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THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Vol. V, No. 327, 4th Waxing of Tabaung 1380 ME

www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

Saturday, 9 March 2019

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi meets residents of Monywa, Sagaing Region



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi addresses local populace and students at Monywa Town hall in Monywa, Sagaing Region, yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

STATE Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, the Chairperson of the Central Committee for Development of Border Areas and National Races, who was in Monywa paid homage to the standing Buddha image at the Thousand Bohdi accompanied by Union Ministers Lt-Gen Kyaw Swe, Lt-Gen Ye Aung, U Min Thu, Dr. Myint Htwe and U Ohn Win, Sagaing Region Chief Minister Dr. Myint Naing, Deputy Minister U Hla Maw Oo and officials.

After offering flowers, water, oil lamps and scented water to the images of Buddha, she signed the visitors' book and donated money to the pagoda

trustees. The State Counsellor then cordially greeted the local residents.

Next she attended a meeting with the local people held at

the Monywa Town hall.

At the meeting the State Counsellor said the first time she visited Monywa was in 1988 and 32 years had passed since then. As there was a power failure at that time it was unforgettable to see everyone coming out with lighted candles in their hands making it brighter and more beautiful compared to electric lights. This showed that with collective effort any challenge could be overcome.

The good thing about the

people in Monywa or in any other place was that all were living together peacefully and happily. It was with much happiness and pride to see all of them living together peacefully regardless of differences in ethnicity, religion and languages.

We should all be proud of the fact that we have the power to cope with the differences and live in unity as a union. It was expected for this to continue and for more unity and peace.

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PYIDAUNGSU HLUTTAW

Second Pyidaungsu Hluttaw holds 13th-day meeting of 11th Regular Session

By Aung Maw, Aye Aye Thant (MNA)

THE 13th-day meeting of the 11th Regular Session of the Second Pyidaungsu Hluttaw was held in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

UEC member appointments confirmed

Firstly, Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat announced that the Hluttaw has raised no objections to the President's appointment of U Nyunt Sein, U Thet Tun, U Myint Aung, U Saw Daniel Kyi, U Aung Soe Win, U Than Aung, U Min Swe, and U Swe Tint Lwin as members of the Union Election Commission, and thus, the Hluttaw has approved the appointment of these eight individuals.

Council of ASEAN Chief Justices

The Chief Justice of the Union, U Htun Htun Oo, then explained to the Hluttaw the matter sent by the President on validating and then signing the agreement of the Council of ASEAN Chief Justices. He said if Myanmar signs the agreement, it will receive opportunities to develop its judicial sector by sharing experiences with other ASEAN countries, cooperate on capacity building trainings for Myanmar's judges and justices, support economic development and rule of law in the ASEAN region, and gain other benefits from strengthening collaboration between the ASEAN region's judiciaries.

U Htun Htun Oo said the Union Government has agreed for the Chief Justice of the Union to sign the agreement during their Meeting No. 4/2019, and as such, he requested the Hluttaw Speaker to deliberate the decision of the Hluttaw. The Speaker then announced for MPs interested in discussing the matter to enrol their names.

Three bills discussed, report read

The Speaker announced that the Hluttaw has put on record the matter of reforming and expanding of villages and districts in Sagaing Region and Shan State.

Next, Dr. Myat Nyana Soe, secretary of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Joint Bill Committee, submitted a proposal on the joint committee's additional



Union Chief Justice U Htun Htun Oo.



MP Dr. Khun Win Thaug.

amendments to subsections (a) and (b) of Section 27 of The Gambling Bill for the Hluttaw to consider for approval.

The Speaker called for the deliberation of the Hluttaw and received no objections. He then announced the motion as approved and further procedures to be conducted in accordance with the laws and bylaws of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw.

Next, Dr. Myat Nyana Soe submitted the Intellectual Property Bill to the Hluttaw, sent back with amendments from the President, and read each section of the bill for the Hluttaw to deliberate on.

Following this, Dr. Myat Nyana Soe also submitted the Occupational Safety and Health Bill to the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, which is disputed by the Pyithu and Amyotha Hluttaws, and read each section of the bill for the Hluttaw to deliberate on. MPs discussed the bill and the Hluttaw gave its approval.

Next, U Aung Min, Vice Chairperson of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Joint Public Accounts Committee, read the committee's findings and remarks in its Report No. 5/2019 concerning the complaint letter on tax payments of private companies in Mandalay holding the raw jade



MP Dr. Myat Nyana Soe.



MP Lt-Col Tin Tun Aung.

exhibitions. The Speaker called for MPs interested in discussing the report to enrol their names.

MPs debate government's fiscal deficit

MPs then discussed the matter sent by the President concerning acquiring appropriate loan(s) from the Central Bank of Myanmar for closing the deficit in the Union Government's deposit for 2018-2019 FY.

Dr. U Kywe Kywe of Mandalay Region constituency 6 advised the Union Government to consider more suitable alternatives to fixing the fiscal deficit. He said Myanmar's tax revenue and GDP ratio are the lowest in Southeast Asian countries and thus, taking measures to collect the actual taxes to be levied will fill in the government's deficit. He said the government can also consider auctioning off state-owned factories and workshops showing losses to supplement the national budget.

Dr. U Kywe Kywe also suggested privatizing state-owned businesses that may not stand up to competition in future market economies and selling their shares. He said this will not only fill in the government's deficit but will also pave way for a proper market economy system that



MP U Aung Min.

will enable reforms in line with a democratic political system.

The matter was further discussed by U Bo Gyi of Chauk constituency, U Khin Cho of Hlaingbwe constituency, and U Than Soe (a) Than Soe (economics) of Yangon Region constituency 4.

MPs discuss report on second bill amending the Constitution

MPs then discussed the report from the Joint Committee on Scrutinizing the Bill Making Second Amendments to the Constitution.

Dr. Khun Win Thaug of Kachin State constituency 11 said the word 'elected' should be added to the phrase 'A suitable candidate with the necessary skills from among the respective State and Region Hluttaw will be chosen...' in subsection (b) (1) of Section 261 of the Constitution. He also said the line 'An MP elected to represent their State or Region' should be added as point no.5 to subsection (a) of Section 261 as well. He said this will ensure the emergence of a genuine multiparty democratic system.

Tatmadaw Amyotha Hluttaw representative Lt-Col Tin Tun Aung said the joint committee's findings and remarks do not correspond with the Constitution's Section 433 and 435, nor with Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Bylaw 133 to 139. He said he objects to the committee's reports as a table on the amendments made to the Constitution's Section 261, subsections (b), (c), (d), and (e) were not distributed to the Hluttaw representatives as is the standard procedure.

He urged the joint committee to reconduct its processes in line with Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Bylaws 133, 135 to 139, 142, and 143.



MP Dr. U Kywe Kywe.

Myanmar's tax revenue and GDP ratio are the lowest in Southeast Asian countries and thus, taking measures to collect the actual taxes to be levied will fill in the government's deficit:

MP Dr. U Kywe Kywe

The report was further discussed by Tatmadaw Amyotha Hluttaw representative Major Pyae Phyo Hein, Tatmadaw Amyotha Hluttaw representative Major Kyaw Soe Oo, U Maung Myint of Mingin constituency, Tatmadaw Amyotha Hluttaw representative Colonel Nyunt Win Aung, Daw Khin Saw Wai of Yathedaung constituency, U Win Win of Minbu constituency, U Soe Thein of Kayah State constituency 9, U Kan Oo of Salin constituency, Tatmadaw Amyotha Hluttaw representative Lt-Col Thant Swe, U Sai Tun Aye of Mongshu constituency, Tatmadaw Amyotha Hluttaw representative Colonel Kyaw Kyaw, Tatmadaw Amyotha Hluttaw representative Major Tin Aung Hein, Tatmadaw Amyotha Hluttaw representative Colonel Khin Maung Naing, and Tatmadaw Amyotha Hluttaw representative Colonel Zaw Lwin.

The 14th-day meeting of the 11th Regular Session of the Second Pyidaungsu Hluttaw will convene on 12 March.

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi meets residents of ...

FROM PAGE-1.

In life many challenges have to be faced. It depends on ourselves whether we view these challenges as a problem or an opportunity. No matter how thick the darkness might be, if we overcome it with unity, the problem will become an opportunity.

The country was facing many challenges but progress may be seen in many areas and the people could be proud of those achievements. There still remained more progress to be achieved. Everyone knew that the country was lagging behind in development in the region.

However, lessons could be learnt from those who were ahead of us. What to avoid and what to do. In any situation, there was a need to copy and imitate. Lessons need to be learnt and efforts made so that these things could be seen as opportunities. This was the advantage. There was a need to work hand in hand.

The reason for saying the requirements of the people were the same was due to the fact that all were living on the same land, drinking the same water, travelling on the same boat toward the same destination. Region wise requirements were potable water, electricity, education and farmland matters and wherever the place may be, the requirements were always seen to be the same.

These shouldn't be thought as the government's job. It must be seen as everyone's duty and a problem for all to solve together. Such mindsets will be a good precedence for the future generation. Everyone lived in this world for a short time but if they fulfilled their duties and responsibilities, it would be a great opportunity to leave behind a great legacy for the future generation. The main point was to leave behind a great legacy. Don't think about how much you can get but think about how much you can give.

