C. Singapore, said Keiji Shigetomi, the Singaporean team's head coach, after the match yesterday.

Myanmar's U-19 men's football team took on Singapore's premier league champions at the Thuwunna Stadium in Yangon yesterday. The match ended 3-1 in favour of Niigata F.C., which is dominated by Japanese players.

Niigata F.C. had an edge right from the start with their stable and quick delivery. Although the Myanmar U-19

team put in a great effort with speedy play, there were weaknesses in their use of goal chances to up the score.

Niigata F.C. scored the opening goal at 14 minutes, and made their second goal at 27 minutes.

The first half ended 2-0 in favor of Niigata F.C.

Team Myanmar used different tactics in the second half, including 4-3-3, 4-5-1, and 4-4-2 formations, forcing faster play for control of the ball.

The Singapore premier league champions showed their experience, skills, and speedy and stable play, scoring

their third goal at 79 minutes.

Team Myanmar team refused to give up, and managed to score their only goal at 86 minutes. The goal was made by Myanmar's Thura Aung, who lifted the ball over the keeper, landing it straight into the net.

After the match, Niigata F.C. head coach Keiji Shigetomi said that team Myanmar played very fast and he saw a bright future for them.

Niigata F.C. will play against Myanmar's senior team or the U-23 team at the same venue on 9 March.—Lynn Thit(Tgi)

Messi expected to end Argentina exile despite hamstring trouble

BUENOS AIRES (Argentina)—Five-time world player of the year Lionel Messi is widely expected to end an eight-month exile and be called back into the Argentina squad ahead of the country's last get-together before the Copa America. But the 31-year-old Barcelona star is suffering from a hamstring strain and even if he agrees to return, he may not be fit to play in friendlies later this month against Venezuela and Morocco.

Interim coach Lionel Scaloni is due to name his squad for the friendlies on Thursday.

Messi hasn't pulled on the light blue and white national team jersey since Argentina were dumped out of the World Cup in June by eventual winners

France. He's also refused to comment on his international future in the last eight months.

"I hope, want and believe Leo will come back to the national team," said Scaloni last year.

Messi has missed six friendlies since the World Cup in Russia but most experts believe he will be a part of the squad that travels to Brazil for the Copa America later this year.

Whilst he's built up an almost unprecedented collection of trophies at his club, Messi is running out of time to taste major international success with Argentina.

He was on the losing side in major finals three years running from 2014-16 — first to Germany in the World Cup in Brazil, then twice to Chile on penalties in

the Copa America, including the one-off Centenary edition of the competition.

Flattered to deceive

Despite nine Spanish La Liga titles and four Champions League crowns with Barcelona, Messi's only success with Argentina was as part of the under-23 squad that won Olympic gold in Beijing in 2008. He and a generation that can boast Manchester City's Sergio Aguero, Angel Di Maria of Paris Saint-Germain and Chelsea forward Gonzalo Higuain have consistently flattered to deceive on the highest stage for Argentina. Still, without Messi, their chances in Brazil would be severely damaged.

"I know he can't wait to come

back, I know what he feels for this jersey," said Argentina's football federation (AFA) president Claudio Tapia three weeks ago.

However, AFA's new director of national teams, Cesar Menotti says Argentina must focus on the bigger picture rather than relying on Messi. "It's much more important to build teams and strengthen players to become champions rather than dreaming about Messi's return," said Menotti, who guided Argentina to World Cup glory as a coach in 1978.

"I don't think it's right and he doesn't deserve the responsibility of winning the World Cup depending on him."

With 65 goals in 128 appearances, Messi is Argentina's all-time top goalscorer. He's also

Barca's top marksman ever with more than twice the number of goals as the next best.

But he's never managed to match his club form when operating on the international stage.

Since Scaloni replaced Jorge Sampaoli, he has presided over four victories — albeit two of those against minnows Guatemala and Iraq—a draw and a 1-0 defeat to Brazil. He has used the opportunity to blood some young players while the leading lights sat out. But while Aguero, Higuain and Manchester United goalkeeper Sergio Romero are expected to be overlooked once again, Di Maria should return to the squad with the Copa America kick-off just over three months away.—AFP ■