

NATIONAL

Focus on transport to push development in Chin State

PAGE-2

ARTICLE

MoSCO: working on national tasks, coordinating policies envisioned by State Counsellor, pursue peace

PAGE-8,9

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State Counsellor meets with CPPCC Chairman, attends int'l horticulture exhibition in Beijing



State counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi attends the meeting with Mr. Wang Ying, Chairman of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC), at Kyauk Yu Thai State Guesthouse in China yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

ON THE 5th day of her visit to China, State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and entourage visited the Myanmar embassy in Beijing yesterday morning.

They met with embassy staff, military attaché, their families and scholarship students in China. The State Counsellor toured around inside the embas-

sy and took a documentary photo with everyone.

Next, the State Counsellor went to attend a meeting with Mr. Wang Ying, Chairman of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC), at Kyauk Yu Thai State Guesthouse.

Accompanying the State Counsellor were Union Minis-

ters U Thant Sin Maung, U Win Khaing and U Kyaw Tin, Deputy Ministers U Aung Htoo and U Sett Aung, Myanmar Ambassador U Thit Lin Ohn and other officials.

The State Counsellor was then treated to a luncheon by Mr. Wang Ying on behalf of the President of China.

Afterwards, the State Coun-

sellor and entourage travelled to the 2019 Beijing International Horticultural Exhibition in Yang Ching and visited the Myanmar Garden booth where U Aung Soe, permanent secretary of the Ministry of Commerce, and booth organizer Daw Khin Htay Kywel explained about the items on display.

The State Counsellor then

signed the guestbook of Myanmar Garden and took a documentary photo with booth's officials.

The horticultural exhibition is showcasing 110 booths from international countries and organizations and will be held until 7 October.

SEE PAGE-3





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Focus on transport to push development in Chin State: VP U Henry Van Thio

VICE President U Henry Van Thio, who is currently in Chin State to inspect development projects, met with local people in Suarkhua which was recently upgraded from a village to a town.

On the way to Suarkhua, the Vice President inspected work on the expansion of the Matupi-Haka Road.

At the meeting with local people in Suarkhua, Vice President U Henry Van Thio promised to set up the required offices and departmental organizations, in accordance with the rules and regulations, so that Suarkhua can meet the standards of a town.

He expressed the hope that the town would see development in terms of security, rule of law, education, and health thanks to new governmental departments, and urged the residents to understand the efforts of the Union Government.

An administration office was established in Suarkhua in 1892. From 1966 to 1974, the Suarkhua Village-tract was designated as a sub-township, under the office of a gazetted officer of sub-divisional rank.

In 1974, Suarkhua was designated as a village-tract according to the constitution. It was raised to the level of a town on 25 April, 2019 upon the residents' demand.

The government has already opened a Basic Education



Vice President U Henry Van Thio and officials inspect work on the expansion of the Matupi-Haka Road in Chin State yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

High School, Basic Education Primary School, and fire stations in Suarkhua. A 16-bed hospital and a police outpost were established in the area in 1978.

The slow pace of development in Chin State can be attributed to its poor transport infrastructure, said the Vice President. He said the poverty rate in Myanmar is 26 per cent, of which Chin State accounts for 76 per cent.

He said this is why the people of Chin need to work harder than the other states and regions to develop their state.

The Vice President said the village-tracts of Chin State have been promoted to the town

level to encourage hard work. He said the cooperation of the people is important at a time when the Union Government is striving for regional development.

The Vice President said the government and the public must join hands to produce effective development. The elevation of Suarkhua from village-tract to town is the fifth such promotion in Chin State in the three years of civilian government rule. The other village-tracts that have been upgraded to towns are Kyin Dway and Ma Kwi Ein Nu in the south, and Hnaring and Webula in the north.

“Underdeveloped trans-

portation infrastructure has seriously impeded Chin State's development, but everyone is now working to improve that sector in conjunction with the economic, societal, education, and health sectors,” said the Vice President.

He said the Chin people have always aided and supported their other ethnic brothers and sisters throughout the nation's history. He expressed the wish that the Chin people maintain that tradition of support, while participating in efforts for bringing about national peace and stability, and establishing a democratic federal Union.

Afterwards, a local elder

spoke about the requirements for regional development, and officials in attendance told the residents about the support their respective department would be providing to address them.

Officials who spoke to the locals included State Ministers U Soe Htet and U Shwe Htee Yo, Permanent Secretary U Win Tint of the Ministry of Construction, and Director-General Dr. Than Win of the Department of Higher Education.

Later, the Vice President posed for a documentary photo with all those in attendance. — MNA ■

(Translated by GNLM)



Union Minister U Ohn Win inspects plantations in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

Union NREC Minister inspects gardens in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area

U Ohn Win, Union Minister for Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation, inspected Myoma Garden under the Department of Forestry in Pyinmana Township, Nay Pyi Taw Council Area, on 27 April.

The Union Minister instructed officials to register the plants growing in Yoke Kha Garden located within Myoma Garden, place signs showing the name and genus of plants in the garden for visitors, upgrading the garden, distributing plants to people who wish to plant them, conduct hardening processes on plants before distributing them, and transferring old plants into bigger grow bags.

The Union Minister then went to Shwe Kya Garden in

Zeyathiri Township and instructed officials to increase the variety of plants and protect the bigger plants from the heat.

Next, the Union Minister visited the plantations in Pobathiri Township that were planted during the 2016, 2017 and 2018 monsoon planting festival. He then instructed officials to make necessary preparations for the festival this year to be a success as well.

The Union Minister continued on to Ottarathiri Township and visited Nga Like Garden located between mileposts 214/5 and 214/6 on the Yangon-Mandalay highway and gave instructions as necessary to the officials. —MNA ■ (Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

“ Our country is still in poverty with necessities in every sector; which is why we need to carry on our struggle and work hard in all sectors. In the international arena, we are facing pressure, criticisms and misunderstandings. The challenges and difficulties our country and our people are facing today are many. Although every issue cannot be solved easily, we will have to make utmost efforts to solve these issues according to each priority sector.

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

“ I would like the people to assist and support the peace efforts of our Union Government. I would especially want the youth to look to the future and join in this effort. I have observed that youth have been participating in these efforts.

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

State Counsellor attends Int'l horticulture exhibition

FROM PAGE-3

Next, the State Counsellor went to the China exhibition booth and watched a video on country representation with China's President, leaders from global countries, executive leaders and representatives of government. She then toured the international booths.

Following this, the State Counsellor planted the ceremonial apple tree for the opening of the 2019 Beijing International Horticultural Exhibition. Next, she attended the opening ceremony of the exhibition at Gui Yue Theatre. —MNA ■

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi attends International Horticultural Exhibition 2019 in Beijing, China yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

Groundbreaking for new specialist hospital held in Yangon

A ground breaking ceremony to build a Japanese-backed new Yangon Specialist Hospital was held yesterday.

The government of Japan will provide about Yen 8.6 billion and Sports would contribute K42 billion to the project.

Upon completion, the new hospital and the Ministry of Health hospital will provide medical

services including cardiology, cardiac surgery, neuromedicine and neurosurgery to the people and will promote the teaching, said Union Minister for Health and Sports Dr. Myint Htwe at the groundbreaking ceremony.

Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein also expressed his delight for establishing the new specialist hospital, calling it as a significant symbol of friendship and cooperation between Myanmar and Japan.

Japanese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Ichiro Maruyama said at the ceremony that he was delighted to see the launching of the construction of the hospital which was pledged by the Japanese Prime Minister Mr. Shinzo Abe.

Besides, the Ambassador pledged to take serious consideration into all-round upgrading of the New Yangon General Hospital which was constructed by the Japanese International

Cooperation Agency about 40 years ago.

Mr. Masayuki Karasawa, Chief Representative of the JICA Myanmar, said the new specialist hospital would promote the medical services related cardiac and neuromedicine and neurosurgery.

At the auspicious time, the Union Minister, the Yangon Region Chief Minister, the Speaker of the Yangon Region Hluttaw, Yangon Region Social Affairs Minister, the Japanese Ambassador, and dignitaries drove the stakes.

In the afternoon, Union Minister for Health and Sports Dr. Myint Htwe attended a meeting on WHO collaborating centre for Research and Training on Malaria and Nursing and Midwifery Development at the Medical Research Department in Yangon. —MNA

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Lin)



Union Minister Dr. Myint Htwe drives the state at the groundbreaking ceremony for new specialist hospital in Yangon yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

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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.

Bowling center, ice-skating rink opened in Yangon

THE Royal Sportainment Complex featuring a bowling center and an indoor ice-skating rink was opened yesterday at Nine Miles, Taw Win Street, Mayangone Township in Yangon. The complex is the first of its kind in Myanmar.

The opening ceremony was attended by governmental officials and businessmen.

Yangon Command Commander Major General Thet Pon and officials inaugurated the Royal Sportainment Complex, while Yangon Mayor U Maung Maung Soe opened the bowling center.

