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THE GOVERNMENT MARKS ONE YEAR IN OFFICE



Eighty-eight Myanmar fishermen return home on 29th March from Port Blair of India by charter flight. PHOTO: ZAW MIN LATT /MNA

Eighty-eight Myanmar fishermen brought home from India safely

EIGHTY-eight Myanmar fishermen who had been detained at the Open Distress Camps in India for violating the law of India were repatriated yesterday.

The fishermen arrived at Myanmar International Airport yesterday evening and were welcomed and provided with aid including cash by the government

officials from departments concerned and then sent them home.

A group led by U Myint Soe, the director of the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and

Resettlement, had departed from Yangon International Airport to Port Blair of India at about 1pm yesterday.

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Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's speech on one-year term to be broadcast

A speech by State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi commemorating the one-year term of the civilian government will be aired on Myanma Radio and Television (MRTV) and Myanma Radio Programme on 30 March 2017 after the broadcast of local news at 8pm.—Myanmar News Agency

Myanmar plans to boost electricity access with coal

Thin Lei Win

Myanmar has abundant renewable energy resources but less than a third of its population is accessible to the electricity grid.

Here are some facts and figures about the Southeast Asian nation's energy needs and proposed solutions: SEE PAGE 2 >>



သဒ္ဓါထက်သန် မြန်မာအားမန် ကမ္ဘောဇဘဏ်



Students studying under solar-powered lights at a home in Nyaung Kone, a remote farming village north of Yenangyoung Township, Magway Region on 26 February 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

Myanmar plans to boost electricity access with coal

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In 2014, around 70 percent of Myanmar's 51.4 million people did not have access to national grid power. In rural areas, the figure was 84 percent.

Myanmar's power distribution utilities added about 200,000 residential customers in 2013. At that rate, it would take nearly 40 years to get everyone connected.

Rural households spend more money on electricity, and use unsustainable and even dangerous energy sources such as diesel generators, kerosene, car and motorcycle batteries, and candles. One hour of diesel power in rural Myanmar costs roughly the same as 24 hours of power in the city of Yangon.

Myanmar's energy consumption is among the lowest in the world. One Burmese person, on average, consumes around 160 kilowatt hours (kWh) annually - 20 times less than the world average of 3,000 kWh per capita.

But this is changing, with

peak load demand growing at an average 14 percent per year in the past five years.

Around two-thirds of Myanmar's 4.6 gigawatt power capacity comes from hydroelectric dams. Natural gas accounts for 29 percent and coal-fired power 3 percent.

Due to heavy reliance on hydropower, the system cannot meet peak demand during the dry season, leading to frequent and prolonged blackouts.

Myanmar currently has three master plans to meet its future energy needs, formulated by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the World Bank.

The National Electrification Plan (NEP) aims to make 7.2 million new household connections, and achieve 100 percent access to electricity by 2030, mainly by extending the grid.

The NEP's first phase began with a \$400 million loan from the World Bank. The plan calls for in-

vestments of \$5.8 billion over the next 15 years. As yet, it is unclear where the rest of the funding will come from. The Myanmar Energy Master Plan projects an increase in coal's share of electricity output to almost 30 percent in 2030, up from less than 2 percent in 2015. Hydropower is projected to drop from 65 percent to 57 percent but remains the largest generator. Solar, by comparison, sees a modest rise from 0 to 5 percent.

Myanmar's coal is considered low quality with high moisture content. Coal is a major source of greenhouse gas emissions.

Myanmar's previous administration gave responsibility for off-grid rural electrification to a department under the agriculture ministry, instead of the powerful Ministry of Electricity and Energy. This stops other government agencies from working on renewable energy projects, and limits private-sector participation, critics say.—Reuters

Village leader and wife in Maungtaw attacked

A household leader of Ywarthitkay Village, Maungtaw and his wife were attacked with knives in their home on Monday.

The household leader Nu-harmain and his wife were asleep in their house when four local residents led by HabiUlla shouted, "Our group members are being arrested because of you, let them go and come out," after which they barged through the front door and attacked with

knives, police said.

Nuharmain received eight knife wounds while defending himself and his wife suffered a direct pierce to the chest and other wounds to her legs. The four assailants fled when Nuharmain shouted out for help.

Police officers sent the two victims to Maungtaw General Hospital and are in pursuit of the four assailants.—Myanmar News Agency

Eighty-eight Myanmar fishermen brought home from India safely

>> FROM PAGE 1

The fishermen who had been clearly identified as Myanmar citizens were handed over by officials of India, the first secretary of the Embassy of Myanmar in New Delhi, U Zaw Naing Win, heads of embassy in the Consulate General of Myanmar in Kolkata, U Tin Tun Aung and U Kyaw Nay Soe, to Myanmar authorities led by Director U Myint Soe.

It is known that seven of the fishermen were from Tanithayi

Region, 66 from Ayeyawady Region, two from Yangon Region and 13 from Rakhine and Mon States. All arrived home safely, officials said. According to the record of the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, Myanmar fishermen were brought back to Myanmar by airlines or ships starting from 1988. But, they were brought back to Myanmar by charter flights in 2011, 2013 and 2015 respectively.—Myanmar News Agency

Amphetamine tablets seized in Maungtaw

WHILE on patrol in Maungtaw Township on Monday evening, regional security forces seized a large number of amphetamine tablets, it is learnt.

At about 11pm, security forces from the Pantawpyin police outpost, together with responsible persons from the village, saw two unknown persons running away, leaving a basket nearby the Padin creek between Pantawpyin Village/west and Khaungtaga village.



Opon searching the basket, 2,400 tablets of amphetamines with the brand names of WY & R stamped on them were seized. The two unknown persons carrying the illegal narcotics are still at large and are being sought.—Myanmar News Agency

Journalists interview authorities, family members of suspects in Buthidaung

JOURNALISTS from foreign and local media organisations left Sit-tway for Buthidaung by watercraft yesterday.

The media group went to Taung Bazar village in Buthidaung Township, where they were briefed by Police Inspector Tun Naing from Taung bazaar police station and Tinnmay village tract administrator about the discovery of illegal training being conducted for violent attacks in Tinnmay vil-



Police Inspector Tun Naing answers questions by media. PHOTO: MNA

lage. The violent attack plot was foiled by security forces. The media representatives were allowed to interview local authorities independently. The group then met with the village in-charge in Tinnmay village and asked about the

arrest of 17 suspects and security measures of the village. They also interrogated two family members of the arrested persons who were said to be involved in the plot for violent attacks.—Myanmar News Agency

Export value increases by US\$ 331.804 million

THE export value as of 17 March in this fiscal year was up by US\$331.804 million when compared to the same period of last year, according to the ministry of commerce statistics.

Export value amounted to US\$10.88 billion in this fiscal year, which is up from US\$10.54 billion from last year.

Myanmar exports agricultural products, livestock, fishery products, minerals, forest products, manufacturing and other products. Out of seven export sectors, minerals and manufactured goods export decreased

against the export value of last fiscal year whereas the other products could be more exported.

The export values in this fiscal year were US\$2.72 billion in agricultural products, US\$9.795 million in livestock products, US\$540.979 million in fishery products, US\$882.563 million in minerals, US\$223.649 million in forest products, US\$5031.224 million in manufactured goods and US\$1.46 billion in other products, according to the Ministry of Commerce statistics.—Min Min



Ma Aye Chan Aung

Woman with impaired eyesight honoured by State Counsellor

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, State Counsellor has been selecting on a monthly basis one person who deserves to be congratulated from among citizens, philanthropists and social organizations, and releasing their names to say words of thanks to the public. Ma Aye Chan Aung aged 27 was selected as the person who is worth congratulating for the month of February 2017. Ma Aye Chan Aung was born with congenital impairment of right eyesight.

At the age of 10 while studying in her primary education

class, she lost eyesight of her left eye as well.

Though she lost her eyesight totally, she tried her best without abandoning herself to despair. Due to her arduous efforts, the Office of the State Counsellor has made a news release saying that she has been selected as the person who is worth congratulating for the month of February. —*Myanmar News Agency*

(Full text of the press release on honouring Ma Aye Chan Aung is covered on Page-7.)

Security to be tightened in Thingyan

YANGON Region’s Minister for Security and Border Affairs Colonel Tin Aung Tun said about 8,000 personnel will be deployed during the Thingyan Festival so that citizens can safely enjoy the festivities.

“Security efforts doesn’t mean catching civilians and throwing them in jail. We’re trying to prevent occurrence of major problems. Like last year, we will continue to sober up heavily drunken people and send them back home. However if the situation were to escalate we will have to proceed according to the law”, Colonel Tin Aung Tun said.

On Wednesday, a meeting was held at Yangon Region’s Police Force Office to discuss plans and procedures for preventing crimes and security measures during the Thingyan Festival.

It is reported that 5,000 Yangon Region police officers, 1,000 traffic police, 1,000 fire-fighters, and other officers from various departments such as the Red Cross contribute to the total of 8,000 officers who will be on duty during this year’s Thingyan.

“No closed rooms or liquor bars will be allowed on the pan-

dels. We will also raise enforcement on handheld weapons like knives and sticks,” said head of Yangon Region Police Brig-Gen Win Naing.

Yangon Region Police Force Command officers will be on standby in various areas as well as in patrol vehicles. Security cameras will be set up in crowded areas.

Yangon Region Police Force Head Office’s First Rank Police Lt-Col Myint Htwe says, “We will be deploying 60 per cent of our forces this year in Thingyan, but if the situation were to become dangerous we will collaborate with our reserve forces as well as with the Criminal Investigation Department and the Special Intelligence Department.”

There are reported to be 22 large pandels, 10 medium sized pandels, 27 small pandels, a total of 59 pandels will take part in this year’s Thingyan.

“The main priority is setting up security cameras for safety on the water stages.

We will have to make inspections on whether they were installed on time or not. We will learn from the shortcomings of the past and turn it into our strength,” said Police Lt-Col

Myint Htwe.

There will also be security measures in place in popular resting places like Kandawgyi, Inya Lake, Thardu Lake, Hlawga Natural reserve, as well as famous pagodas.

Regional courts in Yangon will be opened daily during Thingyan too, enabling swift action of cases and complaints.

The Myanmar Police Force has also issued lists of rules and facts for drivers and civilians to adhere to for possible crime prevention.

Field inspections of more than 7,000 pharmacies for psychotropic substances and aphrodisiacs have been carried out with public lectures on drugs also delivered. The Yangon Region Police Force carried out operation “Soon Ye” starting from March 1 until April 30, covering the periods of entrance exams, by-elections, and Thingyan, by conducting vehicle inspections. This had yielded apprehension of 214 absconder and pre-emptive arrests of 4,952 cases.

During last year’s Thingyan Festival that was held from 12 April to 16 April, the Yangon Region there were 80 cases that included one death and 24 injuries. — *Myanmar News Agency*



Police officers dutifully stand watch as civilians celebrate Thingyan Festival. PHOTO: MNA



State Counsellor receives Ms. Victoria Kwakwa, Vice President of East Asia and Pacific Region of WB, in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi receives World Bank delegation

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, State Counsellor and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar received a delegation led by Ms. Victoria Kwakwa, Vice President for the East Asia and Pacific Region of the World Bank (WB) Group at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

During the meeting, they ex-

changed views on the promoting of cooperation between Myanmar and the World Bank in various important sectors such as infrastructure development which plays vital role in developing rural areas, providing better services in electrification, constructing roads and bridges, developing innovative agriculture and capacity building.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Myanmar Gazette	
Confirmation of heads of service organizations	
The President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has confirmed the following persons as heads of service organizations shown against each on the expiry of one-year probationary period.	
Name	Appointment
(1) U Mya Win	Rector University for Development of National Races (Sagaing) Ministry of Border Affairs
(2) U Saw John Shwe Ba	Managing Director Myanma Timber Enterprise Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation
(3) U Yan Naing Tun	Director-General Department of Trade Ministry of Commerce
(4) U Kyaw Htin	Director-General Customs Department Ministry of Planning and Finance

LOCAL Business

17 tonnes of coffee exported to Thailand through Tachilek border camp within a week

SEVENTEEN tonnes of coffee seeds worth US\$22,960 were exported from 11th to 17th March through Tachilek border trade camp, according to the Commerce Ministry.

The volume was up by over 10 tonnes, as only six tonnes of coffee seeds were shipped out last week. Myanmar's coffee has already penetrated the markets of Japan, China (Taipei), Europe, Switzerland and Asia, according to the Myanmar Coffee Association.

About 80 tonnes of Myanmar's coffee is planned to be exported to the US and China (Taipei) this year, according to the Myanmar Coffee Association.

In 2016, about 40 tonnes of Arabica produced from Ywangan were exported to these markets. The export volume is being boosted this year, said U Win Aung Kyaw, the vice chairman of Myanmar Coffee Association (MCA).

To meet the expected target, coffee growers have been asked to cooperate with the MCA in order to produce high-quality, exportable coffee.

"We are encouraging them to systematically cultivate and harvest in the proper production process," U Aung Kyaw said.

Members of the Specialty



Farmers are sorting coffee. PHOTO: DAILY COFFEE NEWS

Coffee Association of America previously visited coffee plantations in Shan State to evaluate the coffee quality and conduct training in coffee growing in order to penetrate the international market.

With the recommendations from the MCA, Ywangan's coffee was introduced to the Amer-

ican market in 2016. The American market offers a higher price for coffee, depending on the quality of the coffee from other foreign markets. Only coffee of fair quality is exported to China (Taipei), U Aung Kyaw said.

High-quality coffee exported to America fetched about US\$7,000 per tonne, whereas the

export price of coffee to China (Taipei) is about US\$3,800 per tonne.

About 7,000 tonnes of coffee are produced in Myanmar per year, but only about 50 per cent of coffee production goes to foreign countries, according to the Myanmar Coffee Association.—*Ko Htet*

Price of Mon State cashew nuts high from foreign demand

THE price of cashew nuts produced from Mon State is on the rise due to steady demand from foreign countries starting from the end of last year, appreciating its high quality, according to a cashew nut purchase depot.

The cashew nuts produced from India, Viet Nam and Thailand are lower in quality and taste when compared to Myanmar's cashew nuts, officials said. As a result, Myanmar's cashew nuts are in high demand and the price has risen.

Cashew nuts fetched Ks2,700 per viss last year, whereas the prevailing market price of those nuts is Ks3,700. The price is likely to remain on an upward trend since countries from both Asia and Europe are purchasing them.—200

Thai Wah gearing up for ASEAN region

THAI Wah Public Company (TWPC), a regional leader in tapioca starch and vermicelli production in Thailand, is reportedly preparing to invest about 2 billion baht (Ks79.2bn) in countries in the ASEAN region from 2017 to 2019.

The company is also seeking investment opportunities in Laos and Myanmar, expecting to make investments by 2018, said Mr. Ho Ren Hua from TWPC.

The company already founded two new subsidiaries in Cambodia and Viet Nam earlier this year and is scheduled to start operation in the second half of this year, according to the news of Commerce Ministry. TWPC Investment Cambodia Co will run manufacturing and local distribution for tapioca starch with paid-up capital of 35 million baht, while Thai Wah Vietnam Co will establish a third vermicelli manufacturing plant with capital of 35 million baht to handle local distribution of vermicelli products in Viet Nam.

Thai Wah reported that its net profit rose by 53.8 per cent to 669 million baht when compared to that of last year, with a total revenue of 6.2 billion baht in 2016. TWPC is committed to reach revenue of 11 billion Baht by 2020.—*Ko Khant*

Mango merchants to meet and discuss long-term market

MYANMAR mango growers will reportedly meet and discuss a bid to create a long-term market and attain a good export price.

Officials from Association of Technology Development and Market Promotion of Myanmar Mango, the mango growers and the local agricultural experts will discuss the ongoing process to develop the market.

Two mango varieties — Sein Ta Lone (Solitaire Diamond) and Mya Kyauk (Emerald) are mainly exported to Japan, South Korea, Russia and Ukraine at a good price for growers.

The discussion will take place in Mandalay on 2nd April with an aim to boost the mango production and quality and penetrate more international markets.—200

Treasury bonds to be sold on YSX

TREASURY Bonds are being planned to sell this year on Yawgon Stock Exchange (YSX), said U Thet Tun Oo, the executive senior manager of YSX.

Currently, experts from the Central Bank of Myanmar and other monetary experts are in discussions about this plan. They plan to create a corporate bond market later on.

"We are making efforts to create the secondary market for government bonds", said U Thet Tun Oo. "The discussions

are still ongoing. Government treasury bonds will soon emerge at the stock exchange as a secondary market". All Myanmar citizens are free to purchase treasury bonds without limit. The bonds can be resold at the market at prevailing prices.

The Central Bank of Myanmar started to sell treasury bonds in December 1993, issuing Ks10,000, Ks100,000, Ks1 million and Ks10 million bonds in three-year and five-year maturities. Starting from 1st January

2010, two-year Government Treasury Bonds with the same denomination were extensively issued to public.

The original market has a direct link between the government and the buyers, unlike the secondary market. Companies might sell the treasury bonds as a secondary market later on. The rules and laws are still required to be drawn up for the secondary market, said U Yin Zaw Myo, the managing director of YSX.—200

Efforts being made to earn US\$1 billion from rice sector by 2020

ALL the stakeholders in the rice supply chain are exerting sustainable efforts in order to earn up to US\$1 billion from Myanmar's rice sector in 2020, said U Ye Min Aung, the secretary of the Myanmar Rice Federation.

"This year's rice export is estimated to fetch about US\$700 million. If we export a million tonnes

of low-quality rice, we could earn around US\$350 to 400 million", U Ye Min Aung said. "We can attain about US\$450 million for 1 million tonnes of quality rice export.

"China and Sri Lanka placed a large order this year. The rice export during this fiscal year 2016-2017 showed an increase of

25,000 tonnes when compared to that of last FY".

Efforts are being made to bolster rice production in order to boost the rice export volume and expand into new foreign markets. About 1.5 million tonnes of rice are expected to ship out to foreign countries this FY, it is learnt.—200

Performances in One-Year Period

One-year journey of Ministry of Planning and Finance

Khin Yadanar

ROBUST economy of a country is one of the vital driving forces for a country. Promoting business activities, availability of correct facts and data, monetary and financial stability, promoting trade volume and reducing trade deficit are ways for a country to achieve economic success.

In the time of the new government, Ministry of National Planning and Economic Development and Ministry of Finance were merged to form Ministry of Planning and Finance which plays a vital role in promoting Myanmar's economic sector.

Economic policies

After taking office, the new government disclosed economic policies that will benefit the nation and the citizen which emphasize creating job opportunities, harmonious development of agriculture, livestock breeding and industrial sectors, the right to conduct business freely, and equitable development among regions and states, etc.

While focusing on fulfilling the immediate need of people, the ministry is planning to implement long-term projects and to build strong financial policy.

In the economic sector, investors at home and abroad



Officials at the signing ceremony between Japan and Myanmar in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA

have the equal rights to compete with responsibility and accountability. With clear investment policy Myanmar invites foreign investments.

As Myanmar's investment law is encouraging responsible investments and paying special attention to natural environment, region and state governments can make their own decision to contribute to national development.

Even during the 100-day period, company registration fees for foreign and domestic

entrepreneurs were reduced about half and thus the number of registration reached 9363 in February 2017, up from 7933.