We were brief visitors to this world. It would be a duty for all to leave a good situation behind when we leave. I was saying this to people from Monywa because of the faith I had in them. Monywa folks had the ability to think clearly and overcome difficulties. Increase these abilities day after day. Some views things negatively. But the important thing was to view the situation objectively and work together toward progress for all. Once a wrong step was taken, a long time would be required to correct the mistakes. Unity of the people of Monywa was commended and may this quality increase to overcome problems in unity, said the State Counsellor.

Afterwards pre-submitted matters and submissions of the people of Monywa were presented:



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi visits Thousand Maha Bawdhi pagoda in Monywa yesterday. PHOTO:MNA

speedy completion of 500-bed Monywa Hospital, appointing sufficient staff to the hospital, surfacing the 4-lane Mandalay-Monywa-Sagaing road with asphalt, completing the remaining section of Monywa and Chaungoo-Amyint village, upgrading Taung Ma Tau-Myayne-Thousand Bohdi road section of Monywa-Ayadaw road, upgrading of of Chaungoo Basic Education sub Middle School, upgrading of 25-bed Chaungoo Township hospital to a 50-bed hospital, allocating Union Budget for Chaungoo Township water distribution project, drilling 8-inch tube well and constructing a water tower for Budalin Town water distribution, construct a

two-story market in Budalin, repairing Budalin pond, bank loan for Budalin farmers with form 7, paving more than 40 village roads in Budalin Township with smooth gravels, providing adequate irrigation water for farmlands near Budalin town, upgrading a village connecting road in Ayadaw Township, assigning a new site for Ayadaw town water distribution, support cement to upgrade self-help roads in Ayadaw Township to concrete roads, upgrading Ayadaw Township 25-bed hospital to 50-bed hospital, investigate the ward administrator, improve Minkin-Yoneka-Chaungphya road, eradicate drug, investigate the disappearance of two students, re-

solve Letpadaungtaung matter, resolve illegal ownership of land, cleaning up Monywa District Court detention cell, reducing the lottery ticket price to Ks 500 from K 1,000, increasing the salary of head of ward administrators and forming support group for hospital when the Monywa Hospital was completed. All the above matters were submitted to the meeting for resolution.

The pre-submitted matters and submission of the people were then explained by Union Minister Lt-Gen Ye Aung, Dr. Myint Htwe, Region Chief Minister and region ministers. The State Counsellor also provided additional explanations and insisted on the

people to be disciplined. Issues raised and complaints made will be resolved in accordance to the law, rules and procedure. She added on the impossibility of having progress without hearing the voices of the people as well as dealing with the people in a straight forward manner to establish trust.

After the meeting the State Counsellor took commemorative photos together with students who attended the meeting and then met with the Region Chief Minister and ministers at the Monywa Airport hall.

The State Counsellor and party then left Monywa by special flight and arrived in Nay Pyi Taw in the afternoon. — MNA



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi meets with Mr. Don Pramudwinai in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi receives Thailand Minister of Foreign Affairs

STATE COUNSELLOR and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs Daw Aung San Suu Kyi received Thailand Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr. Don Pramudwinai and party at Ministry of Foreign Affairs Union Minister guest hall yesterday afternoon.

At the meeting matters relating to increasing bilateral relations, investment and workers affairs, works processes to be con-

ducted by Thailand while it is the ASEAN chair and support of ASEAN toward Myanmar government's conduct on receiving returnees back to Rakhine State were cordially and openly discussed. Present at the meeting were Union Minister for International Cooperation U Kyaw Tin, high ranking officials from Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Thailand ambassador to Myanmar designate H.E.

Mrs. Suphatra Srimaitree-phetak and officials who were member of the party led by the Thai minister.

Later at noon Union Minister for International Cooperation U Kyaw Tin hosted a working lunch for the visiting Thailand Minister of Foreign Affairs at Shwesanein Hotel. Union Minister for State Counsellor's Office U Kyaw Tint Swe also attended the working lunch. — MNA ■



Vice President U Myint Swe addresses the 7th coordination meeting of the National Level Environmental Conservation and Climate Change Central Committee at the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Union Government to release National Environmental Policy, Strategy, Master Plan

THE Union Government will release the National Environmental Policy, 2030 Strategy and Master Plan soon, said Vice President U Myint Swe, Patron of the National Level Environmental Conservation and Climate Change Central Committee.

He made the comment at the 7th coordination meeting of the central committee at the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

The Vice President expressed thanks to the members of the central committee, ministries, Nay Pyi Taw Council Area, region and state-level officials and international organizations which provided the committee with technical and financial assistance for drafting the policy, strategy and master plan.

The Vice President said that Myanmar needed a strategy to conserve the environment and to fight the impacts of climate change on the country's coastal areas and arid zones which were relying on fisheries, agriculture and livestock breeding while the country was relying on its natural resources for the socio-economic development.

The National Environmental Policy would ensure sustainable development, prosperity and a community which could endure climate change and reduce carbon emission leading to prosperity of the current and next generations, he said.

While uplifting the socio-economic development, Myanmar has been promoting local and foreign investment and expanding the industrial zones, he said. The situation demanded the country to lay down a strong 'environmental management system' to prevent degradation of the ecosystem

the tasks in respective sectors, he said.

He urged the officials of the respective committees to build links with international bodies in attempts to seek funds and assistance for the works of the committees.

The central committee laid down a total 84 resolutions in

treatment plants at the distilleries, garbage system, prevention illegal mining causing environmental degradation, raising environmental awareness and information.

"To disseminate knowledge on environmental conservation and climate change, coordination was being carried out to include the environmental conservation in the curriculum from the primary level and to the higher education level," he said.

The Vice President also urged the participants of the meeting to set a time frame for implementing remaining resolutions and to complete them in a timely manner.

He also stressed the need to speed up the educative awareness as part of efforts for helping the people to change their behaviors and life style which could encourage sustainable production and consumption.

He continued to say that necessary measures should be taken to enforce the rules and regulations and procedures related with environmental conservation.

To promote the human resources including experts and techniques related with the environment and to acquire funds, efforts should be made to build more links with international organizations, and ministries, Nay Pyi Taw Council Area and region, state governments, NGOs and social organizations.

He said more efforts were

needed to strengthen their cooperation and coordination. Afterwards, Deputy Minister for Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation Dr. Ye Myint Swe reported on implementation of the tasks included in the Myanmar Sustainable Development Plan-MSDP, approaches to the environmental conservation, budget allocations, raising environmental awareness and human resource development.

Afterwards, U Maung Hla Thein, Secretary of the central committee and Director-General of the Environmental Conservation Department, reported on progress on implementation of resolutions made at the previous meetings and measures being undertaken, combination of environmental conservation and climate change plans, progress of works carried out by six work committees and future plans.

Afterwards, members of the central committee and officials from six work committees, chairmen of the region/state environmental and climate change supervisory committees reported on implementation and future works for environmental conservation, challenges, law enforcement, conservation of cultural heritage without damaging the environment and other sectors.

The meeting made 10 resolutions and came to an end with concluding remarks by the Vice President.—MNA

The National Environmental Policy would ensure sustainable development, prosperity and a community which could endure climate change and reduce carbon emission leading to prosperity of the current and next generations:

Vice President U Myint Swe

and environmental damages.

As the national-level central committee, six work committees, 15 committees representing the Nay Pyi Taw Council Area and region/state level supervisory committees, 46 district-level committees, 152 township-level committees and the policy, strategy and the master plan have been drawn, and the country was ready to carry out

the previous six meetings, and so far 42 have been implemented and 42 remained as they need to be implemented in the long-run.

The tasks being carried out based on the resolutions of the meetings include disposal of waste materials, arrangements for giving awards for environmental friendly urban development, establishing wastewater

International Women's Day ceremony observed in Nay Pyi Taw

VICE President U Henry Van Thio addressed the International Women's Day ceremony held at the Myanmar International Convention Centre 2 in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

In his address Vice President said International Women's Day came about due to the efforts of women workers after 146 women workers were killed in a factory fire in Russia on March 1911. More than a hundred years have passed when 8 March was observed worldwide as International Women's Day and Myanmar being a member country of the UN held this State level event to reflect the importance of women in Myanmar.

The UN designated theme for International Women's Day 2019 was "Think equal, build smart, innovate for change." To achieve the sustainable development goal of achieving gender equality and empower all women and girls in 2030 it was required to develop new integrated approaches, thoughts and processes in addition to the present social protection systems, public services and work procedures and the theme was being setup to exhort UN member countries, said the Vice President.

Myanmar was a country that was transitioning to a democracy based on political transition, economic transition and establishing peace. As a country working for national reconciliation based on establishing peace, gender equality in all sectors was an important and basic matter. In the third session of 21st Century Panglong Conference an agreement was reached in the political sector basic principle



First Lady Daw Cho Cho, Vice President U Henry Van Thio and dignitaries open the International Women's Day ceremony in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA

agreement towards encouraging a minimum of 30 percent involvement of women in each sector.

Myanmar National Committee for Women's Affairs was formed as a State-level mechanism to implement the nine targets set in sustainable development goal 5 of achieving gender equality and empowering all women and girls and to comply with the UN Convention on the Elimination on All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

For a balanced development of women in all sectors the National Strategic Plan for the Advancement of Women (2013-2022) was implemented based on 12 priority sectors. In order to implement the strategic plan with an increasing momentum during the remaining four years of the plan, four technical work groups on preventing and protecting women from violence; on women participating in the country's economic sector; on women to be included in all sec-

tors; and on women in peace and security were formed and works conducted.