Construction of the Royal Sportainment Complex began in September, 2016. The complex aims to promote public wellness and provide sports facilities to youths and their families. The complex houses a 675-square-meter ice-skating rink on the ground floor. The width of the ice on the



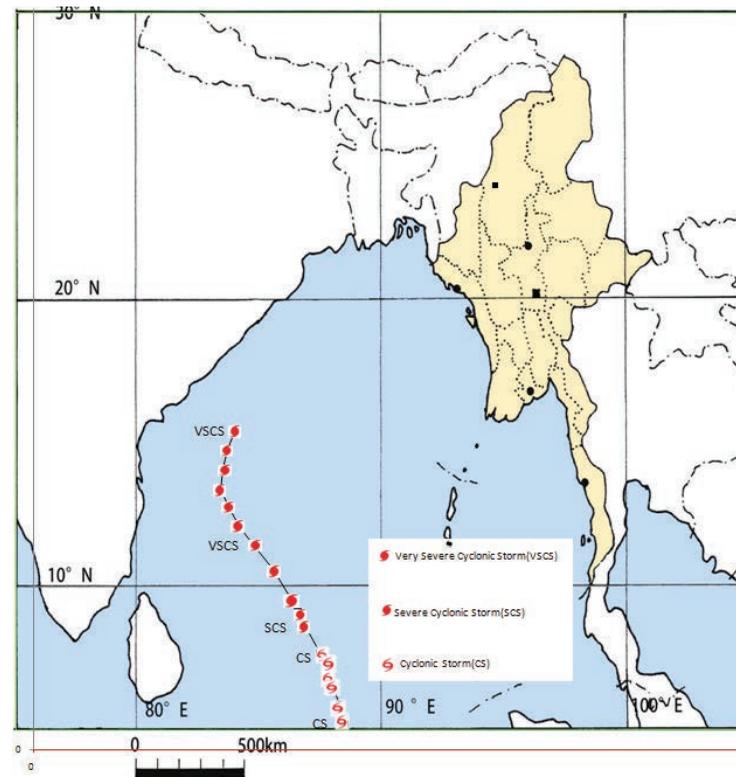
Women perform at the opening ceremony of the skating rink at the Royal Sportainment Complex in Yangon yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

rink is 88 mm. The bowling center on the first floor of the complex has 11 lanes for bowling and a

stand which can accommodate 400 spectators. The Royal Sportainment Complex will be open

to the public daily from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.—MNA ■ (Translated by Kyaw Zin Lin)

Cyclonic storm 'Fani' is coded yellow alert: MHD



According to the observations at 6.30 hrs M.S.T yesterday, the Cyclonic Storm "FANI" over the Southeast Bay of Bengal and adjoining the Equatorial Indian Ocean has moved Northwestward.

It is centered at about (380) miles East-Southeast of Trincomalee (Sri-Lanka), (535) miles Southeast of Chennai (India) and (630) miles South-Southeast of Machilipatnam.

It is forecast to move North-

westwards. Weather is a few cloud over the North and East central Bay and partly cloudy to cloudy over the Andaman Sea and elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal. It is not moving towards Myanmar coasts, the present stage of the Cyclonic Storm is coded yellow stage, said the Meteorology and Hydrology Department. Position of Cyclonic Storm, center pressure and wind

Cyclonic Storm "FANI" is located at Latitude (7.7) degree North and Longitude (87.5) degree East, centre pressure of Cyclonic Storm is (998) hPa and maximum wind speed near the center is (50) miles per hour at (18:30) hrs MST today.

During next (72) hrs forecast

It is forecast to further intensify into a Severe Cyclonic Storm "FANI" during next (6) hrs and a Very Severe Cyclonic Storm "FANI" during next (36) hrs. It is forecast to move Northwestwards and then recurve North-Northeastwards during

next (72) hours.

Advisory

Fishermen, domestic flight, trawlers, vessels and ships off and along Myanmar Coasts are advised to proceed caution.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF THE 29th April, 2019: Rain or thunderstorms will be scattered in Upper Sagaing and Taninthayi Regions, Kachin State and isolated in Lower Sagaing, Mandalay and Yangon Regions, Shan, Chin, Rakhine and Kayin and Mon States. Degree of certainty is (80%). Weather will be partly cloudy in the remaining Regions and States.

STATE OF THE SEA: Sea will be moderate in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about (4 - 6) feet off and along Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Likelihood of isolated to scattered rain or thunderstorms in Bago, Yangon, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi regions, Rakhine, Kayin and Mon states.—GNLM ■

Over 10 tons of illegally harvested hardwood seized in Hlegu

ACTING on a tip off, a combined team, led by forest police, seized more than 10 tons of illegally logged timber at a village in Hlegu Township of Yangon Region on Saturday.

According to the township

forest department, around 11.45 a.m. on Saturday, the team confiscated 60 pieces of sawn hardwood of different varieties, weighing 10.6 tons, beside the Ngamoeyek Creek near Moekaung Pagoda in Uyin Village.

Forest officials are continuing their investigations in the case to apprehend those connected with the illegal timber trade and charge them under the existing Forest Law. The township forest department has

been making sustained efforts to crack down on illegal logging and smuggling in the region with the help of locals and concerned government departments.—Lu Aung (Katha) ■ (Translated by Khaing Thanda Lwin)

Agro exports increase by almost 9% as of 19 April

MYANMAR'S export of agricultural products as of 19 April in the current 2018-2019 Financial Year has touched nearly US\$1.9 billion, up by \$140 million or almost 9 per cent, from the corresponding period last FY, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

At this time last year, the country's export of agriculture commodities was pegged at \$1.74 million in total.

The country saw no export of agro products from the public sector between 1 October and 19 April. During the period, only private companies could export the same to international buyers.

As an agriculture commodity-producing country, Myanmar globally sells a wide variety of agro products, involving rice, beans and pulses, onion, gar-

lic, ginger and other kitchen crops, watermelons, mangoes, avocados, cucumbers and other profitable fruits and vegetables, rubber and other raw materials of agriculture.

During the six and a half months of this FY, the country also exported \$279 million worth of animal products, \$473 million worth of marine products, \$786 million worth of minerals, \$100 million worth of forest products, over \$4.88 billion worth of manufactured goods and other miscellaneous products amounting to over \$570 million. When compared with the corresponding period last FY, the country's export sector saw an increase in value by \$743 million.—Shwe Khine ■

(Translated by Khaing Thanda Lwin)



Merchants gather at the onion wholesale market in Pakoku. PHOTO: SHWE MYINT OO (SHWEPYITHAR)

Retailers facing difficulties in accessing capital, land: association

By Aye Yamone

AS foreign players enter retail, domestic retailers seek level playing field

Domestic retailers are experiencing challenges in terms of access to funds and land as interest rates are high and land is expensive, according to the Myanmar Retailers Association. The recent reforms in the retail sector and the entry of foreign players have added to their concerns, it said. "Foreign companies are permitted to lease land from the government at an affordable price. It would be better if local businessmen are given equal consideration in leasing land," said Daw Tin Su Hlaing, general secretary, Myanmar Retailers Association.

Local representatives have been making efforts to grab a share of the market for many years. Now, foreign retailers can withdraw distribution rights from local agents and hand them to joint ventures, according to the association.

At the 26th regular meeting with Vice President U Myint Swe, held on 27 April at the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry, domestic retailers shared their concerns over the entry of foreign players in the retail market.

"Foreign businesses and joint ventures are now allowed to carry out wholesale and retail businesses in Myanmar. This liberalization might affect the market share of local manufacturers.

This being so, the involvement of foreign entities and JVs in trade and distribution should have been limited to a certain period to ensure fair competition to local manufacturers. It would be better if the related departments review this action," according to the Myanmar Retailers Association.

"We are interested in the retail sector. There are concerns over land and retail space," said U Phyto Min Thein, the Yangon Region Chief Minister.

"At present, domestic retailers are facing difficulties in keeping up with the reforms in the retail and wholesale sector as they do not control the whole supply chain. Retail shops need to link with many suppliers and find ways to offer lower prices to customers," the minister said.

"We need to consider how local retailers can control the supply chain. We need to find a balance between consumers and the private sector," said U Phyto Min Thein.

Proper supply chain management is important for retailers of any size as it can lower the price and give them a competitive advantage in the market, he said. "Foreign investments can play an important role in the development of the country and create better jobs for local people. Thus, the country also needs to bring about investment opportunities and provide incentives to foreign investors, while promoting foreign investments," he added. ■ (Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Export by manufacturing sector up by \$1 bln

EXPORT of the finished industrial goods stood at US\$4.8 billion between 1 October, 2018 and 19 April, 2019, which shows a significant increase of \$1 billion compared to the corresponding period of last fiscal year, according to the data of the Ministry of Commerce.

The export figure is up from \$3.87 billion of similar period of a year ago.

Myanmar's manufacturing sector is largely concentrated in garment and textiles on the Cutting-Making and Packaging basic, which contributes to the country's GDP to a certain extent.

This fiscal year saw income of over \$2 billion from garment export so far.

The CMP industry has emerged as a very promising one in export sector. The export value of CMP was only \$850 million in the 2015-2016 fiscal year, but export income from CMP industry significantly tripled within two years, with \$2.5 billion in the 2017-2018 FY, stated in Myanmar Global Investment Forum 2018 held on 12 September.

In the past mini-budget period (April-September), export of clothes made under CMP system was valued at US\$2.27 billion, which doubled in value

over last year.

Japan is the Myanmar's apparel largest market, followed by the European Union. The local entrepreneurs expressed concern over possible revoking of EU's Generalized Scheme of Preference as it can also hurt the manufacturing industry.

There are currently over 400 garment factories in Myanmar, with over 300,000 workers. Investors like to invest in cheap-labour countries like Myanmar. Next, the manufacturing sector is likely to remain top in pulling FDIs during the current FY.—GNLM ■ (Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Govt plans Central Provident Fund for employee pensions

By Aye Yamone

LEGISLATION is currently being drafted for setting up a provident fund which will include contributions from both the government as well as employees, according to the Ministry of Planning and Finance. The Central Provident Fund is being set up so that the increase in the number of pensionable employees does not put a strain on the national budget.

A committee to implement the Central Provident Fund was formed following a directive (27/2019) from the President's office on 19 February this year.

"The population of pensionable employees has reached 1 million. One-sixth of the state's revenue goes into the pension

budget. We are paying pensions to employees as recognition for their work. However, the gradual increase in pension payments may put a strain on the national budget. Therefore, we would like to set up a Central Provident Fund to which government employees as well as the government will contribute," said Union Minister for Planning and Finance U Soe Win.

He made the remarks at the 26th regular meeting with private entrepreneurs, led by the Vice President, which was held last Saturday. At present, the Central Provident Fund implementation committee is drafting the legislation for setting up the fund with the help of international experts, in line with the government's employee pension system, social se-

curity, and elderly care services.

"The Central Provident Fund will be a savings scheme for government personnel, which will have contributions from the employees and the government to fund their retirement. That savings plan is under way," said U Soe Win.

While drafting the legislation for the Central Provident Fund, the related departments will work together to draw up the master plan, action plan, and policies required for its incorporation as law. The government's annual pension expenditure currently amounts to 1.5 per cent of the country's GDP, one-sixth of the state revenue, and makes up nearly 10 per cent of the state's expenditure. ■ (Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Golden umbrellas hoisted atop Gyaing Maha Muni, Sula Muni pagodas in Hpa-an

A ceremony to hoist the Shwehtidaws (golden umbrellas) atop the Gyaing Maha Muni and the Sula Muni pagodas in Gyaing Village, Hpa-an Township in Kayin State was held at the pagodas yesterday.

First, the congregation received the Nine Precepts from Chairman of Kayin State Sangha Nayaka Committee, principal monk of the Dhamma Vasi Monastery Bhandanta Ashin Uttara, followed by Pritta recitation of the Members of the Sangha.

Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture Thura U Aung Ko, Kayin State Chief Minister Nan Khin Htwe Myint and well-wishers offered Seinbudaw (diamond bud), Hngetmyatnadaw (pennant-shaped vane) and offertories to the Members of the Sangha.

Kyaik Htee Saung Sayadaw Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotika Dr. Bhaddanta Nagadipa then explained the matters of offering diamond bud and pennant-shaped vane to the congregation. Afterwards, Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture Thura U Aung Ko, Kayin State Chief Minister Nan Khin Htwe Myint and Myanmar Theravada Buddhist Federation and Border Areas and Hill Region Sasana Nuggaha Association (Central) Chairman Wunna Kyaw Htin Dr. Khin Shwe reported on religious matters to the Members of the Sangha.

Next, vocalist Saint Nay Chi sang Satiya Puja Mingla Yatu composed by eleventh Tipitakadhara Dhammabhandagarika Sayadaw Bhaddanta Einda-pala. Myanmar Pyi



Golden umbrellas are conveyed to the Gyaing Maha Muni and the Sula Muni pagodas in Hpa-an.

PHOTO: MIN THIT

Thein Tan also sang the song “Yadana Pone.”

State Sangha Maha Nayaka Secretary Sayadaw, Presiding Sayadaw of the Yangon Region Thanlyin Minkyauung Pahtampyan Pariyatti Monastery Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta San-

dimabhivamsa delivered a sermon, followed by sharing merits gained. The Seinbudaw (diamond bud), Hngetmyatnadaw (pennant-shaped vane) were then hoisted atop the pagoda.

Members of Sangha then consecrated the Gyaing Maha

Muni and the Sula Muni pagodas. The two Gyaing Maha Muni and Sula Muni pagodas are said to be built at the place where Royal barge of King Alaung Sithu of Bagan dynasty arrived at. — Min Thit

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)

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Seintalone mango traders reaping profits this harvest season

MERCHANTS are getting a better price for Seintalone (Diamond Solitaire) mangoes at the start of this harvest season than last year, said U Kyaw Soe Naing from the Myanmar Mango Market and Technology Development Association.

After the Thingyan festival last year, Seintalone mangoes were fetching 120-130 yuan per package in the Chinese market. The prices declined to 100 yuan in the harvest season, when a large volume of ripe mangoes entered the market.

This year, exporters began sending Seintalone mangoes to Muse before the Thingyan festival, earning 170 yuans per package. On 28 April, a package of Seintalone mangoes was fetching 140 yuan, according to the market.

Market experts have estimated the price of Seintalone mangoes will remain above 100 yuan during this harvest season, said U Kyaw Soe Naing.

Between 30-50 tons of Seintalone mangoes are entering the Muse market, almost on a daily basis, he added.

This year, mango production in Myanmar has suffered on account of bad weather which has affected yields.

Usually, low production leads to a rise in mango prices. Seintalone, Hnintha, Myakyauk, and Yinkwe are some of the mango varieties exported by Myanmar. Myanmar mangoes are mostly shipped to China, its largest neighbour.

It is important to promote cooperation among mango farmers in the regions and states so there is uniformity in production and prices, along with good packaging, said U Kyaw Soe Naing.

As per research, more than 190 mango varieties are cultivated in Myanmar, mostly in the Ayeyawady Region, followed by Shan and Kachin states. The majority of Seintalone mango plantations are



Seintalone mangoes are harvested in Mandalay. PHOTO: 002

found in Mandalay.

Seintalone is regarded as the best mango variety in Myanmar because of its aroma, sweetness, juiciness, and non-fibrous texture. The mango variety has become highly popular in the global market in the last three years.

Myanmar exported more than 700,000 tons of Seintalone mangoes in the 2016-2017 and the 2017-2018 fiscal years.— Min Htet Aung (Mandalay Sub-printing House)

(Translated by Khaing Thanda Lwin)

US reels from deadly synagogue attack on final day of Passover

POWAY (United States)— A teenage gunman who wrote a hate-filled manifesto opened fire at a synagogue in California on Saturday, killing one person and injuring three others including the rabbi as worshippers marked the final day of Passover; authorities said. The shooting in the town of Poway, north of San Diego, came exactly six months after a white supremacist killed 11 people at Pittsburgh's Tree of Life synagogue—the deadliest attack on the Jewish community in US history. San Diego County Sheriff Bill Gore said those wounded included the rabbi—who had injuries to both index fingers—as well as a female minor and 34-year-old man who were injured by shrapnel. A 60-year-old woman died from her wounds.

Two Israelis—an eight-year-old girl and her 31-year-old uncle—were wounded in the attack, Israeli foreign ministry spokesman Emmanuel Nahshon said, adding their condition was “good”. Gore identified the suspect, who was arrested after fleeing the scene, as 19-year-old John Earnest and said he had no prior arrest re-



The shooter burst into the packed Chabad of Poway synagogue and opened fire with an assault weapon that appears to have malfunctioned. **PHOTO: AFP**

cord. He said Earnest burst into the Chabad of Poway synagogue—where there were around 100 people—shortly after 11:20 am local time and opened fire with an assault weapon that appears to have malfunctioned, preventing him from inflicting more harm.

Gore said an off-duty border

patrol agent who was at the synagogue at the time of the shooting opened fire on the gunman as he was fleeing, striking his car but missing the suspect. The man was eventually apprehended by a San Diego police officer who had been monitoring dispatch radio and raced to the scene, San Diego

police chief David Nisleit said. “He clearly saw the suspect’s vehicle, the suspect jumped out with his hands up and was immediately taken into custody by the San Diego police department,” Nisleit said.

Hate-filled manifesto

Gore said authorities were

examining Earnest’s social media activity and establishing the authenticity of an anti-Semitic open letter he apparently published on a far-right message board hours before the attack.

“We have copies of his social media posts and his open letter and we’ll be reviewing those to determine the legitimacy of it and how it plays into the investigation,” he said. The manifesto, seen by AFP, is similar to one posted on the same message board by Brenton Tarrant, a white supremacist who was behind the 15 March mosque attacks in Christchurch, New Zealand, that left 50 people dead. The hate-filled letter lauds Tarrant’s actions and that of the Pittsburgh shooter and claims responsibility for a fire at a mosque in California a week after the Christchurch shootings. Following the attack, a vigil was set to take place Saturday evening at the Rancho Bernardo Community Presbyterian Church in San Diego. Meanwhile, Los Angeles officials said that they were boosting patrols around synagogues and other places of worship in light of the attack. — AFP ■

Clean your homes: police warn Notre-Dame neighbours over lead risk

PARIS (France)—Neighbours of the fire-stricken Notre-Dame Cathedral should use wet wipes to clean surfaces at home or the office where lead-laden dust from the blaze may have settled, Paris police advised Saturday.