As the ministry realized that the assistance and loans provided by foreign countries in the past have not been effective, the new government manages to offer the development assistance to national level prioritized projects. Moreover, Development Assistance Coordinating Unit was formed to be able to coordinate closely with foreign and domestic donors.

Shut down and transfer

Business and industries under the Ministry of Industry, Ministry of Electricity and Energy and Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment Conservation have been operating at constant loss and they faced budget deficit every year. Therefore, thorough discussions were made at the ministry to make decisions on shutting down or transferring of the factories which should be shut or transferred. According to Union Minister U Kyaw Win, Mying-



Union Minister U Kyaw Win.

yan steel factory, Pinpet factory, Thabaung factory and Thargaya factories are such kind of factories.

The new government reduced the number of ministries from 36 to 22 and remedial actions have been taken for industries which are operating at a loss. If a factory is closed it is needed to shuffle the staff and workers to other places suitable to them. So, the ministry has made systematic arrangements for the staffs not to get laid-off. Moreover, to prevent Central Bank from bailing out the government budget deficit, government bonds and treasury stocks were sold out to private banks, branches of foreign banks and insurance companies.

Statistical reliability

The invalid statistics in the past led the country downward into chaos. To save the day for the nation, Committee for Collection of Precise and Quality Statistics led by vice-president was formed and the committee meets quarterly and Statistical Law was submitted to Hluttaw.

SEE PAGE 6 >>

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Laborers working at a small textile workshop. PHOTO: MNA



Large Taxpayers' Office in Upper Pansodan. PHOTO: MNA

PERFORMANCES IN ONE-YEAR PERIOD

>> FROM PAGE 5

Myanmar Economic Bank also disbursed agriculture loans to farmers. Previously, the disbursement was just 100,000 kyat per acre but in the time of the new government it increased up to 150,000 kyat per acre. To be able to run the business of Myanmar Agriculture Development Bank, it is planned to put it under the Ministry of Planning and Finance. The help of the private banks are also sought to increase the loans.

Increase in agriculture loans

In case the money for agriculture loan was not enough in Myanmar Economic Bank, the ministry made a plan to borrow the needed amount of 500 billion kyat from the Central Bank, and the matter was submitted to Hluttaw. But, the balance sheet of MEC showed that it was enough no need to borrow from the CB, said Union Minister U Kyaw Win.

The government has encouraged development of microfinance to help promote socioeconomic life of rural people whose population constitutes 70 % of the country and as a result, there emerged 168 microfinance groups.

Myanmar Insurance was also reformed. The significant activi-

ties it took were presenting 41 million kyat as compensation for 41 victims of Aung Soe Moe Kyaw vessels capsized in Chindwin River and 37,003 million kyat for 18 persons killed and six injured in bus accidents. As regards fire insurance, the department presented 780 million kyat for the loss and damage caused by fire in Magway and Mandalay regions.

New insurances

There are nine insurances in Myanmar and to cover the loss in case of disaster, another eleven new insurances will be introduced to be run by private companies. To be able to compete in international markets, foreign insurance companies will be allowed to run their businesses in the country. According to Myanmar Insurance, health insurance will be sold out to the public in March.

As Myanmar's trade deficit has widened for a long time measures have been taken for Export Proceed and expanding of new items of export goods. Discussions are now in progress between the ministry and the Ministry of Commerce and Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry to promote export and to develop private sector.

To curb illegal trading permanent check points have been opened on Muse-Mandalay trade route.

Custom procedures

Customs Department from states and regions and Yangon area confiscated illegal goods worth over 10,000 million kyat. With the assistance of Japanese government, Myanmar Automated Custom Clearance System was introduced to conduct export and import procedures online. Thanks to the system these procedures can be conducted in a short period of time. It will be extended to border areas after 2018.

To help assist the work of the Large Taxpayer Office (LTO), Medium Taxpayer Offices were opened. A system of paying tax by taxpayer himself is introduced, according to the Internal Revenue Department. For customer convenience reforms were made in taxation system such as changing rates for stamp duty.

The Ministry of Planning and Finance, in accord with the economic and investment policies, is trying its utmost to create dynamic economic environment in which investments at home and abroad are attracted for national development.



Insurance awarding ceremony by Ministry of Planning and Finance. PHOTO: MNA



Certificate award ceremony for trainees of the Department of Planning in Kayin State. PHOTO: MNA



Staff at work in a department at the Ministry of Planning and Finance. PHOTO: MNA



Two ladies concentrating on traditional weaving. PHOTO: MNA



Cargoes and cranes are seen a busy port. PHOTO: MNA

The government has encouraged development of microfinance to help promote socioeconomic life of rural people whose population constitutes 70 % of the country and as a result, there emerged 168 microfinance groups.

(Following is the unofficial translation of the press release on selecting Ma Aye Chan Aung as the person who is worth congratulating for the month of February by the State Counsellor.)

**Office of the State Counsellor
Words of Thanks to the Public
1st Waxing of Tagu 1378 ME
(28 March, 2017)**

1. Education is nurturing intellect, skills, moral fiber and creative abilities needed for the survival of a person's life and for contribution towards the development of the society and environment in which one resides. The future State which all the national ethnic races and Union citizens are hoping for must be built with the education acquired by today's youths to make it modern and developed. It is of great importance for our youths to have an opportunity to make efforts without any discrimination. Not only modern university subjects but also vocational and professional skills are important spheres for the future society. At this time when the State is implementing reforms of the education system which is practical with great momentum, youths themselves are required to build themselves, or rather, their capacities with wholesome efforts.
2. Ma Aye Chan Aung aged 27 was born, with right eyesight innately deficient, to U Myint Aung, a Rakhine national and Dr Daw Than Nu, a Danu national in 1991 in Aung-

ban. At the age of 10 when she was receiving her primary education, she lost the eyesight of her left eye as well, thus losing her total eyesight. Yet, she never yielded to any difficulties, trying her best with the encouragement of her mother. Due to strenuous efforts, she passed her BEHS examination in 2006, standing first in the whole country, in the Arts combination, and she scored 481 marks in total with 3 distinctions in English, History and Economics. She proceeded to higher education, attending the Mandalay University of Foreign Languages majoring in English for her BA degree. Plus, she completed the computer training course opened under the aegis of the Shwe Min Thar Foundation.

- 3/ Afterward, Ma Aye Chan Aung contributed her voluntary labour at the Yamethin Voluntary School for those with Eyesight Deficiency in 2012, with her heart-felt intention to lift up their lives by broadening the horizons of their intellect. Moreover, she attended the course for upgrading

leadership for the disabled youths conducted by the leading team for Disabled People in Myanmar. With the intention helping disabled youths who became disabled due to various reasons to acquire equal rights in different spheres and to be treated as ordinary people, she decided to work towards a Master's Degree in Public Policy. Now, she is earning her living by running the English-Myanmar translation service in Aungban with her mother.

- 4/ Thus, this message of thanks has been released that Ma Aye Chan Aung has been selected as the person who is worth congratulating for the month of February this year. Just like Ma Aye Chan Aung, all Union citizens, philanthropists, social societies and the public are requested to try hard to the best of their ability, with unflagging zeal, relentless efforts, enthusiasm and firm resolution to become good sons who will serve the country and its people. I place on record this message of congratulations.

*Aung San Suu Kyi
State Counsellor*

Third-largest teak tree found in Kawlin township

THE township forestry department found Myanmar's third largest recorded teak tree in Moatwa reserve, Kawlin township, Sagaing region. The teak tree is 30 feet, 10 inches in circumference.

The township forestry department found the third-largest teak tree after they acted on information posted on Facebook. Myat Thei Htun, the account owner, shared the photo of the tree on his pages with hopes the authorities would maintain the large teak tree.

The largest teak tree ever found measured 26 feet, 4 inches in circumference and was found in Banmauk township. The second-largest teak tree is 25 feet, 4 inches in circumference and was found in Pyin Oo Lwin township. The teak tree which was found in Kawlin township is the third largest teak tree in Myanmar, according to forestry department.

The regional forestry department will maintain the teak tree.—MMAL

Waste water volume declines in 18-month

THE volume of waste water declined from 54 per cent to 14 per cent during the past 18 months of projects implemented in South Okkalapa and Insein townships, Yangon region by Manila Water Mitsubishi Consortium, according to the consortium.

The MMC, a joint effort between Manila Water and the Japanese giant Mitsubishi Corporation, recently completed its 18-month initial phase to overhaul the water distribution system within Yangon. The volume of wasted water

was redistributed to about 4,000 houses. As a result of the MMC projects, old water meter boxes have been replaced to greater benefit the Yangon City Development Committee (YCDC).

The volume of wasted water in Insein township was 17.32 per cent in August, down from 52 per cent in March, last year whereas the volume of wasted water in South Okkalapa was 12.19 per cent in November, down from 57 per cent in September, last year.—200

Over Ks 1818m of Yaba seized in Hpa-an

AN anti-narcotic squad stopped and searched a Land Cruiser driven by Sithu Myint Myat at the toll gate on Hpa-an – Hliaingbwe road in Hpa-an on 28 March. Police seized 6.06 lakh yaba pills worth Ks 1,818 million and a hand phone from the vehicle.

Similarly, another anti-narcotic squad from southern Mandalay searched room B-2 in Jazz

Palace KTV on 65th road between Theikpan street and Cherry street, Myothit 1st ward in Channmyathazi Township in Mandalay. Police detained Aye Tun, Zaw Zaw Win, Aung Khant and Kyaw Zin in possession of 1,925 yaba pills. Police have taken action against them under the Anti-narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.—Myanmar Police Force

Myanma Railways to run express trains in Mandalay-Myitkyina

MYANMA Railways will run express trains for the Mandalay-Myitkyina route in fiscal 2017-2018, according to the railway system, which operates under the ministry of Transport and Communications.

The express trains have greater advantages than normal trains. Normal trains have a rougher ride because the railroads are not smooth, whereas the newer express trains are much more comfortable for the passengers to ride on.

The express train coaches were imported from China. Myanma Railways had the old coaches replaced with the express ones on Yangon-Myitkyina line for the first time.

The number of passengers has increased after introduction of new express train coaches on the Yangon-Mandalay route.

Express train coaches will arrive in the 2017-2018 fiscal year and become operational soon afterwards.—200



A locomotive pulling into Yangon Central Railway Station. PHOTO: PHOE KHWAIR

4WD rough racing (Trail Challenge) to be held

Off road racing, 4 X 4 Myanmar will hold a rough racing (Trail Challenge) in Phaung Gyi village, Hlegu Township, Yangon Region on 2 April.

The competition requires all participants to register with 2WD (two-wheel drive) vehicles and an admission fee of Ks 30,000. There is no age restriction for the participants.

The admission fees will be used to provide security on the racetrack and in other necessary sectors. "We hold these events in the hope of local people interested in off road rough racing will participate. We plan to hold similar events in the future," said a member of 4 X 4 Myanmar.

The race is divided into three parts. The first race will be held from 10am to 12pm, the second race will be from 3pm to 5pm and the amateur's race will be from 1pm to 3pm.—200

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 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.

Let us emulate those from developed countries!

Khin Maung Oo

SOMETIMES a wish occurs in my mind. That is none other than to send my colleagues and fellow workers to work in Korea, Japan or America for earning money. We know that most of our friends, who are working there, are getting 7 or 8 or 10 times we are getting here in our country. Because of an itching desire to get such an enormous amount of money, it is not strange for us that we will surely nod our heads, if an opportunity is offered to us to work there. But, there are still many things we do not yet know. Generally, tidy amounts of money they get every month can overcome their homesickness and hard-

ships experienced in their jobs. They themselves and their families at home may be daydreaming occasionally. Getting an enormous amount of income compared to those earned in our own country and living in a foreign country may seem like a paradise. But, they have no chances to take holidays as they wish. Thus, it might happen that their holiday does not coincide with the holiday of their friends. What I mean is that they have their rights in accordance with acceptable principles, but they have to forgo some of their desires. They are willing and ready to exchange their desire for earning money. In fact, they are selling their time at 6 or 7 or 8 dollars per hour (or) 800 or 900 or 1000 yen per hour.

They are well convinced of the value of the time. They know that they will be fired if they absent themselves from their jobs without leave or reason.

In our country as well, employees are working hard in factories and at construction sites at very low wages, enjoying the least opportunities at their working environments. In other words, they are losing many opportunities. Most of us seem to neglect that most of these laborers are not allowed to take leave as desired by them. They are also selling their time, or rather parts of their lives. Many may disapprove if I claim that those working for government department and offices are enjoying more rights and opportunities than

those working at the above-said working places. They have weekend holidays, public holidays, casual leaves, earned leaves, maternity leaves and other kinds of leave such as leave without pay. And, they have a chance to go out for shopping during working hours while some can go out once a week to purchase commodities they need.

As per nature, we are apt to be reluctant to abandon the things we have got in our hands. Yet, we need to assess as to whether we are having much less holidays, compared to those from our neighboring countries. We know our country lagged much behind others. Especially, we want the future of our children to be brighter. We all want to

change everything. Accordingly, we are required to work hard like others. Meanwhile, some people staged a demonstration against reducing periods of Thingyan holidays. We have freedom to express our thoughts and desires.

I think that such kinds of demonstration will never show any signs of placebo effect, and this will be tantamount to the meaning that though we are claiming we are ready to work for the country, when it really comes to work hard, we are conspicuous by our absence. I am ready to receive any pejorative looks from those who dislike my claim that I want our beloved colleagues to work abroad so that they know the value of works.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene: An essential ally in a superbug age



Dr Poonam Khetrapal Singh

How a low-cost intervention can help solve a high-cost problem

they create make treating basic infections such as skin sores or diarrhea next to impossible. They also make surgery risky. Around 700 000 people across the globe already die of AMR each year. If present trends persist, by mid-century AMR will kill more people than cancer.

So where does water, sanitation and hygiene come in?

To start with, poor sanitation and unsafe water causes a range of bacterial infections that heighten antibiotic usage. Though access across the South-East Asia Region to improved water sources is now at 90%, poor operation and maintenance of water and sanitation systems continues to be a fact of life for many. Millions of people Region-wide remain susceptible to water-borne diseases, with high rates of infection compounded by self-medication and inappropriate antibiotic use.

Next, poor water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) in health care facilities is a cause of hospital-acquired infections that accelerate bacterial mutations. Just 38% of health care facilities in low- and middle-income countries have rudimentary WASH amenities, resulting in the incubation of a range of deadly pathogens. It is no coincidence that some of the most vicious antibiotic-resistant bacteria, including NDM1 and MRSA, emerged from health care settings.

And finally, ill-regulated

waste water is scattering antibiotic residues and antibiotic-resistant bacteria throughout the environment, including in drinking water and the food chain. Across the Region, contaminated wastewater from homes, hospitals, pharmaceutical industries, nursing homes and livestock farms is finding its way into natural water sources, as well as soil and crops. This is hastening the spread of antibiotic-resistant pathogens, and increasing human antibiotic consumption.

As countries finalize National Action Plans to counter AMR, a return to core WASH principles is needed. By including WASH in multi-sectoral planning, and staying true to a 'One Health' approach, governments can neutralize one of AMR's key accelerators and help reverse AMR's growing menace. And they can do so in a way that is cost-effective and has a range of other public health benefits.

There are three interventions that will have immediate impact

First, governments can hasten efforts to achieve safe water and sanitation for all. Communities lacking clean water and effective sanitation should be identified in both rural and urban areas, and steps taken to ameliorate their situation. This could mean treating water at its point of use or systematizing the operation and maintenance of local

water supply systems. It could also mean investing in water supply systems to serve unreached populations. At the same time, access to safely-managed toilets should be increased by investing in and building them, and by promoting behavioral change aimed at ending open defecation.

Second, WASH amenities and training can be enhanced at all health care facilities. This can be done by ensuring each facility has a safe and adequate water supply, and that toilets and medical waste management facilities are in or near it. Hand-washing stations should be readily accessible at key points of care, and health care workers should be trained in WASH procedures as part of wider infection prevention and control initiatives. To this end, WHO's Clean Care is Safer Care programme is an essential resource, and can be integrated with national policies.

And third, regulation and treatment of wastewater can be vastly improved. To do so, investing in water management and treatment infrastructure is crucial, while creating public-private partnerships able to extend service coverage may also be effective. Key contaminants such as hospitals and pharmaceutical plants can meanwhile be encouraged – or required – to develop onsite treatment plants able to neutralize antibiotics and resistant bacteria. Wastewater used in aquaculture and agriculture should also be better regulated to

keep water and food systems free of potentially harmful residues and bacteria.

Though each of these interventions will have substantial impact, they must be supported by surveillance systems that can monitor the problem effectively and allow policymakers in all sectors to respond as and where needed. There is much that we still do not know about the quantity of antibiotics and resistant bacteria in the environment, and the various ways it got there, meaning gathering actionable information is crucial.

Reversing AMR and safeguarding the efficacy of our most precious drugs – antibiotics – is a complex undertaking. It requires addressing how antibiotics are produced and regulated; how they are prescribed and consumed; and how different sectors can work together to counter a range of AMR-related threats. It is an undertaking for which WASH principles are well-suited, and for which WASH resources should be marshalled. In home and hospital, town and city, high-quality water, sanitation and hygiene is a vital and cost-effective means to beat back AMR's rapid emergence. It is a means we must harness effectively.

Op-ed by Dr Poonam Khetrapal Singh, Regional Director WHO South-East Asia on World Water Day 22 March 2017

CLEAN, safe and well-managed water is fundamental to public health. Where water is unclear or sanitation poor, life-threatening diseases such as cholera and typhoid can take root. And where water is unregulated or enforcement lax, contamination from chemicals, pathogens or excreta is a persistent risk. Poor hygiene, meanwhile, exacerbates each of these problems, amplifying one of humanity's gravest health security threats: antimicrobial resistance.

Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) occurs when the effectiveness of antimicrobial drugs – including antibiotics – is diminished due to mutations in infectious bacteria. This happens when antibiotics are ill-regulated and overused, or when they are used inappropriately or for non-human health. Bacterial mutations and the superbugs

The gov't marks one year in office



President U Htin Kyaw (C), first Vice President U Myint Swe (L) and second Vice President U Henry Van Thio swearing-in at union parliament in Nay Pyi Taw on 30 March 2016. PHOTO: MNA

“Peace, Security and Development are inter-related and interconnected. Sustainable development cannot be achieved without peace. Peace is not sustainable without Development.

Poverty eradication therefore stands as one of the solutions in addressing many of today's challenges.

(Excerpt from the message sent by President U Htin Kyaw to United Nations on the auspicious occasion of its 71st anniversary on 24 October 2016.)



President U Htin Kyaw shakes hands with Daw Aung San Suu Kyi at the inaugural dinner. PHOTO: MNA

“Presently we have cutting edge technology in the world, and we have acquired opportunities to help them become strong, healthy and able ones. The most important is respect. Every individual has the right to deserve the respect once they come into the world.

(Excerpt from the message addressed by State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi at 1st National Education Conference for Children with Intellectual Disabilities on 23 November 2016.)



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Win Myint arrive at the inaugural dinner in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: REUTERS

“Now is the time for all the ethnic national brothers and sisters to work hard with sincerity for the cessation of all kinds of armed conflicts which have arisen due to many causes, for genuine and long lasting peace. At a time like this, we will be able to wrest ourselves out of this “conflict quagmire” and attain genuine and lasting peace only if all our ethnic national brothers and sisters work hard with sincerity and correct “cetana”.

(Excerpt from the message sent by President U Htin Kyaw to the Kachin State Day Celebration Ceremony on 10 January 2017.)



President U Htin Kyaw and State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi arrive to parliament in Nay Pyi Taw on 30 March 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

“State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi stressed the importance of trust in attaining peace at a meeting with the Peace Process Steering Team in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

“We need to remember the losses suffered by our country when we have been waiting for an enduring peace” and “efforts should be made once the Union Peace Conference commences to make sure all citizens will not face further losses”, State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi said at the meeting.

The State Counsellor said that trust is essential for the peace process, and that other issues can also be solved through mutual trust. She also stressed the need to have openness and straightforwardness during negotiations to build trust and to strive for improvements in the peace process for all the ethnic brethren of Myanmar.

(Excerpt from the message addressed by State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi at peace process steering team meeting on 24 August 2016.)



Ministers attend a swearing-in ceremony as new cabinet members at Pyidaungsu Hluttaw in Nay Pyi Taw on 30 March 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Boeing airliner catches fire in Peru, no serious injuries reported

LIMA — A Boeing jet operated by Peruvian Airlines caught fire on Tuesday while landing at an airport near the Andean town of Jauja in central Peru after it swerved on the runway, but there were no serious injuries, a government minister said.

Peruvian Airlines said in a statement that the Boeing 737-300 jet drove off the runway for unspecified reasons during the scheduled landing, after swerving to the right. It said that all 141 people on board the flight, which originated in Lima, were evacuated safely.

Authorities are investigating the incident, which occurred about 4:30 pm,

involving the Boeing 737-300 jet at the high-altitude airport in an agricultural valley some 265 kilometres from Lima, the capital.

The fire likely started when the wing scraped the runway, Interior Minister Carlos Basombrio said.

“The plane couldn’t stop on the runway and they made a maneuver to stop it with the wing and that appears to have caused the fire,” Basombrio told reporters on local broadcaster RPP. Television images showed a large cloud of black smoke streaming from an airliner in flames.

Boeing said it was aware of the reports of the incident and was gathering information.—Reuters

British PM May to fire starting gun on Brexit

LONDON — Prime Minister Theresa May will file formal Brexit divorce papers on Wednesday, pitching the United Kingdom into the unknown and triggering years of uncertain negotiations that will test the endurance of the European Union.

Nine months after Britons voted to leave, May will notify EU Council President Donald Tusk in a letter that the UK really is quitting the bloc it joined in 1973.

The prime minister, an initial opponent of Brexit who won the top job in the political turmoil that followed the referendum vote, will then have two years to settle the terms of the divorce before it comes into effect in late March 2019.

“Now that the decision has been made to leave the EU, it is time to come together,” May will tell lawmakers, according to comments supplied by her office.

“When I sit around the negotiating table in the months ahead, I will represent every person in the whole United Kingdom — young and old, rich and poor, city, town, country and all the villages and hamlets in between,” May will say.

On the eve of Brexit, May, 60, has one of the toughest jobs of any recent British prime minister: holding Britain together in the face of renewed Scottish independence demands, while conducting arduous talks with 27 other EU states on finance, trade, security and other complex issues.

The outcome of the negotiations will shape the future of Britain’s \$2.6 trillion economy, the world’s fifth biggest, and determine whether London can keep its place as one of the top two global financial centres. For the EU, already reeling from successive crises over debt and refugees, the loss of Britain is the biggest blow yet to 60 years of efforts to forge European unity in the wake of two devastating world wars. Its leaders say they do not want to punish Britain. But with nationalist, anti-EU parties on the rise across Europe, they cannot afford to give London generous terms that might encourage other member states to break away.

May’s notice of the UK’s intention to leave the bloc under Article 50 of the EU’s Lisbon Treaty is due to be hand-delivered to Tusk in Brussels by Tim Barrow, Britain’s permanent representative to the EU.

Barrow arrived at the European Council building shortly before 0800 GMT



PHOTO: REUTERS

for a routine weekly meeting with the senior diplomats of other member states.

He arrived in the ambassadorial Jaguar, carrying a well-worn black leather briefcase which may — or may not — have contained May’s letter. British officials declined to say.

Barrow has an appointment with Tusk, the EU summit chair and former Polish prime minister, in the Council President’s offices on the top 11th floor of the new Europa Building at 1120 GMT, where he is due to hand over the letter.

That moment will formally set the clock ticking on Britain’s two-year exit process. Tusk will speak to reporters after that.

May signed the Brexit letter on Tuesday, pictured alone at the cabinet table beneath a clock, a British flag and an oil-painting of Britain’s first prime minister, Robert Walpole.

She will update the British parliament at around 1130 GMT. The Sun, Britain’s most popular newspaper, projected giant messages to Europe including “Dover and Out”, “Good-bye” and “See EU Later” onto the white cliffs of Dover facing the continent. In the French media, the response was less celebratory. The Libération newspaper led with the headline: “We miss you already! Or do we...” over a picture of a guardsman wearing a bearskin hat, a traditional symbol of Britain.

The Brexit letter is expected to seek to set a positive tone for the talks and recap 12 key points which May set out as her goals in a speech in January, EU officials said.

Within 48 hours of reading the letter, Tusk will send the 27 other states draft negotiating guidelines. He will outline his views in Malta, where from Wednesday he will be attending a congress

of centre-right leaders. Ambassadors of the 27 will then meet in Brussels to discuss Tusk’s draft.

The course of the Brexit talks is uncertain.

May has promised to seek the greatest possible access to European markets but said Britain will aim to establish its own free trade deals with countries beyond Europe, and impose limits on immigration from the continent.

She has acknowledged that those measures would require withdrawing from the EU ‘single market’ of 500 million people, founded on the principles of free movement of goods, services, capital and people.

Her priorities also include leaving the jurisdiction of the European Court of Justice and securing “frictionless” trade with the bloc while ending full membership of the customs union that sets external tariffs for goods imported into the bloc. She wants to negotiate Britain’s divorce and the future trading relationship with the EU within the two-year period, though EU officials say that will be hard.

“It was you, the British, who decided to leave, not us who wanted you to go,” said one senior EU diplomat. “The trading relationship is going to be the most difficult bit to solve — I don’t see how that will be done in that time frame.”

A huge number of questions remain, including whether exporters will keep tariff-free access to the single market and whether British-based banks will still be able to serve continental clients, not to mention immigration and the future rights of EU citizens in the UK and Britons living in Europe.

One major uncertainty for May is who will be leading France and Germany, which both face elections this year.

“It’s bad news for

everybody. It’s a wedge pushed into the European project,” French centrist presidential candidate Emmanuel Macron told Europe 1 radio.

The pro-EU Macron has struck a firm line on Brexit, saying he would ensure Britain gains no undue advantages outside the Union.

Britain’s finance minister, Philip Hammond, said he was confident the country would negotiate a customs arrangement with the EU that would allow for borders to be as frictionless as possible after Brexit.

“It is not in the interests of anybody on the continent of Europe to have lines of trucks,” Hammond said, adding that he did not recognise some of the large numbers being spoken about in Brussels that some officials say Britain may have to pay to the EU as it exits.

Global banks such as Goldman Sachs are considering moving some staff out of Britain due to Brexit, and some major companies and banks could use the Article 50 trigger date to update investors on their plans.

The Brexit vote triggered the biggest one-day fall in sterling since free-floating exchange rates and the pound is trading at \$1.24, around 25 cents below the rate on 23 June.

At home, May’s United Kingdom is divided and faces strains that could lead to its break-up. In the Brexit referendum, England and Wales voted to leave the EU but Scotland and Northern Ireland voted to stay.

Scottish nationalists have demanded an independence referendum that May has refused. In Northern Ireland, rival parties are embroiled in a major political crisis and Sinn Féin nationalists are demanding a vote on leaving the UK and uniting with the Republic of Ireland.—Reuters

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PERFORMANCES IN ONE-YEAR PERIOD

Ministry of Ethnic Affairs in one-year service of the new government

Article: Kyaw Thu Htet

THE Republic of the Union of Myanmar is home to a variety of ethnic groups and thus unity among the tribes plays a pivotal role for national development. When national unity was in its prime all the national races had been able to build cities with a powerful influence on the regional countries. Likewise, national unity has contributed to regaining the independence, thereby enabling all national races to live in peace and unity.

Oppression

In reminiscences, when national unity became weak the county was under the yoke of colonialists and all national races were being oppressed. The colonialists practiced the divide and rule system with the aim of driving a wedge between ethnic groups living in hilly regions and those living in plains. As a consequence, armed conflicts among national races erupted soon after the independence, thus resulting in deterioration of national unity. The then armed insurrections continued up to date. Due to internal armed insurrections, the country was in abject poverty and lagged behind in development in various spheres. The successive governments made utmost efforts to ensure national unity and bring about

peace, but the efforts for making peace with some ethnic groups are still elusive.

Political dialogue

In the time of the new government, to ensure national unity, national reconciliation and internal peace, which are a prerequisite for development of the country, the government, the parliaments, the Tatmadaw and the entire national people were holding a many round of political dialogues to seek a solution to eternal peace.

The new government led by President U Htin Kyaw reduced the number of Union-level ministries to ensure that a new cabinet is compact and functional. However, it had established the Ministry of Ethnic Affairs as a new ministry, attaching great importance to ethnic affairs.

Enactment of the Law on Protection of Ethnic Rights

The first session of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw promulgated the Law on Protection of Ethnic Rights in 2015 and the Ministry of Ethnic Affairs was formed as a result. In an interview, Union Minister for Ethnic Affairs Nai Thet Lwin said that the main objective of forming the Ministry of Ethnic Affairs is to ensure all ethnic groups enjoy fully the rights embodied in the constitu-



President U Htin Kyaw and First Lady Daw Su Su Lwin are seen in Chin traditional costume. PHOTO: MNA

tion. He added that it is necessary for all national races to be educated, to be in the interest of the Union, to be fluent in international languages and keep abreast of international community for national development. With this, a Union-level ministry has emerged that will serve the interest of all ethnic nationalities" he disclosed.

Contribution to national reconciliation

It is expected that at a time when a series of political dialogues are being held to seek a solution to eternal peace, the emergence of a Union-level ministry which has mainly focused on ethnic interest contributes a lot to national reconciliation.

The ministry will ensure equitable rights among all ethnic groups, all tribes to live together on the basis of genuine Union spirit, to preserve ethnic literature, fine arts, culture, tradition, national characteristics and historical heritages, to strengthen ethnic unity, friendship and ensure the development of socio-economic status of ethnic groups. The ministry is made up of the Union Min-



Union Minister Nai Thet Lwin. PHOTO: MNA

It is expected that at a time when a series of political dialogues are being held to seek a solution to eternal peace, the emergence of a Union-level ministry which has mainly focused on ethnic interest contributes a lot to national reconciliation.

ster's office, the Ethnic Literature and Culture Department and the Ethnic Rights Protection Department with 1131 officers and staff members.

Functional

"The ministry is in the process of appointing staff members depending on the funds allocated, and altogether over 200 staff member have been appointed. As it is fully furnished, the ministry is now functional, said Union Minister Nai Thet Lwin. Under the Ethnic Rights Protection Law, efforts are being made for ensuring ethnic tribes to fully enjoy their rights and ask for the rights in a systematic manner. Toward this end, seminars and workshops on enactment of the Ethnic Rights Protection Law, capacity building as well as opening of departments in the regions and states to deal with ethnic affairs are held.

Work coordination meetings

The Ministry of Ethnic Affairs held work coordination meetings to collaborate with the region and state-level ethnic affairs ministers. SEE PAGE 12 >>



Union Minister Nai Thet Lwin presents cash assistance to ethnic people in Loikaw, Kayah State. PHOTO: MNA



Union Minister Nai Thet Lwin addressing 65th Anniversary of Kayah State Day in Loikaw. PHOTO: MNA

PERFORMANCES IN ONE-YEAR PERIOD



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi poses for documentary photo with the attendees at reception to mark 70th Anniversary of Mon National Day in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA

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The ministry also organized the workshops and conferences to enhance the capacity of the region and state-level ethnic affairs ministers and its employees in partnering with non-governmental organizations (NGOs).

The ministry cooperated with the region and state-level governments to commemorate auspicious days of the ethnic people such as National Day and New Year day in the regions and states, said Union Minister Nai Thet Lwin. The peace support committee was formed under the Ministry of Ethnic Affairs to engage in internal and local peace-making processes in joining hands with the union-level, region and state-level and local-level organizations.

Peace is sine qua none for development

Peace is very important to ensure development in the regions and states. The country had been listed as poorest countries in the world due to longest running civil wars. The country will develop only if all ethnic people residing in Myanmar serve their duties in a harmonious manner. The ministry is planning to open branches in regions and states to deal with armed conflicts and difficulties of the ethnic people and educate them with knowledge. All ethnic people regardless of religion or belief will be given a chance to discuss about ensuring equality and building a genuine federal union through negotiation tables.

Ethnic persons were appointed union and ministerial-level posts during one-year period of the new government. Everlasting peace is the livelihood for development of the country. Without peace and stability, the country will not enjoy economic growth.

The conflict in Myanmar

dates back to its independence from the Britain in 1948 and has been described as one of the world's longest civil wars.

The union minister continued that nearly seven decades of fighting between the ethnic armed groups and the government have resulted in large numbers of internally displaced persons.

Plan underway to enact law

The Ministry of Ethnic Affairs is in the process of opening branches in the cities of the regions and states commencing the next fiscal year to effectively implement its policy, goals and functions. Plan is underway to conduct workshops and training courses to improve the staff's skills and abilities in cooperation with NGOs and INGOs. The ministry is making arrangements to ratify Ethnic Nationalities Protection Law.

The ethnic people are entitled to protect their language, literature, arts, culture, custom and religion if they didn't fail to abide by the laws that had been enacted to ensure national security, rule of law and peace and tranquility. The ethnic people shall have rights to learn their own language and literature without harming the education policy laid down by the government. They are endowed with the rights to freely celebrate their traditional ceremonies and auspicious days.

They have rights to engage in innovative and cultural activities whereas they will be awarded to enjoy equitable rights for education, medicine, job and businesses. The ethnic people will be able to upgrade their traditional medicine and preserve cultural heritages.

The ethnic people shall have rights to elect representatives to include them in region or state and self-administered zone governing body if the population is in conformity with the constitution. They are endowed

with the power to expose history data and preserve heritages in accord with the law.

Ethnic Nationalities Protection Law prescribes that if the government plans to extract natural resources in the areas where the ethnic people reside, the projects must be informed the local people in a transparent manner. The ministry will carry out the afore-said tasks for the interest of the ethnic people, he added.

The new government that took office 30 March 2016 put emphasis on national unity, national reconciliation and internal peace-making processes.

National reconciliation in the fore

The new government that took office 30 March 2016 put emphasis on national unity, national reconciliation and internal peace-making processes. Ethnic persons such as Kachin, Kayin, Chin, Rakhine and Mon were appointed the state- and ministerial-level positions.

Obvious point

The new government reduced the union-level minis-

tries compared to previous government and created a new ministry called "Ministry of Ethnic Affairs" to handle ethnic affairs.

The move aimed at emerging a federal union for all ethnic people is an obvious point for national reconciliation. The union minister pledged to make concerted efforts for the development of the country through union spirit, placing national reconciliation as a priority.



Union Minister Nai Thet Lwin speaking at a workshop in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA



Union Minister Nai Thet Lwin poses for documentary photo with participants at a workshop in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA

Samsung launches Galaxy S8 and dreams of recovery from Note 7

SEOUL/NEW YORK — Samsung Electronics Co Ltd (005930.KS) unveiled its Galaxy S8 flagship smartphone as it battles to regain the market leadership it lost to Apple Inc (AAPL.O) after the embarrassing withdrawal of the fire-prone Note 7s.

Boasting some of the largest wrap-around screens ever made, the long-awaited S8 is the South Korean technology company's first new premium phone since its September recall of all Galaxy Note 7 smartphones equipped with fire-prone batteries. Samsung halted their sales in 10 markets, and the phones were banned from aircraft in the United States, denting a revival of the firm's mobile business.

Two versions of the Galaxy S8, code-named Dream internally, were launched at a media event in New York on Wednesday, with 6.2-inch (15.75 cm) and 5.8-inch curved screens - the largest to date for Samsung's premium

smartphones. They will go on sale on April 21.

"We must be bold enough to step into the unknown and humble enough to learn from our mistakes," D.J. Koh, the company's mobile chief, said at the event after acknowledging that it had been a challenging year for Samsung.

U.S. carriers T-Mobile US Inc (TMUS.O) and Verizon Communications Inc (VZ.N) announced retail pricing for the smaller S8 around \$700. The larger phone will sell for \$840 at Verizon and \$850 at T-Mobile.

The S8 features Samsung's new artificial intelligence service, Bixby, with functions including a voice-commanded assistant system similar to Apple's Siri. There is also a new facial recognition application that lets users unlock their phones by looking at them.

Samsung is hoping the design update and the new features, focused on making life easier for consumers, will be enough to revive sales in a year Ap-



DJ Koh, Samsung president of mobile communications, shows the Galaxy S8 and S8+ smartphones during the Samsung Unpacked event in New York City. PHOTO: REUTERS

ple is expected to introduce major changes to its iPhones, including the very curved screens that have become staples of the Galaxy brand.

The S8 is also crucial for Samsung's image as a maker of reliable mobile devices. The self-combusting Galaxy Note 7s had to be scrapped in October just two months after their

launch, and the recall was particularly damaging, investors and analysts say.

"The Galaxy S8 is the most important phone for Samsung in a decade and every aspect will be under the microscope following the Note 7 recall," said Ben Wood, a veteran smartphone industry analyst with UK-based CCS Insight.—Reuters

Muslim groups plan march against Jakarta's Christian governor

JAKARTA — Indonesian Muslims led by hardline groups plan to march to the presidential palace in the capital Jakarta on Friday, calling for the city's Christian governor to be sacked for suspected blasphemy.

Religious and political tensions have been running high ahead of a second and final round of the Jakarta governor election on 19 April. Incumbent Basuki Tjahaja Purnama, who is on trial for blasphemy, is running against a Muslim candidate.

The rally is expected to be the biggest demonstration since mass prayers in the grand mosque just days before the election's first round on 15 February, and the latest in a series of protests that have tested religious and ethnic tolerance in the world's largest Muslim-majority nation. "An estimated 20,000 people from various groups, including students, will participate," said national police spokesman Boy Rafli Amar.

"They will gather at the Istiqlal mosque (grand mosque) and the plan is to march to the presidential

palace." Many Muslims in the city of more than 10 million believe Purnama, Jakarta's first Christian and ethnic Chinese governor, insulted Islam when he made comments last year about his opponents' use of the Koran in political campaigning.

Hundreds of thousands of Muslims took part in a series of rallies in Jakarta late last year and Purnama was put on trial for blasphemy. He has apologised for his comments but denied wrongdoing. "We ask the government to imprison Ahok soon and relieve him of his official duties," said Novel Bakmukmin, a member of the hardline Islamic Defenders Front, using Purnama's popular nickname.

