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TOGETHER WITH THE PEOPLE

By-election held for 19 vacant constituencies

BY-ELECTIONS began across Myanmar yesterday morning for the first time since the NLD Government took office a year ago.

Two million Voters went to the polls to cast their votes yesterday at the voting stations of all 19 vacant constituencies beginning 6 am yesterday.

Unlike the 2015 general elections in which long queues of people were waiting at the stations for their turn, less number of voters showed up at the polling centers this time.

Yangon Region opened 942 polling stations visited by diplomats including US Ambassador Mr. Scot Marciel and local and foreign watchdogs in four townships – Hlaingthaya, Dagon Myothit (Seikkan), Dagon Myothit (East) and Kawhmu—for the Pyithu Hluttaw and seven townships – Kamayut, Kyimyindine, Seikkan,



Teachers volunteer for counting votes at the polling booth at Hlinethaya BEHS-1 in Yangon. PHOTO: PHOE KHWAH

The results of the by-elections will be announced on 2nd April at the Union Election Commission's office.

Latha, Hline, Lanmadaw and Ahlone – for the Amyotha Hluttaw No 6 constituency for 1006252 eligible voters. The Yangon Region police force used half of its strength to ensure safety for the by-election,

The Yangon Region Chief

Minister U Phyo Min Thein cast his vote at a polling station in Ward 10, Kamayut Township, while Union Minister for Information Dr. Pe Myint voted at Ward 4 in the same township and Union Minister for Commerce Dr. Than Myint in Hlinethaya Township.

"Voting was convenient for me as I could draw my ballot in advance. Only a few voters were at the station in the morning. I chose the one whom I believe would serve the country well," said Daw Aye Myat Mon who cast her vote in Hlainthaya Township.

A Japanese observer said the by-election could draw less public interest as the number of voters who came to the stations in Latha Township were much smaller than the number of voters who came to the general elections. How the NLD government would solve the economic and ethnic problems and fulfill the public wishes together with its accomplishments during the first year in office was in the public minds, he assumed.

"I chose the person whom I believe would help develop our ward and community. It was a free and fair election. We pinned our hopes on him," said U Thein Naing who voted in Hline Township.

Another voter Daw Lwin Lwin Khaing said my only hope was the progress the one I had voted for would bring to the best of his ability.

After the closure of polling stations at 4 pm, volunteers started counting and documenting the ballots through valid and invalid vote scanning process.

The results of the by-elections will be announced on 2nd April at the Union Election Commission's office, said Chairman of the Union Election Commission U Hla Thein.

Kyethee and Mongshu, which did not hold the general election in 2015, also held the 2017 by-elections, said U Hla Thein.— GNLM

Myanmar trains midwives to tackle maternal death rate



Midwives attend patients in Central Women's Hospital in Yangon, Myanmar March 17, 2017. Picture taken March 17, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

YANGON,—Myanmar is training up hundreds of midwives in an effort to reduce the number of women who die in childbirth, one of many social policy reforms launched by the country as it emerges from decades of military rule.

Statistics show childbirth and pregnancy-related complications are the leading causes of death among women in Myanmar, mainly due to delays in reaching emergency care.

According to the most re-

cent census, 282 women die per 100,000 births in the country, equivalent to about eight deaths every day, double the regional average and far above the mortality ratio of 20 deaths per 100,000 in neighbouring Thailand or six per 100,000 in Singapore. Nay Hnin Lwin, 19, is among 200 midwifery students currently studying at the Central Midwifery School in Yangon. She said her parents, who live in a rural area, still do not recognise the importance of midwives, relying instead on traditional birth

attendants.

"If there is an emergency situation, they cannot save lives. Mothers are losing their lives because of them. I'm proud to be a midwife to save them from these situations," she told Reuters Television.

At the end of the two-year course, Nay Hnin Lwin and other trainee midwives will be deployed to remote clinics with poor infrastructure and bare-bones medical facilities.

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Journalists interview authorities, visit IDP camps in Sittway



Local and foreign journalists visit IDP camp and interview officials concerned in Sittway, Rakhine State. PHOTO: MNA

A media team comprising local journalists and foreign correspondents interviewed local authorities and visited the internally displaced camps in Sittway yesterday.

At the meeting, Minister for

Electricity, Industry and Transport of the Rakhine State Government U Aung Kyaw Zan and State Minister for Development Affairs of the government U Min Aung clarified the efforts of the government.

Rakhine State Government has been making efforts for the stability, improvement of transportation and supplying power to Maungtaw, Yathedaung and Buthidaung townships, according to the ministers.

Meanwhile, the government would shut down unnecessary IDP camps, according to the government.

During the visit to the Bawdupha, Thetkeyyin and Darping camps, displaced persons

expressed the hope that they want the situation in Rakhine State to return to the normality before 2012.

The team arrived back Yangon yesterday.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Robbers attack family in Maungtaw

A FAMILY of Bawtali (1) village in Maungtaw township in Rakhine State was attacked with rods, knives and axes and robbed of gold and cash by their own villagers who also took away with them two young men.

While Abutarhel was sleeping together with his family at home, 25 villagers including Sweyautusaung broke into the

house through the door with rods, knives and axes at about 2 am on 31 March and attacked the family of five with tier weapons.

The attackers took away Kyat 1020000, one gold chain, one pair of earring, one hand-chain total worth Kyat 2870000 and tied up and abducted two young men, 15 year old Eibraheim and 21 year old Abdular-

hardularme.

The security forces were able to find Abdularhardularme in robe bondage, but Einraheim is still missing.

In the evening, six attackers including Sweyautusaung were arrested and investigation was being carried out to arrest the remain attackers.—*Myanmar News Agency*

11 murder suspects arrested in Maungtaw

LOCAL police arrested 11 suspects who are believed to involve in murder cases happened in Sintaung Village on 12nd March and in Ngarsarkyu Village on 27th March in Maungtaw Township.

Acting on a tip-off that

the suspects were in Dotan Village, the local police carried out an area clearance operation in the village on 31st March and arrested the suspects including Mamud Fawri, aged 19.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Villager found dead in Buthidaung Tsp

A 46-year-old man who gave interview to journalists on 29th March about terrorist training in his village was killed by unidentified attackers yesterday.

Seven masked Muslim men

entered the house of Harmis Dullah, in Tinmay Village, Buthidaung Township, and attacked his family with knives and batons at 1.15 am yesterday.

He was found dead with

stabs and cuts at his neck and chin. Police led by South Bazaar station commander are investigating the incident and working to arrest the attackers.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Employees with social security reach about one million nationwide

THE number of employees with social security insurance reached about one million across the country and the Social Security Board issued social security cards to over 300,000 workers after the new Social Security Law came into force with effect from 1 April 2014, according to the ministry.

The SSB under the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population offered social security benefits worth Ks11.749 billion

including Ks721.408 million family assistance to over 200 employees with social security insurance over the past 35 months in line with the new law, said U Maung Maung Aye, acting director-general of the Social Security Board at a recent ceremony.

The SSB provided about Ks7 million social security benefits including funeral expenses plus family assistance benefit to two workers—U Maung Chin, who died in workplace accident,

and U Kyaw Min from Max Myanmar Co, who are now suffering from kidney disease.

According to the SSB, there were a total of 341,659 cases in the past three years.

The Social Security Board is offering healthcare services to individuals with social security insurance through almost 100 clinics plus three workers' hospitals and one traditional medicine hospital.—*Min Min Latt (Man Takkatho)*

Four men attacked by 30 people in black mask

FOUR people in Thetkainnyar village in Maungtaw township were attacked by a group of black masked people.

The attackers broke into the house with rods and knives at the mid night of April 1, while 35 year old Shaungsuarlong, 35 year old Alzarhusaung, 30 year old Sawdularme and 40 year old Marmathusein were present at the Shaungsuarlong's house.

The attackers abducted two of them, Shaungsuarlong who is a clerk in the village administration office and Alzarhusaung, a labour.

Sawdularme and Marmathusein who ran away while the attacker were beating them were injured in their head and body. Security forces are investigating the case.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Myanmar trains midwives to tackle

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"The role of midwives is very important because two thirds of our country is in rural areas.

They are not only work-

ing on healthcare, but also documenting and compiling data for the country," said Dashi Hkwan Nu, head teacher at the Central Midwifery School.

Myanmar's healthcare -- particularly in far-flung areas -- is plagued by ramshackle services, with hospitals lacking basic equipment.—*By Aye Win Myint/Reuters*

Masked men abduct former village administrator

A group of masked men abducted 39-year old former administrator of Kyunpaukyusu Village in Maungtaw Township, Rakhine State on 30 March.

While sleeping together with family at his home, Namamhed was taken

away after midnight by about 30 masked men who broke into the house by destroying the bamboo wall at the back of the house.

Security forces are investigating the case to expose the abductors. —*Myanmar News Agency*

U Win Htein reviews one year accomplishment of government

Interviewers

Myo Myint & Hmwe Kyu Zin (MNA)

2017 is the first year of the new government as well as the beginning of the salvation of the country from poverty — U Win Htein

NATIONAL League for Democracy Central Executive Committee member U Win Htein was interviewed on the new government's first year undertakings.

Q: What is your view on the government's first year work?

A: It is a bit early to comment about the parliament. The new government took office on 30 March 2016. According to the Constitution, there are three sectors — legislative, judicial and executive — in governing the country. The executive sector is President U Htin Kyaw and State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi at the Union Government level and State and Region governments led by Chief Ministers. When the new government came to power, there were talks of whether it would survive for 2 or 6 months.

Overcoming difficulties

Now that one year has passed, these sounds have been silenced. My view is that this government doesn't have experience. But it has good will (cetana). With good will (cetana) difficulties were overcome in their own way. Up till now, the executive branch is marching on.

Similarly, parliament on the legislative side consisting of Pyithu Hluttaw, Amyotha Hluttaw, State and Region parliaments were, chaotic at the beginning because all were inexperienced. In taking over the responsibility, they sometime had to look back at the examples



NLD Central Executive Committee member U Win Htein. PHOTO: MNA

of the previous government as well as find their own way according to their party's policy.

Marching on correctly

The parliaments (Hluttaws) are conducting the legislative duties sufficiently well. There will be some likes, dislikes and criticism by the people on the works of the executive and legislative sectors. As both were marching on correctly, one year period was successfully passed.

There are many weaknesses and faults in the judicial sector. Numerous complaints are received. But the policy of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi is not to hurt the people. People mean, all - the cabinet members, government employees, the public, Tatmadaw. Leading by example, providing education, instead of taking harsh actions is governing by *Myitta* through which the judicial sector will be straighten up.

For example, Rule of Law

Centers were set up in Myitkyina, Taunggyi, Yangon and Mandalay. These are not set up with government budget but with the help of UNDP and other donor countries. Judges, police officers were trained and workshops held.

Especially, during the time of our National League for Democracy government, rule of law is prioritized in raising the role of Myanmar Police Force. Improvement is not only in quantity but in quality as well and thus this department is straightening up while corrupt practices are reduced. Due to this, executive, legislative and judicial sectors can be commented as running sufficiently well.