Furthermore arrangements were made to review the National Strategic Plan for the Advancement of Women (2013-2022). To provide technical support in implementing the plan a Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment (GEWE) as Non Sector Coordination Group that would coordinate the Ten Sector Coordination Groups (SCGs) under the DACU (Development Assistance Coordination Unit). The group was urged to provide technical support and cooperate in the review works.

In conducting the review works new ways of coordinating and connecting with Sustainable Development Goals and Myanmar Sustainable Development Plan (MSDP) was to be observed. More emphasis must be placed towards women that made up more than half of the country's population in imple-

menting MSDP that was vital for the country's development, said the Vice President.

According to surveys conducted for development of Myanmar women, effective implementation was still seen to be required in sectors like participation in economic, livelihood, education, health, public affairs, peace, security and violence against women. Innovative and new ways need to be sought out in those sectors in addition to the present ways and means utilized.

A Joint Communique to prevent and respond to conflict related sexual violence was signed on 7 December 2018 and plans were required to be set-up to effectively implement the six priority sectors of the Joint Communique.

An economic forum of women entrepreneurs was held today in commemoration of 2019 International Women's Day. Via that forum raising the capacity of women in economic and new ways and means of overcoming difficulties for gender equality in the economic sector would be realized.

The government was working from all side for the role of Myanmar women to increase step by step and for women to obtain their rights equally. It was with much happiness to see that UN organizations, non-government organizations, civil society organizations, social organizations, and technical experts on the subject were cooperating with the government on this and were urged to continue the cooperation.

In order to successfully implement the three aims of having rule of law and raising the people's socio-economic

life; national reconciliation and internal peace; and amending the Constitution that was the foundation stone of establishing a democracy federal union, both genders were to cooperate hand in hand and the power of the women representing more than half of the country's population was to be used more. Innovative new ways were urged to be devised to maintain the progress and momentum achieved towards women's development, said the Vice President.

Following this First Lady Daw Cho Cho, Vice President U Henry Van Thio, Union Minister Dr. Win Myat Aye, UNICEF representative Ms. June Kunugi and UN Women representative to Myanmar Mr. Nicolas Burniat cut the ceremonial ribbon to open the International Women's Day exhibition and observed the exhibits together with ceremony attendees.

Later the second part of the ceremony was continued where Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr. Win Myat Aye explained about works conducted for women's development that included opening of One Stop Women Support Centers in Yangon, Mandalay, Lashio and Mawlamyine for women victims of violence and raising economic opportunities for women that were only 41.8 percent of the total workforce of 20.91 million.

Afterwards UNICEF representative Ms. June Kunugi read the UN Secretary General's message followed by screening of a video of Myanmar women business persons' real life situation. Talks and discussion continued.— MNA

(Translated by Zaw Min)



Women discuss under the title "Think equal, build smart, innovative for change" as part of the International Women's Day ceremony in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing visits Nongnooch Garden, 3 Seasons fruit factory

Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing who attended the 16th ASEAN Chiefs of Defence Forces meeting in Thailand visited Nongnooch Garden in Pattaya on the evening of 7 March accompanied by wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla and officials.

Officials from the garden showed them around the garden and explained about displayed flowers, pots, vehicles, Dinosaur

Valley and rare trees.

Yesterday afternoon the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services and party visited the 3 Seasons fruit factory and Siam Agro-Food Industry Public Co. Ltd. (SAICO) fruit canning factories in Rayong Province according to the news from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services. — MNA

(Translated by Zaw Min)



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing visits Nongnooch Garden in Pattaya, Thailand on 7 March. **PHOTO: OFFICE OF THE C-IN-C OF DEFENCE SERVICES.**

Union Minister Dr Aung Thu receives Malaysian Ambassador



Union Minister Dr. Aung Thu receives Malaysian Ambassador Mr Zahairi Baharim in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO:MNA**

UNION Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation Dr. Aung Thu received Ambassador of Malaysia to Myanmar Mr Zahairi Baharim at the meeting hall of his ministry in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During their meeting,

they discussed matters on bilateral collaboration in the agricultural and livestock sectors; allowing investments of Malaysian businessmen, in line with the rules, in the fields of agricultural inputs and the livestock vaccine manufactur-

ing; making agricultural products including coconut and pineapple into value-added products; and allowable exportation of Myanmar rice to Malaysia. — MNA

(Translated by TTN)

Over 850,000 sit for Matriculation exams on third day

THERE are a total of 850,550 students sitting for the Mathe-

matics subject on the third day of the Matriculation exams for



Students seen after sitting for the Mathematics subject as part of the matriculation exam. **PHOTO: ZAW MIN LATT**

2018-2019 academic year 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. On the third day of the 2019 matriculation examination for the Mathematics subject, 850,550 students of the 897,994 registered students from across Myanmar took the examination, while 47,444 students remained absent. Thus, 94.72 per cent of the students took the examination yesterday. —MNA (Translated by TTN)

Students tackle mathematics on third day of matric exams

DR MYO THEIN GYI, Union Minister for Education, gave moral support to students answering mathematics on the third day of their matriculation exams in Bago Region and the Nay Pyi Taw Council Area yesterday.

The Union Minister first arrived at the examination centre for B.E.H.S. 1 (Swa), in Yedashe Township of Toungoo District, Bago Region, and gave instructions to the exam supervisors, assistant supervisors and other relevant officials to ensure students have a quiet and relaxing environment to take the 2019 matric exams systematically. He also instructed them to adhere to their duties and responsibilities so that the matric exams are completed successfully.

Likewise, the Union Minister visited the exam centres of B.E.H.S. (Thagaya), B.E.H.S. (Myo Hla), and B.E.H.S. (Ye Ni) in Yedashe Tsp, and the centres of B.E.H.S. (Thapyaypin) in Lewe

Tsp and B.E.H.S. 19 in Dekkhi-nathiri Tsp.

On the third day of the matric exams, 850,550 students out of 857,994 enrolled tackled maths in the 1,886 exam centres across the nation. Additionally, 24,797 students out of 26,123 enrolled took the exams in all 50 exam centres in Nay Pyi Taw, while 8 students at Yangon General Hospital and 10 in North Okkalapa General Hospital took the exams as well.

There were 182 incarcerated students taking the exam in Insein Prison, Mandalay Central Prison, Katha Prison, Monywa Prison, Hpa-an Prison, Myeik Prison, Toungoo Prison, Thayet Prison, and Loikaw Prison yesterday. In addition, 24 students with visual impairments and 15 with hearing impairments from Kachin State, Yangon Region, Mandalay Region, and Sagaing Region combined took the exams yesterday as well. —MNA

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)



Union Minister Dr. Myo Thein Gyi visits the exam centres in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Graduation ceremony of Basic Course in Diplomacy held in Nay Pyi Taw



Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Tun Tun Hein addresses the graduation ceremony of Basic Course in Diplomacy in Park Royal Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

PYITHU HLUTTAW Deputy Speaker and Joint Coordination Committee (JCC) on Hluttaw Development Chairman U Tun Tun Hein attended and addressed the graduation ceremony of Basic Course in Diplomacy held in Park Royal Hotel, Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker and JCC Chairman said the Basic Course in Diplomacy was jointly conducted by

the Asia Foundation and Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the course will enable Hluttaw Office staff to know more about diplomacy as well as easing the liaising and communicating with foreign parliaments and international organisations. Much thank and appreciation is owed to Asia Foundation and Ministry of Foreign Affairs for conducting this course.

The Asia Foundation has

been established for more than 60 years and at the moment had offices in 18 countries. It had been working together with Ministry of Foreign Affairs for more than six years said the Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker and JCC Chairman. The graduation ceremony of the course was attended by officials, trainees and experts from Hluttaw offices and Ministry of Foreign Affairs. — MNA/(Translated by Zaw Min)



Union Minister U Thaung Tun receives Minister of Foreign Affairs of Thailand Mr. Don Pramudwinai in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Union Minister U Thaung Tun meets with Minister of Foreign Affairs of Thailand

UNION MINISTER for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations U Thaung Tun received Minister of Foreign Affairs of Thailand Mr. Don Pramudwinai and delegation on Friday at 10:00 am. at the Ministry of Investment and

Foreign Economic Relations. Matters relating to Myanmar's economic reform, bilateral investment and economic cooperation were discussed.

The meeting was attended by senior officials from the Ministry of Foreign

Affairs, Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations and Ambassador - Designate of Thailand to Myanmar Mrs. Suphatra Srimaitrephithak of the Royal Thai Embassy in Yangon. — MNA

Four Village tract administrators, local trader from Mrauk U township released

Four Village tract administrators and a local from Mrauk U Township, following a complaint by a military officer as plaintiff were detained for investigation at the Mrauk U central township police station and charged with section 17(1) and 17(2) of the Unlawful Association Act.

The plaintiff however was not able to produce sufficient evidence. Accordingly, following the legal opin-

ion that they should not be charged, village tract administrators, U Aung Naing Tun, U Sein Hla Maung, U Maung Oo Sein, U Maung Tin Chay and trader U Kyaw Than were released from Mrauk U Central township police station on 8 March 2019, at 4:45 pm. It is understood that arrangements is been made to close the case, according to the Mrauk U central township police station.— MNA

Working committee discusses recommendations regarding Universal Periodic Review

THE Working Committee for Implementing the Recommendations regarding the Universal Periodic Review and Compiling a Related Report was held at the Union Attorney-General's office.

Speaking at the meeting, Union Attorney-General U Tun Tun Oo said the UPR is a mechanism that periodically examines the human rights performance of all UN Member States, established by General Assembly resolution 65/251. He said 93 UN Member States accepted 166 out of the 281 recommendations made during the UPR's Second Cycle in 2015. He said a National-Level Committee on Implementing Recommendations of

the UPR was also formed and designated 12 sectors for implementation.

The Union Attorney-General said the working committee must review the 19 recommendations on democracy, peace, rule of law, and human rights to compile the report on Myanmar's human rights situation in 2020. He urged the meeting's attendees to actively give suggestions for ensuring the report is comprehensive. Following this, attendees discussed which facts should be included in the 2020 report, formation of working groups, and setting future tasks. —MNA (Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)



Union Attorney-General U Tun Tun Oo addresses implementing the recommendations regarding the Universal Periodic Review. **PHOTO: MNA**

Correction

Please read **Homalin People's Hospital** instead of **Monywa People's Hospital** in the caption for the upper photo appeared on page 3 of the 8 March issue of *the Global New Light of Myanmar*. —Ed

Granting right permits to right people key to protecting public interest

LAST YEAR, the Union Government launched the Myanmar Sustainable Development Plan, detailing the next wave of reforms for the country. The plan is designed to direct our country's continued transition, along a common pathway, to ensure the emergence of a prosperous, peaceful, democratic federal Union.

The Union Government is committed to creating a more favorable, predictable, and friendly investment environment in the country, in line with the MSDP as well as the Myanmar Investment Promotion Plan.

To level the playing field for local and foreign investors, the concerned authorities have been given the responsibility of reviewing and inspecting permitted investments on state-owned lands, buildings, and businesses to check whether an investment is in line with the pledge or not. At the same time, it is up to officials to ensure that new projects on state-owned infrastructure benefit citizens.

The authorities are trying to make certain only genuine investors obtain permission to lease state-owned lands and buildings.

their pledges.

To boost the country's economy and its image as an investment destination, a transparent and competitive tender system must be used to grant permissions to competent investors.

The MIC and concerned ministries will conduct field surveys to make sure the agreements are followed strictly and, if required, review and renegotiate them altogether.

The authorities are trying to make certain only genuine investors obtain permission to lease state-owned lands and buildings.

It is also important that each investment business operates within the terms of the agreement.

To make sure the right permits are granted to the right people, the farsightedness and honesty of personnel from the management sector, responsible for giving permissions to investors, is key.

Malpractices must be avoided, and help must be given to investors so they can run their businesses smoothly.



Some Memories of Yangon University in the 1920s

By Dr. Saw Mra Aung

YANGON University College and Judson College were welded together into Yangon University on 1st December, 1920 under the New Yangon University Act. However, their lecture-rooms still remained at the buildings on Commissioner Road (Present Bogyoke Aung San Road in Latha Township) and Lower Kye-in-myaing-daing Road in Alone Township) where the two colleges were located. Woman-students and man-students were also housed at the brick-buildings on Simpson Road, Voyle Road, Shwedagon Pagoda Road and Budd Road in downtown Yangon. Therefore, the new Kamayut Yangon University Estate was then just an over 400-acre stretch of thickly wooded land infested with mosquitoes and wild animals. To its south-west lay the sullen Kyan-taw Cemetery interspersed with groves of wild pine-apples, to the west sleepy Kamayut Village and to the north secluded Inya Lake surrounded by densely forested bunds.

In 1922, the Convocation Hall was constructed in the northern-most part of the estate. In 1924, wooden Tagaung and Pyi Halls of residence were built in the southern part of the Yangon University Estate near Pyi Road which was then a narrow tarred road. Man-students from Yangon University College started to be accommodated there in the 1925-26 academic year. As the estate was so thickly forested, the two halls were hidden from each other. In 1926, Bagan Hall, another wooden hall of residence, was built at the end of Victoria Lane which branched off due east from Pyi road. Since this hall was in isolation from other two halls, it was called 'Andaman



Convocation Hall at the University of Yangon. PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR

Hall' (တစ်ကျွန်းခေောင်). But it was bombed by the Japanese during the Second World War. The plot of the land at the end of Bagan Road just across the University Hospital today is the site of Bagan Hall. Bagan Hall was later rebuilt of bricks on Thaton Road behind the University of Education.

Warden of Pyi Hall was Mr. B.R. Pearn. But soon, he was succeeded by U Po Chu. Warden of Tagaung Hall was Mr. Robert. Soon also, U Po Thone was appointed to his position. U Kar was Warden of Bagan Hall. The students had to live happily and securely under their fatherly care, enjoying the freedom of hostel students' life. But the students faced two foes at night-fall. The first foe was the mosquitoes

In those days, the wooded Inya Lake was rumored to be haunted by tigers and man-eating water-ogres. Therefore, some chicken-hearted students avoided visiting it even during the day-time.

which bred in profusion amongst the thick foliage of various species of trees such as jack-fruit, Mayan, Ye-tamar, Kukko, mango, pine-apple, etc growing inextricably on

the marsh land around the halls. When the darkness descended from the sky at twilight, those blood-suckers came swarming around the students. So those who engaged themselves in conversation after dinner fell prey to those animals. Therefore, some of them, upon dinner, had to put up their mosquito-nets in their room and to stay inside them to evade their stings. The second foe was the thieves who made frequent raids into the privacy of the rooms of the hostelers and rummaged around for valuables while they were fast asleep or during their visits to their friends' rooms. Therefore, it was common for the students to leap to their feet from bed in the dead of night and to in vain ran, raising

hues and cries, after the invaders who merged into the bushes swathed in darkness behind the halls. As the thieves were thought to come from the neighbouring villages, the students were strictly debarred by Principal D.J. Sloss from mixing with the villagers from Kamayut and other villages in the immediate vicinity of the premises.

There stood some clumps of big trees between the halls and Inya Lake adjacent to Yangon University Estate. In those days, the wooded Inya Lake was rumored to be haunted by tigers and man-eating water-ogres. Therefore, some chicken-hearted students avoided visiting it even during the day-time. A few brave students, however, used

to go there for a swim on some evenings. Since 1923, the Yangon University Boat Club had been formed with the students from University College and Judson College. It was chaired by a British advocate Mr. Edgar who later became a law professor at Yangon University. He was an executive member of the Cambridge and Oxford University Boat Clubs while living in England. The office of the club was built in a piece of the land jutting out into Inya Lake. In December 1926, Ko Khin Maung Myint, a hosteler from Tagaung Hall was drown to death while swimming with other two or three friends near the University Boat Club. It is said that the students who lived in the rooms near his dare not sleep alone that night and that they, therefore, had to sleep in groups of two or three in a room. From that day onwards, wardens of the halls used to follow the swimmers to the lake when they returned late and to coax them into going back before dusk.

As the lecture-rooms continued to exist at Yangon University College, the students from the halls had to trudge across the Kyan-taw Cemetery and groves of pine-apples to the Hanthawati Rail-way Station and took the Insein local train which reached there between 8:30 am and 10:00am and proceeded to the college across the Yangon General Hospital on Commissioner Road. After their classes, they had to return to the halls at 4pm by that train. It is said that some students who returned late for some reasons were harried by vilians amongst the groves of wild pine-apples or haunted by ghosts at the Kyan-taw Cemetery on the way back. University Avenue and Inya Road were not yet built until 1925.

TO BE CONTINUED



Pinya Hall. PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR



Bago Hall. PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR



The Dalbergia kurzii tree, an important symbol of the Yangon University. PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Office of the President
Order 8/2019

3rd Waxing of Tabaung 1380 ME
8 March 2019

Appointment of Members of the Union Election Commission

IN accord with the provisions stated in article 398 (a) of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, article 16 (b), sub-session 8 of the Union Government Law and article 3 of the Union Election Commission Law, the following persons have been appointed as members of the Union Election Commission:

1. U Nyunt Sein
2. U Thet Tun
3. U Myint Aung
4. U Saw Daniel Kyi
5. U Aung Soe Win
6. U Than Aung
7. U Min Swe
8. U Swe Tint Lwin

Sd/Win Myint
President
Republic of the Union Myanmar

Myanmar Daily Weather Report (Issued on Friday 8 March 2019)

SUMMARY OF OBSERVATIONS RECORDED AT 09:30 hrs MST: During the past (24) hours, rain or thundershowers have been widespread in Mandalay Region, fairly widespread in Kachin State, scattered in Nay Pyi Taw, Magway Region, Southern Shan and Rakhine states, isolated in Upper Sagaing Region, Eastern Shan and Chin states and weather has been partly cloudy in the remaining regions and states. Day temperatures were (6°C) below March normal temperature in Southern Shan State, (5°C) below March normal temperature in Magway Region, (3°C) to (4°C) below March normal temperature in Sagaing and Mandalay regions, Kachin, (Northern and Eastern) Shan, Chin, Rakhine and Kayah states and about March normal temperature in the remaining regions and states. The significant day temperatures were (38°C) in Kawkaik and (37°C) each in Yangon (Northern Dagon), Thayawady and Ye. The noteworthy amount of rainfall recorded were An (0.95) inch, Sittway (0.83) inch, Kyaukpyu (0.67) inch, Kyauktaw and Minbu (0.24) inch each and Magway (0.20) inch.

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

FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF 9 March 2019: Rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Mandalay Region, Kachin, (Southern and Eastern) Shan and Rakhine states, isolated in Nay Pyi Taw, Sagaing, Magway and Bago regions, Chin, Northern Shan and Kayah states. Degree of certainty is (80%). Weather will be partly cloudy in the remaining regions and states.

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

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Continuation of rain or thundershowers in Kachin and Shan states.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 9 March 2019: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 9 March 2019: Partly cloudy.

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 9 March 2019: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

WEATHER OUTLOOK FOR WEEKEND: Rain or thundershowers will be isolated in Nay Pyi Taw and Mandalay Region, weather will be partly cloudy in Yangon Region.

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

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marketing@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
subscription@globalnewlightofmyanmar.comPrinted and published at the **Global New Light of Myanmar Printing Factory** at No.150, Nga Htat Kyee Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon, by the **Global New Light of Myanmar Daily** under Printing Permit No. 00510 and Publishing Permit No. 00629.gnlmdaily@gmail.com
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Lashio to get 7-storey community centre

SHAN STATE Chief Minister Dr. Lin Htut inspected the ongoing construction of a 7-storey RC building for a community centre in Lashio Township yesterday. U Ayar Lin, Managing Director of Myanma Kyal Sin Lin Co. responsible for the construction, explained its ongoing process.

The building will measure 65 by 41 feet and will include a book store, a children's reading room, an exhibition room for ethnic culture, a public library hall, a training hall, an art hall, a multipurpose hall, a meeting room, a sports room, and an open field outside.

Afterwards, the Chief Minister attended the 6th Medical Conference of the Lashio branch of the Myanmar Medical Council. —Han Lin (Lashio), District IPRD

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)



Chief Minister Dr. Lin Htut inspects ongoing construction of the 7-storey RC building for the community centre in Lashio yesterday. **PHOTO: HAN LIN (LASHIO), DISTRICT IPRD**

Artist Zarni to exhibit works with outdoor theme from 10 to 13 March

ARTIST Zarni will showcase select artworks at a solo exhibition entitled 'Outdoor&Sketches' at the Fine Arts School Gallery in Mandalay from 10 to 13 March, according to the event's organizers.

"The four-day exhibition will feature 60 watercolour paintings. The smallest painting measures 8.27 x 11.69 inches and the largest is 15 x 22 inches. Their price ranges from K80,000-K400,000," said Zarni.

The subjects of the paintings include landscapes, ancient buildings, monuments, and other historic structures, particularly from the Sagaing Region, the Bagan ancient cultural zone in Mandalay Region, and Inle in Shan State, where

Zarni created paintings with an outdoor theme for the event.

The exhibition will be open to the public between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. everyday. The Fine Arts School Gallery is located at the State School of Fine Arts (Mandalay) on the 66th Road, between 20th and 22nd streets, east of the Mandalay moat.

This will be Zarni's third solo event. He held his first solo show in October, 2017 in Mandalay and the second such event in December last year in Yangon. He plans to hold solo exhibitions every year.

The 32-year-old artist studied at the State School of Fine Arts in Mandalay between 2010 and 2013. Since entering the world of art, Zarni has partici-



Watercolor works of Artist Zarni. **PHOTO: SUPPLIED BY ARTIST.**

pated in several art exhibitions, and his works have mostly been featured at collective art shows. The artist said he has participat-

ed in 50-60 group art shows.—
Junior Lwin

(Translated by Khaing Thanda Lwin)

Motorcyclist killed in a head-on collision with three-wheel vehicle in Taikkyi

A motorcycle accident occurred on 7 March around 6:30 pm near Yintaikkwin Village along Yangon-Pyay road, Taikkyi Township, Yangon Region. The motorcyclist died in a head-on collision with a three-wheel vehicle, according to the local police station.

Police say the driver of the three-wheel vehicle, identified as Myint Naing, 39,

made a U-turn and collided with the motorcycle, its driver identified as Aung Swe Oo, 41, from Taikkyi Township. The motorcyclist died on the spot from injuries suffered from the accident.

The Township Police Station has taken legal action against Myint Naing under Section 304/A.— Tun Hlaing (Myaing)

(Translated by La Wonn)

NEP brings electricity to villages in KhinU Tsp

THE National Electrification Project (NEP) will be launched in 37 villages in KhinU Township, Shwebo District of Sagaing Region.

The NEP will be undertaken by Helta Light Engineering Company with the World Bank's assistance under the supervision of the Ministry of Electricity and Energy.

The project is currently ongoing in 22 village-tracts which are located two miles away from the 11KV transmission line with transmission towers installed in

13 villages and continuing in the remaining villages.

The villages which have successfully implemented the NEP will receive access to electricity. Among five wards and 147 villages in KhinU Township, 37 villages and wards have implemented the project. When the NEP is finished, 74 villages will be lit with the electricity system in KhinU Township, said U Min Aung, an electrical engineer.— Soe Wai Aung (KhinU)

(Translated by La Wonn)

Eye on EU tax, Myanmar cuts exports of long-grain rice

By Nyein Nyein

IN spite of the European Union imposing a tax on imports of long-grain rice, Myanmar's rice exports to the EU have not declined as traders are shipping rice varieties that don't fall in the new tax bracket, according to the Myanmar Rice Federation (MRF).

"The EU is still importing rice from Myanmar. We have continued to export the same volume of rice because Myanmar is shipping rice of different categories. We are not exporting those rice varieties which attract a tax in the EU," said U Aung Than Oo, the vice chairman of the MRF.

Myanmar ships about 400,000 tons of rice and broken rice to the EU annually. Long-grain rice accounts for only about 40,000 tons of the total exports.

The MRF has been conducting training courses for local farmers to encourage them to grow more rice varieties that are purchased by the EU in the next paddy season, he added.

EU member countries recently decided to levy a tax on

long-grain rice imported from Myanmar and Cambodia. According to the EU, a tax of Euro 175 per ton will be imposed on imports of long-grain rice in the first year, Euro 150 in the second year, and Euro 125 in the third year. The new tax took effect from 18 January.

"We are still exporting rice, except the long-grain variety which is being taxed by the EU. And, EU's move to tax some categories will not imply a stoppage of rice imports. In case we face difficulties exporting rice to the EU, we still have a solution for that," said U Ye Min Aung, the chairman of the MRF.

"To make up for the loss in demand, Myanmar is seeking ways to penetrate new rice markets," said U Aung Soe, Director-General, Myanmar Trade Promotion Organization.

The EU reinstated Myanmar in the Generalized Scheme of Preference (GSP) in June, 2013. Now, after a period of six years, the EU has again decided to tax shipments of long-grain rice from Myanmar.

(Translated by Hay Mar)



The local farmers in Shan State are harvesting the rice crop. PHOTO: SUPPLIED

Correction

Please read "... they weigh 20 g each" instead of "... they weigh 20 kg" in the second column of the story headlined "Conjoined star tortoises separated in 2017 thriving at Lawkananda sanctuary" in the 8th March issue of the *Global New Light of Myanmar* daily.—Ed

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Japan's Toyota Tsusho to run Myanmar's first car auction

YANGON—Toyota Tsusho Corp., the Toyota Motor Corp. group's trading arm, will hold Myanmar's first car auction later this month with local startup Rebbiz Co., with the aim of building a marketplace for used car transactions.

T.T.A.S. Co., the official local dealership of Toyota Motor, has said they will host the first such auction in Yangon on March 16 and 17, and that they plan to sell more than 200 cars. The firm is also the operator of CarsDB, Myanmar's largest online automobile market.

Cars expected to be sold at the auction include Toyota, Ford, Mitsubishi, Mazda, Chevrolet and Land Rover models, of which 80 to 90 percent are used vehicles, the partners said at a recent news conference in Yangon.

Automobile imports to the Southeast Asian nation have grown since 2011, when decade-long military-junta control was replaced by civilian rule.

There are an estimated 800,000 registered vehicles in the country. New vehicle sales stood at about 17,500 in 2018, according to the Automotive Association of Myanmar.



Wai Yan Lin (L), CEO of Rebbiz Co., Htet Htet Htun (C), auction ambassador and Miss Myanmar beauty pageant winner, and Daiki Kato, managing director of T.T.A.S. Co., at a March 6 press conference in Yangon to announce Myanmar's first car auction. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

But Daiki Kato, managing director of Toyota Tsusho's wholly owned dealership, said that the vast majority of vehicles there do not go through proper inspection for resale, with details of past accidents or theft concealed in order to sell them.

CarsDB posts trade information on 15,000 vehicles on its website, which has over 200,000 subscribers. The company has

about 1.2 million Facebook followers.

For the upcoming auction, the firm will screen all vehicles for quality.

Toyota Tsusho has conducted car auctions in China, India and Indonesia. It has also established a local unit in Indonesia, where it sold about 61,000 vehicles in 2018. — Kyodo News

India suspends trade, but local demand pushes up mung bean price

By Nyein Nyein

ALTHOUGH India has halted imports of pulses and beans, the price of mung bean has increased in the market on the back of local demand, according to the Myanmar Pulses, Beans, and Sesame Seeds Merchants Association.

"In January-end, India suspended importation of pulses and beans. Prior to the trade suspension, about 660,000 tons of mung bean were exported in the 2018-2019 fiscal year. Therefore, the stocks of mung bean in the domestic market have decreased. At the same time, high local demand has pushed up the price of mung bean to K665,000 per ton," said U Min Ko Oo, the secretary of the Myanmar Pulses, Beans, and Sesame Seeds Merchants Association.

"Mung beans are also being stockpiled by warehouse owners, resulting in the price

touching a high of K680,000 per ton from a low of K570,000 when India halted trade," said U Min Ko Oo.

A delegation led by the Union Minister for Commerce and including pulses and beans merchants attended the 4th ASEAN-India Expo and Summit held in New Delhi in February, and asked Indian officials to buy 400,000 tons of mung bean from Myanmar this year.

But, there has been no response from India yet, according to the merchants association.

"India has not responded to our request to purchase 400,000 tons of mung bean. Alternately, we had asked for a quota limit of 400,000 tons. We asked them to declare their quota on mung bean importation by March. However, there has been no reply yet," said U Min Ko Oo.

"Myanmar is trying to work out a government-to-government (G-to-G) agreement with

India, the main buyer of Myanmar pulses and beans. The country is also exploring other external markets," said U Aung Htoo, the Deputy Minister for Commerce.

Although Myanmar pulses and beans have penetrated markets in Bangladesh, Pakistan, and Nepal, the volume of exports to those countries is extremely low, according to the Myanmar Pulses, Beans, and Sesame Seeds Merchants Association.

Myanmar's pulses and beans are primarily exported to India. India's move to restrict importation of pulses in August, 2017 had severely affected growers in Myanmar.

In the 2017-2018 FY, Myanmar shipped over 1 million tons of different varieties of pulses, which fetched just US\$713 million owing to the drop in price, according to data from the Ministry of Commerce.

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)



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.

Use of Modern Farming Methods

- 167 acres of model farms for ground nut (winter crop), 115 acres of model farms for Matpe (beans), 43 acres of model farm for sunflower, 75 acres of model farms for Pedisein (green beans) and 2 acres of model farm for Matpe beans (winter crop) have been cultivated using modern farming methods.
- Special cultivation zones, reserved for each crop, namely 950 acres for ground nut, 600 acres for Matpe beans, 115 acres for Bocate beans, 130 acres for mustard seeds, and 365 acres for vegetables have also been set up in the meantime.
- Inspection of shops selling fertilizer, insecticide and seeds has been conducted at regular intervals, such as 10 times for fertilizer, 10 times for insecticide and 8 times for seeds.

Knowledge Sharing for Farmers

- In terms of knowledge sharing for farmers, 93 training courses have been conducted for the benefit of 4736 farmers, besides distribution of 11652 pamphlets.
- Demonstration of paddy (rainy season crop) cultivation has also been made in 45 different shows.

(5695) Trainees

134 courses of training on cultivation methods and 1 course of training on the use and maintenance of agricultural machinery have also been conducted for the benefit of 5695 farmers.

114 Farmers

Two courses of training have been conducted for 114 farmers living in Rakhine state in order to promote cultivation of different species of paddy in small plots of land and to promote employment of safety methods.

Kyats 2361.700 million
To mention the amount of loans already disbursed in Rakhine State, Kyats 2361.700 million were disbursed to farmers in (6) townships as 2018 winter season loan..

Kyats 70.370 million
kyats 70,370 million to 19 farmers in Rakhine state who are engaged in agri-livestock production.

Kyats 1.165 billion
Kyats 1.165 billion to 45 private enterprises using their land and building as collateral.

Kyats 40 million
Kyats 40 million to 2 SMEs, who cannot provide collateral..

Crop Substitution

In respect of substitution of crops which can stand climate change, new crop of paddy (rainy season) in 25463 acres, maize in 6 acres, sesame seeds in 117 acres, ground nut in 66791 acres, sunflower in 1811 acres, pedisein (green beans) in 1972 acres and Matpe beans in 14955 acres were cultivated under the new scheme.

Renovation Works for Irrigation Systems

15 items of renovation works for irrigation systems were also undertaken during the same period.

Forestry

In forestry sector, teak wood and fire wood cultivation, wetland grove cultivation and mixed crop -and-wood cultivation, were undertaken in 1766 acres. Maintenance of 2325 acres of forest area was also undertaken.

Altogether 28 sessions of talk shows, designed to disseminate knowledge of environmental control were held during the same period.

Citizenship

National Verification Process

National Verification Process during the period from September to December 2018	
Number of Citizen Scrutiny cards issued to persons aged 10	10
Number of Citizen Scrutiny cards issued to persons aged 18	9
Number of persons issued with NV cards	889
Number of persons for whom Bio-Metric Data collection has been done	896
Number of persons from Kaman (Muslim) issued with NV cards	2201

Freedom of Movement

(64) Males, (52) Females

64 Males and 52 Females had enjoyed freedom of movement. Altogether 116 Muslims were allowed to travel to Yangon with form No (4), during the period from September to December 2018.

IDP camps

Closure of IDP camps

With regard to the programme for systematic closure of IDP camps, the second workshop for drafting a national strategy was held at Nay Pyi Taw on 29th November 2018. The workshop was attended by high officials of respective ministries and state government as well as representatives of UN agencies and friendly organizations.

Drafting of a national strategy for closure of IDP camps based on the discussions at IDP camps, which will be in accord with existing rules and regulations of Myanmar as well as international standards, has been completed.

Dilapidated buildings in Sittwe IDP camps have also been renovated with the cooperation of UN agencies and NGO.

The people from Taungpaw IDP camps in Myepon township were settled in additional 100 residential buildings constructed during the period from September to December 2018.

Humanitarian Assistance

58228 Beneficiaries

During the period of three months from October to December 2018, financial assistance of Kyats 2620.260 million was provided to 58228 pregnant mothers and children under 2 years residing in 17 townships under the program of Maternal and Child Cash transfer(MCCT) at the rate of Ks. 15000 per person per month.

Social Pension

Ks(211.050)million

A total amount of Kyats 211.050 million was expended during 3-month period from October to December 2018 to provide social pension to 7035 aged people over 85, at the rate of Ks. 10000 per person per month.

Provision of Food and Non-food Items

A total amount of Ks. 14021910 was spent out of the Government budget in order to provide food and non-food items to 2548 people from 262 families during the period of 4 months from September to December 2018.

(To be continued)

State-run newspapers to increase in basic price

The News and Periodicals Enterprise has announced that the basic price for *the Myanma Alinn*, *Kyemon* and *The Global New Light of Myanmar* dailies will increase from K50 to K100 starting 1 April 2019.

The fully state-run dailies, *Myanma Alinn* and *Kyemon*, are regularly published with 32 pages, and increases to 40-48 pages on days with certain sections, while the joint-venture English daily, GNLN, publishes an 8-page supplement on Sundays, expanding up to 24 pages.

The NPE announced that basic price was increased to meet rising production costs and prevent losses that must be absorbed by the national budget. —NPE

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V ISEACO FORTUNE VOY. NO. (004W)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V ISEACO FORTUNE VOY. NO. (004W) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 09-03-2019 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T/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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MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY

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CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

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M.V CHERRY VESTA VOY. NO. (009N/S)

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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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Now, 48-hr window to register bean contracts at Bayint Naung

STARTING 7 March, traders signing contracts for sale of beans in the Bayint Naung market will be required to register them within 48 hours, according to a bean trader who attended a recent meeting at the office of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry.

At the meeting held on 6 March, traders discussed matters related to signing of sale deeds in the Bayint Naung market and their registration. According to the decision

reached at the meeting, it will now be mandatory for traders to register their contracts. The Association issued a notice in this regard, along with registration forms, the same day.

Traders will now be required to submit a registration form for sale of beans in Bayint Naung, along with the original contract and a copy signed by both the buyer and the seller. For the purpose of registration, traders will have to fill out information such as the member IDs of the buyer and the seller,

their names, bean categories, crop output season, bean quality and volume in tons, price, and date of handing over the produce.

The submitted forms will be registered after scrutiny. Then, the authorities will return the original sale contracts to traders.

On 7 March, 45 containers of mung bean RC were selling for K678,000 per ton, while five containers of pigeon bean RC were selling for K705,000 per ton, according to daily supply data.

On 6 November, 2018, the price of mung bean RC had reached K988,000 per ton. During that period, about 100 containers of mung bean, weighing 2,400 tons, were being sold daily in the market.

In the local bean market, complaints concerning selling price are common. Therefore, those who purchase beans at the Bayint Naung market are required to deposit 10 per cent of the produce with private banks in the market.—Maung Say Aung (Translated by Hay Mar)

UAG Office opens day care centre in honour of Int'l Women's Day

The Office of the Union Attorney-General opened a day care centre in its premises to commemorate International Women's Day yesterday.

The day care will nurture staff's children age 3-months to 3 years, ensure systematic multidimensional development, and will allow mothers to

carry out their work and duties at the office with no worries. The centre has been opened in line with standards set by the Department of Social Welfare and has appointed teachers who graduated from the Social Welfare Training School to take care of the children. —MNA (Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)



PHOTO: MNA

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Shinhan Bank provides stipend to 80 university students



Faculty members, representatives of Shinhan Bank and students of Mandalay University of Foreign Languages yesterday. **PHOTO: GNLM**

SHINHAN BANK presented its annual stipend to 80 university students: 20 from Yangon and Mandalay University of Foreign Languages each, 20 majoring economics from the Yangon University and 20 from the Yangon University of Economics.

General Manager (CEO) Mr. Kang Hyung Hun of the Shinhan Bank handed over the stipend to 20 students of the Mandalay University of Foreign Languages at the university on 8 March.

A ceremony to present stipend to 20 outstanding students from the Yangon University of Economics took place at the university on 31 January and a similar ceremony to provide stipend to the students from the YUFL was held on 13 February at the university.

The Korea bank's Yangon branch has provided stipends annually to 30 outstanding students majoring Korean language from YUFL and MUFL each since 2014.

Meanwhile, SNUH (Seoul

National University Hospital) had carried out voluntary activities related with medical skills at Yangon Children Hospital but also held voluntary activity in Yankin Children Hospital from 12 to 17 February with sponsor by Shinhan Bank.

From SNUH, 20 participants from pediatric surgery department, cardiothoracic surgery department, urology department, radiology etc. has volunteered to train together in surgery, conference and gave lecture. —GNLM

Putin on horseback for Women's Day event

MOSCOW (Russia)—Russian President Vladimir Putin on Thursday cantered on horseback with female police officers ahead of International Women's Day, images published by state media showed.

The head of state likes to project an active image and in the past has been photographed riding a horse bare-chested in Siberia, underwater diving and playing his favourite sport, Judo.

In jeans and a jacket with a fur-trimmed collar, Putin rode a brown horse flanked by female officers on white horses at a training facility in Moscow.

After the photo-op, Putin gave officers a horse called "Golden Ray", according to Russian news agencies.

International Women's Day on 8 March is a major public holiday in Russia, but it is celebrated by giving women flowers and gifts rather than promoting equal rights.

In a speech to mark the event last year, Putin said: "We know that a woman's heart is the most loyal and that her forgiveness is the most precious thing".—AFP ■



Russian President Vladimir Putin rides a horse along with female police officers as he visits a mounted police regiment ahead of International Women's Day, Moscow on 7 March, 2019. **PHOTO: AFP**

Taylor Swift's accused stalker arrested for breaking into her apartment



Taylor Swift. **PHOTO: AFP**

NEW YORK (United States)—An alleged stalker of pop star Taylor Swift has been arrested for the second time in less than a year for breaking into her Manhattan home, police said on Thursday. Roger Alvarado, who is already restricted from coming near Swift's apartment in the

Tribeca neighborhood, broke a window and entered the loft at 2:45 am (0745 GMT) when the singer was away. The 23-year-old was detained and charged with burglary and criminal contempt, a police spokesman told AFP.

The accused stalker had last April used a ladder to climb

through a window into Swift's apartment, also when she was not home. A judge slapped him with a restraining order and Alvarado pleaded guilty in December. He had not yet started his six-month jail sentence, which includes mandatory psychiatric treatment. In February 2018 he was also arrested at Swift's residence after attempting to break through the door with a shovel.

In an interview published in Elle magazine one day before the latest incident, Swift—the megastar known for hits like "Shake It Off" and "Blank Space"—cited violence as one of her "greatest fears." "Websites and tabloids have taken it upon themselves to post every home address I've ever had online," she said. "You get enough stalkers trying to break into your house and you kind of start prepping for bad things."—AFP ■

R Kelly girlfriends defend superstar, deny brainwashing

NEW YORK (United States)—Two women living with R Kelly are defending the R&B superstar charged with sexual abuse, saying in an interview aired Thursday that their relationships with him are consensual. Azriel Clary, 21, and Joycelyn Savage, 23, told US network CBS that they "absolutely" are in love with Kelly, brushing off allegations that the 52-year-old artist brainwashes women he keeps in homes that operate as de facto sex cults.

"We live with him, and we're in a relationship with him," Clary said of Kelly, who returned to jail Wednesday for failing to pay child support. "A very strong relationship as well," added Savage. Questioned on the nature of their sex lives with Kelly, Clary said "I would never share with no one what I do in or outside of the bedroom." "There are people all over the world who have multiple girlfriends," she said. "It's no different." Last month Kelly—dogged for decades by allegations including child pornography, sexual abuse and false imprisonment—pleaded not guilty to 10 counts of aggravated criminal sex abuse against four victims, three of them minors. That case is not linked to women he currently lives with. In 2017 a BuzzFeed report alleged the musician had kept women as virtual sex slaves at his Chicago and Atlanta homes. Clary and Savage dubbed accusations against Kelly money-making schemes. But Clary's parents released a statement shortly after the interview aired saying their daughter "is presently suffering from years of mental abuse and manipulation by R Kelly." "R Kelly is a desperate liar and serial abuser of young girls who should die in prison," said the statement tweeted by lawyer Michael Avenatti, who represents at least two of Kelly's alleged victims.—AFP ■

Scientists solve weighty matter of Milky Way mass

PARIS (France)—Astronomers said on Thursday they had accurately calculated the mass of the Milky Way for the first time, using new data sets that include the weight of dark matter.

In a collaboration between NASA and the European Space Agency's Gaia observation craft, a team of experts calculated our galaxy to be around 1.5 trillion solar masses.

Pervious estimates put the mass of the Milky Way ranging between 500 billion and 3 trillion times the mass of the Sun.

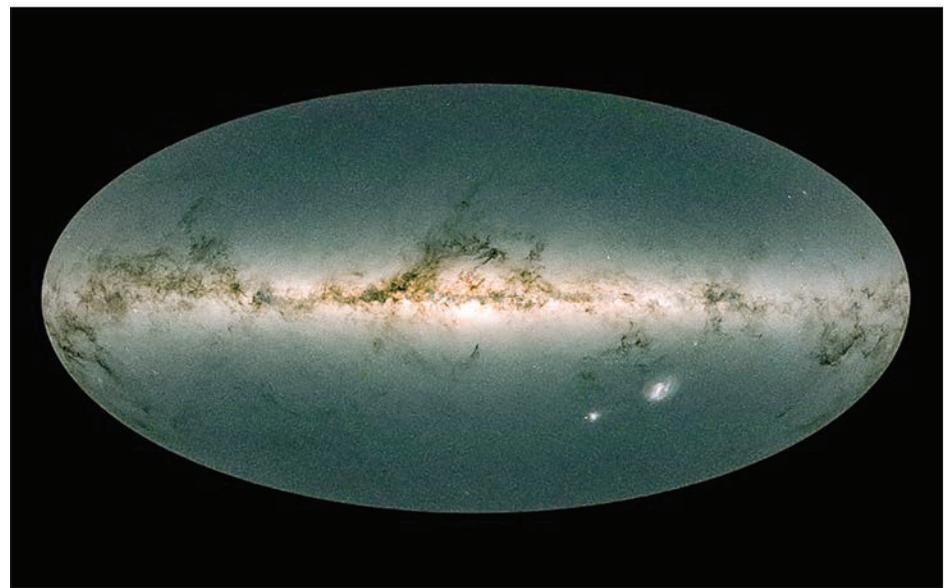
The uncertainty stemmed mainly from differing methods used to measure dark matter—which doesn't absorb or reflect any light and is thought to make up nearly 90 percent of matter in the Universe.

"We just can't detect dark matter directly," said Laura Watkins, from the Germany-based European Southern Observatory. "That's what leads to the present uncertainty in the Milky Way's mass—you can't measure accurately what you can't see."

To get around this, the team measured the velocity of globular clusters—dense groupings of stars that orbit the galaxy at enormous distances.

"The more massive a galaxy, the faster its clusters move under the pull of its gravity," said N. Wyn Evans, from the University of Cambridge's Institute of Astronomy.

"Most previous measurements have found the speed at which a cluster is approaching or receding from Earth, that is the velocity along our line



Pervious estimates put the mass of the Milky Way ranging between 500 billion and 3 trillion times the mass of the Sun. PHOTO: AFP

of sight." Instead, the researchers were able to use data collected by the Gaia probe and NASA's Hubble telescope to measure

the sideways motion of clusters. From this they could calculate their total velocity and from that their mass. The Milky Way,

the galaxy which contains Earth's solar system, is home to up to 400 billion stars and an estimated 100 billion planets.—AFP ■

Russian rocket for suborbital space tourism to use ethanol as fuel — designer

MOSCOW—A projected rocket for commercial suborbital spaceflights, to be launched from a private space center to be built in Central Russia, will use ethyl alcohol as a fuel, the project's head told TASS on Thursday.

Pavel Pushkin, the CEO of Russian company CosmoCourse that plans to engage in private suborbital flights, said the rocket would use "environmentally friendly components: liquid oxygen as the oxidizer and ethyl alcohol as fuel." Nitrogen in its liquid and gas forms will be used as an additional component.

CosmoCourse plans to engage in space tourism starting from 2025, and is now designing its own launch complex for commercial suborbital flights. According to the program offered by CosmoCourse, a group of six tourists and one crew member will fly to an altitude of 200 km in 15 minutes. Tourists will spend five minutes in zero gravity. During this time they will rise from the altitude of 60 kilometers to 200 kilometres and descend back. To that end, a private launch facility is to be built in Central Russia's Nizhny Novgorod region some 400 km east of Moscow. The company leadership and regional authorities have confirmed the information.

Earlier, the CosmoCourse head his company was designing its own rocket engine as part of the suborbital flight project. The trials are to begin in mid-2020, but its prototypes are to be showcased this year.—Tass ■



CosmoCourse plans to engage in space tourism starting from 2025. PHOTO: TASS

CERN splits with scientist over offensive remarks on women

GENEVA (Switzerland)—Europe's physics lab CERN on Thursday cut ties with a scientist over a lecture that suggested physics was "built by men" and accused women of demanding jobs without proper qualifications.

Professor Alessandro Strumia from the University of Pisa, who had been a guest professor at CERN, made the comments during a workshop in September on high-energy theory and gender.

CERN had initially suspended Strumia but said on Thursday that it had decided to permanently end the partner-

ship. "As a result of its own investigation... CERN decided not to extend Professor Strumia's status of Guest Professor," the lab said in a statement.

CERN also noted a public reprimand issued against Strumia by the University of Pisa in January. Strumia's presentation—which included various slides, charts and graphs—appeared to claim that men face discrimination in the field of physics.

One pictorial series suggested that women line up to take gender studies and then later protest over a lack of jobs in stem fields, an umbrella term

that covers areas like chemistry and engineering.

"Physics invented and built by men, it's not by invitation," one slide said.

CERN, the French acronym for the European Centre for Nuclear Research, is for the first time being led by a female director general: Fabiola Gianotti, an Italian expert in experimental particle physics, took charge in 2016.

The lab has launched a number of initiatives to boost female participation in the sciences, but has conceded that it is far from having achieved gender parity among its staff.—AFP ■

E-cigarette use linked to heart trouble: study

WASHINGTON (United States)—People who use e-cigarettes are more likely to have heart problems than those who don't, says a study released on Thursday in the US.

The rate of heart attacks among those who vape was 34 per cent higher than among those who don't, once corrections were made for risk factors such as age, gender, body mass index, cholesterol level, blood pressure and tobacco use.

E-cigarette users were 25 per cent more likely to have coronary artery disease and 55 per cent more likely to suffer from depression or anxiety, the study says.

"Until now, little has been known about cardiovascular events relative to e-cigarette use," said Mohinder Vindhyal,

assistant professor at the University of Kansas School of Medicine and the study's lead author.

"These data are a real wake-up call and should prompt more action and awareness about the dangers of e-cigarettes."

The report does not however identify a cause and effect relationship for this observation.

Studies of people who vape are relatively new because the devices only came onto the US market in the last decade or so.

US health authorities are alarmed by the rise in popularity of e-cigarettes, battery-powered devices which enable users to inhale nicotine liquids that are often fruit flavored.

Among US teens, use of vaping devices rose 78 per cent in 2018 compared to the previous year. E-cigarettes do not contain

the cancer-causing products found in tobacco.

But beside the well-known addictive consequences of consuming nicotine, public health experts are focusing on the effect of heating the liquid nicotine cartridges to high temperatures.

For the study, which will be presented next week at the American College of Cardiology, researchers examined the responses of nearly 100,000 people in 2014, 2016 and 2017.

This kind of study is a preliminary one that does not go so far as to say vaping causes heart trouble, or suggest a biological mechanism as to how this might happen.

Longer-term studies of people who vape are needed to reach any such conclusion.—AFP ■

Myanmar star Khin Zaw Lin joins Thai Futsal club Surat Thani



Khin Zaw Lin (right) holds the Surat Thani futsal team's jersey with an official from the Thai club at the signing ceremony. **PHOTO: SURATTHANI CLUB**

MYANMAR'S Khin Zaw Lin recently signed up with the Surat Thani club, which will be participating in the Thai Futsal League 2019.

The MIC forward signed a half-season contract with Surat Thani, which finished third out of the 14 teams that competed last season.

With the move, Khin Zaw Lin's place is ensured in history

books as the first ever Myanmar to play Futsal abroad. Among the most reliable players of the Myanmar Imperial College (MIC) Futsal club, he has paved the way for a bright future.

Khin Zaw Lin took up Futsal in 2012. He was selected as a preliminary player for the 2013 SEA Games and won the best player award at the

Myanmar Futsal Cup 2013.

Khin Zaw Lin helped the MIC futsal team win the domestic league twice, and claim the domestic knockout Cup thrice.

Surat Thani is a Thai Futsal club, nicknamed The Lightning Shrimps. It is based in the Surat Thani Province in the south of Thailand.—Lynn Thit(Tgi)

Yangon holds football festivals for women

TOMARK the International Women's Day and the AFC Women's Football Day yesterday, the Myanmar Football Federation organized football festivals for women in Yangon.

Women and girls interested in the sport participated in the festivals, which were also attended by MFF secretary general U Ko Ko Thein, joint secretary general U Tin Myint Aung, tech-

nical director Mr. Eric Abram, women's football committee chairman Daw Khin Sabel Kyi, referees, coaches, and football experts with women's teams.

The festivals were held on the artificial turf at the National Football Academy, the Insein (Ywama) Sports Ground, the Bahan Sports Ground, and the Kyeikkasan Sports Ground in Yangon.

Qualified coaches and trainers showcased their skills at the festivals. The turnout at the Bahan Sports Ground was more than 140, and more than 100 at the Insein (Ywama) Sports Ground.

A workshop for women referees will also be held on 9 March at the headquarters of the football federation.—Lynn Thit(Tgi)

Mourinho ruled out of China job with Cannavaro poised



Jose Mourinho. **PHOTO: AFP**

SHANGHAI (China)—Jose Mourinho will not be China's new coach, its football association said on Friday, amid widespread reports that Italian World Cup winner Fabio Cannavaro is instead poised to take the job.

Mourinho has been out of work since being sacked by Manchester United in December and the 56-year-old has been linked with a number of coaching jobs, the latest being his former club Real Madrid.

One role he will not be taking is with China's national team, who have been without a coach since Marcello Lippi left at the end of January.

Moving to quash any rumours, the Chinese Football Association (CFA) said on Weibo, China's version of Twitter: "News that the CFA invited the famous coach Mourinho to serve as head coach of the national

side is not true. For media and fans, please don't believe this."

The CFA made no mention of the 45-year-old Cannavaro, who has been strongly linked in Chinese media with the post.

The Italian, who captained his country to World Cup glory in 2006, will stay in charge of Chinese Super League (CSL) giants Guangzhou Evergrande and take charge of both teams at the same time, reports said.

Chinese media said that Lippi, Cannavaro's mentor and Italy's coach when they lifted the World Cup, will have an advisory role in the new set-up.—AFP ■

Rennes fight back to stun 10-man Arsenal in Europa League

RENNES (France)—Arsenal face a major battle if they are to reach the Europa League quarter-finals after a 3-1 defeat away to Rennes in France on Thursday, despite Alex Iwobi putting the Gunners ahead early on.

Iwobi's goal gave the Premier League side the perfect start in this last 16, first leg at a raucous Roazhon Park, but the match hinged on the sending-off of Arsenal defender Sokratis Papastathopoulos four minutes before half-time. Benjamin Bourigeaud equalised for the French club moments later, and their second-half pressure paid off as a Nacho Monreal own goal put Rennes ahead before Ismaila Sarr's late header gave them a two-goal cushion in the tie.

andre Lacazette, who is suspended for both legs of this tie after being sent off against BATE in Belarus. They still got off to a perfect start, taking the lead inside four minutes when Iwobi's cross-cum-shot from the left edge of the box curled low into the far corner. Rennes slowly grew into the game, though, with Hatem Ben Arfa—who was sidelined last season by Emery when both were at Paris Saint-Germain—increasingly influential. Petr Cech, who spent two years at Rennes before joining Chelsea in 2004, saved well from a Ben Arfa free-kick in the 34th minute.

As half-time approached, Ben Arfa played in Sarr, who was hauled back by Sokratis just outside the area. The



Arsenal's Nigerian striker Alex Iwobi (r) vies with Rennes' French defender Damien Da Silva during the UEFA Europa League round of 16 first leg football match between Stade Rennais FC and Arsenal FC at the Roazhon Park stadium in Rennes, northwestern France on 7 March, 2019. **PHOTO: AFP**

Unai Emery's side must now turn the tie around in the second leg at the Emirates Stadium next Thursday if they are to progress any further in a competition which represents their only hope of silverware this season as well as offering a potential route into next season's Champions League.

The Gunners recovered from a first-leg deficit to beat BATE Borisov in the last round, but Rennes are a step up in quality and are revelling in what is already their best ever European run. This result is also a shot in the arm for French clubs after Paris Saint-Germain's Champions League humiliation against Manchester United on Wednesday. Rennes had eliminated Real Betis in the last round and there was a superb atmosphere in a stadium packed to its capacity of almost 30,000. Arsenal were missing French striker Alex-

Greek defender had already been booked, so a second caution equalled a red card. Bourigeaud struck the wall from the resulting free-kick, but the ball came back to him and he sent a stunning half-volley arrowing into the far corner. Rennes had been unbeaten in all 12 previous home games since the appointment of Julien Stephan as coach in December, and they made the most of their man advantage in the second half. Cech made several interventions before being beaten again in the 65th minute, as Mehdi Zeffane's cross from the right deflected off Monreal and looped into the net. Their potentially crucial third goal arrived with two minutes left as James Lea-Siliki whipped in a cross from the left and Senegal star Sarr—a menace on the right flank all evening—arrived to head in at the far post.—AFP ■