"This is not just about the Jakarta election any more. We want people who commit blasphemy against religion to be dealt with firmly." Purnama remains popular for his efforts to cut red tape and ease Jakarta's chronic traffic congestion and flooding, but he faces a tight race with his rival, Anies Baswedan, a former education minister.—Reuters

EU leaders to vow unity, constructive approach to get exit deal with Britain

BRUSSELS — European Union leaders will pledge on Wednesday to stand united in "constructive" talks with Britain on its exit from the EU to reduce

uncertainty for citizens and businesses, a draft document showed just hours before London's formal notification to quit.

The draft does not

mention the possibility that the two sides will fail to reach an agreement by the end of the two-year period envisaged by EU law.

This removed a remark from an earlier version that the EU would be ready for a "no deal" option though it did not desire it.—Reuters

Invitation for Prequalification (PQ) and Bids

Date: 31st March 2017

Loan Agreement N^o: MY-P4 dated 5th September, 2014

1. The Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has received ODA Loan from Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). The Prequalification and Bids are invited by Myanmar Railways for Civil, Track, Signalling and Telecommunication Works.

Sr. No.	Invitation for PQ & Bids	Description	Issuing Date	Closing Date and Time	Non-refundable Document Fee
1	IFP No: MR/ PQ/101, PQ/102, PQ/103	CP 101 From Pazundaung to Bago (70.8km)	31.3.2017	30.6.2017 (14:00 PM)	100 US\$
		CP 102 From Bago to Nyaunglebin(79.8km)			
		CP 103 From Nyaunglebin to Taungoo(116.0km)			
2	IFB No: MR/BD/101, BD/102,BD/103	CP 101, CP 102 & CP 103 Package	31.3.2017	30.6.2017 (14:00 PM)	1000 US\$ (per package)

2. The Eligible Nationality of the Applicants shall be Japan in the case of the prime contractor. In case where the prime contractor is a joint venture, such joint venture will be eligible provided that the nationality of the lead partner is Japan, that the nationality of the other partners is Japan and/or the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and that total share of work of Japanese partners in the joint venture is more than fifty percent (50%) of the contract amount.

3. Interested eligible Applicants may obtain the documents on the submission of a written application to the Tender Office in the head office of Myanmar Railway at Nay Pyi Taw Railway Station Compound, Pobba Thiri Township, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar, during office hour from 09:30 a.m.to 4:30 p.m. Monday to Friday.(except holidays)

4. Bid must be delivered to the address above mentioned on or before the closing date and time.

5. Technical Bids will be opened on 28th July 2017 at 14:00 at the conference room, Myanmar Railways Head Office, Nay Pyi Taw in the presence of representatives from prequalified Bidders.

Managing Director

Myanmar Railways, Ministry of Transport and Communications

Nay Pyi Taw Railway Station Compound,

Pobba Thiri Township, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar

Telephone: +95-67-77024,

Facsimile number: +95-67-77164

Electronic mail address: gmengnm.rail@mrt.gov.mm, dgmpplan.rail@mrt.gov.mm (not for submission but for clarification)

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

MV ARKA VOY. NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV ARKA VOY. NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 30.3.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT

MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY

AGENT FOR: M/S MCC TRANSPORT (S'PORE) PTE LTD

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

MV DYNAMIC OCEAN 02 VOY. NO (-)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV DYNAMIC OCEAN 02 VOY. NO (-) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 30.3.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of SPW-7 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 BAY LINE SHIPPING PTE LTD

Phone No: 2301928



Scarlett Johansson opens up on dating again

LOS ANGELES — Actress Scarlett Johansson talked about dating again following her split from her husband of more than two years, Romain Dauriac. During an appearance on “The Howard Stern Show”, Johansson was asked about her newly single status following the divorce filing earlier this month, reported *AceShowbiz*. “I’m on guard because I have a young daughter,” the 32-year-old actress said.

The show’s host Howard Stern then jokingly tried to set up the actress with his friends, including David Spade, Louis C K, John Stamos and Orlando Bloom.

“A lot of comedians I know have a dark side though. I don’t need any darkness. I think I’ve got a lot on my plate right now, but I’ll let you know,” she said. Johansson then went on admitting to having a thing for chefs as she said, “Honestly, I’m like, somebody, who likes Gordon Ramsay,” before revealing she has a celebrity crush on Anthony Bourdain.

“There’s a running theme,” she joked.—*PTI*

Actress Scarlett Johansson poses as she arrives at a premiere of the film “Ghost in the Shell” in Paris, France, on 21 March.

PHOTO: REUTERS



Rapper Kanye West. PHOTO: REUTERS

Kanye West in talks to join ‘American Idol’

LOS ANGELES — Rapper Kanye West is in negotiations to join the revival of “American Idol” as one of the show’s judges.

If reports are to be believed, NBC is courting the “Gold Digger” hitmaker to convince him to join the judging panel on the singing competition and that the network will stop at nothing to get him on board, reported *Ace-*

Showbiz.

“Ryan Seacrest has put his name forward during his negotiations to come back as host and NBC are salivating over it,” a source told Radar Online.

“Kanye is at the very top of the wish list, not Simon Cowell. If Ryan hosting can help get them Kanye, that’s a happy result for NBC,” the source added.—*PTI*

Sandra Bullock open to expanding her family

LOS ANGELES — Actress Sandra Bullock is open to having more kids. The 52-year-old actress, who already has two kids, is reportedly planning to expand her brood in the future as motherhood is one thing she is most proud of, reported *E!* online.

“Sandra is not opposed to having more kids in the future.

She has her hands full with her career, but having children is what she is most proud of in her



Actress Sandra Bullock. PHOTO: REUTERS

life,” a source says.

“The ‘Blind Side’ star is happy in her relationship with photographer Bryan Randall and the couple is planning to spend their life together.

“They have discussed spending their life together.

(They consider themselves) pretty much (married)” the source adds.

Bullock, who split from her ex-husband Jesse James in 2010 after five years of marriage, feels “more in love now” with her partner and is happy.—*PTI*

Mariah Carey enjoying birthday beach getaway with Tanaka

LOS ANGELES — Singer Mariah Carey is enjoying a romantic birthday beach getaway with beau Bryan Tanaka.

Tanaka, 33, took to social media to share a picture of him and his lady relaxing oceanside in Cabo San Lucas.

Carey has been in Cabo San Lucas to enjoy a tropical vacation for her 47th birthday.

“Starting the anniversary festivities in a relaxing chic en-

vironment. #HappyAnniversary,” Tanaka captioned the picture.

The dancer looked happy as he took the selfie while the birthday girl was seen smiling widely.

Carey also shared a picture of her sporting a form-fitting gold sequined dress and a pair of sunglasses as she poses behind a pile of gifts and a massive red bow.

The “I Don’t” singer captioned it, “Let the anniversary festivities begin.—*PTI*

Was destined to make my Broadway debut this year: Sara



Sara Bareilles. PHOTO: REUTERS

LONDON — Singer/songwriter Sara Bareilles is convinced it was her destiny to make her Broadway bow in 2017.

The “Brave” singer will make her debut in the musical she co-wrote this week and she can’t wait to sing the songs she penned for “Waitress” in front of a live audience.

“I had originally thought that this year would get dedicated to making my next record, and I had gone into the songwriting process,” Sara says.

“And then when we got the

news that Jessie was moving on, I hadn’t made a lot of headway with my own record yet and I was still sort of holding space for this show in a strange way.

“It just felt like this was the time. I’m as close to the show as I’ll ever be. My friends are in the show. The band is the original band. Lots of things are still very similar to how it was created, and I feel like that’s the show I want to be in.”

Sara will play Jenna Hunter in “Waitress” until 11 June.—*PTI*



Singer Mariah Carey. PHOTO: REUTERS

Casino hub Macau shows all its cards, from egg tarts to fireworks, to draw tourists

MACAU — Overseas visitors are an increasingly common sight in China's gambling territory of Macau which is trying to diversify an economic model that has depended on mainland high rollers for more than a decade.

The economy in the tiny former Portuguese colony, billed the Las Vegas of the East, has been pounded over the last two years by a drop in Chinese gamblers due to President Xi Jinping's anti-corruption campaign and a slowing economy.

Now the government has hearkened calls to reposition Macau as a tourism destination, with the number of international visitors growing 8 per cent last year from 2015, compared with those from greater China edging up only 0.1 per cent.

Once a sleepy backwater, with its colonial-era hotels, waterside banyan trees, slightly sleazy night

life and occasional gangland killings, Macau has tidied up and diversified its act since its return to China in 1999 with huge new resorts, music festivals and even an international fireworks display competition.

Gamblers from mainland China, Hong Kong and Taiwan account for more than 90 per cent of total visitors, but a shift away from the tables is slowly emerging. Foreigners stuck out through the crowds of mainlanders in shops skirting US billionaire Sheldon Adelson's Venetian, owned by Sands China Ltd. Indian families tucked into naan and curry in the restaurant while tourists of other nationalities took photos against the backdrop of the facade of St Paul's, a Jesuit church that burnt down in 1835.

"We just want to see the old town. We are more interested in the tourist

attractions," said Rachel Mumberson, 33, a teacher from Singapore. "We definitely didn't come here for gambling."

Hotel rooms are set to increase by 40 per cent and two new mega resorts are due to open in the next two years at a time when revenues have started to rebound due to a return of VIP spenders. While income generated from the big spenders is unlikely to be replaced anytime soon, per capita spending from non-Chinese has accelerated, with tourists from Singapore, Japan and Malaysia nearly matching those from mainland China, government statistics from the fourth quarter show.

"In the past decade, we relied too much on mainland tourists," said Agnes Lam, head of Macau Civic Power, an organization which focuses on political and social issues.

"I think the increase of



A general view of Macau peninsula, China on 8 October, 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

foreign tourists is very important to Macau and will actually make the tourist industry here become more healthy," said Lam, who is also an assistant professor at the University of Macau.

Both Macau and the former British colony of Hong Kong are designated "special administrative regions" and allowed certain freedoms not enjoyed on the Communist Party-ruled mainland.

As in Hong Kong,

Macau's retailers and local businesses had geared themselves towards mainland tourists selling cosmetics, jewelry and even milk powder — after a health scare in China — forcing the closure of home-style stores and small businesses.

Industry experts have called for Macau to differentiate itself as rival casino hubs mushroom around Asia, from the Philippines and Singapore to Japan which recently legalized ca-

sino gambling.

Officials have responded by touting Macau's history, culture and Portuguese-influenced gastronomy rather than its casinos, with the tourism body targeting a range of high profile marketing campaigns.

"Macau is unknown in Europe," said Kurt Einstein, 68, visiting from Switzerland with his wife and a big fan of Macau Portuguese egg tarts. "Nobody knows about Macau.—Reuters

Japanese Boys' Festival dolls of promising persons unveiled



Japanese doll maker Kyugetsu Co unveils Japanese dolls depicting promising men in 2017 — (from L) yokozuna Kisenosato, figure skater Yuzuru Hanyu and comedian Piko Taro — at its headquarters in Tokyo on 28 March, 2017, ahead of the 5 May Boys' Festival. Japanese households traditionally decorate samurai dolls to celebrate boys on the day. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

Bosnian boy performs flipping, brick-smashing feat

VISOKO — A Bosnian teenager has performed an impressive, if painful to watch, stunt, breaking 111 concrete blocks with his head in a mere 35 seconds.

Forward flipping his way down a line of 20 stacks of six blocks each, Kerim Ahmetpahic, a young taekwondo martial artist, smashed the blocks with his head in front of a cheering

crowd in the Bosnian city of Visoko at the weekend.

He appeared to falter on the 18th stack, but then recovered and finished to loud applause.

Ahmetpahic received a certificate recording his achievement and thanked his parents, his coach and his friends for helping him succeed in the unusual accomplishment.—Reuters

MRTV

Programme Schedule
(30-3-2017, Thursday)

6:00 Am	◆ Paritta by Venerable Mingun Sayadaw	3:35 Pm	◆ Documentary
7:00 Am	◆ Breakfast News	4:35 Pm	◆ Weekly Sport Info
7:35 Am	◆ NRC Programme	5:05 Pm	◆ NHK Programme "Beautiful Landscape of Japan" (Winter of Cumbung Waves Thw Echizen Coast, Fukul)
8:35 Am	◆ Government's One- Year Performance	5:30 Pm	◆ Applied Financial Knowledge
9:20 Am	◆ Documentary	7:15 Pm	◆ TV Drama Series
9:35 Am	◆ Beautiful ASEAN	6:15 Pm	◆ Football Magazing
9:40 Am	◆ ASEAN Spotlight	6:30 Pm	◆ Current Affairs
10:30 Am	◆ MRTV Worker's Programme	7:30 Pm	◆ TV Drama Series
11:00 Am	◆ Documentary	8:00 Pm	◆ News/International News/ Weather Report
11:20 Am	◆ Documentary	8:35 Pm	◆ Political Parties Campaign Speeches
11:30 Am	◆ General Knowledge	9:00 Pm	◆ Government's One-Year Performance
12:30 Pm	◆ TV Drama Series	9:35 Pm	◆ TV Drama Series
1:00 Pm	◆ Myanmar Movie (Part-1)	◆ Talk on Old Film (Patr-3)	
2:20 Pm	◆ Fine Arts —Bosom of Dramatic Performance		
3:00 Pm	◆ Pyi Thu Ni Ti		

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Myanmar International

Programme Schedule

(30-3-2017 07:00am ~ 31-3-2017 07:00am) MST

07:03 Am	News
07:26 Am	Image Of The Monks
07:43 Am	Myanmar Traditional Thatched Roofs In-Leaf
08:03 Am	News
08:26 Am	Shwe U Min Natural Cave In Kalaw
08:42 Am	Rakhine Traditional Wedding Ceremony
08:56 Am	Dances of Myanmar "Gaybar Kayin Traditional Dance"
09:03 Am	News
09:26 Am	Myanmar Handicrafts

10:03 Am	News
10:26 AmChanges
10:42 Am	Orchid Lover
10:51 Am	Culture Shows: Theatrical Art
(11:00 Am~03:00 Pm)-Wednesday Repeat (07:00 Am~11:00 Am)	
(03:00 Pm ~ 07:00 Pm)-Today Repeat (07:00 Am~11:00 Am)	
Prime Time	
07:03 Pm	News
07:26 Pm	Alaungdaw Kathapa
07:45 Pm	Shan Novices To Be.....
08:03 Pm	News
08:26 Pm	Myanmar Traditional Identity (EP- 4) Tumbling Doll, Pyit Tine Htaung
08:39 Pm	A Visit To Ye
(09:00 Pm ~ 11:00 Pm) -Today Repeat (09:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)	
(11:00 Pm ~ 03:00 Am)- Wednesday Repeat(07:00 Am~11:00Am)	
(03:00 Am ~ 07:00 Am) -Today Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)	
(For Detailed Schedule – www.myanmaritv.com/schedule)	

Federer, Nadal reach Miami quarters, Wawrinka falls

MIAMI—Roger Federer survived a stern test from Spain's Roberto Bautista Agut on Tuesday to reach the Miami Open quarter-finals while top-seeded Swiss compatriot Stan Wawrinka was eliminated on his birthday. Federer clinched the 7-6(5), 7-6(4) victory

on his third match point shortly after Wawrinka fell 4-6, 6-2, 6-1 to 16th-seeded German teenager Alexander Zverev. Bautista Agut played the match of his life, hitting the ball deep with relentless precision in an effort to keep Federer pinned to the baseline, giving the 18-times grand slam champion everything he could handle.

But Federer's class proved the difference in the tiebreaks as he improved to 6-0 lifetime against Agut and advanced to a quarter-final match against Czech 10th seed Tomas Berdych. Wawrinka, who turned 32 on Tuesday, lost to Federer in the Indian Wells final nine days ago and

was denied a chance of setting up a possible rematch in Miami. A day after saving three match points and beating John Isner, the 19-year-old Zverev dominated the final two sets against Wawrinka, breaking twice in the second and three times in the third to earn a quarter-final encounter with either Belgian David Goffin or Australian Nick Kyrgios. All the top seeds had competitive matches on Tuesday, with Japanese second seed Kei Nishikori also taken to three sets before ousting Federico Delbonis of Argentina 6-3, 4-6, 6-3.

Fifth seed Rafa Nadal won in straight sets, but also had to be near his best to beat Frenchman Nicolas Mahut 6-4, 7-6(4).

Next up for Nadal is American Jack Sock, while Nishikori meets Italian Fabio Fognini. — Reuters



Rafael Nadal of Spain reaches for a forehand against Nicolas Mahut of France (not pictured) on day eight of the 2017 Miami Open at Crandon Park Tennis Centre in Miami, FL, USA on 28 March, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

FIFA decision process on 48 World Cup teams unacceptable — Rummenigge

ATHENS — The decision-making process that led FIFA to increase the number of teams at the World Cup to 48 starting with the 2026 tournament is unacceptable, European Club Association (ECA) chairman Karl-Heinz Rummenigge said on Tuesday.

The ECA, an organization representing 220 soccer clubs, opposes the world governing body's decision which Rummenigge, the former Germany international who is also Bayern Munich's chief executive, has previously dismissed as "non-sense".

Rummenigge said on Tuesday there were also issues with transparency in that specific FIFA process, without elaborating.

"I believe it is quite clear FIFA knows we are unhappy that they increased the number of (World Cup) participants by 50 per cent," Rummenigge told reporters after the ECA general assembly.

"This is a fact. The way of the decision-making and the transparency was not acceptable from our point of view.

"They are using our players, our employees in favour of the World Cup," he said. "We have

every right to find a solution."

FIFA voted in January to increase the size of the World Cup from 32 teams to 48 from 2026, fulfilling a campaign promise of its president Gianni Infantino, who was elected last year.

FIFA says the tournament will not last longer than it does at present but big clubs in particular are angry at the prospect of losing even more players to their national teams.

Clubs have already complained about what they say is a crowded calendar of international matches for which they must release their players on a

regular basis.

"I would call now especially on FIFA and (European soccer's governing body) UEFA to reduce the number (of international matches).

We (have) arrived at a point where players have to play too many games," Rummenigge said. These organizations should "think more about football and not financial and political issues," he added.

Last year the ECA supported controversial changes to the Champions League club competition, which critics said put finance before football. —Reuters

European Club Association (ECA) Chairman Karl-Heinz Rummenigge speaks during a news conference following ECA's General Assembly in Athens, Greece on 28 March, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS



Brazil become first team to qualify for World Cup

ZURICH — Brazil have become the first team to qualify for the 2018 World Cup, maintaining their proud record as the tournament's only ever-present side with a little help from Lionel Messi's foul mouth and lightly-regarded Peru.

The five-times champions beat Paraguay 3-0 on Tuesday for their eighth successive win in the South American qualifying competition.

That in itself was not enough to confirm their participation in Russia but Peru's surprise 2-1 win over Uruguay in a later game guaranteed Brazil a top-four finish.

With four rounds of fixtures remaining, Brazil have 33 points, followed by Colombia (24),

Uruguay and Chile (23). Argentina (22) are currently in fifth place, which earns a two-legged playoff against the top-ranked Oceania region side.

Uruguay and Argentina still have to face each other which means it is impossible for both to overtake Brazil.

Argentina dropped down the standings after losing 2-0 away to Bolivia at high altitude in La Paz, weakened by

the absence of Messi as he began a four-match suspension. The five-times world player of the year was banned less than six hours before kickoff for swearing at a linesman in the previous match, a 1-0 win over Chile.

He will now only be available for the last of Argentina's games, a potentially key match in Ecuador.

Russia are guaranteed a place as hosts. —Reuters



PHOTO: REUTERS