Tests have shown that the devastating 15 April fire released particles of the toxic metal which had been present in the frame of the church and its now-levelled spire, it said in a statement.

Investigators found lead in areas near the church, “very localised”, and “notably on premises that may have been standing open at the time of the fire, and where dust had settled.”

The threat was limited, the police noted, as lead poisoning usually builds up over years of exposure. There have been no reports of acute lead poisoning since the inferno that destroyed the roof of the 850-year-old land-

mark. “With regard to homes or private premises, it is recommended that residents in the immediate vicinity of the Notre Dame proceed to clean their home or premises and their furniture and other items, using wet wipes to eliminate any dust,” the statement said.

Public areas that may pose a lead exposure risk, such as the gardens around the cathedral, have been closed and will not be reopened until lead levels are back to normal, the police added.

Last week, French environmental campaigners Robin des Bois said about 300 tonnes of lead from the cathedral’s roof and steeple had melted in the blaze, which officials said had reached 800 degrees Celsius (1,470F) at its peak. “The cathedral has been reduced to the state of toxic waste,” the association said in a statement, urging authorities to detoxify the tonnes of rubble, ash and wastewater produced in the disaster. — AFP ■



Police are still keeping members of the public well back from the cathedral for safety reasons. **PHOTO: AFP**

Voting begins in Spain election marked by far-right resurgence

MADRID (Spain)—Spaniards began voting in an uncertain snap general election Sunday marked by a resurgence of the far-right after more than four decades on the outer margins of politics.

Opinion polls give outgoing socialist premier Pedro Sanchez a win but without the necessary majority to govern alone, meaning he will have to seek alliances in a political environment that has soured since Catalonia’s failed secession bid. By far the novelty of these elections is the emergence of far-right party Vox, which burst onto the scene in December regional polls in southern Andalusia and looks set to make its first-ever entrance into the national parliament. Polls predict it could take more than 10 per cent of the votes in a country that had no far-right party to speak of since the death of dictator Francisco Franco in 1975, in what is likely to cause further concern in Europe. Polling stations opened at 9:00 am (0700 GMT) and will close at 8:00 pm local time (1800 GMT), with

results announced later Sunday.

Far-right surge

Sanchez, who took power in June after ousting conservative prime minister Mariano Rajoy in a no-confidence vote, has warned against Spain replicating what happened in Finland’s elections two weeks ago. There, the far-right Finns Party came second, closely tailing the leftist Social Democrats, after polls initially predicted it would end up in fifth position. In Spain, polls also forecast that Vox, with its ultra-nationalist rhetoric that advocates the “defence of the Spanish nation to the end,” will come in fifth place.

But analysts believe it could do better, saying there may be many “hidden” Vox supporters who lie when asked by pollsters who they will be voting for. “There is a real, true risk,” Sanchez said this week, warning that a right-wing government supported by Vox could emerge in Spain after the elections, even if opinion polls say this is unlikely. — AFP ■

Sustainable development is at the heart of nation-building

THE launch of projects has led to the construction and development of infrastructure. This, in turn, has led to the creation of new jobs, economic development, and other positive results. Infrastructure development often depends on the environment, and can have both regional or national benefits and challenges. This is why the civilian government has been listening to the voice of the people and taking appropriate action, while aiming for sustainable development.

These words were part of a speech made by State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi at the 2nd Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation held in Beijing on 27 April. At the forum, she highlighted the role of infrastructure development in bringing people closer. She said Myanmar fully acknowledges that this will bring numerous benefits to countries partnering on the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).

The State Counsellor participated in discussions at the forum, offering the genuine perspective of a developing country. The BRI will connect regional infrastructure and create large-scale infrastructure projects that will make trade smoother, develop the economy, and create more jobs for people by way of commercial services and inter-regional travel.

The State Counsellor said we must be aware that there are bigger challenges in maintaining projects then initiating them. She said some successful infrastructure projects can change the national economy for the better and improve the employment opportunities of local residents.

As a developing country, Myanmar needs to urgently upgrade its infrastructure, said the State Counsellor. She said she hoped for people-to-people connectivity that would be as lasting as the sustainable development for infrastructure connectivity we are striving for.

Running large-scale projects in developing countries and those just beginning their democratic journey carry equally monumental challenges. While it is true that developing countries need good infrastructure to develop both their societies and economies, the implementation phase will involve taking financial risks and facing hardships. Ensuring that the development of infrastructure is sustainable will need long-term financial plans, sufficient investment, and a system to detect and prepare for regional disasters beforehand.

Both infrastructure connectivity and people-to-people connections create sustainable development in nations. We must pay heed to the State Counsellor's remarks on establishing societal unity and relations by organizing religious exchanges, cooperating on education, and providing scholarships.



MoSCO: Working on national tasks, coordinating policies envisioned by State Counsellor, pursue goal of peace

“The main focus is national reconciliation and the stability and development of Rakhine State. The National Reconciliation and Peace Center has been formed to bring about national unity and harmony in a pragmatic and effective manner. The center is being chaired by Daw Aung San Suu Kyi.”

Deputy Minister U Khin Maung Tin

By May Oo Moe
PHOTO BY KO KO SOE NYUNT

JUST days after the inception of the new Government, a first draft bill was signed into law, creating the post of the State Counsellor for Daw Aung San Suu Kyi in the new cabinet.

The bill was passed by the Amyotha Hluttaw (Upper House) on 1 April and by the Pyithu Hluttaw (Lower House) on 5 April, and enacted on 6 April 2016.

The bill was drawn up with the four objectives as national tasks (1) a multi-party democratic system; (2) a market economic system; (3) a federal Union; and (4) peace and development in the Union.

Coordinating and linking up the policies and directives envisioned by the State Counsellor, the Ministry of the State Counsellor Office was born to serve interests of the State.

It is fair enough to say that the tasks being implemented by the Ministry of the State Counsellor Office is connection with the imagination and creativity of the State Counsellor.

Ultimate goal and destination aspired by the nation happened to be (a) Peace; (b) Prosperity; and (c) Democracy (PPD), such as that of the peace in the nation; that of the prosperity of the nation; and that of the building of democratic federal union. The tasks are knotted with each other, and that the pre-requisite to achieve these lofty strong desires is mainly depends on smooth, swift and subtle working conditions.

Wrapping up in a package, the Ministry of the State Counsellor Office is embracing all the tasks in its loop.

Priority tasks in peace process

Deputy Minister U Khin Maung Tin of the Ministry of the State Counsellor Office said that, “The main focus is national reconciliation and the stability and development of Rakhine State. The National Reconciliation and Peace Center has been formed



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi delivers the address at the third session of the Union Peace Conference-21st Century Panglong. PHOTO: MNA

to bring about national unity and harmony in a pragmatic and effective manner. The center is being chaired by Daw Aung San Suu Kyi.”

The Peace Commission was formed with the aim of facilitating the ongoing peace talks.

The Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA) was a landmark ceasefire agreement between the government of Myanmar and representatives of various ethnic armed groups,

The 14th Union Peace Dialogue Joint Committee (UPDJC) meeting was held at the National Reconciliation and Peace Centre (NRPC) in Nay Pyi Taw in February.

UPDJC is leading the political dialogues to resolve and end armed conflict in the country, and ending the armed conflict in the country depends on potential agreement. As the policy on federal matters can only be laid when political dialogues are

JMC-U, in order to implement its function has established Technical Secretariat Center (TSC). TSC shall be a technical body to advise and support the JMC to oversee, coordinate and integrate the implementation of the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement; the Military Code of Conduct; the Terms of Reference of the Joint Monitoring Committee.

Due to continuous dialogues and discussions among the signatories of NCA, most of the disagreements have been reduced, and the ceasefire process has achieved success.

The Union Peace Conference - 21st Century Panglong

The Union Peace Conference - 21st Century Panglong was a peace conference held from 31 August to 3 September 2016 at the Myanmar Convention Centre 2 in Nay Pyi Daw, Myanmar. Ban Ki-moon, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, also at-

successful, UPDJC is in a sector that is very important to keep peace in the union.

At the 12th UPDJC meeting, the attendees decided the topics to be discussed during the Union Peace Conference-21st Century Panglong 3rd session.

The Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA) signed on 15 October 2015 by the Union of Myanmar Government and

tended the opening ceremony. The ethnic armed organizations (EAOs) that have signed the NCA attended the conference and the leaders of non-signatories armed ethnic groups were also seen at the conference.

The second Union Peace Conference - 21st Century Panglong was held from 24 to 29 May 2017, and with all inclusive principle was in the mainstay for political dialogue. Total of 700 participants attended the conference such as the government, Tatmadaw, Hluttaw and delegates from EAOs.

