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Quake destroys several buildings in Taikkyi

Zaw Gyi (Panita)

A MONDAY evening earthquake that measured 5.8 on the Richter scale destroyed three buildings in Taikkyi, Yangon Region. There were many minor injuries but no reported deaths, local authorities said yesterday.

The temblor began to shake buildings in Yangon at about 8:50pm. The moderate earthquake with a depth of about 10 kilometers had its epicenter in Taikkyi, 69 kilometers north-east of the city of Yangon and the northernmost township in Yangon Region, according to the US Geological Survey.

“After the earthquake, we found 26 people receiving treatment for minor injuries and vomiting. Most have been discharged from the hospital,” said U Kyaw Soe Lin of the Taikkyi Township General Administration Department.

The earthquake damaged 24 religious edifices, one monastery, one school, nine departmental offices and six other buildings, two bridges, one concrete road and destroyed three houses, causing losses worth of more than Ks195 million, authorities said.

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Soldiers remove debris from a damaged building after an earthquake at Taikkyi township in Yangon Region on Monday. PHOTO: REUTERS

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File photo shows the Yadanatheinkha Bridge that was destroyed in 2012 by an earthquake in Thabeikkyin. PHOTO: MNA

Be alert after an earthquake

DAW Hla Hla Aung, a patron of the Myanmar Earthquake Committee, said that the earthquake that hit near-by Taikkyi in Yangon Region Monday night was a relatively strong one compared to the quakes which have hit the country so far this year.

“The preceding ones were not strong compared to this and relatively small in magnitude. In the surrounding Yangon area, there were many of these earthquakes. Now the quake reached a big magnitude on the Richter scale — the

biggest in all,” she said.

An official with the earthquake branch of meteorological and seismological department in Nay Pyi Taw warned that people, especially in the Yangon Region, needed to be alert during an earthquake. According to meteorological and seismological department, there were 17 earthquakes in Myanmar between 1st January and 13th March, eight in January, four in February and five this month.

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သဒ္ဓါထက်သန် မြန်မာအားမန် ကမ္ဘောဇဘဏ်

New bridge on Thanlwin River to be named after Bogyoke Aung San

On the 18th day fourth regular session of the Lower House in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday, concerning the motion urging the Union Government to name a bridge built on Thanlwin River linking Mawlamyine and Chaungzon Townships in Mon State after Bogyoke Aung San Bridge, proposed by Daw Mi Kun Chan, a parliamentarian representing Paung Constituency, U Maung Myint, a Lower House representative from Minkin Constituency said that the main responsibilities of the parliament is legislation, administration and check and balance for undertakings carried out by the judicial organizations. He continued he will fully support if a proposal to name longest bridge in Myanmar after Bogyoke Aung San Bridge is submitted to the parliament.

Daw Aye Aye Mu (a) Daw Shar Mee, a politician from Kalay Constituency seconded the motion, saying it is time to build a democratic federal union to ensure national reconciliation and equality and 21st Century Panglong Peace Conference is being held in a successful manner. The motion is intended to pay mutual respect among all ethnic people in Myanmar by naming a new bridge in Mon State after Bogyoke Aung San Bridge. The move

will help contribute to building an equitable, democratic federal union, she added.

Lower House representatives U Kyaw Aung Lwin from Sedoktara Constituency and Daw Mar Mar Khaing from Thaton Constituency, Defence Services Representative Major Zaw Zaw Moe, Lower House Lawmakers U Myo Zaw Oo from Lewe Constituency, Daw San San Ei from Mohnyin Constituency, Daw Nang Htwe Thu from Phasaung Constituency, U Inhtone Khar Nawsam from Myitkyina Constituency, U Nyan Hein from Thanbyuzayet Constituency, U Lamar Naw Aung of Ingyanyin Constituency, Daw Thandar of Einme Constituency, Daw Ni Ni May Myint from Taungup Constituency, Daw Wint War Tun from Shadaw Constituency and Daw Pyone Kathy Naing of Kalaw Constituency participated in the discussions.

Union Minister for Construction U Win Khaing said that construction project of Thanlwin Bridge (Chaungzon) is aimed to link Mawlamyine, capital of Mon State and Chaungzon Township on Bilugyun, one of the major islands in Myanmar crossing Thanlwin River, adding the bridge constructed on mouth of the sea will be first of its kind

in Myanmar. The Lower House Speaker then sought approval from the MPs, announcing the proposal was approved with 217 votes in favour, 43 against and 116 abstentions.

In other matters, the Myanmar Investment Commission said it has been regularly posting approved investments, lists of companies and investment amounts on www.dica.gov.mm, the website of the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration, said Deputy Minister for Planning and Finance U Maung Maung Win.

The deputy minister responded to the question as to whether the government has a plan to inform the investors and their business partners during the period from 2011 to 2016 and to inform the public with facts and figures of the MoUs that were signed by the foreign investors and successive governments, raised by Daw Khin Moh Moh Aung, a lawmaker from Latha Constituency.

The businesses and weekly investment lists permitted by the MIC were posted on the aforementioned website for public knowledge within 24 hours, he responded.

He continued that the ministries concerned presented the



Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw U Win Myint. PHOTO: MNA

MoU to seek approval from the President and the Hluttaw before it was signed in accord with rules and regulations. Reviewing processes were made by the respective ministries and its results are posted on the website of the Ministry of Construction. The deputy minister further replied to the query in regards to arrangements that have been made to focus on suggestions of the parliamentarians on behalf of the people at the meetings, asked by Daw Aye Mya Mya Myo, a legislator from Kyauktan Constituency.

Lower House Speaker U Win Myint said that the Lower House accepted the Road Transport Bill that was submitted to the Upper House and sent

back with its amendments on 7 March. Member of Lower House Bill Committee Daw Mar Mar Khaing read out the committee's findings and Deputy Minister for Transport and Communications U Kyaw Myo seconded it. The Lower House Speaker sought approval of the MPs, saying the Lower House approved Bill Committee's report. Chairman of the Lower House Bill Committee U Tun Tun Hein discussed matters relating to the Bill amending legal supports sent back by the Upper House with its amendments.

The 19th day fourth regular session of the Lower House continues at 1:30 pm tomorrow.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Amyotha Hluttaw

UEC urges voter ID cards

THE Union Election Commission (UEC) yesterday said the reasons behind the issuing of voter ID cards for the coming 1 April by-election is so that officials at the voting booths can register citizens as eligible voters in the voting list and voters themselves can verify and correct any information pertaining to them in their respective township's voting list.

In the discussion meeting concerning the by-election on 3 January 2017, it was approved by political parties and Hluttaw representatives participating in the by-elections that voter ID cards will be distributed by the Union Election Commission this time.

Voter ID cards can be attained in various townships' election sub-commission offices beginning from 17 March until 30 March, from 8 am to 6 pm every day. The voter ID cards can be obtained by the voters, their family members or caretakers. Voters are still eligible to vote in the by-election without voter ID cards, but it is suggested that citizens retrieve their voter ID cards to assist in a smoother registration process.—*Union Election Commission*

Hluttaw Committees should be familiar with assigned duties to serve effectively

YESTERDAY morning was the 18th day of the fourth regular session of the second Amyotha Hluttaw, during which 15 Amyotha Hluttaw committees submitted their one-year activities, findings, analyses, advice and upcoming activities.

Daw Thiri Yadana, a member of the Ethnic Affairs Committee, read out the report of the Amyotha Hluttaw Ethnic Affairs Committee's activities, which advised that the transfer of the assignments to the chairman, secretary and members of the Hluttaw Committee should be at most twice in the five-year term of Hluttaw so that the assigned Members of Parliament will be in touch on the assigned duties of the committee's tasks and can serve effectively.

She said as the committee's specialty is ethnic affairs, it is necessary to know the real situation of respective tribes as well as needing to be in touch with their literature and culture and keep an eye on those tribes which are in danger of extinction so that effort can be made to preserve the group.

By assigning the committees in the Hluttaw to the ministries that formed them during the cur-

rent government term, the Hluttaw committees and related ministries can communicate quickly with each other for activities, she said.

She read that national reconciliation under the guidance of Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker, the committee was trying to support effectively to the preservation of ethnic rights and internal peace and the development of ethnic peoples.

U Soe Win, the secretary of the Peasant Affairs Committee, read out his committee's motions that the committee received 1,575 complaint letters concerning land matters in 2016 and responded to the authors of the letters that the committee would take suitable actions.

The committee submitted its findings, analyses and advice for the cases to the speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw and transferred the case letters to the Land Scrutiny Committee for the confiscated lands in States and Regions. There were seven letters about Kachin State, one letter about Kayah State, one letter about Taninthayi Region, nine letters about the Sagaing Region, 10 letters to Bago Region, 11 letters



Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw Mahn Win Khaing Than. PHOTO: MNA

to Magway Region, 14 letters to Mandalay Region, one letter to Mon State, 15 letters to Rakhine State, 34 letters to Yangon Region, eight letters to Shan State, nine letters to Ayeyawady Region and 5 letters to Nay Pyi Taw Council Area.

He read eleven cases, complaint letters with many addresses and without strong references were being presented to the Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker and 1,439 letters not needed to be solved were kept under the decision of the committee. Five letters that have been solved were sent back to the Hluttaw committee from the respective Regions and

States and plan to be submitted to the Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw after being analysed.

Then, the chairmen and secretaries of the respective committees read out the report of their committees' forthcoming activities, one-year performance, researches, analyses and advice, and then the speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw announced that the MP could enroll if they wanted to discuss about the reports.

The speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw presented the reforming of committees' members and secretaries and took approval from the Hluttaw. —*Myanmar News Agency*

Information Ministry discusses ongoing and future plans

ONGOING and future plans to be implemented by the Ministry of Information set by the Guarantees, Pledges and Undertakings Vetting Committee of the Amyotha Hluttaw were discussed in Nay Pyi Taw Amyotha Hluttaw's Dining Hall yesterday afternoon.

In the meeting, Deputy Speaker of the Amyotha Hluttaw U Aye Thar Aung said it is the duty and responsibility of the Ministry of Information to not only distribute and issue news and information but also the policies, notions and workings of the current government in these

changing times to the people in a clear and transparent way, and with the changing of systems and a new era, to inform and raise awareness of these changes to the people. That is why news and information is an important part of any country and government.

Next, Union Minister for Information Dr. Pe Myint clarified the Ministry of Information's workings, procedures, visions, along with necessary legal support for developing media and information, recording of the new government's reform efforts, and current reform efforts for



Deputy Speaker U Aye Thar Aung speaks to MPs before Ministry of Information's ongoing and future plans are discussed. PHOTO: MNA

the citizens.

The Hluttaw representatives in attendance raised questions on the distribution of national edicts, donating of books and journals to libraries in the national races

development university, college and schools, printing and distribution of school course books, formation of the Sarpay Beikman Literary Union, digitisation into online services of Burmese lit-

erature and the language, and inclusion of a sector in newspapers promoting people's voices. The Union Minister and Departmental heads replied to questions in their sectors. —Thura Zaw

U Myo Aye concurrently appointed as Ambassador to Bulgaria

The President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has appointed U Myo Aye, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the Republic of Serbia, concurrently as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the Republic of Bulgaria.—*Myanmar News Agency*

U Kyaw Soe Win presents credentials to President of Vietnam

U Kyaw Soe Win, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, presented his Credentials to His Excellency Mr. Tran Dai Quang, President of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam on 8 March 2017, in Hanoi.—*Myanmar News Agency*

U Zaw Htay appointed DG

The President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has appointed U Zaw Htay, Deputy Director-General of the President's Office as Director-General of the Ministry of the State Counselor's Office on probation from the date he assumes charge of his duties.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Singapore's Senior Minister visits Nay Pyi Taw



FORMER 2nd Prime Minister of the Republic of Singapore, Emeritus Senior Minister Mr. Goh Chok Tong led a delegation to Nay Pyi Taw yesterday evening. The Senior Minister and entourage were warmly welcomed at Nay Pyi Taw International Airport by Deputy Minister for Education U Win Maw Tun, Permanent Secretary U Kyaw Zay Ya from Ministry of Foreign Affairs and officials.—*MNA*

42 weapons still lost in Maungtaw following 9 October attack

THERE are still 42 lost weapons in the hands of the violent armed men who attacked the border outposts in Maungtaw on 9 October and killed several policemen.

Since the 9 October attacks, regional instability occurred up to 14th March at the cost of 17 policemen and civilians who

were killed and 15 who were injured. Two weapons from the Tatmadaw were lost and out of 68 arms lost from the police, 28 have been recovered and 40 are still missing.

Security forces seized two home-made short guns and two long guns, one home-made gun, one revolver, one pistol, one

M-22 gun totally eight arms and 15 bullets, 70 machetes and one harpoon from the violent attackers.

Moreover, 38 local people had been attacked and some were killed by the violent attackers from 5 October 2016 until 14 March 2017.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Be alert after an earthquake

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As regards to the frequent quakes, Daw Hla Hla Aung of Myanmar Earthquake Committee pointed out that more earthquake monitoring machines have been installed in recent years, informing us of small tremors nearly all the time.

"It is difficult for us to say whether a strong earthquake might follow tremors. Tremors did not tremble from the same fault. Tremors are coming from many faults, so it is difficult to relate one to the other. If I were asked if there was a possibility of imminent quakes, my answer would be 'Yes.' Care and alertness is needed, especially in big cities. The Yangon populace felt a lot for the effect of Taikkyi earthquake. Especially, Yangon city dwellers must be careful about

earthquakes which will come from the Sagaing Fault," said Dr Myo Thant, vice-chairman of the Myanmar Earthquake Committee.

He added, "There is the West Bago Yoma fault nearby. It is assumed that tremors came from that fault, but there have never been any records of tremors reaching over a magnitude of 5 on the Richter scale."

The Myanmar Earthquake committee made studies of the interior of the Kabaw fault in concert with international experts.

The Chauk Earthquake in August 2016 did not ruin buildings apart from the many religious pagodas and stupas, which are buildings of great importance. There used to be strong earthquakes in Myanmar about once in a century. Dr Myo Thant assessed that a Bago earthquake is expected

to hit between 80-100 years.

"Yangon is over-crowded with the populace, so Yangon city dwellers need to be careful," Dr Myo Thant said.

To monitor earthquakes and alleviate earthquake-related danger, the Kabar-Aye Earthquake Observatory Center was set up in 1961, the Mandalay centre in 1966, the Sittwe center in 1984 and the Dawei center in 1985.

After a big earthquake, there can be dangerous tremors, risk of fire and damages to dams, the possibility of volcano eruptions, landslides and tsunamis.

In the history of major earthquakes across the world, the quake that the Manchurian Province in China on 4 February 1975 was predicted beforehand, according to earthquake records.—*Nay Lin (MNA)*

Quake destroys several buildings in Taikkyi

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Following the quake, the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement delivered cash assistance and aid to the people affected by the quake.

The authorities refuted a Facebook post which said a man and a child died in the quake.

Members of fire brigades, the Red Cross, the Tatmadaw, police and social organisations carried out the evacuation and cleared debris and wreckage from the buildings on Monday.

Tin Soe Min, a regional representative for the ruling National League for Democracy (NLD)

party said he had no reports of any residents being seriously injured or killed in Yangon.

He said an old wall surrounding a local Buddhist monastery fell down and a few houses became tilted to one side. (*Reuters contributed to this report*)

LOCAL Business

Vehicle registration at RTAD has risen

WITH advanced income tax levied on cars with registration slips starting in April, the vehicle registration at the Road Transportation Administration Department (RTAD) has reportedly risen.

Prior to the imposition of advanced income tax, between 50 to 100 cars with slips are daily applied for registration at RTAD.

Advanced income tax was previously levied on individually imported cars or permit free cars or brand new cars. Starting from 1st April, cars with slips which were returned after deregistration of old and scrapped cars will have to be paid advanced income tax.

The initial vehicle registration will be issued in the presence of advanced income tax receipts beginning 1st April. Previously, there were 50 cars applying for registration a day, at



Vehicles are seen in a traffic jam on a road in Yangon. PHOTO: PHOE KHWAH

the very most. And now, the number of registered cars has reached up to 100 daily, said an official from the RTAD.

The advanced income tax was imposed on permit

free cars starting in May 2016. According to 2016 Union Tax Law, the cars worth below Ks30million are set at 15 per cent while 20 per cent are paid for cars worth from Ks30 to

Ks100 million and 30 per cent, for the cars worth above Ks100million.

The news of tax hiked up the car price and slip price in the local auto market. — *Ko Khant*

Myanmar pea price fluctuating from India's tax news

THE news of taxation on imported items in India prompted the prices of Myanmar's peas to fluctuate over the past few days in the local market, said an official from Myanmar Pulses, Beans & Sesame Seeds Merchants Association.

The pea price is positively related to demands from India as it is the main buyer of Myanmar's peas. The news of taxation has made Indian merchants hesitate to purchase the peas, merchants said.

India has granted a tax exemption on peas, their staple food. The government extends the tax break yearly but the tax

exemption will end soon, triggering rumours of no extension in the market. As a result of this, some Indian merchants suspended their trade, said those engaged in border trade.

The pea prices in the first week of March were on the rise with the high demand from India, but plunged in the second week. However, the prevailing pea prices on 13th March were up by about Ks20,000 to 30,000 per tonne, with the prices of around Ks1,100,000 per tonne of mung bean and about Ks760,000 per tonne of pigeon peas, according to the Bayintnaung commodity depot. — *Mon Mon*

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Email address: myanmar@tilleke.com

Dated: 15th March 2017.

Two more gas fields to be extracted in Rakhine offshore

NATURAL gas is being extracted from the Shwe natural gas field situated offshore from Rakhine State, and two more gas fields will be further extended to produce gas in the coming years, according to Kyaukpyu Rural Development Association.

These gas fields were

discovered by Daewoo and Posco-Daewoo Corporation has been conducting Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) in a bid to extract the gas. The newly discovered gas fields are Shwe Phyu and Mya natural gas fields, at offshore gas block (A-1) and (A-3). These blocks are located

near Shwe Gas block, (A-4), it is learnt.

Currently, Shwe Natural gas block is producing up to 560 million cubic feet of gas a day in Rakhine offshore and the gas is being sold to China. The gas from Shwe Phyu and Mya will also be reportedly shipped to China. — *200*

Pepper growers faced with difficulty because of price fall

THE local pepper growers from Rakhine State are being faced with difficulty because pepper prices are set to fall and demand for pepper seeds declines, it is learnt.

Previously, pepper in Rakhine state is sold for around Ks 45,000 or Ks 60,000 per baskets dependent on the pepper quality. The price of pepper has decreased to between Ks 35,000 and 38,000 per basket this year.

"The price of pepper seeds is directed to decline this year. The regular customers are not buying any

more and they are waiting for the pepper market to raise its head in the raining season. We don't export the pepper on a manageable scale through the border gate. That's why the price of pepper is on the decline," said a local pepper grower from Ponnagyun township.

The local people from Ponnagyun township are growing the pepper on a commercial scale while local people from Kyauktaw, Mrauk-U, Taungup and Ann townships grow on a manageable scale.

"The price of pepper has decreased compared

to last year by Ks 15,000 or Ks 20,000 per basket.

People are buying the pepper only for house use not for selling them back," said a local pepper grower from Mrauk-U township.

According to the 2016-2017 fiscal year statistics, there were over 26,000 acres of pepper field in Rakhine State.

The pepper yield was around 5 to 7 baskets per acre.

The local growers export the pepper to Bangladesh on a manageable scale, according to the local pepper growers. — *200*

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Dated: 15th March 2017.



Reg. No. 16687/2016

Performances in One-Year Period

Our audit is at the service of our country

Thura Zaw (MNA)

FINANCIAL records and accounts are born out of the establishment of a business, so the origin of accounts can be said to be a business. Provided that accounts or financial records are emphatically examined, the result is less effective. Accordingly, the Office of the Auditor General of the Union had changed its modus operandi, that is, came to lay stress on examination of the business which was of more importance. Therefore, fruitful results were achieved. That is the greatest change of the Office of the Auditor General of the Union.

The OAGU has been examining and releasing reports to be able to assess how much effect, performances of governmental organizations in a financial year have brought for the country and its people.

The OAGU was formed as the Supreme Audit Institution—SAI, as just and fair assessment free from the influence of the government is essentially needed so as to know whether the government's managements on natural resources, financial managements and all projects underway comply with people's hopes and desires, or not. The OAGU has been serving the interest of the people by auditing.

According to Daw Khin San Oo, permanent secretary, the OAGU's performances in one year remarkably developed, compared to those of previous years. She added that the good result was attributed to effective reversion of "Pareto Rule 80-20." One does 80% of a work by oneself, but 20% of work hard is achieved as a result. From that situation, one changes his modus operandi. He works 20% main part that is actually worth doing, out of the whole work but his work results in 80 percent success.

Good Habit

The Auditor General of the Union had formed 386 offices in all, including OAGU across the nation, employing staff amounting to more than 6500 to examine 15240 organizations.

Examinations of accounts

were made twice in the financial year 2015-2016 for the first 6 months period and second 6-month-period. Generally in the financial year 2016-2017, examination was targeted to do once a year, but depending upon complicated conditions of works, enormous sizes of businesses and assessment of potential dangers, some departments and organizations are required to undergo two-time-examination process, according to the OAGU.

Examination of financial records is internationally done once a year. All are accepting this as a good habit. Currently, the OAGU's budget allotment restriction cannot employ more staff to run its routine in accord with its set-up and get permissions to fill the vacant posts. So, the OAGU will emphatically perform examinations of project implementation by performing examinations of financial records and work performances combined with the existing staff, according to one of the old service-men.

Categories of examination/audit are being extended from the examination of financial accounts and examination of following rules and laws to the examination of performance audit.

And, extension of audit types and performance of finding out qualified audits are being transformed with a view to examining effectively departmental management of spending finance and implementation of works.

The OAGU is the organization that audits accounts of state-owned enterprises. So, it is mainly carrying out financial audit, performance and compliance, in auditing accounts in accord with Lima declaration and Mexico declaration, which all international offices of auditor general abide by.

In auditing work performance, spending of governmental departments which depend upon taxes collected from the people are being examined from the perspective of value for money, frugality, success acquired and capacity.

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Auditor General of the Union at the signing ceremony for amending the ASEANSAL agreement in Abu Dhabi. PHOTO: MNA



Workshop at a bank informing the change in the national auditing process in 2016. PHOTO: MNA



Registered auditors receiving certificates. PHOTO: MNA

The Auditor General of the Union had formed 386 offices in all, including OAGU across the nation, employing staff amounting to more than 6500 to examine.

PERFORMANCES IN ONE-YEAR PERIOD

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Approach to Audit

Financial reports submitted to auditors may include different or wrong descriptions and potential risks of wrong figures due to failure to abide by restrictions. So, approaches are being made by risk based audit.

The OAGU managed to audit all organizations to be examined to completion, once a year. But, limited time and amounts of staff did not allow auditors to examine all accounts carried out in a financial year of departments and organizations. Accordingly, after studying the supervision the system of a department, which was to be examined, only the part of the work needed to be audited had to be examined, said a professional accountant.

In order to be well convinced of developing international auditing, the OAGU is performing the tasks of signing MoU with international institutions and conducting training courses with great momentum, it is learnt.

Signing in Oslo

On 3 October 2016, MoU was inked with the Norwegian OAG in Norway with a view to conducting workshops and training courses for performing the tasks of auditing of finance, work performances, environment, information and technology, concerning audits on petroleum and natural gas sector.

In addition, in co-operation with Norwegian OAG, a workshop on auditing on petroleum sector was held in Nay Pyi Taw's OAGU from 26 September to 29 September 2016, where matters of those involved in the sector of petroleum and natural gas and responsibilities, matters on the agreement of dividing production were discussed.

So as not to suffer losses for the country and in order to comply with international rules and regulations in signing agreements dividing the benefits from the production of petroleum and natural gas out of Myanmar's heritage of natural resources, a workshop on the agreement over dividing oil and natural gas production was held in Nay Pyi Taw from 16/ 1/ 2016 to 20/ 1/ 2016.

Performance Connected

By doing so, it will be helpful for auditing practically, by understanding facts included in contracts, international experiences, spheres to be specially noticed, co-relation among departments and organizations.

A retired auditor disclosed, "Incompetency of spending public finance in the sectors of oil and natural gas, mining and wastages can be found out. And, by auditing work performances in oil, natural gas and mining sectors, matters on politics, social affairs and economy are to be given care more than ever, leading to the protection of public wellbeing.

Similarly, being a member country of ASEAN, Myanmar held a workshop on auditing for government sectors' purchase by ASEAN's OAG, in Nay Pyi Taw from 31 October, 2016 to 6 November 2016, as a host country.

The OAGU is making efforts to make a big change for operating in accord with the IPSAS, in the nationalized sector.

Highlight

To upgrade the capacity of OAGU, a workshop was held from 20/7/2016 to 5/8/2016 in co-operation with ADB, with two projects underway with the ADB's aid practically tried to be audited at the Ministry of Electric Power and Energy, and Ministry of Construction.

Reformed

Previously, B.Com graduates and fresh graduates who gained high marks were allowed to attend Certified Public Accountant courses. Starting from 42 intake, B.Com, B.Act, BBA graduates entitled to proceed to master degrees, fresh graduates entitled to attend master classes and graduates who passed entrance exams

were allowed to attend.

Selection

In the CPA class intake 43, graduates of B.Com, B.Act, BBA, those who passed Diploma in Accountancy (part2), graduates who completed ACCA Fundamental Skills Level and CIMA Management Level will be allowed to join the courses straight. It is also learnt that any graduates will be granted to attend the class after taking entrance exams.

An accountant said, "In the past, these courses were able to be studied only at training schools opened by Myanmar Accounts Council, with able to study at private accountancy schools allowed by MAC."

Seeing the truth

Only if accounts are correct, can taxes and revenues worth receiving be collected, to be spent for the development of the country. The OAGU is auditing for the accuracy of accounts in government sector whereas MAC is making audits through the supervision of private accountant firms for the accuracy of accounts in private sectors. It is necessary to produce accountants & professionals in accountancy that will abide by international standards and ethics for accountants.

Try using internationally standardized accounts

Studies are being made for making use of internationally standardized accounts in privately-owned banks in combination with GIZ. In doing so, 3 Pilot Banks have been chosen for trying using. As regards making use of internationally standardized accounts, the OAGU made initial survey, choosing companies and financial institutions through sampling method for scrutiny. Studies shows that internationally standardized accounts are being used by 60% of all institutions.

The OAGU is making efforts to make a big change for operating in accord with the IPSAS, in the nationalized sector.

Basically, the OAGU is dealing with the particulars needed for transferring Cash Basic into Accrual Basis. According to the study of experiences encountered in implementing the system in other countries, it took



Workshop on Production Sharing Contract between OAGU and Norwegian OAG. PHOTO: MNA



Training School for OAGU in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO:MNA

time. Hence, the OAGU must take time to be on the right path that will change Cash Basis to Accrual Basis in accord with the International Public Sector Accounting Standard.

Sharing Knowledge

In governmental organizations and departments, in-house accountant posts have been created. Those appointed in these posts are being made to attend the training which are being opened in Nay Pyi Taw, to master the accountancy theoretically, and from them sharing knowledge was made in the financial year 2015-2016.

Auditor General of the Union, high-ranking officials and service personnel attended workshops, seminars and meetings held overseas, whereas other service-men are continually being sent to overseas trainings and workshops and three more staff were sent to attend post-graduate degree courses at the two universities.

Benefit

The Office of Auditor General of the Union and regional auditing offices made reforms in the work of auditing, opening trainings for the development of human resources, holding workshops, making efforts to produce accountants and professional accountants, making reforms for the betterment, by making contacts with international institutions more than ever, concerning with auditing. Hence, it will be more fruitful in the sectors of auditing and accounts.

With the changes in the sectors of politics, economy, social affairs and administration, people's hopes over the management of people's finance are becoming great. I hereby assert that people's trust over the OAGU and regional auditing offices will develop because we will bring about more benefits by performing our duties for the betterment of public finance management, in accord with the motto, "Our audit is at the service of our country."

Two projects underway with the ADB's aid practically are tried to be audited at the Ministry of Electric Power and Energy, and Ministry of Construction.



Participants of the 2016 IFRS transformation of banks workshop pose for documentary photo. PHOTO: MNA

Japan lays groundwork for free education policy to help economy

TOKYO — Japan is laying the groundwork for a free education programme for some households that will cover a student's costs from pre-school to college to ensure the country maintains a highly-skilled workforce.

The programme, still in its early stages, is expected to feature in the government's economic strategy due sometime around June, which is part of Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's economic agenda, commonly called "Abenomics."

The government invited Joseph Stiglitz, an economist and a Nobel laureate, to speak at its top advisory panel on Tuesday about investing more

in education by introducing universal access to a college education.

A ruling Liberal Democratic Party panel is also debating the scope of the plan and how to fund it, with an eye on helping low-income families.

"Stiglitz has many ideas that agree with some of the things that we are trying to do in the second stage of 'Abenomics,'" Abe said after the panel met. Stiglitz also recommended that Japan raise salaries for workers in education and healthcare to draw more workers into the services sector, raise minimum wages, raise public-sector wages and increase productivity.—*Reuters*

South Korean prosecutors to summon ousted president Park

SEOUL — South Korean prosecutors will summon ousted president Park Geun-hye for questioning as a suspect in a corruption case that led to her impeachment, a prosecution official said on Tuesday, amid a political crisis that has gripped the country for months.

The prosecutor's office would notify Park on Wednesday when she will be summoned and would not negotiate on the timing, said the official who declined to be identified.

There was no immediate comment from Park. Her legal representatives were not available for comment.

The Constitutional Court dismissed Park from office on Friday when it upheld a parliamentary im-



People attend a rally calling for impeached President Park Geun-hye's arrest in central Seoul, South Korea on 10 March, 2017. The sign reads 'Park Geun-hye is impeached, We won'. PHOTO: REUTERS

peachment vote over an influence-peddling scandal that has shaken the political and business elite. Park has denied any wrongdoing.

She became the country's first democratically

elected president to be removed from office.

Park left the Blue House presidential palace in Seoul on Sunday to return to her private home in the city as an ordinary citizen,

stripped of her presidential immunity that has shielded her from prosecution.

Park said through a spokesman that she felt sorry about not being to complete her term but added that the truth would come out, striking a defiant tone about the prospect of facing an investigation.

A special prosecution team had earlier accused Park of colluding with a friend, Choi Soon-sil, to pressure big businesses into contributing to foundations set up to support her policy and allowing her to exert influence on state affairs.

Park and Choi both denied wrongdoing and while she was president, Park declined to answer prosecutors' questions.—*Reuters*



Japan Maritime Self Defense Force's helicopter carrier Izumo is seen at JMSDF Yokosuka base in Yokosuka, south of Tokyo, Japan on 6 December, 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

China waits to hear why Japanese warship going to South China Sea

BEIJING — China said on Tuesday it was waiting for an official word on why Japan plans to send its largest warship on a three-month tour through the South China Sea, but that it hopes Japan can be responsible.

China claims almost all the disputed waters and its growing military presence has fueled concern in Japan and the West, with the United States holding regular air and naval patrols to ensure freedom of navigation.

The Izumo helicopter carrier, commissioned only two years ago, will make stops in Singapore, Indonesia, the Philippines and Sri Lanka before joining the Malabar joint naval exercise with Indian

and US naval vessels in the Indian Ocean in July, sources told Reuters.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying said she did not know if the ship was going to visit countries in Southeast Asia or if there was another aim.

"We have not yet heard what Japan says officially," she told a daily news briefing.

"If it's only a normal visit, going to several countries, and passing normally through the South China Sea, then we've got no objections, and we hope this kind of normal exchange between relevant countries can play a role promoting regional peace and stability," Hua said.

"But if going to the South China Sea has different intentions, then that's a different matter," she added.

Japan had been stirring up trouble on the South China Sea issue of late, and China hoped it can play a constructive role in peace and stability, Hua said.

Taiwan, Malaysia, Viet Nam, the Philippines and Brunei also claim parts of the sea which has rich fishing grounds, oil and gas deposits and through which around \$5 trillion of global sea-borne trade passes each year.

Japan does not have any claim to the waters, but has a separate maritime dispute with China in the East China Sea.—*Reuters*

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Dated: 15th March 2017

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Right, Human Rights, Inborn Rights and Privileges

Khin Maung Oo

TODAY developed and developing countries are vying to reach the highest position of the totem pole of the global economy. Not to be outdone, they are all devoting themselves in their respective fields. On careful analysis of their attainment of their present status, their success and progress can be said to be attributed to their arduous efforts under peaceful political systems. Without peace and stability, they could not have reached their leading roles in the international arena. Among them, we may take Japan as an exemplary nation we should emulate. The world has recognized Japan as an advanced country that had risen, like a phoenix, from the ashes of World War II. Since then, Japan has made concerted efforts only to develop its economy, averting her attention from warlike ideas. To put it simply, our country, as it is, lagged behind our neighbors. Civil wars and poor administration during the rule of successive governments were scourges that made the country plunge into misery.

We could not get out of this whirlpool of sufferings for nearly 7 decades.

Out of our tremendous desire to liberate ourselves from these sufferings, we managed to choose a government that listened to the voices of the people. Our aspirations for a democratic form of government led us to success. Yet, we should not consider that we have done our duty just by choosing the government we like. We, in fact, are also responsible for helping the government in nation building. Apart from those who are making destructive activities on purpose, we all are nation-builders. So, we must carry out the duties assigned to us. All civil service personnel are making sure that the administrative machinery of the government is running smoothly. All private sector employees from companies, factories and enterprises are performing their respective duties. Teachers, doctors and soldiers are working for the country. And, we are all paying taxes to strengthen the budget of the Union government.

Some of us are trying out our luck by buying State Lottery tickets every month. However, we need to work more than now, so that we can keep abreast with advanced, developed and some developing countries who are ahead of us. Procrastination is the thief of time, as the saying goes. We must bring about nationwide peace. Without peace, foreign investors will find it difficult to make foreign direct investments in our country. Without peace in the areas of our national brethren, there will hardly be progress in those areas.

Generally, government service personnel are working five days a week, with company staff working six days a week. All the civil service personnel in our country are having 24-25 or so public holidays, just like in other neighboring countries. These days, almost everywhere we go, we hear the same story, that is, about Thingyan festival holidays. To be exact, the voices are full of displeasure and annoyance. According to human nature, every individual never wants to abandon the

thing in their hands easily. I am not blaming them for this. As for them, they had already arranged to go to their native places in advance. Furthermore, long holidays will be more convenient for them. Meanwhile, we should notice that soldiers, policemen, firemen, and some personnel from some departments always work without any complaints, having holidays, less than other servicemen. We need to fully understand that long vacations will be inconvenient for foreign embassies, overseas companies and enterprises, foreign and local banks giving financing services and settlement of payments; hospitals and private health care centers and Ministries which have to deal with international affairs. In fact, it is not our inborn right, just a right given by a government occasionally. It would be good for us if our government can arrange for our civil service personnel to be able to travel conveniently at fair prices as a privilege, during Thingyan festival holidays, if not in this year, then certainly in future years.

Healthy diet good for climate change

US-based research has found that even a modest switch to a more vegetable-based diet could lead to a significant reduction in greenhouse gas emissions.

Tim Radford

SCIENTISTS have worked out how to combat climate change and improve human health, one mouthful at a time.

The answer is a familiar one: they calculate that a relatively modest switch towards a more vegetable-based diet could, in the US at least, lead to a reduction of 222kg in greenhouse gas emissions per person per year, while cutting the relative risk of coronary heart disease, colorectal cancer and type 2 diabetes by 20% to 40%.

It could also reduce US healthcare costs by at least \$77bn a year and possibly \$93bn.

The US spends \$3tn on healthcare every year – 18% of gross domestic product – and a significant proportion of health costs are associated with obesity and illnesses linked to diet.

Meat diet

Researchers have repeatedly linked some health risks to a diet of red and processed meats, and environmental scientists have repeatedly identified cattle and other livestock as an expensive way – in



Eating more vegetables and less meat benefits the planet as well as our health. PHOTO: YIMENG SHI VIA FLICKR

terms of emissions of the greenhouse gases that drive global warming – to deliver calories and proteins that are more efficiently available from grains and pulses.

Not only does livestock farming deliver higher volumes of greenhouse gases, but the consequent global warming imperils grain yields, and in turn hopes of a healthier diet. China, in particular, has declared an ambition to reduce meat consumption in the national diet.

The latest research, in the journal *Climatic Change*, models the impact of a dietary shift both on the climate and on human health in one country.

"To my knowledge, this is the first time anyone has done this," says David Cleveland, a geographer and research professor at the University of California at Santa Barbara, who directed the study.

"People have looked at what effect diets have both on climate and on health, but they've never examined the potential to mitigate climate change through the food system and the healthcare system together."

Food production in the US accounts for about 30% of total US greenhouse gas emissions. The researchers, from Oxford in the UK and Lund in Sweden as

well as California, used data already available on the links between diet and disease.

They gathered research on the consequences of healthier diets and the impact on emissions. They also looked at what a change of diet could do for health costs.

They then took the standard recommended 2,000-calorie daily diet and simulated changes in the source of about half the calories. They reduced the levels of red and processed meats, doubled fruit and vegetable intake, and proposed peas and beans to replace the reduced meat proteins.

They replaced refined cereals with whole grains. They left alone the levels of added sugar along with dairy, eggs, fish and white meat. These changes would be enough, they calculated, to reduce greenhouse gas emissions per person by 222kg to 826kg a year.

National health costs

The researchers found that the more stringent of their proposed diets – one without red meat or processed meat – made a substantial difference to national health costs, particularly for colorectal cancer, coronary heart disease and type 2 diabetes.

"There was a saving of \$95bn out of the total annual cost of \$230bn for those three diseases," says Professor Cleveland. "That's not huge compared with the \$3tn total in healthcare costs, but it's a start. Results like these can also help motivate individual and policy changes." – *Climate News Network*

About author: Tim Radford, a founding editor of *Climate News Network*, worked for *The Guardian* for 32 years, for most of that time as science editor. He has been covering climate change since 1988.

"People have looked at what effect diets have both on climate and on health, but they've never examined the potential to mitigate climate change through the food system and the healthcare system together"

Myanma Railways to stop running RBE trains during Thingyan



Myanma Railways will halt services during Thingyan Water Festival. PHOTO: PHOE KHWAH

MYANMA Railways plans to stop operating of some Rail Bus Engine (RBE) trains in the circular and suburban rail-road sections during the Thingyan Water Festival, the most widely celebrated public holiday in Myanmar.

Train schedules will be reduced by half on the holidays, as the MR predicts a decline in its passenger numbers during

the festival period every year.

The key objective of the plan is to avoid probable damage to trains during the water festival, said U Zaw Lwin, region manager of the MR's Transport Division.

Although the MR plans to decrease its train schedules, the trains will still stop at all stations.

The MR is now operating its rail transport ser-

vices to almost 100,000 commuters on a daily basis through 23 trains and 255 scheduled routes.

The MR puts forth continuous efforts to offer better services to the passengers through several railway improvement projects.

Several railway improvement projects including repair of railroads, replacement of carriages and installation

of modern signals and communication systems to run all railways yards and workshops to full capacity have been implemented by the MR in collaboration with Japanese International Cooperation Agency (JICA).

The MR estimates that the number of commuters is likely to increase after the current projects are completed.—200

Crime NEWS

Minivan hits buffalo on Yangon-Mandalay Highway

A Toyota Caldina minivan driven by U Khin Kyaw hit a buffalo crossing the highway yesterday while en route from Yangon to Nay Pyi Taw and encroached upon the divider of the road between mileposts 175/6 and 175/7 at 1am.

No one on board was injured in the accident but the buffalo sustained injuries. Highway Police filed a case and are still enquiring about the owner of the buffalo. On the same day, a Toyota Corolla van driven

by Aung Than Min hit the road divider en route from Nay Pyi Taw to Yangon between mile posts 63/1 and 63/2 on Yangon-Mandalay highway in the early morning yesterday when the driver lost control after he fell asleep, police said.

No one was injured but the vehicle sustained damage. Ohn Shit Kone Highway Police filed charges against the reckless driver under section 279 of the Penal Code.—*Than Oo (Lemyethna)*



Highway traffic police at the accident inspect the scene. PHOTO: MPF

Stimulant pills, ice and heroin seized in Yangon, Mandalay and Shan State

A local anti-drug squad in Yangon (east) District seized 95 amphetamine pills from Ma Aye Mar Aung in Htupar Yone Ward, Tarketa Township, on 9 March.

In connection with the case, the police also searched a vehicle driven by Kyaw Win Tun and seized 0.01 grams of ice. Another man, Zaw Min

Oo, was on board.

Police also searched an apartment which was rented by Zaw Min Oo and Ma Aye Mar Aung on 38th street, Ward 6 of Kyauktada Township and discovered 2,180 stimulant pills, 14 grams of ice, 0.42 grams of heroin and 9 grams of marijuana.

Similarly, a combined team of anti-drug squads in

the northern Mandalay Region stopped and searched a motorbike driven by Hla Mon with Sann Lwin on board near Nyaung Paw village, Pyin Oo Lwin Township and discovered 1,975 stimulant pills on 13 March.

On the same day, a local anti-drug squad in Meisat confiscated 3.4 kilos of raw opium from a motor-

bike driven by Kyakae on Meithwam-Tachilek Road near Lweparyin village of Satone village group in Meisat Township. Another man, Mar Law Bae, was on board the motorbike when police stopped it.

The suspects are being charged under the Anti-narcotic and Psychotropic Substances Law.—*Myanmar Police Force*

Lamp posts to be installed along roads, streets in Kengtung to reduce crime

KENG TUNG Township Development Committee is arranging to install lamp posts along roads and streets in Kengtung Township in Shan State with the aim of reducing crime.

Responsible authorities gathered at last week's meeting to discuss the project and participants agreed to install more than 600 lights under the new scheme, said U Khin Maung Htun, chair of the committee.

On 11 March, lamp posts were fitted along Mongla Road and Loimwe Road, he added.

The total expenses for the project, including tax and depending on the quality and durability of light bulbs are being calculated, said U Soe Shwe, chairman of Golden Triangle Zone,

who urges well-wishers to participate in the project as much as they can.

Plans are underway to install new lamp posts and lights in front of Kengtung University, near a golf course on Tachilek Road and a bridge near basic education school No.5 on Mongla Road.

Normally, the set cost of electricity is Ks100 per unit, however, Kengtung Energy Company pledges to donate 50 per cent of the total bills, said U Kyaw Hla, director of the committee.

Police Sub-inspector Hlawn Moe from Kengtung Myoma Police Station said it is expected that the lights will help prevent crimes and reduce criminal cases in the region.—*Myitmakha News Agency*

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

MV MERATUS GORONTALO VOY. NO (166)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MERATUS GORONTALO VOY. NO (166) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 15.3.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S YANG MING LINE**

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

MV UNI-AMPLE VOY. NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV UNI-AMPLE VOY. NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 15.3.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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Sinn Fein wants vote on N Ireland leaving UK “as soon as possible”

BELFAST — Northern Ireland’s largest Irish nationalist party Sinn Fein on Monday said it wanted a referendum on splitting from the United Kingdom “as soon as possible”, hours after Scottish First Minister Nicola Sturgeon demanded a new independence vote.

Sinn Fein has been regularly calling for a vote for Northern Ireland to leave the UK and unite with the Republic of Ireland since Britain voted to leave the European Union last June while most voters in Northern Ireland voted to remain.

Under a 1998 peace deal that ended 30 years of sectarian violence in the province, the British government can call a referendum if it appears likely a majority of those voting would seek to form part of a united Ireland.

But Northern Ireland’s Secretary of State James Brokenshire said in July last year that he did not believe the conditions for calling a referendum had been met.

Opinion polls in the past have shown a majority of people in Northern Ireland want to remain part

of the United Kingdom - in an IPSOS-MORI poll in September, only 22 percent of 1,000 voters questioned said they would support a united Ireland while 63 percent said they would prefer to remain part of the UK.

However, there has been no poll in recent months and Sinn Fein saw a surge in its support at assembly elections a week ago.

“Brexit will be a disaster for the economy, and a disaster for the people of Ireland. A referendum on Irish unity has to happen as soon as possible,” Sinn Fein’s leader in Northern Ireland Michelle O’Neill told reporters in Belfast.

Fifty-six percent of voters in Northern Ireland voted to remain in the European Union in June last year, but 52 per cent of the United Kingdom as a whole voted to leave.

The British government “are continuing to refuse to listen to the majority view and they are refusing to honour their commitments and agreements,” O’Neill said. —Reuters

Russian defence contractor to feature modern air defence systems at Malaysian air show



The aerospace show will be held on Langkawi Island on 21-25 March. PHOTO: TASS

MOSCOW — The Russian defence contractor Almaz-Antey Group will feature military and civil products at the LIMA-2017 international maritime and aerospace exhibition in Malaysia, the Group’s press office said in a statement obtained by TASS on Tuesday. “The Asian market was and continues to be extremely important for the Group,” Almaz-Antey Deputy CEO for Foreign Economic Activity

Vyacheslav Dzirkalin was quoted as saying in the statement. “Over the past few years, we have managed to expand cooperation with countries of the region both in the sphere of armaments and in the sphere of civil output,” he said.

Almaz-Antey’s demonstration stand at the Malaysian aerospace show will feature the mock-ups of S-400 Triumf, S-300VM Antey-2500 long-range air defence systems, Buk-M2E

medium-range surface-to-air missile complexes, Tor-M2E, Tor-M2K and Tor-M2KM short-range air defense systems and a self-propelled anti-aircraft missile complex from among Tunguska-M1 and Shilka-M4 systems.

During the aerospace show, the Russian defence enterprise will also focus on promoting services for the repair, maintenance and upgrade of air defence systems earlier supplied to

the region, as well as the services for training foreign specialists in carrying out this work. Besides, Almaz-Antey’s demonstration stand will feature information on the possibilities of the Group’s enterprises for the production of shipborne anti-aircraft missile systems, air reconnaissance radar stations and automated control systems. The aerospace show will be held on Langkawi Island on 21-25 March.—TASS

Arkansas obtains lethal injection drug ahead of eight executions

LITTLE ROCK — Arkansas has acquired a new supply of a drug needed for its lethal injections ahead of next month’s scheduled executions of eight men over four nights, a state corrections spokesman said on Monday.

Arkansas, which has not put an inmate to death since 2005, is one of several states where executions have been on hold because of legal battles and problems in procuring lethal injection drugs after a sales ban by major pharmaceutical makers.

The state’s stock of potassium chloride expired on 31 January. Republican Governor Asa Hutchinson signed an order for the executions about a month later, despite the lack of the drug.

A new batch of the drug arrived in the state last Wednesday, Ar-

kansas Department of Correction spokesman Solomon Graves said by phone. He would not disclose how the state got it, citing an Arkansas law prohibiting disclosure of the source of drugs used for executions.

“I can confirm that we have obtained an additional amount of potassium chloride sufficient to carry out the executions scheduled by the governor,” Graves said.

A spokesman for the governor said Hutchinson had maintained confidence in the correction department’s ability to procure the drug.

Hutchinson acted after the US Supreme Court rejected appeals from the eight inmates, who contended they were entitled to know the source of the drugs in order to avoid unnecessary pain during the executions. —Reuters

Arkansas uses potassium chloride in combination with vecuronium bromide and midazolam. The latter drug is intended to render the inmate unconscious before the other two chemicals are administered to paralyze the lungs and stop the heart. Death penalty opponents contend midazolam is not effective, citing several executions in three other states in which the condemned appeared to writhe in pain before succumbing. The lethal injections in Arkansas are set to take place in pairs from 17 to 27 April. No state has executed more than two men in a single month in the past 20 years and none has performed eight executions in 10 days, according to the Washington-based nonprofit Death Penalty Information Centre. —Reuters

Britain’s May is committed to engaging with Scotland on Brexit

LONDON — British Prime Minister Theresa May is committed to engaging with the Scottish government on Brexit plans, her spokesman said on Tuesday, a day after First Minister Nicola Sturgeon called for a new independence referendum.

“We have made clear our commitment to engage the Scottish government throughout that process and that commitment remains,” the spokesman told reporters. May’s spokesman also said the prime minister had told her top team of ministers earlier on Tuesday that while leaving the European Union is a big project, they must also press on with plans for economic and social reform in Britain.

He also said that May would not attend an EU summit in Rome on 25 March, the 60th anniversary of the treaty that laid the bloc’s foundation.—Reuters

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PERFORMANCES IN ONE-YEAR PERIOD

Accomplishments in addressing the challenges and changes during one year period

Khin Yadanar



Sagaing Region Chief Minister presents cash assistance for socio-economic development in Kalaywa Township. PHOTO: MNA



Nandawun Housing Project in Sagaing. PHOTO: MNA



MPs inspect water supply in Salingyi. PHOTO: MNA



Authorities inspect illegal timber seized in Sagaing Region. PHOTO: MNA



Chindwin Bridge (Kalaywa) is seen when it is underconstruction. PHOTO: MNA

If someone wants to see the most extended Region embellished with gloomy and overcastted Naga Ranges, lush green meadow and tropical plain, Sagaing Region is the perfect example of the sort.

Peacefulness, breath-taking scenic beauties and combination of physiographic charms are the epitome of the Sagaing Region.

It has 6,010 villages, 11 towns, 10 districts including Naga Self-administered Zone.

Relentless effort with strong determination for the development of the life of the people of the region were made in one year period of the new government.

The successful results were gained through the collective struggle of the people against all challenges of the nature and challenges in the sectors of health, social and economy.

Onset of the challenges

"We had faced the natural disasters such as storm, floods, hailstorm and mild earthquake. The avian flu that spooked people around the country occurred in Monywa was overcome by the consummate performance of the Region Government" said Dr. Myint Naing, Chief Minister of Sagaing Region.

Unprecedented Measles Outbreak

Sixty-two villagers died of measles at Htankawlama village, Lahe Township, Naga Self-administered Zone. Immediately after getting the information, Minister for Social Affairs together with the responsible persons of Region Public Health Department went to the place of incident and gave necessary measures in keeping the disease under control.

Since the outbreak of measles is due to the lack of regular vaccination, vaccination were carried out in 5 villages of Nan Yun Township and 76 villages in Lahe Township.

Besides, 56 staffs of Region Health Department were assigned to Naga Self-administered Zone to engage in mass vaccination for Measles and Ger-

man Measles.

Prevention of Natural Disasters

It was reported that the preparatory measures for quick response to natural disasters with a view to alleviate the impact were discussed and confirmed in the meeting of Natural Disaster Management Committee, Sagaing Region.

The programmes has been set to disseminate the knowl-

were inundated by the overflow of Chindwin and Ayeyawady rivers in 2016. Region Relief and Resettlement Department could assist 61.7 Million Kyats to the people of affected area apart from providing 2,546 Million Kyats, rice, cooking oil and bottled water after removing the people to the area free from inundation.

Gale (strong wind) also occurred in the region and caused damages in which 836 houses



Nurses vaccinates children in the Naga Self-administered Zone. PHOTO: MNA

Since the outbreak of measles is due to the lack of regular vaccination, vaccination were carried out in 5 villages of Nan Yun Township and 76 villages in Lahe.

edge pertaining to natural disasters into the people at different levels, as of ward & village, township and district. Moreover, the relief commodities have already been stored at Region and District offices to supply to the area affected by natural disaster.

Over 61.7 Million Kyats

401 villages, 44 wards and 19 townships of Sagaing Region

were collapsed, the roofs of 11,977 houses were blown off and one died. 15,803 million kyats were given by National Disaster Management Committee and 64,585 corrugated zinc sheet were supplied by Region Government.

Chief Minister pointed out that natural disasters broke out due to unavoidable freak (abnormality or irregularity) of nature and some due to ignorant and careless human activities. Illegal fish ponds that occupied a vast area of flood plain are also the triggering factor of widespread inundation.

Flood plain (marshland) disappeared

As one of the causes of inundation in Sagaing Region was discovered as widespread expansion of illegal fishponds on the flood plain (marshland), seven illegal fish pond owners, 4 fields, 18 lease holders, 17 ponds, 16.66 acre of paddy field, 15.7 farm land were filed a lawsuit.

SEE PGAE 12 >>

PERFORMANCES IN ONE-YEAR PERIOD

>> FROM PAGE 11

Rule of Law

During one year period of the new government, the government has executed the performances on sustaining stability, peace and rule of law in the region by keeping security outpost and patrolling team, enforcing decline of crime, educating and discussing about the traffic rules, imparting the knowledge on protection of drug abuse by mobile teams, inspection and supervision on boats running in Chindwin River not to experience the mishap again, checking and deterring the illegal presence of foreigners in Tamu, Leshi and Lahe along the border of Myanmar and India.

Sagaing Region Government could bring back the 270 inhabitants of Sagaing Region who were detained in 11 detention camps in Malaysia and sent them to their respective family.

Illegal loggers were exposed and arrested and their 8618.5868 tons of logs confiscated are sold to the people to use in building religious edifices, school, hospital, dispensaries, bridges and other development works.

Transparent Mining

Systematic management of mining in Sagaing Region is put in place exposing illegal mining and taking action on the mine owners. 14 mining companies which are not abiding by the mining law, regulations and practices were taken action by the government and 23 illegal and ownerless implements for gold mining were confiscated.

Overseeing and supervising teams are stationed there and are watching mine activities whether they are in line with the EIA/SIA. Sagaing Region Government, Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation, Minister for City Development, MPs of Hlutaw and district and township administrative bodies made ground inspection tour on Myanmar-Wonpaung Copper Mine Project and held coordination meetings to address the problems of the local people. Monthly meeting of Joint Implementation Team is regularly held in order to assess the CSD works relating to Letpadaung Taung, Sabe Taung and Kyesin Taung

copper mining works including the lingering problems on expropriated lands of the local farmers and farm lands lost under the coverage of tailing waste earth.

99.9 per cent of projects in Sagaing Region accomplished

Out of 1,739 projects budgeted by the Sagaing Region Government, 1,622 have been accomplished and 117 are under construction. Meanwhile, 92 projects are being implemented with the budget of the Union Government and two failed. There are 3,495 investment projects in the Sagaing Region in the 2016-2017 Fiscal Year and 93.9 per cent of them have been accomplished while 6 per cent are being implemented and 0.1 per cent failed.

Thanks to practicing the tender system for development projects in the region in the 2016-2017 Fiscal Year, Sagaing Region Government could save more than K4 billion. Besides, Sagaing Region sets its GDP target of more than K7,889 billion, with 8.2 per cent increasing rate in the 2017-2018 Fiscal Year. Meanwhile, in the same fiscal year, Sagaing Region has an investment target of more than K103 billion in the state-owned sector.

Upgrading road transport

With the loans from the Asian Development Bank and the World Bank, Sagaing Region Government has been upgrading the roads in the region and the Union Highway passing through the region as part of efforts for assisting smooth transportation and creating job opportunities in the region.

Besides, two 180-ft and above bridges and 754 under 180-ft bridges were constructed in the 2016-2017 FY in the region.

New housings for the people

Sagaing Region Government established affordable housings for the people, providing dwellings to 50 per cent of the people on low and middle incomes, to 25 per cent of civil service personnel and 25 per cent of the retired civic service personnel through lucky draws.

Boosting power supply

With new six sub-power stations, expansion of nine sub-pow-



Sagaing Region Chief Minister Dr Myint Naing inspects the sub-power station in Monywa. PHOTO: MNA

Sagaing Region Government settled 796 cases of land disputes, out of 1,228 complaints lodged to it.

er stations, the Sagaing Region Government could supply power to 239 villages in the 2016-2017 FY and has been working for improvement of the socio-economy of the people in the region making the best use of electricity.

The government is currently preparing to build a small-scale hydropower plant over the Hongnyi Creek about 22 miles north-west of Kamti and the plan is expected to produce 2.4 Mega Watt.

Water Purifying Plant

Chindwin River water pumping station and purifying plant are currently constructed in Monywa to supply clean water to the people. Besides, in the 2016-2017 Fiscal Year, the government drilled tube-wells and built lakes and water supply facilities.



Sagaing Region Chief Minister Dr Myint Naing presents cash assistance to the people affected by strong wind and hailstones. PHOTO: MNA

Farmland Management

During the one-year period, the Sagaing Region Government has provided farmland to farmers in the region, reclaiming 200 acres each in Katha, YeU and Phaungpyin townships and 375 acres in Homelin Township with the use of K 500 million budget.

Meanwhile, the government settled 796 cases of land disputes, out of 1,228 complaints lodged to the government.

Commemoration ceremonies, celebrations in Sagaing Region

Sagaing Region Government held several celebrations including the 69th Independence Day and 70th Union Day.

Naga New Year Festival was also held in Lahe in the Naga Self-administered Zone

on 15th January, with the attendance of President U Htin Kyaw.

The 69th Chin National Day was also held in Kalay on 20th February, with amusements and sports activities.

"With our campaign slogan 'Time for Change, the people elected us and we set our vision, mission and plan for all-round development of the country. However, when we carried out reforms on the ground, we worked our best following the majority decision," said Sagaing Region Chief Minister Dr Myint Naing.

While carrying out development works and settling issues including land disputes in the region with transparency and accountability, the Sagaing Region Government continues its reforms.



Local police raises awareness against crime. PHOTO: MNA



Chindwin Bridge (Kamti) is under construction. PHOTO: MNA



Sagaing Region Chief Minister Dr Myint Naing and officials inspect the upgraded road in Sagaing. PHOTO: MNA

Arctic ice loss driven by natural swings, not just mankind — study

OSLO — Natural swings in the Arctic climate have caused up to half the precipitous losses of sea ice around the North Pole in recent decades, with the rest driven by man-made global warming, scientists said on Monday.

The study indicates that an ice-free Arctic Ocean, often feared to be just years away, in one of the starkest signs of man-made global warming, could be delayed if nature swings back to a cooler mode.

Natural variations in the Arctic climate “may be responsible for about 30–50 per cent of the overall decline in September sea ice since 1979,” the US-based team of scientists wrote in the journal *Nature Climate Change*.

Sea ice has shrunk steadily and hit a record low in September 2012 — late summer in the Arctic — in satellite records dating back to 1979.

The ice is now around the smallest for mid-March, rivalling winter lows set in 2016 and 2015.

The study, separating man-made from natural influences in the Arctic atmospheric circulation, said that a decades-long natural warming of the



Eureka Sound on Ellesmere Island in the Canadian Arctic is seen in a NASA Operation IceBridge survey picture taken on 25 March, 2014. PHOTO: REUTERS

Arctic climate might be tied to shifts as far away as the tropical Pacific Ocean.

“If this natural mode would stop or reverse in the near future, we would see a slow-down of the recent fast melting trend, or even a recovery of sea ice,” said lead author Qinghua Ding, of the University of California, Santa Barbara.

But in the long term the build-up of man-made

greenhouse gases would become an ever more overwhelming factor, he wrote in an e-mail.

“Looking ahead, it is still a matter of when, rather than if, the Arctic will become ice-free in summer,” said Ed Hawkins, of the University of Reading, who was not involved in the study.

The melt of the Arctic is disrupting the livelihoods of indigenous peo-

ples and damaging wildlife such as polar bears and seals while opening the region to more oil and gas and shipping.

Professor Andrew Shepherd, of Leeds University, who did not participate in the study, welcomed it as pinning down the relative shares of natural and man-made influences. “Nobody’s done this attribution before,” he said.

The findings could help narrow down huge uncertainties about when the ice will vanish.

In 2013, a UN panel of climate scientists merely said human influences had “very likely contributed” to the loss of Arctic ice, without estimating how much.

It said that the ice could disappear by mid-century if emissions keep rising. —Reuters

German police raid flats, shut mosque visited by Berlin truck attacker

BERLIN — German authorities on Tuesday raided apartments linked to a mosque in the city of Hildesheim visited by Tunisian failed asylum seeker Anis Amri, who drove a truck into a Berlin Christmas market in December and killed 12 people. The local state interior ministry said more than 300 police searched the apartments of eight people and shut down the mosque and the association which ran it, saying it recruited young Muslims to join Islamic State militants in Iraq and Syria.

“The ban of the association breaks up a hot spot of the radical Salafist scene in Germany,” Lower Saxony Interior Minister Boris Pistorius said, referring to Muslims who espouse a strict interpretation of Sunni Islam.

Authorities raided the mosque in the summer of 2016 over suspicions that it was radicalizing Muslims and encouraging them to travel to war zones in Syria and Iraq. —Reuters

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Dated **15 March 2017**

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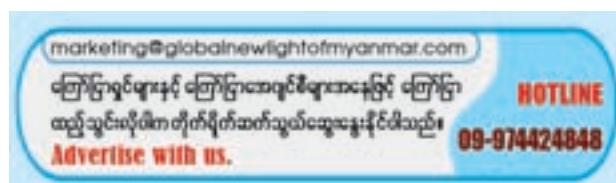
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Dated: 15th March 2017.



Rupert Grint admits he almost quit acting after Harry Potter

LOS ANGELES — Rupert Grint says he thought about quitting acting for good after “Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows ? Part 2” in 2001.

The 28-year-old actor, who achieved massive success with his turn as the wizard, Ron Weasley, says he wanted to live his life “a little bit” after being constantly busy with his film commitments, reported Entertainment Weekly.

“We had such an intimate and intense few years in this bubble. When I started, (acting) was never something that I aspired to do. I did acting with school plays and stuff like that.

But it was never something that I actively dreamed of.

“I mean, I fell in love with it while I was doing it. But I definitely did think, Is this really what I want to do? I wanted to live a little bit. I felt like I missed out on a lot,” says Grint.

The actor, who is back on the scene after shooting two British TV shows “Sick Note” and “Snatch”, says he enjoyed his time away from the arc lights.

“Being in that adult environment from such an early age, it was nice to just be away from it and not have any kind of commitments at all, and just be a bit free,” says the actor.—PTI



Cast members (L-R) Evanna Lynch, Rupert Grint and Bonnie Wright pose at a news conference for “Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 1” in Japan on 18 November, 2010. PHOTO: REUTERS



Ed Sheeran performs at the 59th Annual Grammy Awards in Los Angeles, California, US. PHOTO: REUTERS

Britain’s Ed Sheeran storms US Billboard charts

NEW YORK — Ed Sheeran stormed the US charts on Monday, taking the top spot on the Billboard 200 with his new album “Divide” and also topping the digital songs chart with lead single “Shape of You.”

The British singer-songwriter sold an overwhelming 451,000 units of “Divide” in its debut week, giving him the biggest US sales week for any album so far this year.

His US success follows an even bigger start for “Divide” in his native Britain, where Sheeran, 26, had the fastest selling album by

a solo male artist in British chart history on Friday.

The singer also made news this week when the makers of HBO TV series “Game of Thrones” announced he would be making a guest star appearance in the upcoming seventh season of the fantasy adventure, which arrives in July.

The Billboard 200 album chart tallies units from album sales, song sales (10 songs equal one album) and streaming activity (1,500 streams equal one album).

Sales of rock band Metallica’s album “Hardwired... To Self-De-

struct” jumped more than 200 percent to take the No 2 spot on the Billboard 200 with 81,000 units sold for the week. The jump followed a promotional deal linked to the band’s upcoming US tour.

Last week’s top spot, Atlanta rapper Future’s “HNDXXX” album, slipped to No 5.

On the digital songs chart, which measures online singles sales, Sheeran’s “Shape of You” sold another 115,000 units for the week, nine weeks after its release. Sheeran also saw his new single “Perfect” take the No 8 spot.—Reuters

Peace, love and ‘Barbecue,’ a global film ode to grilled meat

AUSTIN, Texas — The primal confluence of food, flames and family simmers in high definition in “Barbecue,” a globe-trotting new documentary and cinematic love letter to cooking meat over an open fire.

The feature-length movie filmed in 12 countries had its global premiere at the South by Southwest film festival in Austin, Texas, not far from some of the barbecue joints that inspired Australian filmmaker Matthew Salleh and his partner Rose Tucker to explore the globe’s shared barbe-

cue culture.

“Barbecue is this perfect combination of tradition, community and culture,” Salleh said in a weekend interview shortly after the film’s debut.

“We just started talking to people and everyone was passionate about their country’s version of barbecue,” Salleh said over a plate of barbecued brisket, beef rib and sausage in Austin.

“In the six or seven months that we researched it, we were pitched by people who said ‘you have got to come to my country,’”

he said, adding they are shopping for a distributor for the film.

He and Tucker went on a 200-day shoot that took them from Sweden to Uruguay, with stops including Armenia, Mongolia, Japan and a refugee camp on the Syria-Jordan border.

While the barbecue craft varied from the hot stones used to cook marmot in Mongolia to the pit used to grill goat in Mexico, the message in each trip was the same. Communities and families came together around the food.

“We have vegetarians who

have seen the film and you cannot deny the cultural significance in the world of eating meat over the fire,” Salleh said.

The film starts in South Africa, where racial divides of apartheid still scar the country, and shows the separate and similar barbecue tradition among blacks and whites. It includes Philipines family gatherings around roast pig and exiled Syrians trying to recapture a bit of home at a shawarma shop in a refugee camp.

After their trek, Salleh and

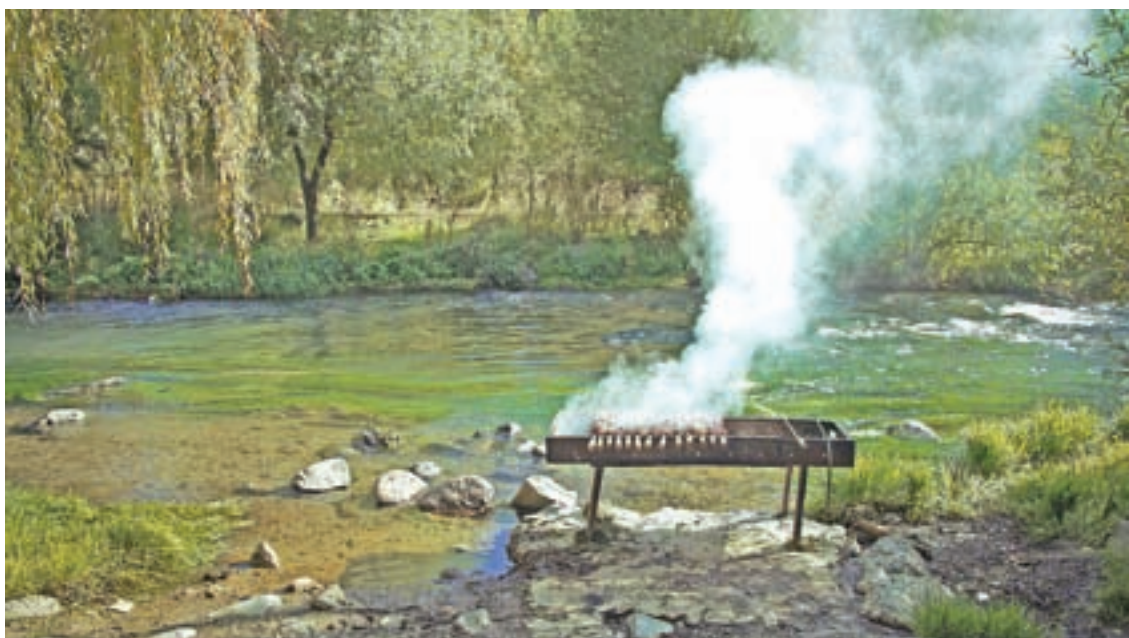
Tucker says they have received gentle ribbing from people asking why their country’s barbecue did not make the cut and a persistent question of what barbecue was best.

“At this point we begin the politically correct process of saying how we loved them all,” Salleh said. Tucker added the answer can be more about the experience, then the taste.

“We had some of the best experiences in Armenia where you drink vodka with the first bite of meat,” she said.—Reuters



Rose Tucker (L) and Matthew Salleh, directors of the documentary “Barbecue,” are interviewed by Reuters at Black’s Barbecue restaurant during the South by Southwest (SXSW) Music Film Interactive Festival 2017 in Austin, Texas, US on 11 March, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS



Khorovats, an Armenian barbecue, cook by the Kasakh River in Ashtarak, Armenia. PHOTO: REUTERS

Thailand lays out buffet for elephants in national celebration



Thai mahouts take part in an elephant fighting demonstration during Thailand's national elephant day celebration in the ancient city of Ayutthaya, on 13 March 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

BANGKOK — Five dozen elephants used their trunks on Monday to scoop up bananas, melons and pineapples from baskets at a special buffet laid on in Thailand's ancient capital of Ayutthaya to celebrate the national animal.

For centuries, elephants carried warriors into battle, took a key role in royal ceremonies and provided haulage for logging and other industries, in the absence of machines.

Today they are more likely to be part of tourist attractions — where the animals are often mistreated, however, say rights activists.

“We plan to reduce the exploitation of elephants as much as possible,” said Laithongrien Meehan, the

manager of the Elephant Kraal and Village in Ayutthaya, where the buffet took place on Thailand's Elephant Day.

At the event, a Buddhist monk sprinkled holy water on some of the elephants and their trainers. Spectators also watched a pair of the animals lock tusks to re-enact a scene from an ancient historic battle.

Laithongrien said nearly a third of the elephants at the event no longer gave rides to visitors, but were available to be petted, bathed and fed.

There are about 3,700 elephants left in the wild in Thailand and up to 4,000 domesticated animals, says British conservation organization EleAid.—*Reuters*

Japan's decluttering guru Kondo now has an app for tidying up



Japanese author and creator of the KonMari Method to declutter, Marie Kondo, poses with one of books for a fan's photograph during a book signing at the South by Southwest (SXSW) Music Film Interactive Festival 2017 in Austin, Texas, US, on 11 March 11, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

AUSTIN (Texas) — The newest tool for internationally acclaimed organizing guru Marie Kondo in her global battle against messy rooms is an app.

“My goal is to have as many people as possible who can get the job done in tidying up,” she said in an interview after speaking at the South by Southwest technology conference in Austin, Texas over the weekend.

“To achieve that, I'm implementing various measures, one of which is the app to support decluttering,” said the woman whose name has been turned into a verb by followers who clean out clutter at home and say that have “Kondooed” their closets.

Kondo is known to global audiences for her best-selling books, including “The Life-Changing Magic of Tidying Up: The Japanese Art of Decluttering and Organizing,” which has been translated from Japanese to more than 40 languages, with more than 7 million copies sold worldwide.

The app called “KonMari,” was launched a few months ago and gives out organizing tips, allows people to share before and after pictures, and provides a platform for her followers to socialize.

The followers of the woman who earned a spot on Time magazine's 100 Most Influential People list in 2015 call themselves “Konverts.”

But her critics see her as an irritating presence with a cult-like following, harping on the glaringly obvious need to be better organized.

Kondo has made an art of folding clothes into optimal shapes for storage and her KonMari disciples see her words as a philosophy about seeking a happier life by putting their homes in order.

Kondo spends 80 percent of her time outside of Japan, but with the help of technology, she wants to knock on the doors of more homes around the world.

“Tidying up is a broad theme that is relevant to anyone in any country,” said Kondo, who has a knack for decluttering her quotes.—*Reuters*

Never-before-seen photo album of Adolf Hitler up for auction

KENT (England) — An album containing never-before-seen candid photos of German Nazi party leader Adolf Hitler and party members will be auctioned on Wednesday, according to the auction house.

The photo album found in April 1945 in the bedroom of Hitler's longtime companion Eva Braun could fetch up to more than more than 15 thousand pounds sterling (roughly \$18,340 dollars), said C&T Auctions consultant Tim Harper.

“The pictures are very personal,” said Harper, who noted the item is currently owned by an unnamed collector.

The auction will take place at Royal Tunbridge Wells, a town in Kent, England.

Harper explained that Hitler kept tight control over what information could be released publicly in order to protect his image, and that of the Nazi party.

“Hitler's image, particularly his photographs, were controlled. They had to be approved,” Harper explained.

Gesturing toward the album, Harper said, “The shots you are seeing in this album are natural, relaxed, a number of them

are amusing and almost certainly they would not have been allowed to be published. They are quite revealing.”

The photo album includes images of Hitler alongside other leading members of the Nazi party such as Joseph Goebbels, Hermann Goering and Heinrich Himmler.

It also features photos of Hitler traveling in his motorcade past crowds of people cheering and saluting them. One of the images shows Hitler smiling next to a group of cheerful children. Photos of the Swastika symbol are seen in many of the photographs.

“They had to be taken by someone who had clearance to get close to the Fuehrer and close to that inner circle,” Harper said.

The album was discovered by British photographer Edward Dean who and English broadcaster Richard Dimbleby, both of whom entered Hitler's bunker in April 1945.

“A Russian soldier, very obligingly took them round and they broke into a room which was Eva Braun's bedroom and the Russian soldier prized open her draw and got the album from there,” Harper said.—*Reuters*

mitv Myanmar International Programme Schedule

(15-3-2017 07:00am ~ 16-3-2017 07:00am) MST

07:03	Am	News
07:27	Am	Myanmar Social & Charitable Association (Ep-2)(Jivitadana Hospital)
07:52	Am	Talented Musicians
08:03	Am	News
08:26	Am	The Most Prominent Resort And Residence – Ngapali
08:51	Am	One of the Useful Purposes of Bamboo
09:03	Am	News
09:27	Am	Myanmar Leading Woman: May Sabe Phyu @ L. Hkawn Htoi
09:40	Am	Mural Painting Bagan
09:51	Am	Pyin Oo Lwin Sweater
10:03	Am	News
10:25	Am	Myanmar Weaving
10:36	Am	Back To A Paradise (Ep-2)

(11:00 Am ~ 03:00 Pm)- Tuesday 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
07:27	Pm	A Journey for Healthy Futuer(The 36 th Geumsan Insam Festival) Day-1
07:45	Pm	Scented Buddha Images
07:54	Pm	Now in Magwe
08:03	Pm	News
08:26	Pm	Myanmar Delicate Artistic Creations — Gem Stone Painting
08:45	Pm	Myanmar Outstanding Lady Thin Zar Phyo

(09:00 Pm ~ 11:00 Pm) -Today Repeat (09:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)
(11:00 Pm ~ 03:00 Am)- Tuesday Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)
(03:00 Am ~ 07:00 Am) -Today Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)

(For Detailed Schedule – www.myanmaritv.com/schedule)

Misery for Mourinho as Chelsea beat United to reach Cup semis

LONDON — Antonio Conte got the better of Jose Mourinho for the second time this season as Chelsea beat 10-man Manchester United 1-0 at Stamford Bridge to reach the FA Cup semi-finals on Monday.

N’Golo Kante’s 51st minute goal was enough for Conte’s double-chasing side to break United’s resistance after the visitors had Ander Herrera sent off after 35 minutes for a second yellow card — both for crude fouls on Eden Hazard. United,

who face a Europa League last 16 tie on Thursday against Russian club Rostov, were missing the suspended Zlatan Ibrahimovic and injured Wayne Rooney and offered little threat once Kante had beaten David de Gea with a precise low shot.

While Mourinho was spared the humiliation of the 4-0 thrashing his old club dished out in October’s

Premier League meeting — his first return to Stamford Bridge since being sacked last season — he was again found wanting as Chelsea’s fans delighted in chanting the name of his successor Conte. Mourinho’s frustration boiled over at times and the Portuguese and Italian Conte had to be separated after an angry exchange shortly after Herrera’s sending off left United facing a mammoth task.

Chelsea could have won by more, although holders United did have their moments and came close to an equaliser in the second half when Marcus Rashford was foiled by keeper Thibaut Courtois.

Chelsea joined fellow London sides Tottenham Hotspur and Arsenal plus Manchester City in the semi-finals. — Reuters



PHOTO: REUTERS

Wilshere puts Bournemouth survival ahead of Arsenal future

LONDON — Bournemouth’s Jack Wilshere has delayed a decision on his Arsenal future as the on-loan midfielder focuses on helping the south coast club to retain their place in the Premier League.

Once regarded as one of the brightest young hopes in English soccer before a series of injury setbacks, Wilshere has a year remaining on his Arsenal contract but British media reported that the north London club are yet to open talks regarding a new deal with the 25-year-old.

“I’m not thinking about my future,” Wilshere told British media.

“My main concern at the moment is trying to keep Bournemouth in this league. I’ve got a year left at Arsenal. As soon as the season ends, I’ll sit down and I’ll think about it.”

Bournemouth, who ended an eight-game winless run in the league in Saturday’s 3-2 victory over West Ham United, are still in danger of being dragged into the relegation battle, with just six points separating

them from the bottom three.

Wilshere, who left Arsenal in search of more game time, has been relegated to the bench in Bournemouth’s last two league games.

“No matter what happens next year — if I’m here, if I’m not, if

I’m at Arsenal, whatever — no-one wants a relegation next to their name,” Wilshere added. “You don’t want to be involved in a team that got relegated. We’re trying to put Bournemouth in a good position. At the end of the season I’ll have a think about it.” — Reuters



PHOTO: REUTERS

Former Chelsea midfielder Essien joins Indonesia’s Persib

JAKARTA — Former Chelsea, Real Madrid and AC Milan midfielder Michael Essien has joined Indonesia’s Persib Bandung, the club announced on social media on Tuesday.

The 34-year-old Ghanaian is the highest profile signing for Indonesian soccer since Cameroon World Cup hero Roger Milla and Argentine World Cup winner Mario Kempes played in the country in the 1990s.

Essien, who has been a free agent since leaving Greek club Panathinaikos at the end of last season, won the Champions League, two Premier League titles and four FA Cups during nine seasons at Chelsea.

He also played at two World Cups for Ghana, who he represented 58 times, before retiring in the wake of the 2014 tournament in Brazil. Persib posted photographs of a shirt bearing the

number five, the number he made his own at Chelsea, with Essien’s name across the back before publishing further pictures of the player posing with club officials.

Based in Bandung in West Java, Persib are one of the best supported clubs in Indonesia and finished third in the recently completed President’s Cup.

The start date for the new league season in Indonesia has yet to be announced.—Reuters



Juventus’ Arturo Vidal (R) fights for the ball with AC Milan’s Michael Essien during their Italian Serie A soccer match at Juventus Stadium in Turin, on 7 February 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS