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# THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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## Message of Greetings sent by President U Htin Kyaw on the occasion of the 43<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary Celebration of Mon State Day

Following is the translation of the message sent by the President to 43<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary Celebration of Mon State Day.

**DEAR esteemed ethnic brothers and sisters living in the Mon state. Mingalabar!**

I feel very happy and greatly honoured to have the opportunity to send this Message of Greetings on the occasion of the 43<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary Celebrations of Mon State Day which falls on the 19<sup>th</sup> March

2017.

Today is a day of great significance and auspiciousness for all ethnic brothers and sisters and all ethnic brothers born in this Union who are living in Mon State because this day has been designated as Mon State Day. I also take this opportunity to send greetings and good wishes for your

well-being, prosperity and auspiciousness.

In the 1948 Constitution right after Independence, the present Mon state and Kayin state were included in Taninthayi region. During the time of the Burma Socialist Programme Party due to the foresight and vision of ethnic Mon leaders, efforts were initiated to designate "Mon

State" in the 1974 Constitution. The day on which the term "Mon State" was inscribed in the draft Constitution namely 19th March 1974, was thus designated as Mon State Day and we have been having celebrations annually ever since. Today marks the 43<sup>rd</sup> anniversary of this day.

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## 10 WIN ACADEMY AWARD



The Winners of the Academy Awards for 2016 celebrate after receiving the awards. PHOTO: ZAW MIN LATT (MNA)

THE 2016 Myanmar Motion Picture Academy Awards were presented at People's Square in Yangon yesterday graced by Chairman of National Culture Central Committee Vice-President U Henry Van Thio.

Of the 33 movies released in 2016, ten won awards. Vice-President U Henry Van Thio, Union Minister for Information Dr. Pe Myint, Patron of Myanmar Motion Picture Organization Bogale

Tint Aung and Chairman U Lu Min formally opened the ceremony.

First, the message sent by State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi was read out by actress Eindra Kyaw Zin.

*(The full text of the message of the State Counsellor is separately covered on Page-3.)*

Union Minister for Information Dr. Pe Myint delivered an opening address and he said since

2013, MMPO has become the main organizer of the award-presentation ceremony and Ministry

of Information has been providing necessary assistance for the progress of film industry. Myanmar

The State Counsellor has specially requested artistes from the movie industry and literature, performing arts and literary worlds to support peace, unity and development desired by the country and the peoples and to work for getting rid of discrimination and hatred among people.

mar film industry made a good start, with its first ever movie released in 1920. So, 2020 will be its centenary birthday. The minister then recounted the history of Myanmar motion pictures, and ups and downs throughout the various eras and under different political systems.

Till three or four years ago, Myanmar film world was facing the worst situation during

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## 10 WIN ACADEMY AWARDS

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which it produced just nine or ten movies a year. From that situation, Myanmar film industry bounced back to the current level. Previous year saw 98 movies successfully passed through the censor, and 24 movies have passed the censor up to this date in the current year. Because of the less number of movie thea-

tres, only 33 films could be released in 2016. Because of the direct relations between the supply and demand, there are people planning to run new cinemas. The good news is that people of the industry are planning to build advanced studios, nurturing and producing artists and technicians and cooperating with their international counterparts for produc-

ing more movies and upgrading their standard. They should do business under contracts and should recognize the copy rights as in the international film world.

The MMPO chairman also made a speech. Afterwards, the award winners were announced.

Academy awards recognized 10 films from 2016.—*Myanmar News Agency*



Vice-President U Henry Van Thio, Union ministers and dignitaries attend the Academy Awards Presentation at the People's Square in Yangon. PHOTO: ZAW MIN LATT (MNA)



Thet Mon Myint (Left) wins the best actress award for her role in "Chit-hla-swar-thaw-a-mone" film. PHOTO: ZAW MIN LATT (MNA)

Academy  
Awards  
recognize  
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from  
2016



Lu Min (Second from Left) Thet Mon Myint (centre) and Tun Tun (fourth from Left) pose for photo after receiving academy awards. PHOTO: ZAW MIN LATT (MNA)



(From Right to Left) Union Minister for Information Dr Pe Myint, Vice-President U Henry Van Thio, Patron of Myanmar Motion Picture Organization Sithu Bogalay Tint Aung and Chairman of Myanmar Movie Picture Organization open the Academy Awards Presentation in Yangon. PHOTO: ZAW MIN LATT (MNA)



Maung Myint, Aye Min and Agne Lay share the best movie picture award for their photos in the "Lu-yadana-thaik" film. PHOTO: ZAW MIN LATT (MNA)



Tun Tun (in yellow dress) is helped by Lu Min before receiving the best actor award for his role in "Oak-kyar-myat-pauk" film. PHOTO: ZAW MIN LATT (MNA)

## Message of Greetings sent by President U Htin Kyaw on the occasion of the 43<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary Celebrations of Mon State Day

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If we look back into history, right after we gained Independence, we witnessed bitter experiences which resulted from the impact of political conflicts within Myanmar society. Because of these conflicts for many decades, Myanmar lagged behind our neighboring countries in the political, economics, and social spheres. Now is the time to take lessons from these bitter experiences and work together for the cessation of these conflicts and for all ethnic nationalities to live together in our country.

That is why our present Government is working hard by

conducting the Union Peace Conference - 21<sup>st</sup> Century Panglong for National Reconciliation and Union Peace, something which all ethnic nationalities and Union citizens have yearned and longed for, for many years.

Furthermore, in looking forward to the emergence of a Democratic Federal Union, we have been working for the development of a Constitution which would be compatible and for the lifting of the living standards of the people. For these policies and programs to be successful, it is very important for the Government, the Hluttaws, Political parties, political forces, the Tatmadaw, the Ethnic armed

groups, civil society organizations and the entire population to join in and work hard. I am very happy to learn that the ethnic armed forces in the Mon State were able to sign the National level Ceasefire Agreement in 2001, and that they have been cooperating and working hand in hand with the Mon State Government on local multi-sectoral development projects. As beneficial results, we now see positive developments in various sectors such as transportation, education, and in economic affairs; these being the results of the round table negotiations which had been held in frankness and cordiality among ethnic brothers.

It is very important for us to note with deep understanding that we need to make continuous efforts with unflagging zeal till we achieve eternal peace.

Recently, meetings had been held between the UNFC - United Nationalities Federal Council and the State Counsellor and the Peace Commission. We are happy with these positive talks which have good potential for advancing the aspirations of the Mon ethnic nationalities for peace. We believe and hope that they would participate fully in the Peace Process and that they would participate with full resolve in the Union Peace Conference - 21<sup>st</sup> Century Panglong

which is being implemented by the Union Government.

I urge all Mon ethnic brothers and sisters to join hands and participate with the strength of cohesion, unity and friendship and work for the success of the National Reconciliation and Union Peace process and future nation building tasks.

As I send this Message of Greetings, I also urge all of you to work hard for the peace and prosperity of the Union as well as for the modernization and development of Mon State, not only for this era but also for the future.

*Sd/ Htin Kyaw  
President*

## State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi sends a message to the Myanmar Motion Picture Academy Awards Presentation Ceremony for 2016



IN her message, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi pointed out the universally accepted influence of the arts including literature, movies, music and theatrical plays on every human society. She said especially, classic movies live long in the hearts of viewers who love them. In the 21<sup>st</sup> century, movies are not just for entertainment but have become "the soft power" of

states. If we analyze the basic reasons for this change we may see the characteristics of culture, creativity, innovations, and improvement of standards.

The movies and the players, the dialogues and words, and the performances in the movies reflect the characteristics and virtues of a particular human society. The standards of civilization, history and human values related by the movies go down in the annals of human history. Because of the great influence of movies on society, especially on youths, immense responsibility falls on the people of the movie world. In many cases, movie characters become role models for youths. An act or a performance by a movie character may become deeply embedded in the hearts of youths.

The government is trying its best to make changes for the interest of the people. The support of artistes is of great importance in making these historic changes. Creation and innovation of the artistes play an important role in making changes. Artistes have the ability to change the spirit and behavior of the human society as a "soft power".

"I want to express heartfelt thanks to the artistes for their sacrifice and active participation in the election campaign which enabled us to march towards the path of democracy. I firmly believe that the artistes can give great support to the people in their march towards building a democratic federal union, the peace process and economic development which are being implemented by the

government. Development of the Myanmar film industry represents Myanmar's culture and the standard of Myanmar film industry reflects the dignity of the people. All of us need to work very hard for our country, our ethnic nationalities and our youths. We need to try to bring unity in situations where differences have increased and expanded. The government is in the process of holding the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Panglong Conference for the people who had to leave their homes due to clashes in conflict areas."

"We must work to bring back our countrymen working in overseas countries to give them jobs with dignity," she said.

She said "In the country, the entire mass of people are responsible to take their respective roles in

promoting national unity, the spirit of good citizenship and a culture worthy of a democratic federal union." She added "every country in the world is making efforts for improving the mindset of the peoples and for conserving the degrading environment."

In her concluding remarks, the State Counsellor has specially requested artistes from the movie industry and literature, performing arts and literary worlds to support peace, unity and development desired by the country and the peoples and to work for getting rid of discrimination and hatred among people.

She also wished the Myanmar's movie industry success in the future, and hoped that the artistes would be able to uplift Myanmar society.

## NSA stresses importance of peace and stability for Myanmar's development at meeting with foreign business community in Yangon

NATIONAL Security Advisor, U Thaung Tun, met Saturday with over (180) members of foreign business community, where he emphasised the importance of peace and stability and the role of the private sector in the country's future growth and development.

The meeting was hosted by Union Minister for Finance and Planning and Chairman of the Myanmar Investment Commission, U Kyaw Win.

At the meeting, National Security Advisor U Thaung Tun spoke of the government's vision for the country and its progress one year since taking office. He emphasised that the government has made the peace process its priority and is committed to forging a lasting peace and national reconciliation that bring together the country's many ethnic groups:

"The government has a clear vision: to build a peaceful, prosperous and democratic Myanmar. We have made the peace process our priority, starting a dialogue open



**National Security Advisor U Thaung Tun delivering a speech at Chairman of Myanmar Investment Commission meeting.** PHOTO: MINISTRY OF THE OFFICE OF THE STATE COUNSELLOR

to all armed groups. At the same time, we have set about rebuilding our economy, opening Myanmar to the world and providing jobs, schools and hospitals. And we have begun reforming our system of government to create a fair and just society for resall our people."

U Thaung Tun highlighted the steps already taken by the government to rebuild the economy and reform education and health-care. He also emphasised the great strides the country has made in the fight against killer diseases such as tuberculosis, malaria and HIV/

Aids that affect the country's poorest and most vulnerable.

Stressing the importance of peace and stability for the country's future development, he said:

"Myanmar is a country of vast potential. We are one of the fastest growing economies in the world

– with a forecasted growth rate of more than 7 per cent a year. This is an immense opportunity for both domestic and foreign businesses.

But we must ensure that economic development goes hand in hand with our efforts to forge a lasting peace. It is this government's firm belief that without peace, security and stability, Myanmar will not be able to move forward to genuine democracy with shared prosperity for all."

The National Security Advisor commended the work of the private sector to benefit communities through CSR programmes and social outreach.

"By creating jobs and opportunities and developing skills and social enterprises, the private sector can create shared prosperity and help contribute to long-term development and stability. I am confident that we can work together to build a peaceful, prosperous and democratic future for our country."

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# LOCAL Business

## Current FY sees export value up by nearly US\$400m

THE export value with the foreign trade partners as of 3rd March in the current fiscal year 2016-2017 amounted to US\$10,454.657million with US\$ 6323.113mil through normal trade and US\$ 4131.544 through border trade, according to the Commerce Ministry.

The total export value from 1st April to 3rd March this FY is up by US\$396.614million when compared to that in last FY, according to the official figures provided by the Ministry of Commerce.

The export sector is led by the industrial sector with an export value of US\$4895.493mil from 1st April to 3rd March this FY but the figure was down by over US\$310mil against that in the similar point of last FY. The export of agricultural products is following it with US\$2,572.639mil which is an increase of US\$285.187mil than that of last FY.

Mineral export value this FY is found to decline by over US\$100million. Nevertheless, the export value of agricultural



Import-Export freight containers are seen at the Thilawa port in Yangon. PHOTO: REUTERS

products, fishery products, animal products, forest products and other products are managed to increase, according to the Commerce Ministry.

The country's export sector is depending more on the agriculture and industrial products of small and medium sized enterprises, while lessening its reliance on

natural resources such as natural gas, jade. The export of natural gas and the crude oil was battered by the low price, it is learnt.

Myanmar's agricultural ex-

port mainly depends on the markets of the most populous neighbouring countries -- China and India -- especially rice to China and mung bean to India through border trade. The problem is that Chinese authorities often confiscate Myanmar rice flowing into their country through the border as the trade has not been legalized by them yet. Therefore, Myanmar is currently under discussion with China about having a quota of 100,000 tonnes of rice through normal trade. Similarly, domestic pea market is totally related to the demand from India.

With the concerted efforts exerted by the government and private sectors, rice and broken rice included in agricultural products attained new international markets like Africa, shipping around 600,000 tonnes of rice to the foreign trade partners through normal trade.

In a bid to boost the export volume, the commodity is required to meet the international criteria in the highly competitive market, plus the promising export market. —*Mon Mon*

## Haka real estate market active again

HAKA real estate market has become active again because of the news that Technology University will be built in Haka town, according to a local of Haka.

"President and Vice President visited Haka town and promised urban development in Haka town. So, the people from other regions are interested to buy houses in

Haka town," said U Hlan Bwe Hsan, a local resident from Zay Haung ward, Haka town.

"Currently, the price of a house in Haka town is around Ks 4,000 lakh depending on how much the house is furnished. A 40x60 square feet plot is sold for around Ks 200 lakh outside the town, said a local resident.

Haka real estate market does not require brokers. In Haka real estate market, sellers and buyers are directly dealing with one another.

Most of the residents who live outside the town would like to sell their houses than those who live in Haka city.—*Myitmakha News Agency*

## MIC chair meets foreign business communities

CHAIRMAN of Myanmar Investment Commission (MIC) U Kyaw Win, who is also the Union Minister for Planning and Finance, met with foreign businessmen and communities which have interest in the country on 18th March at Hotel Novotel Yangon Max at 9am.

During this meeting, the chairman of MIC assured equal opportunities for the local and foreign businessmen under Myanmar Investment Law and the soon-to-be adopted rules, pointing out the vital importance of peace and stability as all regions across the country enjoy equal chances for economic development.

The country is facing difficulties such as the budget deficit, trade deficit and poverty, but it's time to turn the difficulties into opportunities under the prioritized plan in which foreign investment is the main driving force.

Fair economic competition brings development and serves customer interest; The private sector is the main player of economic development while the government's role is just the navigator. Some government-run enterprises should be privatized without jeopardizing the worker rights including their right to enjoy pensions. We are inviting foreign investors with guarantees for their every convenience.

Afterwards, U Aung Naing Oo, the director general of DICA and secretary of MIC discussed the matters concerning current foreign investment situation. According to the mid-year objective of Foreign Direct Investment Promotion Plan, foreign direct investment (FDI) was expected to hit US\$6billion in the current fiscal year 2016-2017. However, FDI flowing into the country as of Feb this FY exceeded the expectations, reaching up to US\$6.27billion.

In a bid to enjoy the same opportunities for the local and foreign investors, the policy reforms were conducted and Myanmar Investment Law was enacted on October 2016. The efforts are being made to institute bylaw so that it can be implemented next FY. Additionally, the lists of business and the sectors in which the investments will increase will be announced by the end of March. The investors will have a smooth flow of procedures with more securities offered after Myanmar Investment Law comes into effect.

Furthermore, as a step of policy changing, Myanmar Companies Act has been submitted to the parliament Bill Committee so as to discuss this in the upcoming Hluttaw meeting. After Myanmar Companies Act is enacted, the process of establishing a company will be much easier, with less cost, explained U Aung Naing Oo. —*Mon Mon*

## Over 11,000 tonnes of rubber exported through border in Feb

A total of 11,752 tonnes of various kinds of rubber worth US\$19.087million were exported through border trade camps in February, according to the news released by the Commerce Ministry.

The volume dropped when compared to the export volume of over 13,500 in January. During the week from 25 Feb to 3 March, the value of rubber exports through border trade camps totaled over US\$4million with export volume of over 2,589 tonnes. About 2,013 tonnes of various rubbers including RSS1, RSS3, MSR 20 and MSR 50 were shipped through Muse 105th mile border trade camp, fetching over US\$3million. Similarly, about 450 tonnes of rubber were exported through Chin Shwe Haw border camp while over 125 tonnes of rubber, through Myeik border trade, according to the Commerce Ministry.

The volume was down by nearly 900 tonnes against that of last week. Besides the decrease in export volume,

the price of rubber which was on the rise in early Feb declined in early March, dropping from over Ks2.7million to over 2.6million per tonne of RSS3 rubber at Muse commodity depot.

About 774 tonnes of rubber were shipped through normal trade between 26th and 4th March to Malaysia, Japan, and Australia. This trade was also found to show a decrease of over 110 tonnes than that of last week. Over 3,700 tonnes of rubber worth US\$6.543 million were exported to the foreign countries via sea trade in February whereas 4,147 tonnes of rubber were sent to abroad in Feb.

The global rubber price declined with over 100,000 tonnes of rubber auctioned off in Thailand. Nevertheless, Myanmar's rubber price had remained unchanged since last week, according to an announcement released by Myanmar Rubber Planters and Producers Association. —*Mon Mon*

# Performances in One-Year Period

## Performance of Health and Sports Ministry during the one-year period

Kyaw Thu Htet

THE healthy have no need of a physician, but the sick. Myanmar people rely much on public hospitals and clinic than the privates' because it is affordable for them. Together with the health care provided by health staff, the patients are waiting forward to warm treatment, tenderness and care of the staff.

### Much remains to be done

Although people saw changing of government one after another, there's remains much to be done to fulfill medical needs. Education and medical budgets have been increased but the needs of medical experts who cannot be bought by money is still great.

Union Minister for Health and Sports Dr Myint Htwe said that altogether 2281 medical staff including 1707 physicians, 281 dentists, 1551 nurses, 1959 midwives, 109 junior engineers, 300 health assistances, 3000 health supervisors and 2281 skilled staff, clerks and labours. That means 1988 officers and 11188 staff are assigned at the ministry.

Under the Ministry of Health and Sports there are 1123 hospitals, 1778 rural health centers and 9243 rural health branches. During the 2016-2017 fiscal year, 881 billion kyat have been spent on the health sector and 97590 health officers and staff have been cooperating with UN agencies, INGOs and NGOs at home and abroad and civil societies including Global Fund, 3 MDG and GAVI to provide health care to the public.

Health care is not a one-stop service said the Union minister. According to its nature, assessment is to be made after providing health care services and sometimes changes are to be made when the service is in progress. Making adjustment is one of the important steps in providing health care. Another important step is maintaining the health standard of the people which is very much difficult to handle. Therefore, health staffs have to be

put their focuses on these tasks taking proactive actions and some are jobs that never end. At the same time they have to discharge their main duties explained the Union minister.

If someone wants to assess the performance, distinctions and achievements, he should clearly know the backgrounds of the above-mentioned situations. Health achievements cannot be achieved at once. Its nature is very different from the other sectors. For example, the Union minister point out that, a factory can be built during a particular period of time. With the availability of raw materials it can produce its products. Therefore, he expressed that, his ministry is putting its forms, systems and directives on a right track. He has a higher hope of reaching his ministry's goal after overcoming these difficulties.

During the 2016-2017 fiscal year, 881 billion kyat have been spent on the health sector and 97590 health officers and staff have been cooperating with UN agencies, INGOs and NGOs at home and abroad and civil societies including Global Fund, 3 MDG and GAVI to provide health care to the public.

As regards providing health care to the public, the National Health Plan 2017-2021 has been made for the coming five years in which targets are set to provide health to the public effectively. These plans are scheduled to start on 1 April 2017. Three National Strategic Plans for (2016-2020) to eliminate malaria, tuberculosis and AIDS have been drawn and works are underway. The Global Fund helps assist these projects and provided 497 million USD to be spent in



Union Minister for Health and Sports Dr Myint Htwe (Eight from Left) and dignitaries pose for photo at 4th SEARAME Conference. PHOTO: MNA

the years.

According to the Union minister, health staff vaccinated 33 million people to prevent elephantiasis by providing them with multi-drug treatment in 193 townships in 11 regions and states with the aim of rooting out the disease in 2020. Moreover, to provide medical treatment to Multi Drug Resistance (MDR) TB patients who are suffering from life-threatening disease all out efforts are made by the ministry to cover all over the country. In 2016, Anti-Retroviral Therapy ART treatments were given to 120,000 patients and prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV could be taken on 790,000 people in 2016. This year, more 60 ART centers have been opened which are taking care of AIDS patients. The Union minister elaborated that there are now 300 ART centers in the country.

To diagnosis tuberculosis among people, Biosafety III Laboratory worth 1.2 million USD was built in Yangon, Mandalay and Taunggyi. Health care services are provided to people especially in rural areas for non-communicable diseases for example diabetes and hypertension and to give pilot treatment are also provided. According to data 70 per cent of Community Health Clinics (1245 out of 1778) are located in rural areas.



Union Minister for Health and Sports Dr Myint Htwe inspects medical equipment displayed at an event. PHOTO: MNA



The medical team dispatched by Ministry of Health and Sports giving health care services to children in Naga Self-administered Zone. PHOTO: MNA

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## PERFORMANCES IN ONE-YEAR PERIOD

### >> FROM PAGE 5 Survey

During the nearly one-year period of the government, the Ministry of Health and Sports, for the first time in Myanmar, conducted Myanmar Demographic and Health Survey with the assistance of USAID. The survey will be completed soon and based on the findings of the survey, Myanmar's health strategy and tactics will be changed if necessary.

Ministry's focuses are also on school health programmes to be effective than ever and nutrition strategy and tactics retrieving more precise results.

As regards preventive measures, pneumococcal vaccines have been given starting from July 2016. Apart from ten vaccination programmes, vaccine trainings were conducted at 98 hospitals. The State, on its part, provided 53 million USD for expanded vaccination programmes. These programmes have been effective on 0.96 million children in the country and each child received about 50 USD. Vaccination against Hepatitis-B has been carried out with great momentum.

To provide effective health care in rural areas, 87 health centers and 428 health branches have been established. Moreover, health care service to cover all over the country, the ministry is cooperating with over 50 INGOs. With the assistance of GAVI HSS, 35812 needy women and children were provided with travelling and daily allowances amounting to 1661.272 million kyat. 4800 primary health care staff visited far-flung corners of the country 9569 times to provide health care. According to the ministry GAVI presented 2190 million kyat for 21900 patients

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including breastfeeding moms and new born.

#### Health Literacy Promotion Unit

Union Minister Dr Myint Htwe said that Myanmar has been able to control successfully measles, diphtheria and diarrhea which broke out in the form of epidemic diseases. He gave examples for the diseases broke out in Lahe and Nanyun region. With the assistance of UNFPA, Reproductive Health Management Information System (HMIS) is being practiced to effectively carry out reproductive health care programmes. These programmes are being carried out in 72 townships and more are scheduled to be carried out. The Union minister also revealed that Health Literacy Promotion Unit has been set up to promote health knowl-



Union Minister for Health and Sports Dr Myint Htwe presents a shield to the Ministry of Defence Team who became the champion of the inter-ministries soccer competition. PHOTO: MNA

edge of people.

Opening of reception services in 123 hospitals, updating Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) and guidelines, publishing medical books, conducting courses, setting Hospital Performance Indicators, delivering Hospital Infection Control Guidelines, providing services to patients with PET CT scan, conducting 27 renal transplantations, nine bone marrow transplants and three liver transplants, teaching medical ethics at the universities of medicine, setting new curricula for nurses' training and nursing university, cooperating with 102 foreign universities for promoting skills of physicians and accelerating surgical operations, sending 1565 doctors to post-graduate courses are some endeavours made by the Ministry of Health besides its main duty of providing health care

#### Providing sports gear

During the one-year period, outdoor fitness equipments were delivered to 91 townships, 15 universities under the ministry and 50 nursing and midwifery training schools. Under the Township Sports Development Program, sports meets were organized in 151 townships. Myanmar fetched 13 gold, 12 silvers and 24 bronze medals from 12 games competed in eight foreign countries. Myanmar athletes also won two gold, six silver and eight bronze medals at the competitions held in the country. Arrangements are being made to provide 24 sports equipments to schools situated at the remote areas. Myanmar also hosted such international games as 2016 Asian Men's Club Volley Championship, 20th Asian Petanque Championship 2016, Leopold 21 Myanmar Open 2017 and Futsal.

#### Market samples

In the food and drugs sector, the ministry is scrutinizing import and export license, permissions for purified drinking water and food industry and market samples for ensuring safe and quality food.

As regards safety of food, drugs, cosmetics and medical equipments, the Union minister said that an educational magazine named The Voice of Myanmar FDA has been published quarterly since December 2016 to disseminate knowledge to people.



**In the traditional medicine sector, several courses were conducted at traditional medicine hospitals to provide effective treatment to the public. Meetings were held and discussions were made to introduce therapies and initiate SOPs regarding traditional medicines, and to promote research skills, coordination and cooperation with 30 foreign universities have been made.**

Altogether 2700 drugs imported into the country were scrutinized and 2100 were issued registration certificates. Checks were made on 300 drugs available in the markets and 75 drug stores and industries which committed offences were filed lawsuits. Moreover, illegal and expired medicines were exposed and expired medicines and medical equipments worth over 827.1 million kyat in Yangon Region and over 1,000 million kyat in Mandalay Region were destroyed. Education programs regarding food and consumer goods were carried out 37 cosmetics which include illegal chemicals were exposed, seized and destroyed.

Union Minister Dr Myint Htwe expressed his opinion on effective health care service say-

ing that the effectiveness relies on how much people have health knowledge; how cooperation are being made among health staff and community-based organizations, NGOs and other related organizations; the skills and interests of the staff; the value they put on their job; ethics of all staff; and how much good their dealings with the public.

#### Least loss and wastage

The Union minister said that during the term he will strive for ensuring effective and efficient health care service for the people and supervise to minimize loss and wastage to hit the lowest degree in 2017-2018 fiscal year.

All the people pin their hope on the Ministry of Health and Sports to uplift their health and sports standard.

to the people.

#### Effective roles of traditional medicine

In the traditional medicine sector, several courses were conducted at traditional medicine hospitals to provide effective treatment to the public. Meetings were held and discussions were made to introduce therapies and initiate SOPs regarding traditional medicines, and to promote research skills, coordination and cooperation with 30 foreign universities have been made.

According to the Union minister, traditional medicine practitioners from region, state, district and township traditional medicine centers have made field trips to give medical treatments to over 300,000 patients and they also gave health education to the public.



Union Minister Dr Myint Htwe together with employees of the ministry take part in the sports activities in December, 2016. PHOTO: MNA

# Paper Reading Session supports media development

PAPER Reading session is viewed as a program to support the development of Media council said Dr Pe Myint, Union Minister for Information yesterday at the Myanmar Media Paper Reading session at the Yangon City Hall.

The session aiming at the development of Myanmar Media and learning the history of media in Myanmar was opened by Union Minister Dr Pe Myint, Yangon Mayor Dr Mg Mg Soe, Vice Chairman(1) U Aung Hla Htun, Vice Chairman (2) Dr Myo Thant Tin of Myanmar Media Council.

"I am pleased for successfully holding the paper reading session. The age of the media council transformed form Myanmar Press Council (Interim) is not so long though, it had involved the history

of democratic transformation and the freedom of the press," he said.

The minister said he was proud of paper reading session, one of tasks of Media council was being held and viewed the session was a task to support the development of media and wished media council be able to hold more paper reading session more than present.

Dr Mg Mg Soe said he welcomed the paper reading session and wanted the newspaper which mentioned the historical milestones to be enduring.

U Ohn Kyaing, the Chairman of Paper Session Organizing Committee said he had plan to publish a book compiling the papers to be a reference for the journalists.

In the first day of the paper reading session, the interesting

events in the history of Myanmar media was read by Dr Tin Hlaing ( Bo Hlaing ), the history of Myanmar media read by Hantharwaddy U Ohn Kyaing, Future Yangon and Yangon Municipal Industry movement by Daw Than Myint Aung, the history of Myanmar media structure by U Kyaw Swar Min on behalf of U Khin Mg Lay (Phoe Thautkyar), the newspapers from the upper Myanmar by Kyaw Yin Myint and Myanmar telegram media in Kongboun era.

Today paper reading session includes Myanmar and International Media by U Aung Hla Htun, the way to be a good journalist by U Chit Naing ( Seikpyinnyar), Myanmar media and women by Daw Thin Thin Thar, some laws the journalist should know by U Han Nyunt ( U Han Nyunt-Law), Politic and the journalist's strategic vision by Dr Tin Htun ( Thahton Tin Htun), Myanmar media and Myanmar politic by U Zayya and U Myo Ko Myo.

Total 12 papers were read in the two-day paper reading session and 60 booths are exhibiting newspapers, journals, magazines and books there. —Myanmar News Agency



Union Minister Dr Pe Myint addresses the Myanmar Media Paper Reading session. PHOTO: MNA

## South-East Asia countries adopt Call for Action to accelerate efforts to End TB

NEW DELH — Health Ministers from countries in WHO South-East Asia Region which bear half the global TB burden, and WHO today signed a Call for Action for Ending TB, pledging to scale-up efforts and implement adequately funded, innovative, multisectoral and comprehensive measures to achieve the global target to end the disease by 2030.

"We need to make ending TB our central priority. The disease continues to be a leading cause of death and lost productive years in the crucial age group of 15-49 years causing catastrophic expenses, financial losses, outright impoverishment of individuals and households and massive aggregate costs to national economies. Ending TB is paramount for health and development across the Region," Dr Poonam Khetrpal Singh, Regional Director for WHO South-East Asia, told the Ministerial Meeting Towards Ending TB in the South-East Asia Region, here.

In 2015 TB caused nearly 800 000 deaths in the Region while an estimated 4.74 million new cases were reported. Six of the Region's countries – Bangladesh, DPR Korea, India, Indonesia, Myanmar and Thailand – are among the 30 high TB burden countries globally.

While countries in the Region

have been making efforts against TB, the annual decline in TB incidence – which is currently between 1.5% and 2% – is insufficient and needs to be scaled up to at least 10% to 15% for the countries and the Region to meet the End TB targets. The global targets seek to reduce TB mortality by 90% and incidence by 80% by 2030.

Committing to take exceptional action and high-impact interventions as per the Call for Action, the Ministers of Health agreed to lead the implementation of the national TB response through an empowered body reporting to the highest levels of Government.

The Call for Action stresses upon increasing government and partner budgetary allocations to enable national TB plans to be fully funded.

The Ministers discussed setting up of a Regional Innovation to Implementation (I 2 I) fund for accelerated sharing of knowledge, intellectual resources and innovations to reach out and treat all cases.

Dr Khetrpal Singh said countries also need to apply best practices in taking comprehensive TB treatment and prevention programmes to universal scale, while improving quality and making them genuinely 'people-centered'.

They need to tackle poverty, malnutrition, quality of health care services, sub-optimum living conditions and other socio-economic factors that fuel TB.

Opportunities to accelerate progress should be seized with rapid adoption of advances in diagnostics and medicines.

"Together we can and must end TB," the Regional Director said, while announcing that 'bending the curve to end TB' would be a flagship programme of WHO in South-East Asia Region to support member countries take immediate action with an extreme sense of urgency to End TB.

The investments in ending TB are expected to give huge returns, with more than 11 million lives expected to be saved and nearly 60 million infections expected to be prevented across the Region by 2035. This will also complement social and economic growth by averting nearly 300 million DALYs.

Other than the Ministers of Health, officials from health departments of member countries, and representatives of partner organizations such as the World Bank, The Global Fund, Stop TB Partnership, USAID and DFAT Australia, attended the two-day meeting organized by WHO. —WHO

## Curriculum Vitae of His Excellency Mr. Rodrigo Roa Duterte President of the Republic of the Philippines



H.E. Mr. Rodrigo Roa Duterte, President of the Republic of the Philippines, was born in Maasin on 28 March 1945.

He studies Political Science at the Lyceum of the Philippines University, and graduated in 1968 with a Bachelor's degree in Arts. He also obtained a law degree from San Beda College of Law in 1972.

He served at the Prosecutor's Office in Davao City from 1977 until 1986 when he was appointed as OIC Vice Mayor of Davao City.

Mr. Duterte is among the longest-serving mayors in the Philippines and has been the Mayor of Davao City for seven terms, totaling more than 22 years. He has also served as vice-mayor and as congressman for the City.

On 9 May 2016, Mr. Duterte won a landslide victory as the 16th President of the Philippines. He was officially proclaimed by a joint session of the Philippines' Congress on 30 May 2016. He is the first Mindanaoan President and the first local chief executive to get elected straight to the Office of the President.

## Heavy weapons sent by MNDA aimed delay Tatmadaw's operation

MYANMAR National Democratic Alliance Army (MNDA) aiming at delaying Tatmadaw's major operation and destroying and threatening the life of the innocent people, made an attack on the evening of 17 March.

The firing of 10 rockets assumed to be 107 mm came from the border area between BP 126 and BP 127.

One of the heavy artillery shell fired by MNDA hit near Narlee village, four near Htinpar Kyaine village, two at the end of the bottom of Maharmuni Pagoda Hill, three near the resident of military retired persons and one empty house of them was destroyed by the shells while others places were reported for undamaged. —Myanmar News Agency



Members of Maungtaung Investigation Commission visit northern Maungtaung Township. PHOTO: MNA

## Members of Maungtaung Commission meet with the locals from Muslim Community

THE members of Maungtaung Investigation Commission visited yesterday the villages in Northern Maungtaung to meet the members of Muslim Community who temporarily fled from the village in October and got back to the village.

The member of the commission visited villages were U Aung Naing, U Saw Thalaysaw, assistant member Daw Than Win, Deputy Director of the Department of Social Welfare and Dr. Htar Htar Lin and U Ye Htut, Deputy Commissioner of Maungtaung district. The members of the commission met with the women and the children separate-

ly in Pynphyu Chanung village, Kyarkhaung Taung village and Yadwin Kyun village and made questioning to and discussing with the members of the family about the incident occurred in October.

U Ye Htut, Deputy Commissioner of Maungtaung district will make arrangement for the transportation for the convicts' family members who want to see them at the Buthidaung prison to relieve their suffering.

The suspects from Pynphyu Chanung, Kyarkhaung and Yedwinkyun village were investigated on suspicion of the October's incident and were arrested in Buthidaung. —San Lwin Oo (IPRD)

# Opinion

## Write for us

We appreciate your feedback and contributions. If you have any comments or would like to submit editorials, analyses or reports please email [ce@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com](mailto:ce@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com) with your name and title.

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.

## For the future of our country

Dr. Nu Nu Win

AT this time when our country needs to do reform and changes in many fields, we need to invest more and more in many priority sectors so that we would be able to reach our final goal of a developed, modern Democratic Federal Union soon. Therefore it is the duty of the Union Government to encourage investments not only from local companies and entrepreneurs but also from foreign companies and consortiums. As these investments come in, it is important for the Myanmar Investment Commission to make sure that these investments benefit not only the investors but the people of Myanmar also. For investors to consider Myanmar as a good place for investment, it is of course incumbent upon the Union Government to make sure that the essential ingredients for a "good investment climate" are in place such as electricity supply, transportation networks, banking facilities, skilled and hard-working la-

bour force, to name just a few.

Here, among the different kinds of investments, I would like to give my opinion about the advisability of investing in some sectors which could result in great benefits and gains. There are two sectors worth mentioning, and they are Education and Health, because these two areas are concerned with all citizens, rich or poor.

First of all let me discuss about the Education sector.

If the citizens of a country get good Education, we can be sure that these educated citizens will take the responsibility for the all round development of the country's future. If today's youths are well-educated in different fields, they themselves will take care of the future of these different areas.

And if there are more educated citizens in our country they may not be persuaded to believe in senseless arguments and speech and inappropriate postings on social media such as Facebook which can lead to disputes and fights and all manner of unwanted results. When they are well-educated, they can

have their own thinking and own educated opinions, and they can decide well and choose well in which path or way they should continue for the well-being of the whole country and its citizens.

For this, children need to get good Education from early age from which they will come to know what is right and what is wrong, what is good and what is bad, what to choose and what to shun. Then only they can make their own decisions correctly for themselves and for others too.

What should we do to give our children and youths a good Education?

First of all, we need to develop the Educational Philosophy of our country. As we are moving towards the emergence of a Federal Democratic Union, we need to lay down our Education Policies according to the Democratic Philosophy of Education. Even in the past, we had the Socialist Philosophy of Education, why should we not define and state in detail what a Democratic Philosophy of Education should be? Only after

that, we need to lay down our Education policy according to this Philosophy. Then only we can plan what to do, when to do, and how to do to carrying out the different implementation plans of this Education policy. We can also choose which plan will come first and which will come last according to their importance.

As there is a saying, "The Fools do first what the Wiseman will do last." The Vice-Versa is also correct. That is why, we need a plan, and a well thought out detailed time-table for implementation.

To upgrade the Education of a country, we need to do investment in this sector. Once during the time of Dr. Mahathir Mohamed in Malaysia, 75% of the GDP was used for the Education sector and after that, the development of Malaysia rose to new heights in a speedy manner.

Although are we getting more budget allocations for the education sector during these years than in the past, it is just still very small indeed. We should plan in which areas we

should transform first, in the field of Preschools and Early Childhood or in the area of Basic Education, or in the field of Quality of Teachers and Teacher Training, or in the field of Assessment and Examinations, or in the field of Basic Education or Tertiary Education and so on. We need to study well first so that we will not make unnecessary mistakes though our intentions may be commendable.

If most of the citizens become educated, it is not so much difficult to educate them about the field of the Health and proper healthcare. But, as it is also an area concerned with individuals of all different ages, starting from the mother's womb up to the tomb, we need more and more investments in this sector too. If all citizens have good health, they can work more for the country. Although a person may be well-educated, if his health is bad, how can he work well for the country?

That is why much more care and priority should be given to these two sectors — education and health.

## Celebrating seventy years of Myanmar Foreign Ministry

Sayar Mya

BEING a retired officer of the Myanmar Foreign Service, it is indeed a great pleasure and honor in writing a brief account on the twists and turns and the ups and downs of our beloved diplomatic service. Since the eve of Independence of Myanmar till the beginning of 2017, we have had experiences in the stream of complicated and sensitive foreign relations including the succession of both good and bad occurrences; rises and falls, especially in the value or success of something.

First of all, let me share the list of successive ministers that served the Myanmar ministry of foreign affairs starting with the founder of nation General Aung San and the incumbent Minister for Foreign Affairs Daw Aung San Suu Kyi.

### Foreign Minister List

1. General Aung San (1947)
2. U Nu (1947)
3. U Lun Baw (1947)
4. U Tin Htut (1947-1948)
5. U Kyaw Nyein (1948-1949)
6. Thakhin Nu (1949)
7. U Aye Maung (1949)
8. U Sao Hkun Hkio (1949-1958)
9. U Thein Maung (1958-1959)
10. U Chan Tun Aung (1959-1960)
11. U Sao Hkun Hkio (1960-1962)

12. U Thi Han (1962-1969)
13. Dr. Maung Lwin (1969-1970)
14. Dr. Hla Han (1970-1972)
15. U Kyaw Soe (1972-1974)
16. U Hla Phone (1974-1978)
17. U Myint Maung (1978-1980)
18. U Lay Maung (1980-1981)
19. U Chit Hlaing (1981-1985)
20. U Ye Gaung (1985-1988)
21. Sr. Gen. Saw Maung (1988-1991)
22. U Ohn Gyaw (1991-1998)
23. U Win Aung (1998-2004)
24. U Nyan Win (2004-2011)
25. U Wunna Maung Lwin (2011-2016))
26. Daw Aung San Suu Kyi (2016-present)

The Myanmar "Foreign Office" was established on 17 March 1947 and successfully hits the status of seventy years on 17 March 2017. The name has changed into "The Ministry of Foreign Affairs" on 25 May 1967 by the then Revolutionary Council government.

Looking back, Myanmar regained Independence from Britain on 4 January 1948.

Myanmar generally strove to be neutral and impartial in world affairs. In fact, Myanmar was one of the first countries in the world to recognize Israel and the People's Republic of China.

This brief article tries to describe, in the shortest possible term, the influence of internal events and circumstances on My-

anmar's foreign policy and external relations from the end of the colonial period to present.

Inevitably, there may be unpleasant episodes in international relations as the foreign policy is formulated by the ruling government based on geopolitics and ever changing world affairs. The policy is implemented by Foreign Service personnel as laid down by the government.

After the Second World War, Myanmar soon found itself pushed and pulled roughly side to side by Cold War power struggles. In order to avoid being drawn into the chaos and confusion, the fledgling democracy of the 1950s adopted a foreign policy of strict neutrality and nonalignment.

Over the years, Myanmar upholds the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence. They are (1) mutual respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity, (2) mutual non-aggression, (3) non-interference in each other's internal affairs, (4) equality and mutual benefit, and (5) peaceful coexistence.

The Five Principles of Peaceful Co-Existence have become the basic norms in developing state to state relations transcending social systems and ideologies. These principles have been accepted by the overwhelming majority of countries in the world.

By 1958, Myanmar was beginning to recover economically

after the World War Two, but was beginning to fall apart politically due to a split in the AFPFL (The Anti-Fascist People's Freedom League) into two factions.

Inflamed by internal insurgencies on several fronts, Myanmar had slid into a harsh form of military rule after 1962. The country closed its doors to isolate itself from the post-independence struggles avoiding the neighborhood.

After the public upheaval of 1988 due to economic woes, the military government tried to end self-imposed isolation. However, western countries continued applying political and economic sanctions that effectively perpetuated isolation for another twenty years. In response, the then government adopted a defensive foreign policy using its neighbors, especially other members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and China, as a buffer against Western pressure.

Eventually, the government unveils a reform from within. When the transition to a quasi-elected government was made in 2011, it had suddenly lay eggs to a dramatic succession of political and economic reforms. The waves of international criticism ceased. Myanmar, after 2011, finds itself in transition and in the embrace of the international community. The country and its foreign policy alignment are gradually adjusting

to its newfound status.

The latest foreign policy shift is "the people-centered diplomacy".

Foreign Minister Daw Aung San Suu Kyi stressed the importance of people-to-people engagement regarding the formulation of foreign policy, saying that the relations between different countries can be fostered by the peoples of those countries. Myanmar is to be made strong by using the strength of the people to push foreign policy.

While visiting UK, the State Counsellor met with 12 Myanmar Ambassadors assigned in countries in Europe, the Middle East and Africa. During the meeting, the State Counsellor clarified priorities in Myanmar as well as the country's foreign policy, saying that Myanmar has friendly relations with all countries in the world, practicing the non-aligned policy. She urged the diplomats to give protection to Myanmar citizens in the countries in which they are assigned and to protect the interests of Myanmar.

Myanmar's government has introduced significant political and economic reforms since 2011 after decades of isolation. The National League for Democracy returned to the formal political process with a landslide electoral victory in late 2015.

To be continued

## Free health care provided and DHF prevention measures taken



A baby receives free health care from the mobile team. PHOTO: PHYO WAI

PATHEINGYI township health department is providing free health care and dengue hemorrhagic fever (DHF) prevention measures to villagers from Shin Taw Gon village on Thursday.

The health department provided free treatment to the villagers, weighing the under five-year-old children and provided the nutrients to the pregnant women. The local department also dis-

infected wells, water tanks and water pots to prevent DHF. Also, the department has planned to chlorinate water tanks and pots to the two villages per week.—*Phyo Wai*

## Waterway service available during water festival

FOR the convenience of passengers during the water festival, waterway service will operate with different schedule.

The ticket fare for waterway service is Ks100 per passenger, according to the Inland Water Transport Department Ayeyawady branch.

The delta branch has said

that ferry ships running from Yangon's Pansodan to Dala are set to operate 26 times a day from 6am to 7pm, rescheduling its regular service of 46 times a day from 5 am to 9 pm during the water festival.

The Yangon to Seikkyi Khanaungto ships which normally run eight times a

day will run six times from 6 am to 5 pm during the festival period.

Ferries running on the Wadan-Dala route will also run 12 times a day from 7: 30 am to 5 pm from 12 to 17 April.

Cargo vessels will operate on their regular schedule during the water festival.—200

## Shan chieftain palace, graveyard renovated to preserve architectural design

The historic buildings and graveyard of a Shan Saopha, or chieftain, in Hsenwi township, northern Shan state, will be renovated in a way to allow tourists to visit and to preserve the original architectural design.

"We will maintain all of them as the original design. The foreign visitors can observe Shan traditional foods and customs in Hsenwi township. Hsenwi township have many more attraction places than Hsipaw township.

Besides, foreign visitors will enjoy observing the Shan chieftain palace and the natural waterfall as well," said Daw Nan Khin Htar Yee, of the State Hluttaw Hsenwi township Constituency 1.

A local tour services association found the Shan chieftain palace and the chieftain's graveyard for his relatives in Hsenwi township when they were conducting urban development.

The graveyard and buildings

belonged to Shan chieftain Thadaw Mahar Thara Shithu Sao Hom Hpa (1320). The Shan chieftain graveyard was enclosed by walls with distinctive architectural design.

The local tour services association also found the 100-year-old Sao Main Khaut pagoda. After cleaning and restoration, the pagoda has become of great historical interest for foreign tourists, the association said.—*Myitmakha News Agency*

## Sculpture village to be turned into world famous wood-carving site

THE sculpture village in Shwepyithar near 10 mile, Bago Region will be turned into a world famous place where there will be the greatest number of wood carvings in the world.

"The sculpture village will be implemented with an aim to attract the local and foreign visitors' attention. Currently, the sculpture village is one of the

popular places among the local people. To turn the sculpture village into a world famous place, the local authorities are collecting wooden carvings and building new buildings to keep the carvings," said an official from the sculpture village.

Most of the carvings in the sculpture village are from North Dagon, Mingalardon and Dagon

Seikkan townships as well as from Sayar San Plaza, Yangon. Hundreds of the sculptures are exhibited in different sections depending on the category.

To make the carvings, sculptors collected trees either from places hit by storms such as Cyclone Nargis or from places where the trees were felled because of road expansion.—200

## NSA stresses importance of peace and ...

>> FROM PAGE 3

The National Security Advisor also provided an update on the latest situation in Rakhine State, noting the visit of the Investigation Commission led by Vice President U Myint Swe to Bangladesh this weekend:

"As we speak, the Commission is making an investigatory trip to the Cox's Bazar area, with the cooperation of the Government of Bangladesh. Where there are allegations of abuses, we will invite witnesses to travel to Myanmar under international protection to give evidence in legal proceedings in open court.

It is important that the Investigation Commission is allowed to complete its work, and to demonstrate that Myanmar's own institutions are able to address our human rights challenges.

In the meantime, we will continue to seek long-term solu-

tions to bring about lasting peace and stability in Rakhine. For this, we welcome the constructive approach taken by the Advisory Commission, led by former UN Secretary General Kofi Annan, in its interim report published this week.

Director General of the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration, U Aung Naing Oo, also addressed the meeting and spoke of the steps being taken by the government to create an attractive investment environment. U Aung Naing Oo explained the new regulatory reforms that will create a level playing field between foreign and local investors and noted that the Myanmar Investment Rules is currently passing through the Hluttaw. The new law is intended to facilitate investment and provide increased protection for investors.—*Ministry of the Office of the State Counsellor*

## Myanmar modern songs and classical music fund concert to be held

TO provide for those who have become disabled by landmines and civil war, a concert featuring Myanmar modern songs and classical music will be held on 1st April, according to a media conference held in the Orchid Hotel yesterday.

The concert will be held with an aim to provide the prosthetic limbs, wheelchairs, crutches and other support items.

The Myanmar modern songs and classical music fund concert will be held at the Yangon Na-

tional Theatre on 1st April, the 15th Anniversary of the Myanmar Physically Handicapped Association. The concert entrance fees will be Ks30,000, Ks20,000 and Ks10,000.

At the concert, Myanmar Thein Than, Jack Mya Thaung and other famous singers will be performing with the Lazy Club music band. Classical music will be provided by Dr. Khin Myint on piano, Zaw Myo Aung on the violin and Ko Han Win Aung playing drums.—200

## Drinking water to distribute daily to water-scarce villages in summer

KYAUKPADAUNG township rural development department is collecting household and population data at the villages which can face water shortage problem this summer. Township department head Daw Myint Win and her staff are conducting the field inspection to observe the water resources near those villages.

Drinking water is being distributed beginning from March to ten villages which do not have enough water supply in summer. Also, the urban development department has made ready the water bowlers in case they find villages which lack the drinking water.

Currently, the department is set to distribute 47,985 gallons of drinking water to the 9,597 people from 1,962 households in 10 villages. The department has already assigned the township staff. Also, they gave their contact phone numbers to the villages.

Every year, township rural development department, fire services department, donors from the social support associations and private donors are distributing the drinking water to those villages from Kyaukpadaung township which faced water shortage problem in summer.—*Ko Nay (Kyaukpadaung)*



Villagers collect water from a well in Kyaukpadaung. PHOTO: KO NAY

## NEWS IN BRIEF

## Eleven candidates qualified for first round of French election

PARIS — France's Constitutional Council validated on Saturday eleven candidates to run in the first round of the French presidential elections on 23 April.

The candidates, announced by the council's president Laurent Fabius, include far-right leader Marine Le Pen, independent centrist Emmanuel Macron and conservative Francois Fillon.

The top two will qualify for a run-off on 7 May.—*Reuters*

## Syrian rebels, families begin leaving Homs district in deal with government

BEIRUT — Rebel fighters and their families began leaving their last bastion in the Syrian city of Homs on Saturday, state media and a Reuters witness said, under an evacuation deal with the government that is expected to be the largest of its kind.

The first two buses carrying rebels and their families left al-Waer district in the morning, heading for other rebel-held areas in northern Syria. Homs governor Talal Barazi told Reuters 400 to 500 fighters would evacuate on Saturday, along with their family members.

Under the agreement, more than 12,000 people would leave in batches over the coming weeks, according to the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights war monitoring group.—*Reuters*

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# Testing of Russia's newest early warning radar aircraft to begin in July

TAGANROG, (Rostov region) — Trial testing of the newest Russian early radar warning aircraft A-100 Premier will begin in July, Russian Deputy Minister of Defence Yuri Borisov said on Thursday.

"The Beriyeve R & D Group in Taganrog (Russian acronym TANTK) is one of the parties engaged in the development of the early radar warning complex," he told reporters after a tour of the production facility.

"This a priority on the state programme for armaments. I

can tell you all the works are in progress strictly on schedule and we'll get down to state trial testing in July."

A-100 has superior characteristics compared to other similar complexes not only in Russia but at across the world, too.

It is one a new generation of early radar warning and control aircraft that have the task of tracking and escorting aerial targets and surface ships, as well as alerting command centres to changes in the aerial and naval situation.

Apart from this, A-100 Premiers can be used for control over fight jets and strike aircraft in the process of homing onto aerial, ground and maritime targets or perform the functions of a command centre.

A-100 was developed on the basis of the previous-generation A-50 early warning aircraft, which is based on the design of the Ilyushin-76 airlifter. In the future the equipment designed for A-100 will be installed on modernized Ilyushin-76MD-90A airlifters.—*Tass*



A-100 has superior characteristics compared to other similar complexes not only in Russia but also across the world. PHOTO: TASS

## Scotland's Sturgeon to urges UK's May to think again on independence vote

ABERDEEN, Scotland — British Prime Minister Theresa May, about to trigger Brexit should think again about her refusal to discuss a new Scottish independence referendum, Scottish leader Nicola Sturgeon will tell her Scottish National Party on Saturday.

May has stoked anger among the Scottish nationalists by blocking their demands for a new independence referendum before talks for Britain to leave the European Union end.

"(May) has time to think again and I hope she does. If her concern is timing then — with-in reason — I am happy to have that discussion," Sturgeon, who also heads the devolved Scottish government, will say according to a text of her speech.

A vote in the Scottish parliament next week, where pro-independence parties have a majority, will almost certain-

ly authorise Sturgeon to seek a legally binding vote on a new referendum. But under Britain's constitutional arrangements, that vote would have to be signed off by the British parliament.

May, facing two years of hugely complex talks with Britain's soon to be erstwhile EU partners, has said "now is not the time" to discuss the matter of Scotland.

Last June's vote to leave the EU has altered the political landscape and shaken the ties of the United Kingdom's four nations. England, the UK's most populous nation, and Wales voted to leave while the Scots and the Northern Irish wanted to keep their EU membership.

Faced with being taken out regardless, Scots must have a new choice, argue the nationalists.

Northern Ireland's largest Irish nationalist party says it too

wants a vote on splitting from Britain after the region voted to stay in the bloc.

May has been accused of telling Scotland what to do and ignoring its democratic process, something which may even increase support for Scottish nationalists.

Scots voted against independence in 2014 by a 10 point margin. But Sturgeon was elected last year on a manifesto which included the possibility of a new independence vote if there were a material change in circumstances "such as Scotland being taken out of the EU against our will."

"We can still decide which path we take," Sturgeon will tell her party's conference. "Whatever our different opinions on independence, we can all unite around this simple principle: Scotland's future must be Scotland's choice."—*Reuters*

## PERFORMANCES IN ONE-YEAR PERIOD

# Economic, Social, Political Progress during one year period in Mandalay Region

Maung Thet

THE GOVERNMENT of Mandalay Region has carried out the works to their utmost effort for the all-round progress of Mandalay Region. Mandalay was once the royal capital of Myanmar and now the capital of Upper Myanmar, the hub of long-standing Myanmar culture.

Mandalay Region has flourished with new businesses in many sectors and bustling with tourists and businessmen as a result of political changes bringing about the transparency in all official undertakings.

Building asphalt road 10 miles, tarred road 50 miles, gravel road 5 miles, concrete road 1 mile, and 231 bridges, installation of 10 new traffic lights and 1,000 LED lighting at lampposts around the moat, building a housing including 144 apartments for rent, building Yawmingyi Market and temporary Mingalar Market, building modern slaughterhouse, Thakhin Po Hla Gyi sports ground, Aung Pin Le sports ground and Myayi Nanda football ground, in Mandalay City Development area are the achievements of the new government.

## 1.8 million acres of 1 million farmers

In striving to issue the Rights of Farming Form-7 to 1,072,560 farmers for 1,888,125 acres of the Lease Holder Land, Form-7 for the 1,791,766 acres of land could be issued to 1,029,443 farmers, chalking up 94.9% accomplishment.

Digital Surveying could be carried out in Patheingyi and Tada U townships in 2016-17 financial year.

## 5,217 Contracts Registered

In 18 townships of the Mandalay Region Digital Deeds Management System was introduced for registration of the contracts starting from 1.10.2016 and 5,217 contracts have already been registered.

The Region Government funded to provide 5,400 viss cattle-fodder at the value of 2.5874 million kyats and blocks of urea molasses at the cost of 3.324 million kyats to the home-returning cattle which had been moved from the flooded area to safe places in Nyaung U and Taung Tha townships.

The Fishery Department of the Mandalay Region holds annual auction for the sale of natural lakes and now already sold 272 Grant-ponds and 20 through the tender system. The fishery department has collected all sorts of tax amounting over 4,720 lakhs out of the target 3,990 lakhs, covering 118.37 % achievement.

## 172,000,000 Fish Fingerlings

The target of producing 172,000,000 fish fingerlings could be met registering 100% success.



Kuthodaw Pagoda formally titled Mahalawka Marazein contains the world's largest book. It lies at the foot of Mandalay Hill. PHOTO: MNA

The Region Government funded to provide 5,400 viss cattle-fodder at the value of 2.5874 million kyats and blocks of urea molasses at the cost of 3.324 million kyats to the home-returning cattle which had been moved from the flooded area to safe places in Nyaung U and Taung Tha townships.

Fish farmers 1,200 is working on 7,900 fish ponds and 5,800 fish farmers from 34 Mya Sein Yaung villages could get the loan at the value of 1,160 million kyats. Besides, the department could conduct the training course producing 388 trainees who completed the course.

Myanmar Agricultural Development Bank of Mandalay Region could grant the 93,880 million kyats loan for 2016 rainy season to 240,830 farmers from 23 townships.

2016 winter loan of 7,820 millions kyat were granted to 33,890 farmers from 14 townships. 2017 pre-monsoon loan as of 15 February 2017 with amount nearly 260 millions kyat to 450 farmers from 4 townships.

Mandalay Region Rural Development Department could achieve in building roads and bridges, water supply, building village to village roads and bridges using Union Budget of 2016-17 fiscal year.

In 20 townships 4,763 Cooperative Societies were formed in addition and 565,679 members of 4,039 Cooperative Societies obtained the loan amounting to 92,916 million to use in the development works in the sectors of agriculture, trading, animal husbandry, service and industry. 493 vehicles of 10 different types costing 12,224 million kyats and 505 vehicles of different sorts produced by other companies costing 7,177 million kyats were sold in installment. Moreover, 997

million kyats could be granted as loan to the 5,606 members from 31 Cooperative Societies for securing the electricity in 5 townships.

## Planting on 5 Million Acres of Land

In Mandalay Region, ten main crops were planned to be planted on the 5466,345 acres of land. Planting on 4,942,928 acres that is 90.42% of the target were finished.

In 20 townships of 7 districts of Mandalay Region 900 acres is targeted for planting the crops of high-yield-strain and the department will buy 5,752 baskets of 7 types of paddy from 27 seed-producing private companies to be distributed for planting on 1,529 acres of land in 2017-2018 financial year.

In the 2016-17 financial year, 57 projects of river water pumping with allotted fund 688 million kyats had been completely finished. Only 50% of the project at Ywa Tha Ywa village and Shwe Hlan Bo village of Singaing township, 75% of the project at Simikhon-2 Nga Myar and Seik Nyan villages in Myingyan Township, 75% at Thukaung Te village and 60% at Lawka Nandar of Nyaung U Township were finished.

In 2016-17 financial year, 152 out of 900 tube wells targeted to be implemented with budget allotment of 720 million kyats had been finished and the department continues its work for the remaining 748.

SEE PAGE 12 >>



Affordable housing in Mandalay. PHOTO: MNA



Mandalay Region Government has encouraged sports in Mandalay since it took office one year ago. PHOTO: MNA

## PERFORMANCES IN ONE-YEAR PERIOD



President U Htin Kyaw and First Lady Daw Su Su Lwin are welcomed by students on their arrival at the Children's literature festival in Mandalay. PHOTO: MNA

>> FROM PAGE 11

### Cooperation with SMBC of Japan

"679 SME businessmen were organized to form 88 SME Cluster teams for the development of Small Scale and Medium Scale Enterprises. Moreover, recommendation for securing the monetary investment could be given to 23 businessmen in cooperation with CB Bank, Myanmar Insurance and SMBC of Japan. In the townships of Mandalay Region the vocational training courses were opened 64 times and turned out 800 trainees who successfully completed the course," stated the Chief Minister of the government of Mandalay Region.

No 2 Industrial Training School gives training courses in 13 trades and 619 trainees attended and completed the courses. It is remarkable this training school was recognized as official Welding Testing Centre by NSSA on the 1<sup>st</sup> August 2016.

195 miles of 11 KV electricity line was installed making 214 villages accessible to electricity. 135 number of 200/315 transformers were also installed.

### Water Supply

As part of efforts for supplying water to the people facing shortage of water in summer, Mandalay Region Government drilled tube-wells and established reservoirs in Kyaukpadaung, Taungtha and Chanmyathazi townships last year.

Meanwhile, the government built affordable housings with 1,846 rooms for the civil service personnel in Mandalay in the 2015-2016 fiscal year and affordable housings with 480 rooms are under construction in the 2016-2017 fiscal year.

By means of drawing of lots, so far 800 rooms have been sold to the peoples including retired civil servants, company employees, low-earning peoples.

### Upgrading communication technology

With a completion of a New Fibre Cable line between Pyin Oo Lwin and Mogok, a section of the 48-96 Cores (UG-OH) Fibre Cable

As part of efforts for supplying water to the people facing shortage of water in summer, Mandalay Region Government drilled tube-wells and established reservoirs in Kyaukpadaung, Taungtha and Chanmyathazi townships last year.

between Mandalay and Pyin Oo Lwin passing through Singu and Mogok, and upgrading exchange offices and communication facilities, Mandalay Region has installed more 466 auto telephone lines, 600,600 mobile telephones, 767 high-speed ADSL internet lines and 113 fibre internet lines.

### New engines for train services

A new rail link between Mandalay and Kawnlin was commissioned into service on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2016, with the 53-Up and 54-Down trains.

Two new locomotives replaced the old ones running on the Mandalay-Lashio route.

The dual road between Yangon and Mandalay was commissioned into services in the one year period of the incumbent government

and work on construction of a new workshop which repairs passenger and cargo coaches started on 1<sup>st</sup> June 2015 and the workshop is expected to complete on 30<sup>th</sup> November 2017.

### Efforts for greening of Mandalay Region

Since it took office in May 2016, the Mandalay Region Government has planted more than 4,757,300 trees including teak and hardwood trees so far. Meanwhile, the government seized more than 2,460 tonnes of timber in 900 cases in the region.

### Quick response to disasters

Mandalay Region Government spent more than K.3 billion to the region's people affected by gale and strong winds happened from April to May last year.



Workers prepare for water supply. PHOTO: MNA



Several new bridges were constructed in the first one-year period of the Mandalay Region Government. PHOTO: MNA



Mandalay is the hub of long-standing Myanmar culture. PHOTO: MNA



Sixth funfair of the ethnic people is held in Mandalay. PHOTO: MNA

The disasters struck 28 townships in the period, destroying 132 governmental offices, 386 schools, 15,889 homes, 415 monasteries, 178 pagodas and killing 21 people and 1,421 cattle worth more than K3.3 billion.

The flood hit 17 townships in Mandalay Region from July to August last year, destroying 72 houses, one school, five monasteries and roads and bridges and crops on more than 1,500 acres and causing losses of more than K768 million. Mandalay Region Government provided K877 million to the flood-affected people.

Besides, Mandalay Region Government quickly responded to the massive earthquake which has a magnitude of 6.8 on the Richter scale, jolted Mandalay Region on 24<sup>th</sup> August 2016, leaving massive loss of property.

The quake destroyed 628 pagodas, eight monasteries, five religious edifices, 21 schools and 16 houses.

Meanwhile, Mandalay Region Government has already completed the data collection for the renovation of the damaged pagodas in Bagan which was also affected by the quake.

### Farmland returned to rightful owners

Farmland work permit certificates 208.35 acres of farmland in the compound of the leprosy hospital (Yenantha) in Madaya Township via 23 rightful farmers on 15<sup>th</sup> March 2017.

Mandalay Region Government is also working to provide the rightful owners in Singu and Madaya Townships with farmland work permit certificates.



Mandalay Region Government holds the Martyrs Day in 2016. PHOTO: MNA



Mandalay Region Government conducts December Mass Walk last year. PHOTO: MNA

## In first Trump-Merkel meeting, awkward body language and a quip

WASHINGTON — The first face-to-face meeting between US President Donald Trump and German Chancellor Angela Merkel started awkwardly on Friday and ended even more oddly, with a quip by Trump about wiretapping that left the German leader visibly bewildered.

The two leaders share different views on trade, Russia and immigration, leading to some uncomfortable moments at a joint news conference on Friday in which they took pains to downplay differences that were hard to mask.

Friday's meeting was the first between the new US president and the long-serving stateswoman, who leads Europe's largest economy. It was seen as one that could help de-

termine the future of the transatlantic alliance and shape their working relationship.

Though Merkel appeared relaxed, the body language between them was not especially warm.

Trump and Merkel shook hands when she arrived at the White House but did not do so in the Oval Office where she frequently leaned towards him while he stared straight ahead, sitting with his legs apart and hands together. In the Oval Office both leaders described their meeting in brief remarks to reporters as having been very good.

She began her remarks at the news conference by saying it was better to speak to each other than about each other.—Reuters

## Man shot dead after seizing soldier's gun at Paris Orly airport

PARIS — Security forces shot dead a man who seized a soldier's gun at Paris Orly airport on Saturday and a police officer was shot and injured in a separate incident north of the French capital, the French Interior Ministry said. A bomb sweep took place at the airport to make sure the dead man was not wearing an explosive belt, but nothing was found, Interior Ministry spokesman Pierre-Henry Brandet told Reuters.

"The man succeeded in seizing the weapon of a soldier. He was quickly neutralised by the security forces," Brandet said.

A police officer was also injured after being shot during a routine road check in an earlier incident in Stains, north of Paris.

Brandet said it was not clear if the two incidents were linked. BFM and M6 television networks said it was the same individual.

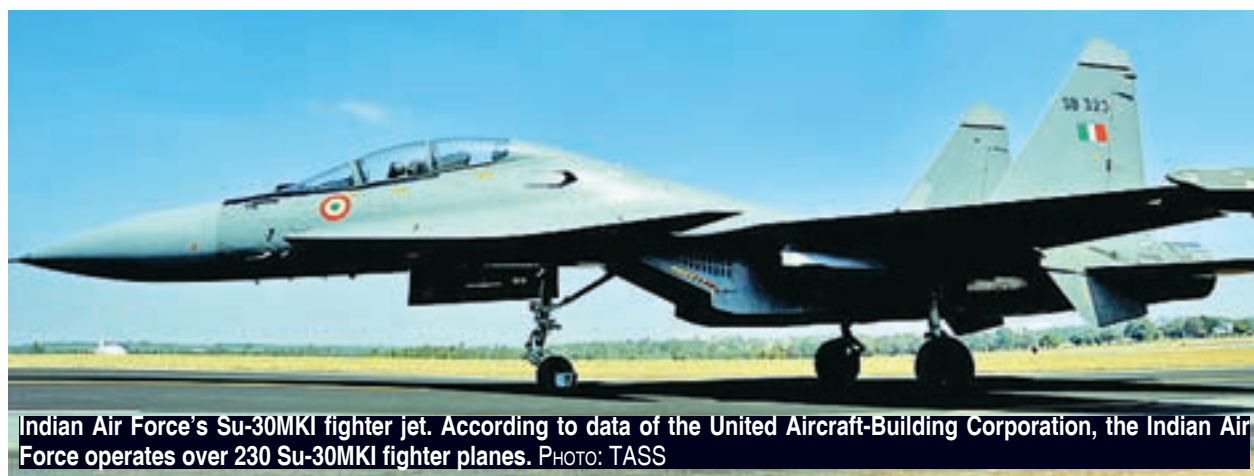
The incidents come weeks before France holds presidential elections. The country remains on high alert after attacks by Islamic State militants killed scores of people in the last two years and a state of emergency is in place until at least the end of July.

Around 3,000 passengers were evacuated from the airport, the second busiest in the country.

Flights were suspended from both terminals of the airport and some flights were diverted to Charles de Gaulle airport north of the capital, airport operator ADP said.—Reuters



General view of emergency vehicles at Orly airport southern terminal after a shooting incident near Paris, France on 18 March, 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS



Indian Air Force's Su-30MKI fighter jet. According to data of the United Aircraft-Building Corporation, the Indian Air Force operates over 230 Su-30MKI fighter planes. PHOTO: TASS

## Russia signs deal on maintenance services for Indian Air Force's Su-30MKI fighter jets

NEW DELHI — Russia's United Aircraft-Building Corporation has signed a deal with India's Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) to provide maintenance services for Russian-made Sukhoi Su-30MKI fighter jets operational in the Indian Air Force, a TASS correspondent reports from the signing ceremony.

The deal was signed by United Aircraft-Building Corporation President Yuri Slyusar and HAL Chairman Suvarna Raju in the presence of Russian Industry and Trade Minister Denis

Manturov and acting Indian Defence Minister Arun Jaitley as part of a Russian-Indian military and industrial conference. The contract has been signed for five years with a prolongation option.

The United Aircraft-Building Corporation president said his company was interested both in expanding the volumes of aircraft deliveries and increasing the speed and the quality of after-sale services and developing a comprehensive customer support system.

"The right to provide services abroad is an important step in this direction.

We believe this will allow the United Aircraft-Building Corporation to considerably increase the efficiency of providing after-sale services for our products abroad. We also count on higher revenues from this business," Slyusar said.

According to data of the United Aircraft-Building Corporation, the Indian Air Force operates already over 230 Su-30MKI fighter planes and this figure will exceed 270 aircraft in the future. The scheduled volume of deliveries in the next five years may reach \$300 million. In December 2016,

the United Aircraft-Building Corporation gained the right to deliver spare parts, conduct repairs and provide maintenance services for aircraft earlier supplied abroad.

"Along with the work on the programmes of licensed production, repair and upgrade of Su and MiG planes, the United Aircraft-Building Corporation is carrying out work jointly with HAL on the programmes of jointly developing aircraft, for example, the FGFA (Fifth-Generation Fighting Aircraft)," Russian Industry and Trade Minister Denis Manturov said.—Tass

### CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

MV TYGRA VOY. NO ( )

Consignees of cargo carried on MV TYGRA VOY. NO ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 19.3.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T/M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

### CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

MV KUO HSIUNG VOY. NO ( )

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KUO HSIUNG VOY. NO ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 19.3.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT  
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY  
AGENT FOR: M/S NEW GOLDEN SEA LINES

Phone No: 2301185

### CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

MV SINAR BATAM VOY. NO (003)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV SINAR BATAM VOY. NO (003) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 19.3.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

### CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

MV MATHU BHUM VOY. NO (1033)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MATHU BHUM VOY. NO (1033) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 19.3.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P 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 MOL (S'PORE) PTE LTD

Phone No: 2301185

## Mindset of imposing opinions on others needs to change: Anushka

MUMBAI — Bollywood actress Anushka Sharma says the one thing that needs to change in the country is the habit of being too sensitive about other's opinions.

The actress says people should be firm enough in what they believe but should not impose their opinion on others as the only truth.

"I think the mindset needs to change... It's okay for me to have an opinion which might differ from somebody else's and we both should be entitled to our opinion, have the security and courage to live with it rather than imposing what I think is correct or true, on anybody else," she says.

Anushka was speaking at the India Today conclave, last evening.

The "Sultan" star says it would be an ideal world if people followed this instead of taking law in their hands when they don't agree with something.

"If we can live in that sort

of a world, may be it'll be more peaceful. We see this a lot nowadays when somebody takes law in their own hands and destroys sets. There is no need for violence. Taking law and order in your hand is not right," she says.

"If you're secure enough, your beliefs won't shake. If I believe in something, my belief won't shake because I have the security," she adds.

The actress believes creative people can contribute towards the society through their work.

"Any information that is around us, be it books, movies,

TV, it does something to you. That's one way we contribute. We make people see things that they probably don't know of and show them people who are like them or can inspire them.

—PTI

Bollywood actress  
Anushka Sharma.  
PHOTO: PTI



## Don't think I would have done Munnabhai better than Sanjay: SRK



Superstar Shah Rukh Khan. PHOTO: PTI

MUMBAI — Superstar Shah Rukh Khan, who was initially approached to play the titular role in "Munnabhai MBBS", says he couldn't have done it better than Sanjay Dutt.

Producer Vidhu Vinod Chopra had offered it to Shah Rukh but he rejected it apparently due to health issues and the project eventually went to Dutt.

The role of a lovable goon in the Rajkumar Hirani-directed movie turned out to be a turning point in Dutt's movie career.

When asked if he regrets not doing the film, Shah Rukh said, "I think every film is written in an actor's destiny. I don't think I would have done it as well as Sanjay Dutt has. I think he was fantastic in the film."

He was speaking to reporters on the sidelines of the launch of Bone Marrow Transplant and Birthing Centre, named after his

mother, at a super specialty hospital here last evening.

"In Indian cinema doctors are treated like gods. they are the last hope and this part is shown in the films. Today young filmmakers do a lot of research in a way to pass on some message or information about anything related to it (health and disease)," SRK said on role of cinema in creating awareness about diseases. The 52-year-old actor, who in his over two-decade-long career has suffered several injuries, said one should go for regular health check-ups for the sake of one's family.

"I had a knee injury during a dance sequence. I am not a surgery junkie, I have had nine or ten surgeries... I still have to take my stitches off. We all should get rid of ailments and go for regular check ups. We don't do it but we should for our family and kids." —PTI

## Vast Beatles collection goes on auction in Paris

PARIS — A vast collection of rare Beatles vinyl records, photos and other paraphernalia will go on auction in Paris on Saturday.

Beatles aficionado Jacques Volcouve began his collection in 1967 with the album "A Hard Day's Night". Decades later, it has grown to include nearly 15,000 records and more besides.

"Starting from 1967, I gave myself an absolutely impossible mission: own everything concerning the Beatles," Volcouve told Reuters TV, as he was sorting through his

collection December.

The 60-year-old has decided to auction off his collection to fund his retirement.

Among the 332 lots up for auction on Saturday is the disc "Tony Sheridan and the Beatles 7: My Bonnie," signed by Paul McCartney and George Harrison, with an estimated price of 6,000-10,000 euro (\$6,450-10,740).

A lot of 11 alternate cover photos for the Grammy-winning Sergeant Pepper Lonely Hearts Club album is expected to go for 10,000 to 15,000 euros.

Volcouve has written books and given radio commentaries about the Liverpool foursome. Letters he received from Harrison and Ringo Starr in 1976, thanking him for articles he had written, could fetch up to 3,000 euros each.

A set of dolls of the Fab Four with their instruments is expected to sell for 200-400 euros.

Among other items up for sale are an "authentic Beatle wig", a Yoko Ono/John Lennon wedding album box and posters.—Reuters



French Beatles specialist and collector Jacques Volcouve, one of the world's greatest living experts of the band, poses with the 'Yesterday And today' and 'From Me To You' covers at Drouot auction house in Paris on 16 March, 2017, a part of the 15,000 items going on sale on 18 March. PHOTO: REUTERS

## Thimble, wheelbarrow, boot kicked out of Monopoly board game

SEATTLE — If you have ever wanted to rampage through a game of Monopoly like a dinosaur, you're in luck. The popular US board game is changing out three of its playing tokens, swapping in a penguin, T-Rex and rubber ducky in for the thimble, wheelbarrow and boot, Pawtucket, Rhode Island-based toymaker Hasbro Inc HAS N said on Friday.

The move is part of a

broader campaign to update the board game based in part on votes by consumers during a promotional period earlier this year.

The updated version of the game will be released in August, according to the company. Four classic pieces survived the voting: the Scottie dog, car, top hat and battleship, some of which date as far back as the Great Depression. Rounding out the new lineup will be a cat

token, added to the game in 2013 as a replacement for the flatiron. Players worried that the game's rules may also have changed can relax. They haven't. The traditional aim of dominating cardboard real estate, and ruining your competition, remains the same. Anyone considering Tyrannosaurus-inspired mayhem should think twice, however. Even a dinosaur can still go directly to jail.—Reuters



The eight current Monopoly tokens are surrounded by tokens being voted on for inclusion to the board game. PHOTO: REUTERS

## Nobel laureate poet Derek Walcott dies in St Lucia

CASTRIES — Poet Derek Walcott, who won the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1992 and helped thrust Caribbean writing into the global spotlight, died peacefully at his home in St Lucia on Friday. He was 87.

Jeff Seroy, a spokesman for publisher Farrar, Strauss and Giroux, said Walcott died shortly after 5 am on Friday. The cause of death was not immediately known, but Seroy said Walcott had been ill for some time and had recently returned home from a hospital stay.

His longtime companion, Sigrid Nama, was with him at the time of his death, Seroy said.

"My deepest sympathies go out to Derek's family (and) his children," St Lucia's Prime Minister Allen Chastanet said, calling the poet, painter and playwright "a Caribbean patriot." He said the country's flag would be flown at half mast in Walcott's honor until Tuesday.

Walcott, who was born on the volcanic island in 1930, came to the attention of the public in 1962 with a

collection of poems called, "In a Green Night," which celebrated the Caribbean.

In "Omeros" (1990), an epic poem considered his most ambitious and accomplished work, he invoked Caribbean voices through Greek myth, drawing on Homer's "Iliad" and "Odyssey".

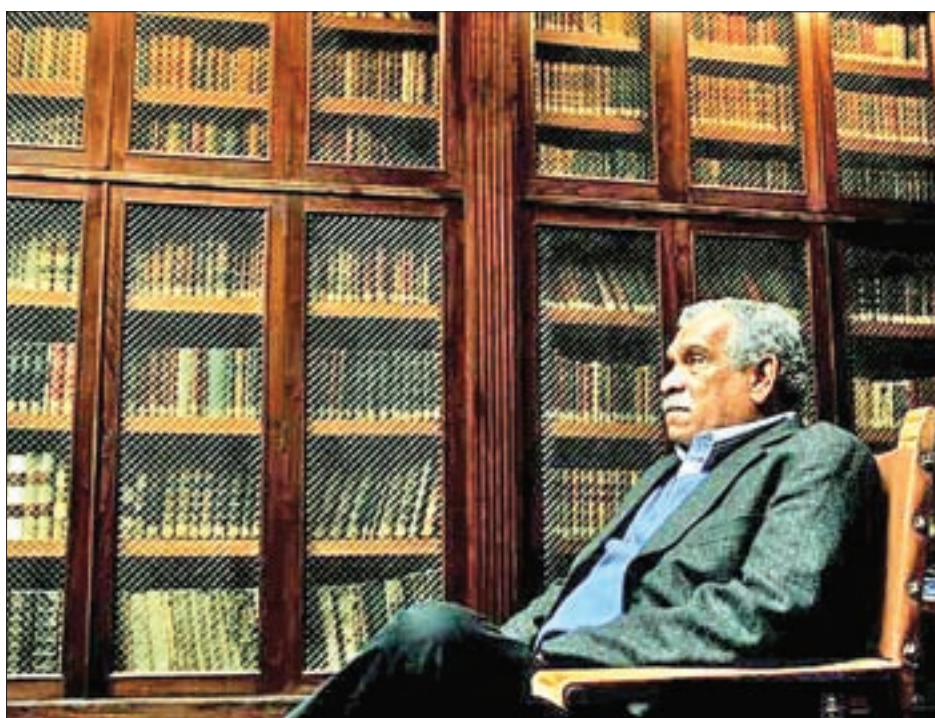
Two years later, he was awarded the Nobel

Prize, and in its citation, the Swedish Academy said: "He has both African and European blood in his veins. In him, West Indian culture has found its great poet."

Britain's former poet laureate Andrew Motion described Walcott as a member of the great Nobel-winning poetic generation.

"He did as much or more than anyone to win the global respect for Caribbean writing that it deserves and now enjoys," Motion said in an emailed statement.

Walcott's children, Elizabeth Walcott-Hackshaw and Anna Walcott-Hardy, said his funeral would be held on the island.—Reuters



Literature Nobel laureate Derek Walcott sits inside the library of Oviedo's University in March 2006. PHOTO: REUTERS

## Spring in the air, China's pigeon racers give birds their meds

BEIJING — Guarding against avian flu, which has forced a mass cull of birds in China, pigeon fancier Wang Jincang paid out nearly \$400 to get his 200 racing pigeons vaccinated and fortified for the onset of the spring racing season.

"I normally choose imported medicines, which are several times more expensive than some local brands," Wang told Reuters as he lined up to enter birds for contests that begin this month.

The cost of vaccination is small change compared with how much pigeon enthusiasts can pay to buy prized breeds.

An egg can cost a few hundred dollars, while the price for a full-grown bird with a coveted bloodline can run into hundreds of thousands of dollars.

In 2013, a Chinese businessman paid 310,000 euros (nearly \$334,000) for a Belgian-bred racing pigeon, whereas local birds can be bought for less than \$100. Wang doesn't want to say how much he has invested in his birds, though he spends almost \$1,500 a month looking after their health, and describes his pastime as wagering time

and money.

"Pigeon racing is essentially gambling. We are betting our time and fortune on the birds, similar to horse-betting," Wang said.

Any form of gambling is banned in China, but pigeon races, which are flown over hundreds of kilometres, fall under the grey category of social sports.

China hosts more than 100,000 pigeon races annually, some of them organised by corporate-backed professional pigeon clubs like Huashunde, supported by Beijing Huashunde Power Engineering Ltd, and Hongjin Pigeon Club, backed by PetroChina Huabei Oil Field Co.

Prize money has been rising. A club in Beijing is set to award 70 million yuan (over \$10 million) in total prize money at its autumn championship.

Ge, a 39-year-old pigeon owner in Fujian, has 80 pigeons. So far, they have helped him win 150,000 yuan (nearly \$22,000).

"We aim for good scores and big rewards at contests," said Ge. "Otherwise, why raise pigeons?" —Reuters



Pigeons wearing leg rings are seen in a cage, in Beijing, China, on 19 February 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS



**Myanmar International**  
Programme Schedule

10:44	Am	Lacquerware Technology College
(11:00 Am ~ 03:00 Pm) - Saturday Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)		
(03:00 Pm ~ 07:00 Pm) - Today Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)		
<u>Prime Time</u>		
07:03	Pm	News
07:26	Pm	Travelogue: "Anyar Myay" or Upcountry (Part - I)
07:50	Pm	Today Myanmar: CBT in Myaing Township
08:03	Pm	News
08:26	Pm	Literature: Sayar Zaw Gyi (Episode-3) National Literary Icon in His Old Age
08:54	Pm	Myanmar Masterclass: Cubism
(09:00 Pm ~ 11:00 Pm) - Today Repeat (09:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)		
(11:00 Pm ~ 03:00 Am) - Saturday Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)		
(03:00 Am ~ 07:00 Am) - Today Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)		
(For Detailed Schedule - <a href="http://www.myanmaritv.com/schedule">www.myanmaritv.com/schedule</a> )		

**(19-3-2017 07:00am ~ 20-3-2017 07:00am) MST**

07:03	Am	News
07:26	Am	Yoga & Health
07:45	Am	Elephant Catching and Scaring Trip Mile Stone 26
08:03	Am	News
08:25	Am	Yangon Spring Festival
08:55	Am	Creations of a Designer: Fashion
09:03	Am	News
09:26	Am	Caves of Myanmar
09:52	Am	Coin Collectors
10:03	Am	News
10:26	Am	Memorable Yaw Region

# Manchester City take the lead in the sponsorship arms race

LONDON — Manchester City have stolen a march on their rivals by becoming the first Premier League club to sign a “sleeve sponsorship” deal after a relaxing of rules surrounding logos.

From next season the right sleeve of City’s matchday shirt — a prime piece of advertising real estate — will carry the name of Nexen Tire, a South Korean firm that is already one of the club’s commercial partners.

The deal will mean one of the Premier League’s own logos will be removed, although it will remain on the left sleeve with another on the back of the shirt.

City, owned by Sheikh Mansour who is a member of Abu Dhabi’s ruling family, never disclose the value of sponsorship deals although the tie-up with main shirt and stadium sponsor Etihad, agreed in 2011, is thought to be worth 400 million pounds (\$495 million) over 10 years.

The Premier League’s decision to free up advertising space on club shirts means England’s top-tier clubs can look forward to even greater riches on top of their share of the eye-watering 5.1 billion pounds domestic TV deal that kicked in this season.

That deal guarantees top



Manchester City manager Pep Guardiola, Jill Scott, Nexen Tire CEO Travis Kang and chief executive Ferran Soriano during the announcement of a partnership with Nexen Tire at the City Football Academy on 17 March, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

flight clubs around 80 million pounds per season, not including overseas TV rights.

City chief executive Ferran Soriano said the deal was part of the club’s forward-thinking approach.

“At Manchester City, we are always striving to take an origi-

nal approach to our commercial partnerships, creating great relationships and great content for our fans,” he said in a statement.

The Premier League ended a title-sponsor deal with Barclays last year — freeing up a 100mm square patch of cloth that club commercial directors will be

keen to sell to the highest bidder.

It could pave the way for a flurry of new sponsors clamouring to have their logos on sleeves next season — although main shirt sponsors who fork out millions of pounds each season may be less keen to share the spotlight.—Reuters

## Sponsors, officials to get 24,500 Champions League final tickets

ZURICH — Sponsors, officials and corporate hospitality programmes have been allocated 24,500 of the 66,000 tickets for this year’s Champions League final in Cardiff, UEFA said on Friday.

Meanwhile, prices for the match at the National Stadium on June 3 will range from 60 pounds for the cheapest seats to 390 pounds (\$482.27) for the most expensive, European soccer’s governing body said.

UEFA said that 41,500 tickets would be available for fans and the general public. The two finalists will receive 18,000 each to distribute to their fans and a further 5,500 will be offered for sale to fans worldwide through UEFA’s website.

“The remaining (24,500) tickets are allocated to the local organising committee, UEFA and national associations, commercial partners and broadcasters, and to serve the corporate hospitality programme,” UEFA said. Last year, 71,500 tickets were sold for the final in Milan with 46,000 offered to the general public.

Ticket distribution for major soccer matches is often a sore point with fans who complain that not enough are made available for the public.—Reuters

## Sock knocks out Nishikori to meet Federer in semis

INDIAN WELLS — Jack Sock celebrated a pair of firsts on Friday by powering past fourth seed Kei Nishikori 6-3, 2-6, 6-2 to book a date with Roger Federer in the semi-finals of the BNP Paribas Open in Indian Wells, California.

Relying on his big serve

and blistering forehand, the 17th-seeded American finally reached a Masters 1000 semi-final in his 28<sup>th</sup> appearance and notched his first ever victory against a top-five opponent in eight attempts.

“I’ve given everybody their money’s worth, a three-setter every match so far,” t h e

24-year-old Sock said in an on-court interview. “I feel like I’m playing some great tennis right now.” Sock’s stock has been soaring this year, claiming tournament titles last month at the Delray Beach Open in Florida and at the Auckland Classic in January. Eighteen-times grand slam winner Federer advanced to the semi-finals without lifting a racket as suspected food poisoning forced Australian Nick Kyrgios to withdraw from their much anticipated quarter-final.

Kyrgios, who beat Novak Djokovic for the second tournament in a row to reach the last eight, took to twitter about an hour before the scheduled start of the match against the Australian Open champion to announce his withdrawal.

“I’m so sorry but I can’t play today,” he said. “After a restless night of being sick I have nothing left and to play a great champion like Roger, I need to be at my best to have a chance.

“I don’t take this decision lightly, these are the matches we train for but I’m in no fit state to take the court.”

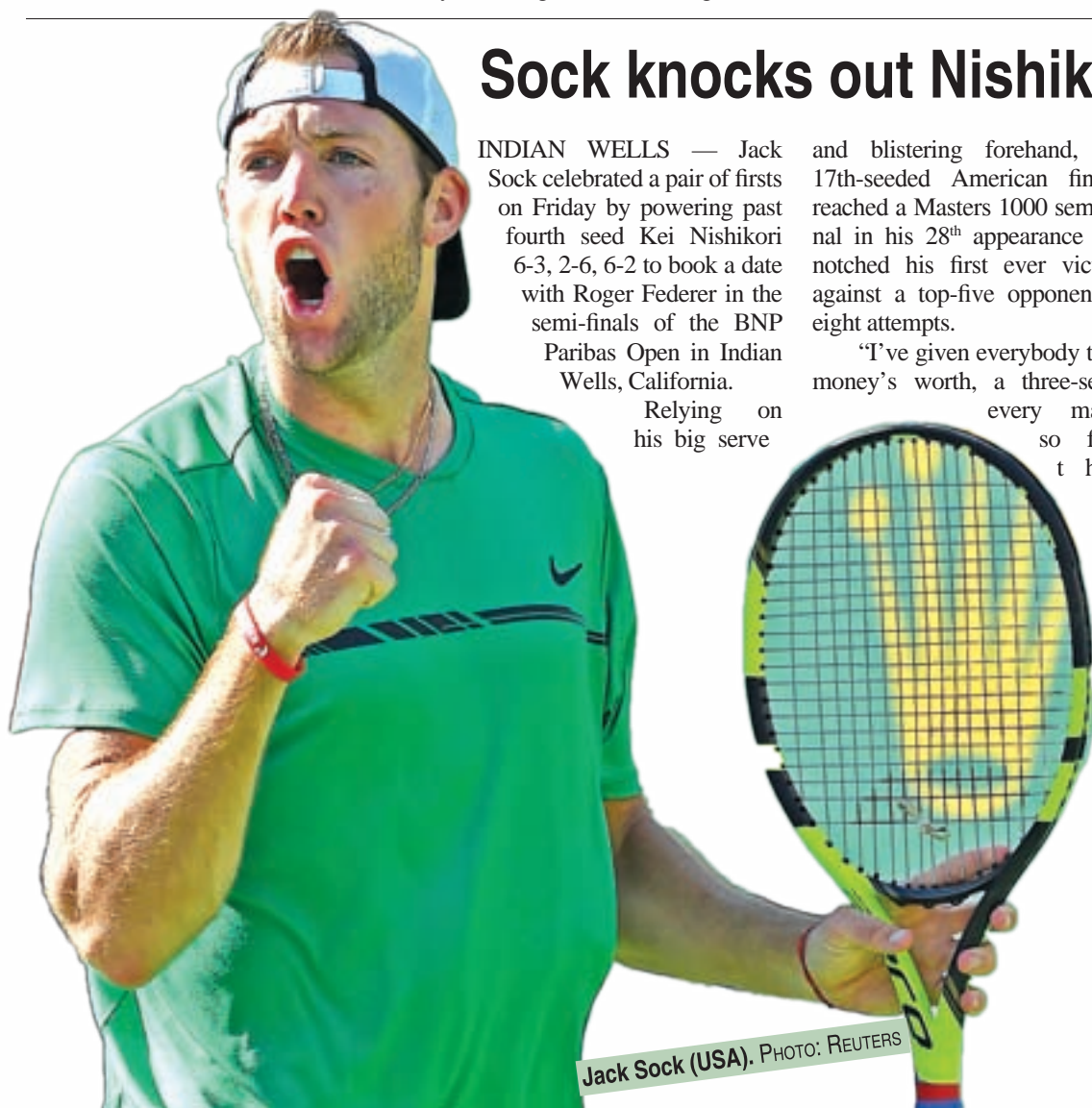
Sock had no such problems

and he hit the mark right at the start of deciding third set by breaking Nishikori in the opening game as the world number five struggled to find the range on his usually pinpoint groundstrokes. The American earned the important second break against a battling Nishikori by converting his fifth break point of a marathon fifth game before going on to serve out victory in one hour 48 minutes.

“I think he served really well,” said Nishikori. “I was having a really tough time with my return, missing a lot, and giving him a lot of short balls. And he was attacking really well, first and third sets.

“I didn’t play my best tennis today, but I think he played good tennis also.” Sock has lost his two previous matches against Federer, including a 6-3, 6-2 decision at Indian Wells in 2015.

“The last time I played him here I didn’t really go out on court thinking I had much of a chance,” said Sock. “He’s playing some good tennis, I’m playing some good tennis, so I’m really looking forward to a battle.” —Reuters



Jack Sock (USA). PHOTO: REUTERS