Political observations and proposals being compiled by the UPDJC were submitted to Panglong Conference. Subsequently, the agreements approved by the Union Peace Conference—21st Century Panglong 2nd session were signed as a part of the Pyidaungsu Accord.

1/ Looking forward to non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity and perpetuation of the sovereignty, based on freedom, equality and justice, the Union Peace Conference—21st Century Panglong 2nd session was held at Nay Pyi Taw from 24th May

12 agreements on principles of political sector;
11 agreements on principles of economic sector;
4 agreements on principles of social sector;
10 agreements on principles of land and natural environment sector, altogether 37 agreements. These are described in Appendix—(A) (B) (C) & (D).

The above-said agreements have been signed by group leaders and witnesses in the Union Peace Conference—21st Century Panglong 2nd session as the part 1 of Pyidaungsu Accord under clause 20(E) of the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement.

The Third Union Peace Conference - 21st Century Panglong was held from 11 to 16 July 2018, and with all inclusive principle was in the mainstay for political dialogue. Total of 700 participants attended the conference such as the government, Tatmadaw, Hluttaw and delegates from EAOs.

14 points approved by the Third Session of the Union Peace Conference-21st Century Panglong were signed as a Part II of the Union Accord. Following are the 14 points, and signatures

of the leaders of the respective groups and witnesses.

Union Accord Part II

1. Aiming toward non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity and perpetuation of sovereignty, based on freedom, equality and justice and in accordance with the Panglong spirit, the Third Session of the Union Peace Conference-21st Century Panglong was held in Nay Pyi Taw from 11 to 16 July 2018 to establish a Union based on democratic and federal system that assures democracy, national equality and self-determination rights, founded according to the outcomes of the political discussions.

2. At this conference, sector-wise and group-wise meetings were conducted in stages on policy proposals submitted by Union Peace Dialogue Joint Committee (UPDJC) and the proposals obtained were agreed as Part II of the Union Accord.

3. The Part II of the Union Accord signed at this conference

and all other agreed sections obtained at the subsequent conferences will be compiled and signed as Union Accord.

4. The Union Accord Part II signed in this conference are –

(a) Four agreements in political sector basic principle
(b) One agreement in economic sector basic principle
(c) Seven agreements in social sector basic principle
(d) Two agreements in land & environment sector basic principle totaling fourteen which are shown in addenda (a), (b), (c) and (d).

Priority given for development of regions

In the conflict zones and unstable areas, provision of food, clothing and shelters for the people have been allocated from the Union Government treasury added with the funds from the National Reconciliation and Peace Center as well as from the well-wishers from the country and abroad.

SEE PAGE-10

of the leaders of the respective groups and witnesses.

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State Counsellor holds a round table peace talk with local people in Myaungmya on 10 April, 2018.



State Counsellor holds peace talk with local people in Pakokku.

MoSCO: Working on national tasks, coordinating policies envisioned by State Counsellor, pursue goal of peace

FROM PAGE-9

The Joint Coordination Body (JCB) for Peace Process Funding held a meeting in Nay Pyi Taw, reaching consensus on six issues, including an amendment on the reformation of JCB and fund allowances to the National Reconciliation and Peace Centre (NRPC) and signatories to the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA).

Three years journey of NCA

On 13 February 2019, two ethnic armed groups signed the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement in a move for peace process. The New Mon State Party (MNSP) and Lahu Democratic Union (LDU) inked the NCA in Nay Pyi Taw, joining eight other groups who had signed.

Union Government and NCA (Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement) Signatory EAOs (Ethnic Armed Organizations) leaders held a special meeting in Nay Pyi Taw from 15 to 16 October 2018.

Round Table Discussions on Peace

The State Counsellor believes that the essence of peace and fruits of peace are meant for the upcoming generation. During the third year term, the State Counsellor held roundtable talks with the public in Myaungmya, Ayeyawaddy region on 10 April 2018; in Mawlamyaing, Mon State on 14 June 2018; in Pakokku, Magway Region on 9 August 2018.

Emphasis given to Rakhine State



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi attends a peace talk with representatives of the ethnic armed groups. PHOTO: MNA

The Deputy Minister of the Ministry said that emphasis is being given to issues on Rakhine State for stability and development, which is related and critical with the stability in the whole of the country.

Therefore, on 30 May 2016, Government formed a Central Committee for the Implementation of Peace and Development in Rakhine State with State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi as chairperson. At the behest of the Ministry of the Office of the State Counsellor of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and in collaboration with the Kofi Annan Foundation, the Advisory Commission on Rakhine State was founded on 24 August 2016 as a neutral and impartial body which aimed to propose concrete measures for improving the welfare of all people in Rakhine state.

To probe into the background situations that led to violent attacks that occurred on 9 October and 12-13 of November in Maungtau, Rakhine State and the truth about the incidents, and to investigate whether existing laws, rules and regulations were observed in taking measures to avoid similar incidents in the future before making recommendations.

The Investigation Committee has been formed, chaired by Vice President U Myint Swe on 1 December 2016.

The Committee for Implementation of the Recommendations on Rakhine State was formed and led by Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement on October 9, 2017.

In order for the Union Government, the people, the private sector and local NGOs, CSOs,

partner nations, UN agencies and INGOs, to implement the projects in all sectors for the development of Rakhine State in cooperation, a Committee for the Union Enterprise for Humanitarian Assistance, Resettlement and Development in Rakhine has been established on 17 October 2017.

The above-mentioned notification provides for the formation of an advisory board with the local, regional and international experts, as well as experienced individuals to provide necessary advice for the effective implementation of the recommendations of the Advisory Commission on Rakhine State based on the situation on the ground.3. Accordingly, the Advisory Board for the "Committee for Implementation of the Recommendations on Rakhine State" has been established Chaired by Dr. Surakiart Sathirathai. The Task Force led by the Deputy Minister for the Office of State Counsellor was formed on 7 January 2018.

Independent Commission of Enquiry (ICOE) led by Chairperson Ambassador Rosario Manalo was established on 30 July 2018.

Start of the repatriation process

Various agreement have been signed among Myanmar Government, the UNHCR and the UNDP such as that of MoU on Establishment of Border Liaison Office- BLOs; MoU on Security Dialogue and Cooperation; Arrangement on Return of Displaced Persons from Rakhine State; Joint Working Group (JWG); ToR; Physical Arrangement for Repatriation of Displaced Myanmar Resi-

dents From Bangladesh Under The Arrangement on Return of Displaced Persons from Rakhine State. The meeting on the first Joint Working Group (JWG) was held in January 2018. The meeting on consular matters has been held on 31 October 2018.

The list of persons to be repatriated back have been scrutinized by both sides on beginning February 2018; and that on the part of Myanmar side, the proper verification have been made and officially returned the lists on 22 occasions to the Bangladeshi side from 14 March 2018 to 27 December 2018.

At the third JWG meeting, the Bangladeshi side has forwarded a list comprising 22,432 persons, and that Myanmar side made proper verification. It is found that 6257 person resided inside Myanmar from 26 November 2018 to 13 February 2019; 14 persons listed as ARSA terrorists; 2490 persons in undocumented status. In connection with the Rakhine issue, Myanmar is working in cooperation with UNSG's Special Envoy Ms. Christine Schraner Burgener. The workshop on the closure of IDP camps was held in Nay Pyi Taw.

The Deputy Minister of the ministry is of the view that the situation in Rakhine is sensitive and fragile, and therefore, the issues have been handled with care. The incumbent Government is trying the best in solving the problem, and it also needs positive endorsements and supports. So that we need a sustainable solution should be created for implementation.



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi greets an ethnic armed group leader at the third session of the Union Peace Conference-21st Century Panglong. PHOTO: MNA

Mandalay Region Government : Fulfilling its potential; demonstrating nation's economic prowess

"We (the current administration) hope to provide the best policies and strategies, both long term and short term, for the economic development of the region and raise the nation's GDP's as a whole."

Mandalay Region Chief Minister Dr. Zaw Myint Maung



Mandalay Region officials pose for a group photo with the party committees from Yunnan Province, China. **PHOTO: MNA**



Mandalay Region Chief Minister Dr. Zaw Myint Maung. **PHOTO: MNA**

By Nanda Win
PHOTO: BO BO

MANDALAY, an ancient region where generations of kings inhabited. Min Shin Saw from Bagan resided in the foothills of the mountain there and as its backdrop, translates to "Where good fortunes resides". Located in the heart of Myanmar, it is bordered by Shan State in the East, Sagaing and Magway in the West, Bago and Kayin in the South and Sagaing again in the south.

Mandalay City is the capital of Mandalay Regional and houses the royal palace. Bagan, united Myanmar's first city is located in Mandalay Regaion with close

proximity to Nay Pyi Taw, the Nation's current capital city. After Yangon, Mandalay is the largest city in Myanmar and is located in central Myanmar with roads that connect to neighboring India and China.

The Mandalay Regional Government took over April 1, 2016 with an oath to protect and serve the residents and develop the region's health, education and economic sectors. "We (the current administration) hope to provide the best policies and strategies, both long term and short term- for the economic development of the region and raise the nation's GDP's as a whole," claims the Mandalay Region Chief Minister Dr. Zaw Myint

Maung. Mandalay contributes greatly to the economic development of the nation, particularly through agriculture, small and

human resources by expanding the skillsets of our workforce," adds the Mandalay Region Chief Minister. The Mandalay adminis-

tration, the government spent K13918 million through the Mandalay City Development Committee in 6 townships paving old roads and building new roads, erecting bridges and digging trenches. Additionally, over K20 billion were spent on building low-cost housing for sale to government staff, company employees and the general public. A Precast factory was also constructed and expanded in the 2018-19 financial year with a cost of K3 billion. Other spending on public infrastructure includes an additional K1.4 billion on building platforms, redoing the waterways, painting the city and other 250 maintenance projects.

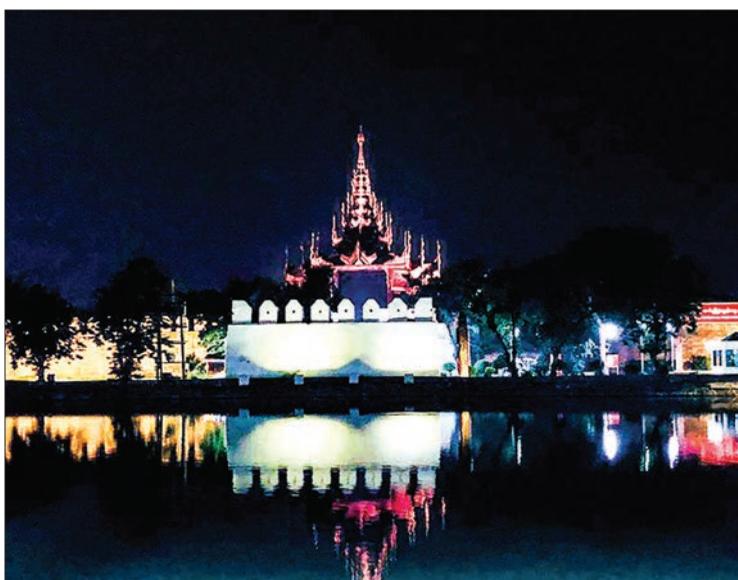
Within the 3rd year of the current administration, the government spent K13918 million through the Mandalay City Development Committee in 6 townships on paving old roads and building new roads, erecting bridges and digging trenches.

medium business enterprises and tourism. "No only do we need the right monetary policies to encourage business and their success, we also have to improve our

tration is also working with local organizations and the general public to uphold rule of law and peace within the villages.

Within the 3rd year of the

SEE PAGE-12



The night view of the ancient city of Mandalay. **PHOTO: MNA**



Mandalay Region Chief Minister Dr. Zaw Myint Maung meets with local people in Tabeik Kyin Township on 6 April, 2019. **PHOTO: MNA**



Mandalay Region Chief Minister, Dr. Zaw Myint Maung, visits the trade fair in Mandalay Region. **PHOTO: MNA**



Mandalay Region Chief Minister, Dr. Zaw Myint Maung, and Sayadaws open the religious building in Mandalay Region. **PHOTO: MNA**

FROM PAGE-11

The Village Development Program was also made feasible with K2.6 billion from the Union and K1.5 billion through public donations.

A further K41.9 billion was dedicated to provide 521 villages with electricity through building new transformers, installing switch bays and connecting new lines to the power grid. Currently, 3647 villages out of 4799 have access to electricity in the Mandalay Regional with plans to provide the whole region with electricity by 2020.

“In addition to economic development, it is also im-

portant to pay attention to our history and culture so it doesn't disappear as we build new structures. The best way for that is to have proper laws and regulations that works best for the city and its history on our way to development,” comments the Mandalay Region Chief Minister.

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new academic buildings, distribution of free school uniforms and stationery and classes for ethnic languages. New community health centers such as for mothers and children and additional village community health departments have also been added to the government's health network with K870 million in funds for the 2018-19 financial year for village development. Private companies have also been donating money to help fund vaccines and other medical equipment worth K829 million.

The main investors in the region are from China, Korea, Thailand, Singapore and Japan. The Mandalay Invest-

ment Committee announced that during the past year, China invested US\$8.4 million in 2 projects, US\$Korea 2 million in one and other 12 investments in 8 industries worth K25 billion and K16 million in the Hotels and Tourism industry. The Chief Minister of Mandalay comments that these foreign investments are expected to create more than 2000 jobs for the Myanmar workforce.

Lastly, the administration has taken several precautions against the unpredictable natural disasters with 5 fiber boats and a Wheel Loader in case



Mandalay Region Chief Minister, Dr. Zaw Myint Maung, receives a delegation from Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic. **PHOTO: MNA**

Regarding education, there were additional renovations for the schools as well as new academic buildings, distribution of free school uniforms and stationery and classes for ethnic languages.

of floods and/or earthquakes. There have been 76 workshops and educational seminars for responding to earthquakes with 18460 people in attendance and 9 earthquake simulation activities. The Regional Disaster Management Committee has also contributed K147 million for the 192 cases of natural

disasters in the regional with the past year. “There is an additional K2.6 billion reserve in case of natural disasters so that we can dispatch help immediately, especially in places like Pyin Oo Lwin, Yemethin, and Myin Chan,” comments the Chief Minister of Mandalay.

Located in the central part

of Myanmar, the first publicly elected government of Mandalay is maximizing the resources blessed on the gloden land for raising the standards of the people through economic development in the Mandalay Region.

(Translated by Myat Thu)

portant to pay attention to our history and culture so it doesn't disappear as we build new structures. The best way for that is to have proper laws and regulations that works best for the city and its history on our way to development,” comments the Mandalay Region Chief Minister.

The Mandalay Regional Administration is also working towards combating drug usage in line with the president's policy.

Regarding education, there were additional renovations for the schools as well as



Governmental officials of Mandalay Region pose for a group photo together with local people at the inauguration of the village-to-village linking earthen road in Myingyan Township, Mandalay Region on 12 April, 2019. **PHOTO: MNA**

IS says its fighters behind police clashes in Sri Lanka

COLOMBO (Sri Lanka)—The Islamic State group has claimed responsibility for three men who blew themselves up in clashes with Sri Lankan police, the militant group said in a statement.

The men set off explosives after an hour-long gun battle with police Saturday, inside what was believed to be a jihadist hideout near the eastern town of Kalmunai, in the latest fallout from the Easter attacks.

In a statement posted

Saturday by the IS propaganda unit the Amaq News Agency, IS said the three men were part of the Islamic State group and detonated their bombs after the fight with police.

The statement said the men “clashed with them (Sri Lankan police) with automatic weapons, and after exhausting their ammunition, detonated on them their explosive belts.”

Fifteen people died in the clashes, police said,



Soldiers look at seized items at the site of an overnight battle between Sri Lankan security forces and suicide bombers in the eastern town of Kalmunai. PHOTO: AFP

including three women and six children.

The violence came six days after the Easter Day bombings on three

churches and three luxury hotels which killed at least 253 people and injured 500. Security forces armed with emergen-

cy powers have stepped up search operations for Islamic extremists since the bombings.

Kalmunai is in the

same region as the home town of the jihadist Zahran Hashim who founded the group accused of staging the attacks.—AFP ■

China to issue commemorative coins for Beijing horticultural expo

BEIJING—China’s central bank will issue a set of coins on Monday to commemorate the 2019 Beijing International Horticultural Exhibition. The set includes one gold coin, one silver coin and one platinum coin, all legal currency, the People’s Bank

of China (PBOC) said on its website.

The front side of each coin features a combination of the expo logo and the Great Wall, along with the country name and year of issuance, the PBOC said.—Xinhua ■

LANDING LAW OFFICES (MYANMAR) CO., LTD. Notice of the Meeting for Reduction of Share Capital

The share capital of the above-mentioned company will be reduced in accordance with the provisions of Myanmar Companies Law. The notice (invitation) of meeting for such reduction and associated documents have been informed to the Company Registrar. Therefore, the meeting approving the reduction of share capital will be held by the shareholders as follows:

Date : 7th May, 2019

Time : 10:00 AM

Venue : No. 224/A, 5th Floor, Room No. 502, U Wisara Road, Bahan Tsp., Yangon..

Ms. Lin Chien Wen (Managing Director)
Landing Law Offices (Myanmar) Co., Ltd.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENTS & STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF NEW YANGON CITY PHASE 1 MASTERPLAN

New Yangon Development Company Ltd. (“NYDC”) proposes to develop the New Yangon City in Seikgyi Kanaungto, Twantay, Hlaing Tharyar, and Kyee Myin Daing Township, Yangon Region, Myanmar. For Stage 1 of Phase 1 of the Project, the New Yangon City is split into the following six groups based on the types of facilities: Bridges, Roads, Power, Industrial Zone, Water, and Wastewater.

Under the Environmental Conservation Law and Rules of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, NYDC is required to undertake six Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) for Bridges, Roads, Power, Industrial Zone, Water, and Wastewater in order to obtain an Environmental Compliance Certificate (ECC) for Stage 1 of Phase 1. NYDC will also undertake one Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) for Phase 1, to systematically analyse the impacts of plans, policies, programmes and other strategic initiatives on the environment. Environmental Resources Management (ERM) - Myanmar Limited, Resource and Environment Myanmar (REM) and Environment Quality Management (EQM), on behalf of NYDC, are currently undertaking the EIAs & SEA, which include baseline surveys and stakeholder engagement. The EIAs will be conducted in accordance with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation (MONREC)’s EIA Procedure(2015).

The scoping reports for the six project components have been submitted to the Environmental Conservation Department (ECD) of the MONREC.

More information about NYDC and the Projects can be found at NYDC website <https://nydc.com.mm/>.

CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE

M.V YANTRA BHUM VOY. NO. (1023 W/E)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V YANTRA BHUM VOY. NO. (1023 W/E) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 29-04-2019 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 REGIONAL CONTAINER
LINES

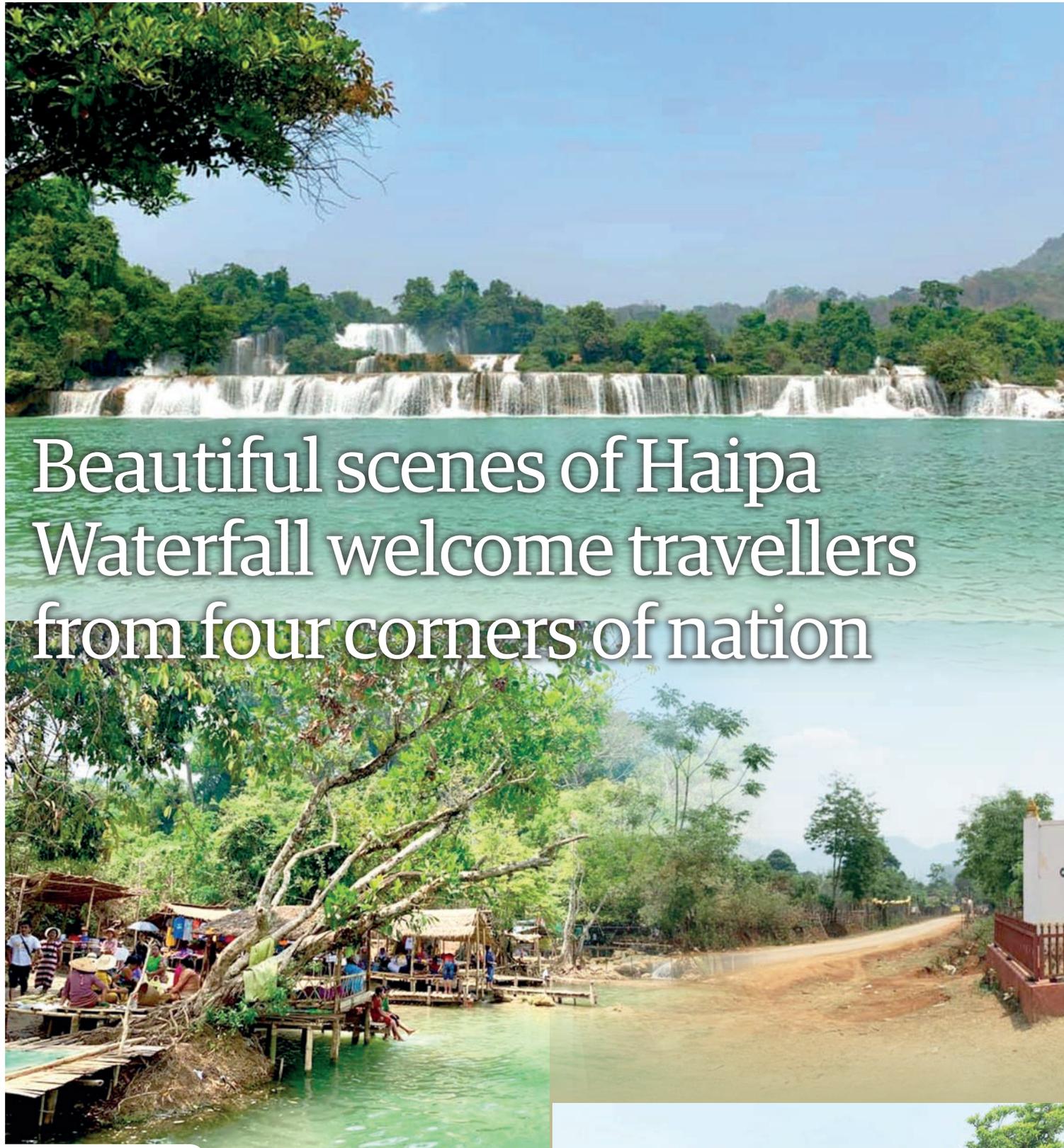
Phone No: 2301185

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO UNDERTAKE A SHARE CAPITAL REDUCTION

In accordance with section 116(e) of the Myanmar Companies Law 2017, **CITY MART HOLDING COMPANY LIMITED**, a company incorporated in the Republic of the Union of Myanmar with Company Registration Number: 113516550, (**CMHL**) hereby gives notice of its intention to call a meeting of shareholders to consider and, if thought fit, approve a reduction in CMHL’s share capital. The draft Notice of Meeting and Explanatory Statement regarding the proposed capital reduction have been submitted to the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration for review and these documents will be sent to CMHL’s shareholders when this process has completed in accordance with the Myanmar Companies Law 2017. Further details concerning the capital reduction will be published if approved by shareholders.

For **CMHL**
Mr. Chris Hughes, Partner
SCM Legal Limited
email: office@scm-legal.com

Dated: 25 April 2019



Beautiful scenes of Haikpa Waterfall welcome travellers from four corners of nation

By Maung Yin Kyay

HAIKPA waterfall, one of cultural heritages in Mongshu Township where Tainwe and Palaung ethnics reside in unison in southern Shan State, is formed with seven to nine steps of waterfall. It is a natural scene filled with various species of wildlife and birds, said locals.

Travellers wishing to visit Haikpa waterfall need to take a four and a half hour drive from Loilem. People from Yangon and Mandalay may pay visits to Haikpa waterfall along Loilem-Laikha-Mongnawng road via Taunggyi. Moreover, visitors from Lashio and Muse may roll on Namlang-Kehsi road or MongyaiMongshu road. If visitors come from Tachilek and Kengtung, they need to go along Kunhing-Wamsein-Mongnawng road. Nowadays, these all roads have been repaved with asphalt thanks to fruitful results of peace.

Haikpa waterfall is located about one mile from Haikpa Village. An asphalt road repaved in the village reaches the new bridge of the village. A temporary road links between the new bridge and the waterfall passing through paddy fields. In the rainy season, small vehicles may face some difficulties in damage of the road. Visitors may see voluntary activities of local children in repairing the road with the use of hoes. Hence, some visitors give tips to those children.

Regularly, travellers can be seen at Haikpa waterfall all the year round but number of travellers declines at the waterfall in the rainy season because they face difficulties in walking along the way to the waterfall passing through the

paddy fields. In general, the waterfall is opened in the month of Tazaungmone (between November and December) and closed in the month of Kason (May). In fact, Haikpa waterfall, an origin of Nampan Creek which flows to Kunhing region streaming in a large number of ravines and jungles, is embraced by Loikhuk Hill, Loifalyan Hill and Loimonmun Hill.

Thousands of visitors flock to the waterfall on a daily basis but number of picnickers reaches tens of thousands on office holidays and during the Maha Thingyan festival period. Visitors may take a relaxation at the waterfall with services of temporary guesthouses, restaurants and souvenir shops. They may taste domestic cuisines such as sour pork and beef meals as well as fried fish



PHOTOS: Supplied

captured from Nampan Creek.

Number of vehicles between 300 and more than 1,000 carrying travellers per day enter the region of Haikpa waterfall. Local authorities collect K3,000 per vehicle for the fund of regional development and repaving of the road to the waterfall. But, motorbike riders have exemption of collecting cash.

Moreover, local authorities arrange motorboat services for visitors to wonder around the places of Nampan Creek to be able to enjoy natural scenes and taste domestic foodstuffs. Charge of motorboat is set at K2,000 per passenger and charge of chartered boat K40,000.

Travellers from four corners of the nation may take a relaxation in enjoying beautifully natural scenes at Haikpa waterfall and its environs while tasting famous Shan traditional foods such as sour pork and sour beef meals.

Translated by Than Tun Aung



NOT only the dwellers from Twantay Township but also the people living in the neighborhood have come in flocks to pay homage to Shan traditional sand pagoda on the platform of historic Shwesandaw Pagoda, a pride of a certain township, since the dawn of the first day of Myanmar New Year following Myanma traditional cultural Thingyan.

The people living in Twantay Township are mostly Bama, Kayin and Shan. Twantay includes in South District of Yangon. It is about 22 miles distant from Hlaingthaya Tsp and about more than 17 miles distant from Dala Township. It is about 45 minutes' drive from Dala. The pilgrims to Shwesandaw Pagoda can see those participating in building sand pagoda at Sunday corner of the pagoda platform, a tradition of Shan



Shan pagoda known as Shan traditional sand pagoda in Twantay Tsp

By Htut Htut (Twantay)



PHOTOS: Htut Htut (Twantay)

people, which is derived from Shan people of plain region. Shan people from Shan villages—Shansugyi, Nyaungdaga, Ngakhonmasan and Muelaman—have to get together and work together to build the sand pagoda. Shan people hold the sand pagoda festival at Sunday corner on the platform of Shwesandaw Pagoda on the first day of Myanmar New Year every year with the aim of preserving and valuing a cultural tradition of their Buddhism.

Apart from Shan people, the pilgrims from the neighborhoods perform good deeds carrying sand to the designated site of the sand pagoda. Different ages, monks, nuns and the people make very positive contributions to the work of carrying sand to build sand pagoda actively. Heads of Shan traditional committee patiently give patient explanations for how to hold the sand pagoda with the help of historical records.

Shan people residing in Shan villages have been holding their traditional sand pagoda festival on the platform of Shansandaw Pagoda built on Mayyuda Hill without fail on the first day of Myanmar New Year since their ancestor period. Now has turned the 448th anniversary. The tradition-

al cultural history of Shan people who are living in plain region is related to historic Shansandaw Pagoda.

In 926 Myanmar Era, the upper structure of Shwesandaw Pagoda was damaged due to the earthquake. So as to renovate the earthquake-affected Shwesandaw Pagoda, King Bayintnaung of Hanthawady Dynasty fetched Shan people who were expert in ten kinds of traditional arts and crafts from Hanthawady Nay Pyi Taw and established Shan villages—Shansugyi, Nyaungdaga, Ngakhonmasan and Muelaman—outside the precincts of pagoda, according to page numbers 84 and 85 of New History of Twantay Shwesandaw Pagoda.

In 1330 Myanma Era, the pagoda made of sand was changed from Saturday corner to Sunday corner with the permission of the pagoda board of trustees. From that time onwards, four Shan villages had to assume responsibility for four main tasks—(1) pagoda precinct, lattice fence, flag poles (2) five-step of terrace bamboo coils and shaft to hold the umbrella of a pagoda (3) bell shape inverted lotus flower and spreading lotus flower and (4) umbrella, pennant-shaped vane and diamond bud. Each Shan village has to carry and send two pits of sand. The height of the sand pagoda varies according to different eras. The height of the sand pagoda was originally only 10 feet and nowadays it is 18 feet. Every Shan village had to stockpile sand during the days of Thingyan and send them to the precincts of Shwesandaw Pagoda in the mornings and evenings. Pots of flowers welcoming the New Year had to be sent to the sand of pagoda early morning. Shan traditional sand pagoda had to be built within day. At 5 am on the first day of Myanmar New Year, terrace bamboo

coils of different sizes have to be filled with the donated sand sent by the respective Shan villages at Sunday corner on the platform of Shansandaw Pagoda. Shan villages convey plantain bud, pennant-shaped vane, diamond bud and umbrella to the sand pagoda to the accompaniment of Shan Ozis and traditional dances. At 9 am, 16 members of Sangha consecrated a Buddha image by reciting, prayed for the wellbeings of others, and shared merits gained and offered day meals and alms to the monks. The building of the sand pagoda on Shwesandaw Pagoda has now reached the 454th Anniversary on the first day of Myanmar New Year (13th Waxing of Tagu 1381 ME).



AFC Qualifiers: Myanmar put up strong fight, but lose 3-1 to Australia

AUSTRALIA beat Myanmar 3-1 in a toughly contested match at the Qualifiers for the AFC U-19 Women's Championship Thailand 2019 at the Mandalay Thiri Stadium in Mandalay yesterday.

Myanmar lined up with goalkeeper Zu Latt Nadi, Captain Zune Yu Ya Oo, Nant Zu Zu Htet, Bawe Lyan Kane, San Thaw Thaw, Thazin Aung, Moe Ma Ma Soe, Ei Ei Kyaw, Lin Myint Mo, Pont Pont Pyae Maung, and Phyu Phyu Win.

Myanmar put up a strong fight right from the kick-off, posing a challenge for the Australian girls.

Myanmar got equal possession of the ball, with even more ball passes and goal opportunities in the first half. But, it failed to convert the chances into goals.

Myanmar's closest goal chance appeared at the 36th

minute, but the shot slipped past the post.

Australia took advantage of a weakness in Myanmar's defence to score the ice-breaker just before the end of the first half. The goal was scored by Princess Ibini-Isei.

Australia launched more attacks in the second half, with Myanmar allowing them one more goal. The goal was scored by Rachel Lowe at the start of the second half. Thereafter, Myanmar redoubled their efforts, with Myat Noe Khin landing a goal at the 67th minute.

Australia attacked back, and the team earned their third goal at 84 minutes, which was scored by Chelsea Blissett.

With the win, Australia has nearly advanced to the next stage. Myanmar will play a decisive match against Nepal on



Myanmar's Pont Pont Pyae Maung (red) and an Australian player vie for the ball during yesterday's Qualifiers for the AFC U-19 Women's Championship Thailand 2019 at the Mandalay Thiri Stadium in Mandalay. **PHOTO: MFF**

Tuesday.

Australia will now take on Uzbekistan, who eliminated

Nepal 4-0 in an earlier game yesterday.

Myanmar still has a chance

to qualify for the final round, if it can bag a win over Nepal.—Lynn Thit (Tgi) ■



Ole Gunnar Solskjaer won't let player power ruin his Manchester United reign. **PHOTO: AFP**

Solskjaer won't be victim of player power at troubled United

MANCHESTER (United Kingdom)—Ole Gunnar Solskjaer has declared he will not allow himself to be thrown under the bus by Manchester United's stars after a warning from his former captain Roy Keane. Solskjaer's remarkable early form as United manager, which brought 14 wins from 17 matches, has dropped off alarmingly, with seven defeats in nine games going into Sunday's Premier League home match against Chelsea.

The latest defeat was at home to neighbours Manches-

ter City on Wednesday, when United legend Keane, working as a television pundit, suggested Solskjaer's players were letting down their manager in exactly the same way they had his predecessor Jose Mourinho.

In Keane's words; "these are the players who threw Jose Mourinho under the bus and they'll do it to Ole", but Solskjaer is adamant that will not happen. "That was Roy Keane who said that, wasn't it? Of course that is not going to happen," Solskjaer said.—AFP ■

We Are One Cup 2019 to be held in eight major cities

THE 'We Are One Cup 2019', an amateur football competition for youths, will be held in May and June in eight major cities—Pyin Oo Lwin, Taungoo, Pakoku, Pathein, Yangon, Mawlamyaing, Lashio, and Taunggyi.

Matches for the competition will start in Yangon and Pathein on 1 May, Taunggyi on 4 May, Pakoku on 6 May, Mawlamyaing on 10 May, Taungoo and Pyin Oo Lwin on 11 May, and Lashio on 18 June, according to the We Are One Cup's official page.

Teams which qualify in the matches will advance to the next stages, and the two best teams will meet in the final.

The winning team will get K5 million, the second placed team will get K3 million, the third placed team will go home with K1.9 million, and the fourth placed team will take K1.7 million.

There is also a cash prize of K1.5 million for teams that place fifth and sixth.

The tourney is mainly be-

ing sponsored by the Myanmar Brewery, and aims to encourage young and talented footballers across Myanmar.

This is the third time the cup will be held in the country. The first cup was held in 2017 and the second was held in 2018.

In 2017, the Pyu Khan Pa-O F.C. team from Northern Shan State had won the Cup, and in 2018, the Glory F.C. from Pyin Oo Lwin had claimed the Cup.—Lynn Thit (Tgi) ■

Nuggets edge Spurs in game seven to reach second round

LOS ANGELES (United States)—Nikola Jokic had a triple-double and Jamal Murray tallied 23 points as the Denver Nuggets punched their ticket to the second round of the NBA playoffs with a 90-86 game seven win over San Antonio.

Serbian Jokic finished with 21 points, 15 rebounds and 10 assists while Murray, of Canada, floated in several clutch baskets with the game on the line as the host Nuggets won their first game seven in over four decades.

The last time the Nuggets were victories in a deciding game was May 1978 when they beat the Milwaukee Bucks in the playoff quarter-finals.

Murray said everybody played a role in helping them get the series victory on Saturday.

"We are hooping and winning games," said Murray. "We haven't gone this far in a while.

"We were able to close it out and it was an amazing effort from the team all around."

The second-seeded Nuggets advance to play the fourth-seeded Portland Trail Blazers in the second round. Game one is Monday in Denver. The Nuggets led wire-to-wire Saturday but had to sweat it out at the end as the Spurs fought back to make it close. San Antonio were at times their own worst enemies. In the closing seconds of game seven, Spurs coach Gregg Popovich walked part way onto the court and yelled at his players to foul but they ignored him.—AFP ■