Peace activity

Q: What is your view on the peace efforts by State Counsellor and the government?

A: The peace process had been started since the previous U Thein Sein government. Eight groups

signed the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA). The incumbent government fully acknowledges this and is attempting as well as aim to improve further on this.

Policy laid down since the founding of National League for Democracy in 1988 to now, is to achieve peace and resolve the armed conflicts through discussion. This policy laid down since that time is now being implemented.

In implementing, the policies set by U Thein Sein is acknowledged and continued. But as all knows, there are many difficulties. Problems in Rakhine State are growing while there are problems in Kachin State and northern Shan State.

Aim to proceed with determination

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi is determined to achieve peace regardless of how many the problems are and how long it will take. During the close to 30 years since 1988, National League for Democracy reaches this stage going through various difficulties such as threat to deregistering of the party and closure of its offices. In the same way, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi will strive to achieve peace despite any difficulties. We have our part to play as well. We aim to do this with determination.

Q: How will you participate with the government in what it is doing next?

A: National League for Democracy took part in the elections with the slogan "it is time for change". Nationwide, we win by 80 per cent. Now it is one year. People said what changes were there? I used to say that since 1962 General Ne Win governs the country.

In 1988 Senior General Saw Maung government took over re-

sponsibility from General Ne Win government. Then Senior General Than Shwe took over the responsibility. Until end 2010 and 2011. Throughout all that time, generals governed the country. From such governments, formation of a civilian government in 2015 is a major change.

Cooperation

According to the Constitution, responsibilities for the Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Defence and Ministry of Border Affairs are given to three generals. We accepted this and cooperated in it. This is the first change.

The second change — we are reducing corruption according to our party policy and thus our union government, state and region governments are conducting their affairs with the least corruption. This is the second change.

The third change is fear. We were always looking about in fear because we were living in fear. Now we fear no longer. We can say whatever we want to say. We can tell Daw Aung San Suu Kyi. We can tell U Htin Kyaw. The ability to say anything we want is the change. This is the third change.

Good structures are established

When we go to States and Regions, government is allocating budget for development and this budget is fully utilized to construct roads, bridges, school. Because these projects are implemented with full utilizing of the budget, good structures are established. This is the fourth change.

Despite these changes, the people had voted for us with much expectation. We take responsibility. We need to improve the condition of the people who have voted for us with much expectation.

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100th year anniversary for Journal Kyaw Ma Ma Lay

JUST as there have been critical analyses made on current literature, critical analyses made on the literature created by all three types of teachers — by seeing, by teaching and by hearing, and senior famous authors (both male and female) of the successive generations of the past is a good tradition for the development of literature, said Dr Pe Myint, Union Minister for the Ministry of Information.

"It is a good tradition as I have learnt that famous authors would discuss thoroughly about the literature of Journal Kyaw Ma Ma Lay," said the Union Minister at the 100th year anniversary of Journal Kyaw Ma Ma Lay held yesterday at the University of Nursing, Yangon.

Dr Pe Myint, Union Minister said that he had read about Journal Kyaw Ma Ma Lay's novels, biography, her activities in the field of literature, that she was excellent in novel writing, that she was an influential author at that time in Myanmar, and also

that she was active in literary affairs.

Today, it is the time when we can enjoy the fruits of literary freedom. As for the art creators, he wished to advise that they can freely create whatever models they desired in this time of freedom, said the Minister who pledged that he would help for the development of Myanmar Literature development as much as he could.

At the ceremony, Author Maung Khin Min (Danuphyu), Author Htet Myat, Author Ma Kyu Kyu Thin and Author Maung Moe Thu participated in the event. U Thein Soe (Thein-soe-Thiha Yatana Publishing house) spoke words of thanks on behalf of the great author Journal Kyaw Ma Ma Lay's family.

After that, the Union Minister looked around the displayed pictures of authors, journals, Myanmar traditional medicine records, the portrait of Journal Kyaw Ma Ma Lay and documentary photos of her.



Union Minister Dr Pe Myint speaking at ceremony to mark 100th Anniversary of Journal Kyaw Ma Ma Lay at University of Nursing in Yangon. PHOTO: MNA

Journal Kyaw Ma Ma Lay was born on 13 April, 1917 in Kamakalu village in Bogalay township in Ayeyawady Region and passed away on 6 April, 1982, at the age of 65.

She wrote 100 short stories, 13 novels, two travelogues, 100 general articles. Some of her novels were translated into different

languages.

The event is open from 9 am to 5 pm from April 1 to 3. The famous authors will discuss about Myanmar literature for three days. All are invited to listen to the discussions about Myanmar literature and look at the photos of the great author.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Press conference on government's one year accomplishments on 4, 6 April

PRESS conference on the Government's Performances in one year will be held at building No. 4, the office of the Ministry of Information, Nay Pyi Taw, on 4, 6 April this year.

Firstly, Amyotha Hluttaw and The Supreme Court of the Union will meet the press at 1:00 pm on 4 April and Ministry of Electric Power and Energy, Ministry of Border Affairs and Ministry of Foreign Affairs at 1:00 PM on 6 April 2017.

Local and foreign media wishing to attend the press meet may apply at Internal and external relation and information session (e-mail: ir.pso.moi2015@gmail.com) with name, agency, phone number and e-mail address. The schedule of next meet will be announced in advance.—*Myanmar News Agency*

LOCAL Business

New container terminal being built in Thilawa SEZ

WITH the loans provided by Japanese government, a new container terminal has been developed by the Myanma Port Authorities in the Thilawa Special Economic Zone to handle more large ships and meet growing demand.

Located 20 kilometers (12.4 miles) southeast of Yangon, the former capital and Myanmar's largest city, the Thilawa SEZ is a large-scale joint project between Myanmar and Japan.

Thilawa is home to the country's first special economic zone opened for business in the third quarter of 2015.

According to an official, U Thant Sin Maung, Union Minister for Transport and Communications, visited the Thilawa SEZ to inspect the progress of logistic infrastructure being constructed under the new container terminal project including the development strategy to build rail facility to operate container trains.

Thanks to economic reforms, investors from Southeast Asia, Asia and Western countries eye Myanmar as the last economic frontier in Asia.—*Myint Maung Soe*



A Worker is seen at the construction site in Thilawa SEZ. PHOTO: REUTERS

Ginger is a potential export product

Htay Win

70 percent of the population are villagers who live in rural areas and they are looking forward to a better living standard and a better life with a slogan "It's time to change." The weather, soils and landscapes in the country are suitable to cultivate ginger.

Being a flowering plant, ginger is widely used for many different purposes in the world. Technically, the ginger root is called rhizome. With hot and humid weather, the sandy and loamy soil is the best to cultivate the ginger. To harvest them, it takes seven months. We can grow ginger in the monsoon and harvest in the winter.

Ginger is grown in India, China, Indonesia, Thailand, Japan and Australia as a national export product. Among them, India is the largest producer and consumer of ginger in the world. Ginger can be made in many different forms such as fresh ginger, dried ginger and powder ginger and so on.

The estimated world import of ginger is 300,000 tonnes per year while China share is 57 percent in ginger trade. With 190 million USD per year, ginger is traded globally. In the history, ginger became one of the most commonly traded spices in the medieval period in Asia.

Top 16 importers of the ginger in the world are USA, India, Bangladesh, UK, Spain, Morocco, Saudi Arab, Germany,

Australia, Netherlands, Yemen Republic, Japan, Malaysia, Canada, Belgium and Israel. Among them, the big international markets are India, USA and Australia. Singapore also hopes to import ginger from other countries.

Ginger rhizome is used not only for spices and medicine but also for making juice, drink, candy, chocolate, snacks, tea and beer in the world.

In Australia, ginger beer is a popular product while ginger candy in Indonesia is penetrating the world market.

While ginger is good and effective for nausea, arthritis, pain and chemotherapy, eating ginger decrease the risk of obesity, diabetes and heart disease.

In Myanmar, ginger is cultivated in Shan state, Magway

region, Kayin state and Mandalay region in a commercial scale, but it is grown in Rakhine state only in a manageable scale. 17,000 acres of ginger is grown in Myanmar according to the ministry of commerce.

"If there are buyers, ginger will be a thriving product," said a local from Rakhine state. We can grow ginger across the country as if we grow rice in the country.

The country trade deficit shows 5 billion USD in the current fiscal year because we import more rather than we export. I believe the ginger in the country will narrow the export and import gap in the country.

W

Reference: An international market study of ginger in Nepal and internet research.



Myanmar-Thai bilateral import value via border up by over \$154 million

THE import of Thailand products to Myanmar via seven border gates before the end of this fiscal year reached nearly US\$980 million, a rise of \$154 million compared with the same period last FY, the Commerce Ministry reported.

Thailand's products flow in and out of the country from Tachilek, Myawady, Kawthaung, Myeik, Hteekhee, Mawtaung and Maese border gates. During the same time of last financial year, Myanmar imported a wide range of products worth more than \$800 million via those seven border gates.

Between April and mid-March, Myanmar bought \$60.711 million worth of products from Tachilek border trade camp, products worth \$810.751 million from

Myawady border gate, products worth \$59.686 million from Kawthaung border trade station, products worth \$46.612 million from Myeik border, products worth \$0.577 million from Hteekhee, products worth \$0.854 million from Mawtaung trade camp and products worth \$0.146 million from Maese border gate.

Myanmar predominately imports food, soft drinks, cooking oils, plastic wares, mat and other personal goods and exports marine and fisheries products and others. According to the MoC, Myanmar-Thailand bilateral trade through both borders and sea routes hit \$3.871 billion over the first 11 months of this year.—*Khine Khant*

Over 17 tonnes of dried ginger exported to China via Muse border

MORE THAN 17 tonnes of Myanmar dried ginger went to China via Muse border trade camp between 11 and 17 March, a decrease of one tonne compared with the previous week, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

Around 17.5 tonnes of dried ginger worth US\$21,787 were exported to China. In the previous week, a total of 18.5 tonnes of dried ginger were sent to the Myanmar's largest neighbor with over 1.3 billion population.

The price of dried ginger was Ks1.693 million per tonne, according to Muse market. From 11 and 17 March,

the country also exported seven tonnes of fresh ginger to Bangladesh through Sittway border trade station, an increase of five more tonnes than the previous week, when two tonnes of fresh ginger were sold to the same country.

One tonne of fresh ginger was worth Ks1.033 million in Sittway border market, according to the ministry. Myanmar mostly exports agriculture products, forest products and fisheries products to China and imports personal goods, construction materials and many different items.—*Shwe Khine*

Performances in One-Year Period

Ministry of Defence in military and civil services in the time of the new government

Article: Khine Kyaw Nyo

THE Ministry of Defence is committed to ensuring the new government elected by the people to be on the right track of democracy. The activities it has undertaken include environmental conservation, relief and resettlement in times of natural disaster, reopening of universities' training corps, rural health care services and prevention of recruitment of minors into the army.

Natural environment

Natural environment encompasses all living and non-living things occurring naturally and the interaction of all living species, climate, weather and natural resources that affect human survival and economic activity. The natural environment is greatly modified into a simplified human environment. Man has changed landscapes to make urban settings and agricultural land, thereby resulting in gradual degradation of the environment in the period of over 50 years. Natural disaster and man-made disaster caused climate changes, thus triggering global warming, flood, landslide, earthquake, storm, forest fire and volcanic eruption. Therefore, different countries are extensively engaged in disaster reduction, alleviation of global warming and reforestation. Provisional services and regulating services are adoption of climate changes, carbonization, water and air purification, prevention of land erosion and landslide.

Prevention of climate changes

In order to prevent global warming, climate changes, disease spreading and to maintain ecosystem, the Ministry of Defence grew tress in different regions. Trees and forests contribute a lot to the absorption of carbon dioxide and heat, prevention of storm impact, soil prevention and others. Apart from prevention of lives and property of the people, the Tatmadaw in co-operation with the government planted a total of 1222569 tree saplings in the year 2016 as part of its efforts for environmental conservation and disaster pre-

vention.

Disaster relief and rehabilitation

The Ministry of Defence is committed to disaster preparedness before disaster, search and rescue, emergency response during disaster and rehabilitation and resettlement after disaster with the enactment of the Natural Disaster Management Law on 31 July 2013. In order to more effectively carry out the tasks, it was working with the Myanmar Police Force, Fire Brigade, Red Cross, social organizations, philan-

The Tatmadaw also donated cash over K 798 million for renovation of pagodas and religious edifices damaged by Bagan earthquake. In the 2016 fires, it helped evacuate 580 households and donated K 13 million as relief aid.

thropic organizations and NGOs. The Tatmadaw was not only in rescue efforts in Nargis cyclone, Giri cyclone, Tarle earthquake, floods in Sagaing and Magway regions, Shwebo earthquake and Mahasin storm but also made cash and kind donations for disaster victims. In the time of the new government also, it was extensively engaged in rescue and rehabilitation of every natural disaster in real time.

In the 2016 disasters in different parts of the country, the Tatmadaw renovated and rebuilt 944 pagodas, 58 monasteries, 4687 houses, 64 schools and five hospitals, and provided relief aids worth K 116 million. In the 2016-2017 floods also, it evacuated a total of 7777 houses to safety. In the process, it had to use its aircraft and helicopters flying 41 sorties and provided relief aid worth K



The members of Tatmadaw undergoing training at a military training school. PHOTO: MNA

119 million. The Tatmadaw also donated cash over K 798 million for renovation of pagodas and religious edifices damaged by Bagan earthquake. In the 2016 fires, it helped evacuate 580 households and donated K 13 million as relief aid.

Safeguarding the country

Myanmar is home to over 100 national races whose population is over 51.4 million (according to 2014 census) and the population is expected to stand at 70 million in the year 2050. The average population density is 76 per one square kilometer with 4.6 per cent of disable population. The today's security encompasses not only military but political, economic and social aspects. The world events showed that the national defence calls for the participation of the entire people. Towards this end, universities' training corps were opened

as of the 2012-2013 academic year and altogether 3199 teachers and students underwent military training in 2015-2016 academic year whereas altogether 4141 teachers and students were trained in 2016-2017 academic year.

Public health care

The medical corps is committed to providing medical treatment not only to the Tatmadaw families but also to the general public, regardless of race, religion and status. In that regard, it visited far-flung regions and villages, giving free medical treatment under the arrangement of its command. From 2012 to 2016, altogether 1,332,012 people were given medical treatment and 13413 others referred to the Tatmadaw hospitals. The program benefited patients suffering from TB, respiratory diseases, cancer, chron-

ic arthritis, traumatic injuries and breast cancer, utilizing modern medical equipment such as CT scan room, Minor Eye Operation room, Minor Operation theatre and Echo.

The Tatmadaw mobile healthcare team led by the specialists and nurses provided free healthcare services to the 40,818 people from the coastal areas in Rakhine State and Taninthayi Region during the period from 18 March 2016 to 6 March 2017 through a seagoing hospital ship called "Thanlwin". Altogether the 38,764 people in Yangon Region and in Kangyidaunt and Bogale Townships in Ayeyawady Region were provided with free healthcare services by the Tatmadaw mobile healthcare team through a river going hospital vessel (Shwepazun) during the period from 28 April 2016 to 26 February 2017.

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A helicopter and a vessel taking part in military exercise conducted in Myanmar's territorial waters. PHOTO: MNA

PERFORMANCES IN ONE-YEAR PERIOD

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Likewise, the Tatmadaw specialists administered vaccinations and provided medical treatment for the 1,785 locals in Htamlamma Village in Lahe Township and Kesankarlan Village in Nanyon Township in Naga Self-administered Zone where the measles disease broke out from 8 to 12 August 2016. Moreover, the 15,053 local people were vaccinated against the measles disease and the 86,326 local residents given with free healthcare services during the period from April 2016 to March 2017. The Tatmadaw specialists and medical staff have been carrying out not only medical treatment and healthcare awareness but also participating in education activities in 22 townships in Naga Self-administered Zone.

A total of the 8,775 flood victims including 3,391 men and 5,384 women from Kachin and Rakhine States, Sagaing, Bago, Yangon and Ayeyawady Regions were provided with free healthcare services during the period from 5 May 2016 to 15 August 2016. Similarly, the 2,193 fire victims – 549 men and 1,644 women – from Namsang Township in Northern Shan State were supplied with free healthcare services during 5 to 24 February 2016. To help contribute to improvement of the ethnic people, the Tatmadaw mobile healthcare teams plan to provide healthcare services to all national races residing in the country.

To build a powerful Tatmadaw

With a view to building a powerful, modern and patriotic Tatmadaw to safeguard the independence and sovereignty of the country, the eligible citizens above 18 years old are allowed to serve in the armed forces of their own volition. Those wishing to join in the armed forces must take their citizenship scrutiny cards, recommendation from the school, recommendation from the ward administrator, recommendation from the police station and family registration certificate and only eligible persons will be recruited into the armed forces.

The Committee for the Prevention of Military Recruitment of Underage Children was formed with Letter No 205/ Na Ya Ka Oo/ Ka Sa, dated 5.1.2004 and two members were included in the committee under the Notification No/68 2014, Letter No 112/2/8 of the President Office. So far 26 June 2012, the 597 child soldiers were freed from the armed forces before signing United Nations Country Task Force on Monitoring and Reporting (UNCTFMR) and Plan of Action. The Ministry of Defence under the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and United Nations Country Task Force on Monitoring and Reporting (UNCTFMR) signed an agreement on plan of action for prevention of military recruitment of underage children on 27 June 2012 at Thingaha Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw.

(a) The Government of the Re-

public of the Union of Myanmar held 41 discussions with UNCTFMR.

- (b) Both sides conducted monitoring visits to the regiments and 21-point agreement was drawn up to eradicate prevention and recruitment of underage children.
- (c) Under the action plan, the pamphlets, wall sheets and posters were distributed to the people through the township General Administration Department and the 286 billboards erected in the regions and states for the public awareness. The National Campaign Materials were published in the Voice Weekly, the Voice Daily, 7 Days Journal, Yangon Times, Flower News Journal and Myanmar Times for two days.
- (d) Myanmar government freed 744 underage children from the armed forces in accord with rules and regulations and handed over to their parents during the period from

The Tatmadaw had been serving the interests of the people in political, economic and social sectors partnering with the government, the parliament and the public.

3.9.2012 to 31.3.2016 in cooperation with UNCTFMR.

- (e) Multiplier courses on prevention of military recruitment of underage children were conducted with the arrangement of the respective command.
- (f) A total of 401 service personnel – 78 commissioned officers and 323 other ranks – who recruited underage children, had been taken actions. Cooperation with UNCTFMR during one-year period of the new government

Cooperation with UNCTFMR for prevention of military recruitment of underage children during one-year period of the new government is as follows;

- (a) Committee for the Prevention of Military Recruitment of Underage Children was reformed with 12 members with Letter No 112/2/8 of the President Office, dated 11 May 2016.
- (b) A total of four discussions were held between The Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and UNCTFMR.
- (c) The UNCTFMR members accompanied by a senior military officer went to 13 battalions as monitoring visit.
- (d) The 66 underage children were freed from the armed



The Tatmadaw members participating in rehabilitation task in the disaster-hit area. PHOTO: MNA

forces and handed over to their parents in line with rules and regulations at No (1) Transit Camp on 9.9.2016.

- (e) Multiplier courses on prevention of military recruitment of underage children were given to altogether 10885 services personal at the respective command.
- (f) Military rules have been taken against 20 services personnel who recruited underage children.

Ministry of Defence

The Tatmadaw had been serving the interests of the people in political, economic and social sectors in partnering with the government, the parliament and

the public. The United Nations Climate Change Conference or COP 21 was held in Paris, France on 30 December 2015, in attendance with the leaders and delegates from 195 countries around the world. A goal of limiting global warming to less than 2 degrees Celsius (°C) compared to pre-industrial levels was discussed at the conference. The scientists predicted that if the global warming is increased to more than 2 degrees Celsius; about 300 million of the world population will suffer from it. The Tatmadaw placed emphasis on planting trees to prevent global warming and air pollution.

Moreover, the Tatmadaw had been taking part in rescue

and rehabilitation works for the natural disaster-hit victims in joining hands with concerned departments and local people. The Tatmadaw is being built as a powerful, modern and patriotic army; the eligible citizens above 18 years had been allowed to serve in the armed forces. The militia strategy has been adopted to ensure safety and security of the country. The Ministry of Defence is collaborating with UNCTFMR to prevent military recruitment of underage children and is providing free healthcare services for the needy people. The Tatmadaw had been serving the interest of the ethnic people, upholding our three main national causes in the fore.



The Tatmadaw members partaking in rescue work in the flood-hit area. Photo: MNA



Services personnel and their family members are seen at a tree planting ceremony. PHOTO: MNA

Bangladesh Flower Fest 2017



A young woman collects flowers during "Bangladesh Flower Fest 2017" in Dhaka, capital of Bangladesh, on 31 March 2017. A three-day flower festival kicked off here on Thursday. PHOTO: XINHUA

Trump sends letter to Viet Nam's president to promote ties

HANOI — US President Donald Trump has written to Vietnamese President Tran Dai Quang to promote more cooperation between the two countries, the government website cited Quang as saying.

Viet Nam and the United States had advanced ties to a new level under the Obama administration amid a dispute with China over South China Sea issues, while Trump has also expressed his hope for a stronger relationship.

Trump sent a letter to Quang "affirming his wishes to promote cooperation on economics, trade, regional and international issues", the Vietnamese government website said.

Quang made the remarks during a meeting with the US ambassador to Viet Nam on Friday.

Quang emphasized

that Viet Nam welcomes US efforts to improve cooperation with countries in the region to maintain the freedom of navigation and aviation.

US Ambassador Ted Osius was reported as saying that Trump is considering attending the upcoming Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) summit in Viet Nam this year.

Viet Nam had been expected to be one of the biggest beneficiaries of the Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP) free trade deal which Trump pulled the US out of in January, but Hanoi has also been building links with the United States amid a maritime dispute with China. Prime Minister Nguyen Xuan Phuc said last month he was ready to visit the United States to promote ties, particularly trade.—Reuters

China's BeiDou system to expand cooperation to SE Asia

BEIJING — China's home-grown BeiDou Navigation Satellite System (BDS) will expand its cooperation to Thailand and Sri Lanka, and then to the entire Southeast Asia, in a bid to go global, the system's operator has said.

Du Li, general manager of Wuhan Optics Valley BeiDou Holding Group Co., told Xinhua recently that his company will continue to explore models for international scientific and technical cooperation on BDS, including the joint construction of base stations, joint technical development and research, personnel training and exchanges, and others.

Wuhan Optics Valley BeiDou established the first batch of three overseas Continuously Operating Reference Stations (CORS) and its networking for BDS in Chonburi Province, eastern Thailand in December 2013, while it is also planning to build a China-ASEAN science and technology city in Thailand for promoting BDS applications.

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) consists of 10 countries, including Thailand, Malaysia, Viet Nam, Cambodia and Laos.

Wuhan Optics Valley BeiDou this year will cooperate with Sri Lankan

related authorities to develop at least 10 CORS in the South Asian country for such applications as land surveying and mapping, ocean fishery and disaster warning, Du said.

The establishment of CORS in Thailand and Sri Lanka will extend the BDS coverage at least 3,000 km more towards Southeast Asia and South Asia, Du said.

Wuhan Optics Valley BeiDou is based in Wuhan, capital city of Hubei Province in central China. It is in charge of the operations and services of BDS, a GPS-like global positioning system.

By the end of 2016,

BDS already had a constellation of 32 satellites.

The Belt and Road Initiative is an opportunity for China's space science and technology, said Li Deren, a professor at a state key laboratory in Wuhan University located in Wuhan.

"Our priority is to expand BDS from China to the frontline of the Belt and Road Initiative, and Optics Valley BeiDou is a pioneer," Li said.

China-made smartphones, such as Huawei smartphones, will be good platforms for BDS to go overseas as they carry Chinese chips, Li said.

—Xinhua

At least 11 buried in landslide in Indonesia's Java

JAKARTA — At least 11 people were buried by a landslide triggered by heavy rain on Indonesia's Java island on Saturday, including villagers who were harvesting a crop of ginger, a disaster official said.

Police and soldiers were helping residents to clear the mud and debris to look for victims after the landslide in the village in the Ponorogo area of East Java, said National Disaster Management Agency (BNPB) spokesman Sutopo Purwo Nugroho.

Up to 30 houses had

been engulfed by the landslide and the exact number of people missing was still unclear, with heavy equipment needed to shift the earth, said Nugroho.

Rescue efforts were also hampered by people flocking to the area to see the landslide and causing traffic jams, he said.

The local disaster mitigation agency had warned of the risk of a landslide due to recent rain, and some people had only returned to the village on Saturday after staying the night in a shelter, said the official.—Reuters

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

MV OEL MALAYSIA VOY. NO (1705)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV OEL MALAYSIA VOY. NO (1705) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 2.4.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of B.S.W 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 BLPL SHIPPING LINE

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

MV CAPE FLORES VOY. NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV CAPE FLORES VOY. NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 2.4.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT

MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY

AGENT FOR: M/S NEW GOLDEN SEA LINES

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

MV YANTRA BHUM VOY. NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV YANTRA BHUM VOY. NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 2.4.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT

MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY

AGENT FOR: M/S REGIONAL CONTAINER

LINES

Phone No: 2301185

Opinion

Write for us

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

Due to limitation of space we are only able to publish "Letter to the Editor" that do not exceed 500 words. Should you submit a text longer than 500 words please be aware that your letter will be edited.

Money hoarders manipulate commodity prices

Khin Maung Oo

IF asked what the most commonly discussed topic of everyday conversations among people is, the reply may be "commodity prices." On streets, in buses and at work places, people talk about it. Their voices are full of annoyance, disappointment and sometimes anger. It is a big problem for most in the country, especially people from grass-roots level as it causes many difficulties for them to deal with it. Accordingly, the problem becomes an extremely big problem for the government per se, because it is like a parent to all citizens. Here, I would like to say that many people have this misunderstanding that the government is wholly responsible for dealing with this problem. We are all well aware that we find it difficult to manage even the affairs of a family consisting of less than a dozen members. The bigger an institution or organization, the greater is its responsibility. Ruling a country is certainly not like running a boot-camp. And, we

should not think that we have already done our duty just by electing the government we want and hope for—the rightful and trustworthy parliamentarians. We need to support them by giving feedback and by being interested in the work being done by the Hluttaws at different levels. Just as it is the duty of Hluttaw representatives to report back to the people on a regular basis, it is also important for the people to monitor the effectiveness and honesty of the Hluttaw representatives they have chosen by exercising their right to vote.

We had been under the suppressions of former regimes, hence the desire to escape from these bitter experiences. Out of our great aspirations to change everything, we voted for change. However, we have forgotten to change ourselves, or may have pretended to forget to change ourselves. Cheating oneself is worse than tricking others. One knows the most about oneself. Some people always say to others to have pity for the poor and

to help them in whatever way we can. They are not above giving a small chance to their inferiors, but they tend to rush towards a cash bonanza, pushing aside others with force. Greed is concerned with everyone, but we should notice that excessive greed may harm us some times as greed blindfolds our visions and judgment. Especially, parvenus and tycoons who reach the present state through cronyism and the greediest persons have a tendency to make a grab for great opportunities.

The said kind of people who get enormous amounts of money try to hoard rice, cooking oil, basic commodities and fuel oil, selling out them when prices reach the amount they expect. Thus, for them, wealth is accumulating whereas debts are multiplying day by day for most people—workers, government employees with fixed incomes and families with meagre incomes. At such a time when every family member of a jet-set society drives different types of

cars, some children are walking about the town bare-footed. While some people are having a good time in KTV's or bars, many housewives are waiting for their husbands' arrival, hoping for a meager amount of money to buy some rice for the family dinner. In fact, the main cause of such a gap can be said to have been partly attributed to our excessive greed. We are all responsible to solve this problem and do whatever we can to solve it either individually or collectively.

We have laws to deal with such kinds of offences, malpractices and mischievous deeds of the ultra-opportunists and money-hoarders. Due to weaknesses in the rule of law, we are meeting and will still be meeting such incidents. We need to solve such a weakness in the rule of law urgently. If we know the root of a disease, we can find the medicine which will cure it. Our only duty is to help our trusted government to the best of our ability in preparing the medicine.

Gaining Both Secular Success and Spiritual Merit

Tommy Pauk

THERE is no one who does not want secular success in life. Every sensible person wishes to make secular success and gain spiritual merit. Some people concentrate only on striving for secular success and they do neglect the spiritual merit. According to the ability and vigorous efforts of a person, he or she can obtain secular success in life. We must be able to endure hardship and failures with composure before gaining success. Spiritual merit can be attained by doing good deeds in life. The persons who refrain from doing evil deeds can gain spiritual merit. This belief or concept is embraced by all civilized peoples on earth. In other words, this is a universal truth for all mankind indeed. It is no doubt that the philanthropists, benevolent persons, charitable donors and righteous persons can gain spiritual merit. The very basic concept of humanitarianism is that we must have compassion, humanity, benignity, and loving kindness. All the religious teachings are based on doing meritorious deeds and cultivating human minds to possess compassion. The religious faith and its respective practices

aim to endure peace and create harmony among fellow human beings on earth.

To be able to achieve secular success in life, we ought to have the quality of thinking or behaving in a correct and honest way. A person who does not succeed in life struggle is living dead. Actually, failures are the stepping stones to reach a goal of success. Rectitude, hard-work, good-judgment and dogged perseverance lead a person to achieve secular success in life. These days, people are inspired by the successful persons in education, art, science, politics, innovation, economy, business and so on. They are facing or experiencing lots of challenges and competitions in striving for making secular success. They also get caught up in the rat race in every field. Most of the people living in the urban areas or concrete jungle are craving for material wealth and material gains in this IT age around the world. Some unscrupulous persons use unfair or dishonest way for making success in a particular society. As a consequence, they feel guilty-consciousness for their malpractice in their minds. Normally, ambition, motivation and ego are driving factors to achieve suc-

cess in human endeavor in life. It is human nature that we want to succeed in education, business, sports, arts and so on. However, the achievement of one's aim cannot be easily obtained in life. There are many obstacles to be overcome before achieving secular success. Simultaneously, we want to fulfill our cravings of creature comforts while striving for secular success in secular society. In addition, we seek worldly pleasure while we are alive. Even if we gain secular success, we ought to maintain it securely. If a person succeeds in various fields in secular society, he or she is likely to be a vainglorious person. It is very important to tame our minds that we should not be too proud of our secular successes or triumphs when we attain them. We must bear in mind that if we forget our origins and become conceited, we will encounter our downfall eventually. This means that we will lose our money, property, power, social positions and fame. In this case, everyone should be aware of the impact of haughtiness caused by secular success. Humans have a natural disposition to be good, but the character is changed due to excessive pride or conceit.

It is hardly ever to gain the secular success and spiritual merit on equal ratio in life. Some people try hard to gain spiritual merit in accord with the religious faith they profess. Different people around the world profess to different religion. Nevertheless, all the religious teachings guide the believers or disciples to behave honestly and correctly for gaining the secular success in life. Then they do have their own practices to attain spiritual merit with specific doctrines. The focal point of all faith is based on charitable work, charitable donation, compassion, peace and harmony for all mankind in deed. We all are taught not to commit sins or do evil deeds by the respective religions in human society. Good moral behaviors and meritorious deeds lead us to attain spiritual merit. Basically spiritual merit is regarded as an award for those who refrain from committing sins and doing evil deeds in human life. We value that award and eagerly want it for eternal life before attaining Nivarna. We ought to analyze our conduct and contributions toward humanity so that we will be able to improve or upgrade our meritorious deeds and charitable work as much as we can. Essen-

tially, we need to gain both secular success and spiritual merit. We must value the human existence because humans can attain the enlightenment if they practice correctly. However, if a person behaves recklessly and does nothing for spiritual merit, he or she will meet crisis certainly. A man without secular success is like a vehicle without fuel. Similarly, a man who does not attempt for gaining spiritual merit is like a traveler without map or itinerary indeed. We understand the value and benefit of human life. As a matter of fact, we need to live beneficially, wisely and honestly in secular society. In order to enjoy the tempting luxuries in modern age, we have to work harder than before. At the same time, we strive for secular success with stable life. Since we are associated with other fellow human beings, we need to contribute to the social welfare activities by showing a sociable disposition. Thus, we realize that a secular success alone is not meaningful or complete for human life. Therefore, we also pay attention to the practice or work for gaining spiritual merit. We follow and practice in conformity with our faith, aiming to gain spiritual merit successfully.

U Win Htein reviews one year accomplishment of government.....

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The year to alleviate people from poverty

We need to improve the conditions of the people and create jobs. These two are the main points. Thus, 2017 is reaching the first year point of the NLD government as well as the year in which we will alleviate the people from poverty.

Q: Tell a little about actions taken against those who are responsible.

A: From U Htin Kyaw and Daw Aung San Suu Kyi to the bottom level personnel, all have good will (cetana). Despite good will (cetana), there can be some

wrong acts. We don't hesitate to correct those wrongs. Why? Because if there are any obstacles or hindrance in forming a democratic federal union, the correct democratization and achieving of democratic aims, we will remove it. We will remove it without grudges. One Deputy Minister from the union government and Mon State Chief Minister were changed because they are not supporting this principal. In future too we will take actions against members of the union government, state and region government if they are doing things against the goodness of the people who voted for them.

Q: What do you want to say about government's national reconciliation efforts?

working well with Lt. General Sein Win, Lt. General Ye Aung, Lt. General Kyaw Swe. She work openly.

A: Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's policy is to base on national reconciliation for establishing a federal democracy union. Based on this Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker is U Win Myint from National League for Democracy, Deputy Speaker is a Kachin national U T Khun Myat, from Union Solidarity Development Party. Amyotha Hluttaw speaker is U Mahn Win Khaing Than from National League for Democracy and Deputy Speaker is U Aye Tha Aung, from Arakan National Party.

For national reconciliation, we appoint personnel from other parties and ethnic nationals as well. It is the same with Tatmadaw. Daw Aung San Suu Kyi is

working well with Lt. General Sein Win, Lt. General Ye Aung, Lt. General Kyaw Swe. She work openly.

Have hope

Especially important is Senior General Min Aung Hlaing. Because he is the Tatmadaw leader relationship between Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and Senior General Min Aung Hlaing must be good in order to achieve our aim of amending the Constitution. A federal democratic union can be established. Convenient for peace as well.

With this aim, Senior General Min Aung Hlaing attended last year Martyr Day. Past Tatmadaw leaders has no precedent of doing

such thing. Senior General Min Aung Hlaing was conciliatory in such way. In the same way, when Senior General Min Aung Hlaing attended the multi-religion prayer ceremony at Daw Aung San Suu Kyi residence, she realize that he is doing things for the country with good will (cetana) and let Senior General Min Aung Hlaing know about her realization.

Up to now there are no big problems between National League for Democracy and Tatmadaw. From this, the hope is to have more understanding through which more political matters can be accomplished. This is the expectation. And this is how Daw Aung San Suu Kyi will continue.

(Unofficial Translation)

Housing authorities plan to finalise construction of over 8,700 flats this year in Yangon

HOUSING authorities are planning to finish the construction of over 8,700 apartments from low-and-affordable housing projects in the Yangon, said a spokesperson of Urban and Housing Development Department under the Construction Ministry.

According to the department, a total of 8,712 housing units have been constructed in

the commercial capital. Before the end of 2016-17 fiscal year, more than 2,000 newly established low-cost and affordable apartments were sold to general public in installment.

Nearly 1,400 flats from Yandana Hninzi housing in Ayeyarwun-Yadana Project in Dagon Seikkan Township, Yangon Region, were also sold out to the people within this FY.

Currently, the low-cost and fair-cost housing projects are being implemented in Yangon, Monywa, Magway and Patheingyi townships with the aim of fulfilling the housing needs of residents.

Establishment of a million of housing units across the country is a major objective of the Ministry of Construction. —200

Myanmar joins ADB's South Asia economic body

MYANMAR has formally become a full member of South Asia Subregional Economic Cooperation (SASEC) programme of Asian Development Bank (ADB) being the seventh country to join the group.

The SASEC programme of ADB was formed in 2001 in response to the request of Bangladesh, Bhutan, India and Nepal to assist in facilitating economic cooperation among them. Sri Lanka and Maldives joined the sub-regional group in 2014.

Addressing a meeting of ADB in New Delhi today, Shaktikanta Das, Secretary, Department

of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance of India, said development of multi-modal connectivity between North Eastern region of India, Bangladesh and Myanmar has the potential of unleashing tremendous economic energy in the sub-region, reports our local correspondent.

He noted that Myanmar is the key to realising greater connectivity and stronger trade and economic relations between SASEC sub-region and the countries of East and Southeast Asia.

Myanmar's membership in SASEC can offer a host of opportunities for realising synergies

from economic cooperation in the sub-region, he observed.

SASEC member-countries recognise that most of SASEC's multimodal connectivity initiatives include Myanmar as road corridors in Myanmar provide the key links between South Asia and Southeast Asia and ports in Myanmar will provide additional gateways to the landlocked North Eastern region of India, Das said.

SASEC's energy connectivity and energy trade prospects will be enhanced with the inclusion of Myanmar, involving its substantial resources of hydropower and natural gas, he said.—Star Onlin

Myanmar film to feature in Festivalde Cannes 2017

The Myanmar Film Project entitled One Summer Day by Wera and Aung Min has been selected for the Festivalde Cannes 2017-La Fabrique des Cinémas du monde.

According to a press release, MEMORY! International Film Festival and Myanmar Script Fund are pleased to announce that the film is one of the 10 projects from around the world selected in La Fabrique de Cinémas du Monde at Festival de Cannes 2017.

Director Wera and Script-writer Aung Min were part of the shortlist candidates of the nine

projects selected for Myanmar Script Fund in November 2016, that took place within MEMORY Film Festival 4th edition in Yangon, Myanmar.

The project was also previously selected in Locarno Festival Open Doors Locarno Lab in August 2016.

Myanmar Script Fund 1st edition took place in 2016 as a Competition and Education programme within MEMORY International Film Festival in Yangon. Nine finalists candidates presented their film projects in front of an international jury chaired by Oscar-winner Director Michel Haz-

anavicius.

Recognised international institutions such as Locarno Film Festival/Open Doors, FAMU (Czech Republic), Myanmar Motion Picture Organization (MMPO), Yangon Film School and Arte Cinema were key partners alongside Institut Français, Goethe Institut, with the support of Forever Group.

The 2017 Myanmar Script Fund will open in May 2017 for the new application process. Competition and coaching session will take place within MEMORY International Film Festival 2017 (Nov 3-12, 2017).—Mizzima

Vehicle overturns on Yangon-Mandalay Highway



Volunteers rescue injured passengers. PHOTO: MYANMAR POLICE FORCE

A vehicle overturned en-route to Mandalay from Yangon on the highway between mile posts 227/0 and 227/1 yesterday morning.

The vehicle of CANTER type driven by Thann Zaw Lynn was out of control due to the flat tyre and it overturned over the

midway platform. A total of 11 passengers, 6 were injured in the accident and were sent to 1000-bedded hospital in Nay Pyi Taw.

The driver was taken action under the criminal code 337/338 of careless driving by local police.—Myanmar Police Force



Myanmar women entrepreneurs leave for Vietnam on 31st March to participate in AGRIPREURSHIP Study Tour Tiger @ Mekong Program. PHOTO: MNA

Merkel ally welcomes EU Brexit offer, warns UK against dividing bloc

BERLIN — A transition period offered to Britain by the European Union in Brexit negotiating guidelines it issued on Friday is the only way to avoid the talks failing, an ally of German Chancellor Angela Merkel said.

In the guidelines, the EU offered Britain talks this year on a future free trade pact but made clear that London must first agree to the bloc's demands on the terms of Brexit.

The document, seen by Reuters, sets tough conditions for any transition period, insisting Britain must accept many EU rules after any such partial withdrawal. Detlef Seif, the deputy EU spokesman for Merkel's conservative parliamentary bloc, said there were effectively only 15 months for the negotiations and this was insufficient time to wrap up Britain's exit from the bloc.

"Without transitional provisions, the negotiations would be doomed to failure from the start," Seif told Reuters. "The proposal provides the necessary room and flexibility to negotiate reasonably and to reach high-quality arrangements," he said of the guidelines, which may be revised before leaders of the remaining 27 EU states endorse them at an April 29 summit.

"The more access to the internal market Britain wants, the greater the trade-off and so the more Britain must submit to EU law," said Seif, warning Britain not to try to divide the bloc by negotiating with individual member states.

"Should this transpire, it would be the end of the EU's good behaviour and willingness to compromise, which can clearly be seen in the draft guidelines," he added.—Reuters

Trump's orders target trade abuses, import duty evasion

WASHINGTON — US President Donald Trump sought to push his crusade for fair trade and more manufacturing jobs back to the top of his agenda on Friday by ordering a study into the causes of US trade deficits and a clampdown on import duty evasion.

The executive orders came a week after Trump's promise to replace Obamacare imploded in Congress and a week before he meets with Chinese President Xi Jinping in Florida, a summit that promises to be fraught with trade tensions.

Trump said at a White House signing ceremony that he and Xi were "going to get down to some serious business" next week and vowed that "the theft of American prosperity" by foreign countries would end.

One of the orders directed the Commerce Department and the US trade representative to conduct a 90-day review of the causes of massive US trade deficits. It will study the effects of abuses such as the dumping of products below costs, unfair subsidies, "misaligned" currencies and "non-reciprocal" trade practices by other countries.

"We're going to investigate all trade abuses, and, based on those findings, we will take necessary and lawful action to end those many abuses," Trump said, adding that he wasn't beholden to any businesses.

Trump administration officials have said they plan tougher enforcement of US trade remedy laws and will initiate more unilateral trade deals. In his 2016 White House bid, the New York businessman campaigned



US President Donald Trump speaks during a signing ceremony of executive orders on trade, accompanied by Vice President Mike Pence (C) and US Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross (2nd R) at the Oval Office of the White House in Washington, US on 31 March, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

heavily against free-trade deals and accused China of draining jobs from US factory towns with cheap exports. Chinese Vice Foreign Minister Zheng Zeguang on Friday said the US-China trade imbalance was mostly the result of differences in the two countries' economic structures and noted that China had a trade deficit in services.

"China does not deliberately seek a trade surplus. We also have no intention of carrying out competitive currency devaluation to stimulate exports," Zheng told a briefing about the Xi-Trump meeting.

The study of trade abuses appeared aimed at justifying unilateral retaliatory trade actions by the United States, said Matt Gold, a former deputy assistant US trade representative who is now an adjunct trade law professor at Fordham University in New York.

"They probably think it will give them better political ammunition," Gold said.

But he added that it would not likely reveal anything that is not already in the Office of the US Trade Representative's annual list of trade barriers, which also was released on Friday. The report criticized China's excess industrial capacity and requirements for technology transfers and cyber security, which it said are aimed displacing foreign products with domestic versions.

The trade abuses study will focus on those countries that have chronic goods trade surpluses with the United States.

China tops the list, with a \$347 billion surplus last year, followed by Japan, with a \$69 billion surplus, Germany at \$65 billion, Mexico at \$63 billion, Ireland at \$36 billion and Viet Nam at \$32 billion.

The study also will ex-

amine past trade deals that have failed to produce forecast benefits for the United States, as well as World Trade Organization rules that US Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross said do not treat countries equally, such as on taxation.

The United States has long complained that WTO rules allow exports from other countries to be exempt from value-added taxes (VAT), but do not allow equivalent corporate income tax benefits for US exporters. The Trump administration is considering a border tax that would be levied on imports and which would aim to put the United States on a similar tax basis for trade as countries that have VAT. The second trade order will fight nonpayment and under-collection of anti-dumping and anti-subsidy duties the United States slaps on many foreign goods.—Reuters

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Acting Chief Editor - Aye Min Soe
dce@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

Expatriate Consultant Editor
Mark Angeles

markrangeles@gmail.com

Senior Translators

Khin Maung Oo

editor2@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

Copy Writer Min Zaw

International News Editor

Ye Htut Tin

editor1@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

Local News Editors

Tun Tun Naing (Editor)

intlnews@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

Nwe Nwe Tun (Sub-editor)

Translators

Khaing Thanda Lwin,

reporter1@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

Hay Mar Tin Win,

translator@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

Ei Myat Mon

Chief Reporter

Tun Aung Kyaw,

reporter2@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

Computer Team

Tun Zaw (Chief of Computer Team), Thein Ngwe,

Zaw Zaw Aung, Ye Naing Soe, Nyi Zaw Moe,

Hnin Pwint, Kay Khaing Win, Sanda Hnin, Zu Zin Hnin

Circulation

San Lwin (+95) (01) 8604532, Hotline - 09 974424114

Advertising inquiry

01 8604530, Hotline - 09 974424848

marketing@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

subscription@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

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Colombia's FARC rebels give up guns in disarmament camps

MOUNTAINS OF CAUCA (Colombia) — Former fighters from Colombia's FARC rebel group are handing over thousands of weapons and other materials to international officials in special camps, as the group's six-month disarmament process continues.

The Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) signed a peace agreement with the government late last year to put an end to their part in Latin America's longest-running armed conflict, which has killed more than 220,000 people and displaced millions.

Weapons handed over to the United Nations will be stored in secure containers until they can be turned into three memorial statues. The rebels are expected to turn in all arms by June, and some 8,000 are set to be registered by this weekend.

Members of the Jacobo Arenas rebel unit, which operated in mountains of Cauca province, were among 6,900 FARC fighters who left behind clandestine camps where they had lived for decades, crisscrossing the country on foot, by boat and by truck to get to 26 zones monitored by the United Nations.

The zones will be their homes for the foreseeable future as they complete judicial processes to determine whether they will serve special sentences for war crimes or receive amnesty. Ex-fighters will also reunite with long-lost families and make amends to victims.

Under the terms of the peace accord, the FARC, which began as a peasant uprising 52 years ago, is to form a political movement in the South American nation.

The FARC's leadership has raised concerns about conditions in some of the camps, including the lack of

permanent toilets and facilities such as gyms they say were agreed in the accord.

Some FARC members have told local media they will not hand over their weapons until the camps are more habitable for fighters, who are well used to rough-and-tumble living conditions in poverty-stricken rural areas.

The government says it is working as quickly as possible to finish each camp, that the FARC is partly responsible for construction and that the facilities are far superior to the tarp and bamboo lean-tos traditionally used by the rebels.—Reuters

PERFORMANCES IN ONE-YEAR PERIOD

One-year journey of Taninthayi Region

A One Soe

Taninthayi Region is the long narrow southern part of the country. It borders the Andaman Sea to the west and the Taninthayi Hills, beyond which lies Thailand, to the east. To the north is the Mon State. Since 15th century, the region has played a role in world maritime trade. Currently, Dawei Deep Sea-port project is being implemented in Taninthayi Region.

There are many islands off the coast, the large Mergui Archipelago in the southern and central coastal areas and the smaller Moscos Islands off the northern shores.

The region covers an area of 43,344.9 km², and had a population of 1,406,434 at the 2014 Census.

The Mergui Archipelago (also known as Myeik Archipelago or Myeik Kyunu) is an archipelago is part of the Taninthayi Region. It consist of more than 800 islands, lying in the Andaman Sea off the west shore.

The region is rich in natural resources including mineral resources.

Economic Development

Taninthayi Region has seen 5.1 percent progress in the economic sector in compared with the same period in previous fiscal year.

Fishery products

Taninthayi Region's fishery business contributes much to the country's GDP.

According to local fishermen, jellyfish appearing in the sea in Myanmar water is unusual and happens only once or twice a year.

The cleaned and processed jellyfish are exported to the America and European market through Thailand market. One wet jellyfish is traded at the price 4 to 5 Thai baht (Ks 2000), in the market. Three fishermen in a boat can catch more than 600 to 800 jellyfish a day, which can fetch more than one lakh per day. The region produced about 20 jellyfish this season. In the first one-year period of the new government, the region exported fishery products worth US\$195 million, increasing from

US\$151 million in the same period last fiscal year.

Agriculture

Rubber is one of the major products of Taninthayi Region. The region produced more than 66933246 pounds of rubber in the 2016-2017 fiscal year. A total of 394719 acres have been put under palm oil in the region.

Mining

In the mining sector, 2 mining companies have been allowed to mine tin and tungsten. There are 36 blocks for tin and tungsten mining in Taninthayi Region.

The region sets its target of producing more than 910 metric tons metal in the 2016-2017 Fiscal Year, and so far, have produced 739.581 metric tons. Seventeen companies have been allowed to carry out pilot mining of metal and others.

Salon tribe and Tourism

Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation is preparing to showcase the lifestyle of the Salon tribe who are on the brink of extinction at the National Races village located in Thaketa Township, Yangon. The ministry is set to build a Salon house furnished to display the lifestyle of Salons within the village. The ministry will build a miniature building in which documents and photographs will be shown. There will be a traditional curved wooden boat on display.

The Mergui Archipelago, which consists of more than 800 untouched islands, is part of the Taninthayi Region. All islands lie in the Andaman Sea off the coast of southern Myanmar. Since 2016, the natural, unspoiled islands have become increasingly popular among international tourists, most of whom enter through neighbouring Thailand. From April to February of the 2016-2017 Fiscal Year, the region received 90,202 local visitors and 60,690 tourists, earning more than K1.6 billion and more than US\$1.3 million. Motorboat tourists from Asia, Af-



An oil palm factory is seen in Taninthayi Region. Taninthayi Region can be called big oil pot of Myanmar. PHOTO: MNA

rica and some European countries enjoy visiting Myeik Archipelago for its beautiful landscapes along the coast such as coral reefs, mangroves and a diverse species of birds and aquatic animals and traditional culture, such as the sea-based life of the Salon, also known as the sea gypsies, a seafaring ethnic minority. Tourists also visit the country's first marine national park on Lampi Island, 115 Island, Nyaungwee Island, Philar Island, Myaukni Island, Bocho Island, Nanathi Island, Tower Rock Island, Cave Island and Satan Island.

Taninthayi Region has seen 5.1 percent progress in the economic sector in compared with the same period in previous fiscal year.

Transportation

Transport in Taninthayi Region is good and road, water and air travel can be done at all

weather. Cars, ships, aircrafts and highspeed boats are running regularly for ease and safe travel.

Electricity

Six gas engines with a capacity of 1MW backed-up by six 620 KVA Volvo diesel generators provides electricity cheaply before connecting with the national grid. In Myeik and Kawthaung districts, authorities committees are providing electricity through diesel generators.

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Participants at the National Level Political Dialogue for Regions (Taninthayi Region). PHOTO: MNA



A sub-power station under construction in Taninthayi Region. PHOTO: MNA



70th Anniversary of Mon National Day is celebrated in Taninthayi Region. PHOTO: MNA



An official presents relief items through a victim. PHOTO: MNA

PERFORMANCES IN ONE-YEAR PERIOD



Jelly fish caught in Tanintharyi Region. PHOTO: MNA



A thriving oil palm plantation is seen in Tanintharyi Region PHOTO: MNA

Power generation and distribution royalty reduced 102 villages to be provided with electric power.

>> FROM PAGE 11

Per unit royalty fee for the power generation and distribution by lighting committees and private companies in the Tanintharyi Region was uniformly reduced from 10 Kyat per unit to 5 Kyat per unit in 2016 September.

For connection with the national grid, 24,726.055 million Kyat is allocated for Tanintharyi Region's Myeik, Tavoy and Kawthaung districts to connect 50 miles of 33KV power line, 223 miles of 11 KV power line, 148.45 miles of 0.4 KV power line, installation of two substations, 128 33/11 KV 5MVA transformers and conduct 281 projects. Once all these are completed 102 villages in the region will be provided with electric power.

Education

On the 2016-2017 education year enrollment day, donors and the government donated funds and educational materials worth about 478.612 million Kyat. 79 of the 140 schools recommended to Basic Education Department for upgrade were upgraded. In those upgraded schools 111 graduate teachers were further upgraded and employed as high school teachers. In order to reduce the teacher to student ratio, 291 local graduates were employed as primary school teachers while 59 graduate Karen teachers were employed in Karen villages.

During the fiscal year 2015-2016 Ministry of Education allocated 3,708 million Kyat for construction of 77 buildings and in 2016-2017 budget year, the number was increased up to 106 buildings.

Health

Ministry of Health provided Kyat 1,386 million for construction of 3 village tract clinics, 17 sub-clin-

ics and staff accommodations in the region that were started in December 2016.

Constructions are underway for a two-storey and five-storey extension wards and four-room three storey accommodation for doctors in Dawei hospital, staff accommodation in Sakhanthit Ward Hospital, eight rooms four storey staff accommodation building and a two storey extension that includes an operation theatre and a delivery room in Thayetchaung Township Hospital, an extension ward and staff accommodation in Tanintharyi Township Hospital, six rooms three storey staff accommodation in Kawthaung Township Hospital, six rooms single storey staff accommodation in Khamaukgyi Township Hospital.

Construction of Emergency Shelters

Heavy rains on 9 and 10 January resulted in landslide and flooding in Thein Kho village tract, Mawtaung region in Tanintharyi town, Myeik district that swept away some houses and causes some deaths. Regional government provided 1 lakh Kyat per household to 43 effected households totaling 4.3 million Kyat.

National Disaster Management Committee chairman approved a reserve fund of Kyat 350.4 million for the construction of 3 emergency shelters that can shelter 500 person each in Thabawseik village tract, Launglon Township, Kanatthiri village, Thayetchaung Township and Palontonton village, Kawthaung Township.

There were 35 natural disasters in the region that affected 233 buildings, 240 households with a population of 1,123 that resulted in nine deaths. Relief and Resettlement Department provided Kyat 18.2 million to support the affected.

During the past year there were 12 fire and natural disasters. Regional Government's fire and natural disaster fund provided 7.901 million Kyat for 12 households from 11 houses in Tavoy Township, 16.0727 million Kyat for 59 households from 59 houses in Myeik District, 2 million Kyat for 4 households from 4 houses Kawthaung District totaling 25.9737 million Kyats for 75 households.

Striving together in joint effort

During the first year, the new government was able to accomplish sector by sector its four policies of national reconciliation, internal peace, establishment of a federal democratic union and advance in social conditions.

As part of efforts for national reconciliation, two armed groups in Tanintharyi Region are striving together with various ethnic and religious groups for peace, stability and rule of law.

Joint Monitoring Committee (JMC-S) was formed for the Region and 5 meetings were held during the year to maintain regional peace and stability.

Coordination meeting

As the region was at peace, nothing much was required on the internal peace process. But the regional government met with ethnic leaders three times to avoid conflicts between armed groups..

Tanintharyi Region government is giving priority to the people's wish of establishing a federal union.

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi formed a nine member committee to hold national level political dialogue in the region. Thus, Tanintharyi Region is ready to participate in the 2nd 21st Century Panglong Conference.



A new earthen road is constructed to facilitate commodity flow in Tanintharyi Region. PHOTO: MNA



Tanintharyi Region Chief Minister Dr Le Le Maw addresses capacity building course for ward and village administrators in Myeik. PHOTO: MNA



Two workers at a mining industry in Tanintharyi Region. PHOTO: MNA

British role in European security “unconditional” — foreign minister

LONDON — Britain’s contribution to European security is “unconditional”, Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson told a French newspaper, denying the government had made a veiled threat to reduce co-operation if there was no post-Brexit trade deal.

Prime Minister Theresa May said in a letter to the European Union on Wednesday that “our cooperation in the fight against crime and terrorism would be weakened” if Britain left the bloc without a new deal on trade and other matters.

Asked in an interview with France’s *Le Figaro* whether Britain was trying to use security cooperation as a bargaining chip to secure an EU trade deal,

Johnson said: “No, not at all.”

“We consider the historic contribution of the UK to the security and stability of Europe as unconditional,” he said in the interview published on Saturday.

“We will maintain this contribution, which benefits all of Europe and the world. It’s in our interest and in the interest of others, and we hope this will be one of the planks of our deep and special partnership (with the EU).”

Brexit minister David Davis also said on Thursday that May’s words did not amount to a threat.

“This is a statement of the fact that this will be harmful for both of us (Britain and the EU) ... if



British Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson arrives for a meeting of NATO foreign ministers at NATO headquarters in Brussels, Belgium on 31 March 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

we don’t get a deal. It’s an argument for having a deal,” he said.

Despite these assurances, May’s words were widely interpreted as a veiled threat on both sides of the Channel. The Sun, a pro-Brexit British tabloid newspaper, ran the front-page headline “Your money or your lives” the day after May’s letter.

The EU’s top diplomat, Federica Mogherini, said on Friday that the effect of Brexit on the bloc’s joint defence and security operations would be minimal.

She said she expected security and defence co-operation between Britain and the EU to continue after Brexit, not least through NATO.—Reuters

Australia bolsters security checks for flights from Middle East

SYDNEY — Australia will conduct additional security checks on passengers flying directly from Muslim-majority countries in the Middle East to prevent security threats. The new rules follow similar measures introduced by Britain and the United States, but do not include the same bans on electronic devices in the cabins of passenger flights. “In response to national security advice the Federal Government has made precautionary changes and instructed airlines to implement new protocols from next week,” Australian Transport Minister Darren Chester said in a statement on Friday. “Explosive detection screening will be conducted for randomly selected passengers and their baggage. Checks may also include targeted screening of electronic devices.” The increased security measures will affect passengers flying direct to Australia from Doha, Abu Dhabi and Dubai. Affected airlines are Qantas and Gulf carriers Etihad, Emirates and Qatar Airways.—Reuters



Police on horseback ride past a statue of a cannon during a protest against a possible change in law to allow for presidential re-election in front of the Congress building in Asuncion, Paraguay on 31 March 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

Paraguay rioters set fire to Congress after Senate re-election vote

ASUNCION — Protesters stormed and set fire to Paraguay’s Congress on Friday after the Senate secretly voted for a constitutional amendment that would allow President Horacio Cartes to run for re-election.

The country’s constitution has prohibited re-election since it was passed in 1992 after a brutal dictatorship fell in 1989.

“A coup has been carried out. We will resist and we invite the people to resist with us,” said Senator Desiree Masi from the opposition Progressive Democratic Party. Firefighters managed to control the flames after protesters left the Congress building late on Friday night. But protests and riots continued in other parts of Asuncion and elsewhere in the country well into the night, media reported. Earlier, television images showed protesters breaking windows of the Congress and clashing with police, burning tires and removing parts of fences around the building. Police in riot gear fired tear gas and rubber bullets. Several politicians and journalists were injured, media reported, and Interior Minister Tadeo Rojas said several police were hurt. One member of the lower house of Congress, who had been participating in protests that afternoon, underwent surgery after being hit by rubber bullets. The number of casualties was unknown. Cartes called for calm and a rejection of violence in a statement released on Twitter. “Democracy is not conquered or defended with violence and you can be sure this government will continue to put its best effort into maintaining order in the republic,” he said.

“We must not allow a few barbarians to destroy the peace, tranquility and general wellbeing of the Paraguayan people.” The unrest coincides with a rare high-level international event in the landlocked South American country. Thousands of businessmen and government officials descended on Asuncion this week for the Inter-American Development Bank’s annual board of governors meeting.

While Paraguay long suffered from political uncertainty, the soy and beef-exporting nation has been attracting investment in agriculture and manufacturing sectors in recent years as Cartes offered tax breaks to foreign investors.

Instability in the country of 6.8 million is a concern for its much larger neighbours Brazil and Argentina. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights said it was monitoring the events. “I call on political leaders to avoid inciting violence and seek dialogue,” the commission’s regional representative for South America, Amerigo Incalcaterra, said in a statement.—Reuters

Invitation for Open Tender Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation Department of Rural Development

1. The Republic of the Union of Myanmar has received a Grant from the Federal Republic of Germany (KfW bank) through the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation towards the cost of Rural Development Phase II & III.

2. Department of Rural Development under Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation intends to implement , with contract system, the construction of bituminous roads (total length around (60)Km) and bridges along the roads in Taunggyi District Shan State. Rural roads express as follow:

No	Township	Road Name	Length(Km)
(i)	Taunggyi	KanLaung -Zale	17.36
(ii)	Hopone	Lwe Ont - Hti Bwar	7.11
(iii)	NyaungShwe	Nyaung Shwe - Kanu	6.51
(iv)	YetSauk	Pin Phit - Wapyar	11.37
(v)	Kalaw	BawNing-Thayetpu-KumParNi-SuPanNi	12.48
(vi)	Kalaw	Kum Par Ni - Paw Toke	5.67

3. Interested companies may obtain further information and may inspect the complete bidding documents, and may purchase a set of the documents upon payment of a non-refundable fee of MMK-50000 at the Purchaser’s following address on or before the 26-5-2017.

Daw Tin Moe Myint	U Kyaw Swa Aung
Director	Director
Department of Rural Development	Department of Rural Development
Office No(14), Naypyitaw	Office No(14), Naypyitaw
Tel/Fax: 067409410, 067409210	Tel: 067409029
Email: rbbdrd@gmail.com	Email:ksaung@gmail.com

4. Submitting the tender document, Individual document must submit each lot.

5. A pre-bid conference will be held in the Meeting Room of the DRD at (28-4-2017) at 10:00AM.Each bidder is invited to attend the conference with maximum two representatives.

6. Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before (26-5-2017).Late bids will be rejected.



Singer Selena Gomez. PHOTO: REUTERS

Managing my depression a daily struggle: Selena Gomez

LOS ANGELES — Singer-actress Selena Gomez says she fights hard to balance life and work as she faces symptoms of anxiety and depression daily.

The “Hear Wants What It Wants” hitmaker checked herself into rehab last year to address her mental health issues, which have become a huge problem since she was diagnosed with auto-immune disease lupus in 2015, reported Extra.

“Trust me, it’s a daily struggle,” Gomez says of her ongoing anxiety and depression treatment.

“Balance is the key. Patience. Being kind to yourself.

Having grace. I think that’s important.”

The 24-year-old Latina relies on the loved ones in her life for support, but she also surprisingly finds confidence and strength for her health pursuits in people who antagonise her.

“My family. My little sister, who is three (keep me going). (But) a lot of the people who have pushed me down have actually motivated me. I can’t allow myself to believe the words that people are saying to me,” she adds.—PTI

Gary Barlow to renew wedding vows

LONDON — Take That singer Gary Barlow and his wife Dawn will renew their wedding vows next year.

The singer and Dawn have been married since 2000 and Gary reveals his big plans for next year include renewing their

vows, reported Daily Mirror.

“I’d like to renew my wedding vows with my amazing wife. That’s definitely on the agenda,” Gary says.

Gary and Dawn met in 1995 and have three children; Daniel, Emily and Daisy, together.—PTI

Latin singer Maluma eyes English music crossover with upcoming album

LOS ANGELES — Already one of the biggest names in Latin music, Colombian pop star Maluma is hoping to cross over to a wider audience with an upcoming album of Spanish and English music.

Maluma, the 23-year-old singer from Medellin, Colombia, has already collaborated with some of Latin music’s most successful crossover talents, such as Shakira and Ricky Martin.

“I’m trying to find the balance and do like, ‘Spanglish’ music or some songs in Spanish and others in English or do a translation,” Maluma told Reuters at the end of his US tour in Los Angeles.

Maluma’s second album, “Pretty Boy, Dirty Boy,” was released in 2015 and became his breakout record, with hit singles “Borro Cassette” and “Sin Contrato.” So far, his native Spanish has already garnered him a legion of fans on social media. Maluma, whose real name is Juan Luis Londono Arias, is the most-followed Latin male artist on Instagram with more than 22 millions fans.

“That connection that I have with my fans is really special and every time when I have moments,

when I have free time, the only thing that I think about is what I’m going to post, what I’m going to say to my fans,” he said. “I think that’s the key to being a success right now,” he added.

It was Maluma’s social media presence that brought him to the attention of pop star Selena Gomez, whom Maluma invited to collaborate on a new song.

“I found out that she was following me and I tried to be in touch with her to make some music but we can’t do it ... maybe because she’s a busy girl and me too, I’m

a really busy man, and maybe next time we can do something,” he said.

Maluma’s world tour next takes him to Mexico, Brazil and Argentina. “I have a lot of surprises in store,” Maluma teased of his upcoming shows, although he remained tight-lipped about whether any special guest stars might join him on stage.

“I like to prepare each tour in a different way. Now that I’m heading to Mexico, I’m preparing something special for my fans in Mexico.”—Reuters



Maluma performs “Sin Contrato” during the 2015 Latin Grammy Awards in Las Vegas, Nevada on 19 November 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

Alex Rodriguez confirms Jennifer Lopez romance

LOS ANGELES — Alex Rodriguez has confirmed his relationship with Jennifer Lopez by gushing about her on TV.

The 41-year-old former baseball star recently started dating Jennifer, 47, and during a TV appearance on “The View”, he couldn’t resist talking about her, reported People magazine.

When asked about their relationship, he says, “It’s obvious. Were having a great time, shes an amazing, amazing girl, and one

of the smartest human beings I’ve ever met and also an incredible mother.

“She just likes simple things. I mean, she’s a very, very simple person. Loves family. Is a great sister. Is a great daughter.”

Jennifer has nine-year-old twins Max and Emme with her former husband Marc Anthony, while Alex and his ex Cynthia Scurtis have daughters Natasha, 12 and eight-year-old Ella together.

The pair are believed to have

met at one of the singers shows in Las Vegas last month in February and have been inseparable ever since.

After a trip to the Bahamas together in early March, Alex jetted to Los Angeles recently, where he was spotted with Jennifer at the Bel-Air hotel.

Jennifer and Alex also worked out together at her trainer Gunnar Petersons gym and spent quality time together at her Bel-Air home. —PTI



Jennifer Lopez and Alex Rodriguez have been spotted together over the weekend in Los Angeles. PHOTO: REUTERS

Medvedeva emulates Kwan with back-to-back world titles

HELSINKI — Russia's Evgenia Medvedeva will be the woman to beat at next year's Winter Olympics after soaring above her rivals to win back-to-back titles at the world figure skating championships with a performance full of grace and technical wizardry.

Friday's triumph with a world record total of 233.41 points made her the first woman since American Michelle Kwan in 2001 to win successive world titles and enhanced her reputation as a skating phenomenon as she has

now captured 10 titles in a row.

No one came close to ending that run on Friday as she romped to victory by 15.28 points over Canadian Kaetlyn Osmond.

The 17-year-old Russian also made it a clean sweep of world records as her free skate score of 154.40 was an all-time best.

Osmond and her team mate Gabrielle Daleman earned their first world medals by finishing second and third respectively. —Reuters



Gold medallist Evgenia Medvedeva (C) of Russia, silver medallist Kaetlyn Osmond (L) of Canada and bronze medallist Gabrielle Daleman of Canada attend Ladies Victory Ceremony of the ISU World Championships 2017 in Helsinki, Finland on 31 March 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

Cambodia's famed Angkor earns nearly 31 mln USD from ticket sales in Q1

PHNOM PENH — Revenue from ticket sales to foreigners visiting Cambodia's famed Angkor archaeological park reached 30.8 million US dollars in the first quarter of 2017, up

51.6 per cent over the same period last year, according to an official report on Saturday.

The ancient site welcomed 764,146 foreign tourists during the Janu-

ary-March period this year, up 9 per cent over the same period last year, said the report of the state-owned Angkor Enterprise.

The remarkable increase in the revenue was

due to the hike in ticket prices since 1 February.

The current price for a one-day ticket is 37 US dollars, up from 20 US dollars, a three-day pass increased to 62 US dollars from 40

US dollars, and a seven-day ticket climbed to 72 US dollars from 60 US dollars.

Located in northwestern Cambodia's Siem Reap province, the Angkor archaeological park, inscribed

on UNESCO's World Heritage List in 1992, is the kingdom's top tourist destination.

Most tourists to the site are Chinese, South Koreans and Americans.—Xinhua



Russian artist Vasily Slonov wearing a chemical protective suit and a self-made metal helmet, poses for a picture with mannequins as he presents his artwork "O2 R I P", as he protests against ecological problems in the city, outside his workshop in Krasnoyarsk, Siberia, Russia on 31 March 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

Germany pays 1.2 mln euros for Kirchner painting seized by Nazis

BERLIN — A 1913 painting by Expressionist Ernst Ludwig Kirchner that was seized by the Nazis as "degenerate art" will remain in a Ludwigshafen museum after the German government and others paid 1.2 million euros to the heir of the painting's original owner.

"The Judgment of Paris," which shows three nude women and a clothed man posing in Kirchner's studio, was looted from Jewish art collector Hans Hess during the Nazi era, but has been on display at the Wilhelm-Hack Museum in Ludwigshafen since

1979. Hess's heir agreed to allow the painting to stay on display at the museum after various donors, including the German federal and state governments and the Ernst von Siemens Foundation, raised money to compensate her, the German government said on Friday.

The agreement was made in accordance with the so-called Washington Declaration of 1998 that covers restitution of art confiscated by the Nazis before and during World War Two.

Culture state secretary Monika Gruetters de-

scribed the purchase as "a great example of a public museum living up to its responsibilities for dealing with Nazi looted art."

Gruetters said the agreement was made possible by the generosity of the heir of the painting's original owner, and the extraordinary help of public and private donors.

The painting's title refers to the Greek myth about a contest between the three most beautiful goddesses of Olympus — Aphrodite, Hera and Athena — vying for the prize of a golden apple addressed "To the Fairest." —Reuters

mitv Myanmar International Programme Schedule

(2-4-2017 07:00am ~ 3-4-2017 07:00am) MST

07:03	Am	News
07:25	Am	Adventurous Young Photographer
07:46	Am	YUFL
08:03	Am	News
08:25	Am	Star in the Gold Age: Tin Aung
08:53	Am	School for the Blind
09:03	Am	News
09:26	Am	Travelogue: To my dream city (Part-1)
09:51	Am	Egg Shell
10:03	Am	News

10:26	Am	Discovering Tribes: Taisun (Their Life and Customs) (Part-1)
10:42	Am	Thingyan Songs & Dances
(11:00 Am ~ 03:00 Pm) - Saturday Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)		
(03:00 Pm ~ 07:00 Pm) - Today Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)		
Prime Time		
07:03	Pm	News
07:26	Pm	The Mountain with antique stone sculptures & Mural Painting
07:45	Pm	Today Myanmar: The Plastic School
08:03	Pm	News
08:26	Pm	Bogalay Tint Aung: A Man of Versatility (Part-3)
08:55	Pm	Now in Yangon
(09:00 Pm ~ 11:00 Pm) - Today Repeat (09:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)		
(11:00 Pm ~ 03:00 Am) - Saturday Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)		
(03:00 Am ~ 07:00 Am) - Today Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)		

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

Frozen treats and sprinklers keep Bangkok zoo animals cool

BANGKOK — Malayan sun bears have been enjoying popsicles and cold yoghurt in a Thailand zoo that has been feeding its animals frozen treats and spraying them down with water to keep them cool in the summer heat.

With temperatures soaring to highs of 42 Celsius (107.6 Fahrenheit), keepers at Dusit Zoo have been working to prevent animals becoming dis-

tressed, hosing down elephants and feeding chimpanzees sweet, cold treats made from fruits and syrup. "These animals can be stressed out (if the weather is too hot)," said zookeeper Sompong Sawatnam.

"They will walk around shaking their heads. Each day, we have different kinds of popsicles made by nutritionists, which will help cool them down."—Reuters

Coutinho inspires Liverpool to derby victory over Everton

LONDON — Philippe Coutinho inspired Liverpool to a comfortable 3-1 home win over Everton in the 228th Merseyside derby on Saturday to move provisionally up to third in the Premier League.

Sadio Mane exploited poor Everton defending in the eighth minute to net his 13th goal of the season, playing a one-two with Roberto Firmino and holding off two opponents before firing low past Joel Robles.

Everton's Matthew Pennington marked his first appearance of the season with an equaliser in the 28th minute, prodding home after Dejan Lovren's clearance, but was caught out less than three minutes later when Coutinho tore past Idrissa Gueye, cut in past the defender and slammed the ball into the far corner.

Divock Origi added a third shortly after replacing the injured Mane with a thumping strike from outside the area after being played in by the outstanding Coutinho to take Liverpool up to 59 points. Everton remained in seventh on 50.—Reuters



Everton's Leighton Baines in action with Liverpool's Nathaniel Clyne during the Premier League match between Everton and Liverpool at Anfield on 1 April, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

Woods says will miss Masters, no timetable for return

NEW YORK — Tiger Woods will miss next week's US Masters due to his troublesome back and has no timetable for his return to competitive golf, the former world number one said on Friday.

It will be only the third time Woods has missed the year's first major since he first competed at Augusta National in 1995. The four-times champion did not play at the Masters in 2014 or

2016 and tied for 17th in 2015. "I did about everything I could to play, but my back rehabilitation didn't allow me the time to get tournament ready," Woods said in a statement on his website. "I have no timetable for my return, but I will continue my diligent effort to recover, and want to get back out there as soon as possible." The 14-times major winner said he would still be

at Augusta National's clubhouse on Tuesday for the annual Champions Dinner ahead of the 6-9 April Masters. Woods returned to the PGA Tour in January after a 17-month absence following back surgery but has not played a tournament since he pulled out of a European Tour event in Dubai because of a back spasm in early February. He missed the cut at the Farmers Insurance Open after shooting rounds of 76 and 72 and

shot an opening-round 77 a week later in Dubai. Now 41, Woods has not won a major title since he clinched the 14th of his career at the 2008 US Open and his form has slumped dramatically as he has battled injury in recent years.

This year's Masters marks the 20th anniversary of Woods winning the first of his four Green Jackets at Augusta National. He also won the title in 2001, 2002 and 2005.—Reuters

Tottenham given extension over Wembley move

LONDON — Tottenham Hotspur have been given an extension until 30 April to decide whether they will play their home fixtures at Wembley Stadium next season, the Premier League club said on Friday.

Tottenham's current stadium is to be demolished at the end of the season as a new one is being constructed but chairman Daniel Levy said on Thursday the club might stay at White Hart Lane for longer than expected.

Spurs have reached agreement with Wembley National Stadium Limited (WNSL) for an extension.

"We shall be carefully monitoring the progress of the construction programme and public sector infrastructure delivery," the club said on their website (www.tottenhamhotspur.com).

"Our intention remains to spend next season at the national stadium before returning to our new stadium in Tottenham for the 2018/19 season."

Tottenham have received approval from Brent Council to play 27 games at Wembley next season.—Reuters

Nadal powers past Fognini into Miami Open final

MIAMI — Rafa Nadal rolled by unseeded Italian Fabio Fognini 6-1, 7-5 on Friday to reach his fifth Miami Open final and a potential rematch of the Australian Open decider with Roger Federer.

The fifth-seeded Spaniard, with a display of powerful serving and opportunistic returns, did not face a break point against Fognini and put his opponent's serve under pressure throughout the 90-minute match. Nadal raced through the first set in 26 minutes, losing only four points on serve while Fognini made 14 unforced errors.

The Italian came to life in the second set, including a stretch where he erased five break points

during his first two service games.

But at 5-5, just when it looked as if Fognini might force a decisive third set, he double faulted and Nadal got his break before sealing the match four points later.

Nadal, who has never who won the Miami title, will face the winner of Friday's second semi-final between twice champion Federer, the fourth seed, and the 12th-seeded Australian Nick Kyrgios. Federer made a stunning return from a six-month injury lay-off to win the Australian Open in January, and also beat Nadal in the last 16 at Indian Wells en route to winning a record-tying fifth title there.—Reuters



Rafael Nadal of Spain reaches for a forehand against Fabio Fognini of Italy (not pictured) during a men's singles semi-final in the 2017 Miami Open at Brandon Park Tennis Centre in Miami, FL, USA on 31 March, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS