

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Vol. IV, No. 26, 3rd Waning of Kason 1379 ME

www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

Saturday, 13 May 2017



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, left, shakes hands with Daw Saw Mya Yazar Lin of the Arakan Liberation Party. **PHOTO: MNA**

Peace committee achieves breakthrough in political sector

A preliminary meeting to the second Union Peace Conference-21st Century of Panglong that will be held later this month reached an unprecedented agreement on political topics related to the peace process yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

Meetings that precede the second Panglong conference are necessary to validate the resolve of the participants.

"The agreements attained under six headings of political sector have never occurred in the history of Myanmar and

which are to bring to the Union Peace Conference-21st Century of Panglong, which is slated to be held from 24 to 28 May, for the approval," said a report of the Myanmar News Agency yesterday.

The report came out fol-

lowing the tenth meeting of the Union Peace Dialogue Joint Committee (UPDJC) yesterday in Thingaha Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw, which was also attended by State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi.

SEE PAGE-3



NATIONAL
President receives
Chairman of ICRC
PAGE-3



NATIONAL
Amyotha Hluttaw
Speaker attends the
opening ceremony of
Asia-Pacific Regional
Seminar
PAGE-2

NATIONAL
SG Min Aung Hlaing
receives ICRC
president and party
PAGE-2



NATIONAL
Towards a peaceful and
developing Rakhine
PAGES-4,5,6,7

NATIONAL
Ravaged houses in
Maungtaw to be rebuilt
PAGE-2



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Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker attends Asia-Pacific Regional Seminar for the Parliaments

AMYOTHA Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than who was in Viet Nam at the invitation of the Chairperson of the National Assembly of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam Madam Nguyen Thi Kim Ngan, attended the opening ceremony of the Asia-Pacific Regional Seminar concerning sustainable development under the title "Responding to Climate Change – Action of Legislators to achieve the SDGs" in Gem Center, Ho Chi Minh, Viet Nam in the morning of 11 May.

Present at the event were Chairperson of the National Assembly of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than, Chairmen and Vice Chairmen of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) member countries, IPU President and IPU Secretary General.

In the first part of the discussions, Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than gave suggestions regarding legislative tasks, pro-



Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than at the Asia-Pacific Regional Seminar. **PHOTO: MNA**

viding checks and balances with government cooperation, representation tasks, and working with and for the people in implementing the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

After the opening ceremony, delegation leaders took a commemorative photo. Later at local standard time 11:15 a.m., they attended a luncheon hosted by Ho Chi Minh Communist Party Secretary Nguyen Thein

Nhan at the Rex Hotel in Ho Chi Minh City.

At local standard time 4 p.m., the Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker met separately with IPU President H.E.Mr. Saber Chowdhury and IPU Secretary General Mr. Martin Chungong in a private room at GEM Center and discussed matters relating to improving the role of parliaments and future work to develop a democratic system. —MNA ■

Workshop on Meiktila Lake Development Project

MEIKTILA Lake development project is conducted under the MoU signed between Myanmar and the Netherlands to cooperate in developing water resources of Myanmar.

A workshop on Meiktila Lake development project was held in Wunzin hotel, Meiktila yesterday morning.

At the workshop, Irrigation and Water Resources Utilization Department Director Dr. Zaw Lwin Lwin, Forest Department Township officer U Soe Lwin Thu and township

municipal assistant director U Myo Htet Zaw discussed about important works in Meiktila Lake development project, surrounding areas of Meiktila Lake, importance of Meiktila Lake for the people, work required to be done in the project and work done on cleaning the surrounding areas of Meiktila Lake.

Mr. Luuk Brinkman, project team leader of Meiktila Lake development project from the Netherlands Ministry of Infrastructure and En-

vironment and Mr. Armand Evers, Counsellor Water Affairs-Myanmar at Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs then explained about the cooperation works between the two countries on the project and guidelines drawn up for the project.

Afterward National League for Democracy central committee secretary U Win Htein, district officer U Tint Wai Thone, project team leader of Meiktila Lake development project Mr. Luuk Brinkman, Counsellor Water Affairs-Myanmar Mr. Armand Evers, district Irrigation and Water Resources Utilization Department assistant director U San Min Tun and officials from departments related to the Meiktila Lake development project signed the Meiktila Lake development project implementation committee guideline paper.

The guideline paper and the final stage work processes of the Meiktila Lake development project will be submitted to officials of Myanmar and the Netherlands government at the end of this month. —Chan Tha (Meiktila) ■



The arial veiw of Meiktila Lake. **PHOTO: CHAN THA (MEIKTILA)**

Ravaged houses in Maungtaw to be rebuilt

THE Administrator of Maungtaw District has announced that the State will rebuild houses in Maungtaw destroyed by violent attacks before the rainy season begins.

The management committee began efforts on 19 March to clear lands, calculate and measure sites for construction of houses, and paving roads in WaPeik Village of KyidanPyin group of villages. The committee has completed land issues and says it will soon begin construction work.

WaPeik Village has 226

households and yesterday morning the committee met with local residents to discuss on relocation matters.

They also urged local elders to persuade families who fled during the violent attacks to return to the village as a list of residing members is quickly needed for submission to the District Office. Locals and the Administration Committee discussed on security, water and electricity for the village which needs to be completed before the rains sets in.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing receives ICRC president and party



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing holds talks with the President of the Geneva based ICRC in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

SENIOR General Min Aung Hlaing, Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services, received a delegation led by Mr. Peter Maurer, the President of the Geneva based International Committee for the Red Cross (ICRC) in Bayitnaung Guest House in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

At the meeting ICRC president mentioned about the desire to increase the relationship and cooperation in different levels of ICRC and Tatmadaw, seeking assistant to visit conflict areas and discussed about cooperating in matters relating to demining, physical rehabilitation and prosthetic hands and legs.

Senior General Min Aung

Hlaing in return explained of the requirement to keep proper records when required humanitarian assistance is provided and to contact the relevant government departments, ministries and commissions formed for which the Tatmadaw will assist in the best possible way. Contact persons will be assigned for relationship in different levels and Tatmadaw will continue cooperating in the demining matter. It is important for proper works to be done. On the matter of prosthetic hands and legs, help should mainly be provided toward wounded personnel of ethnic armed organization and civilians.—MNA ■

A motorboat sinks in Thandwe Townhsip

A MOTORBOAT sank in the Bay of Bengal 2 mile west of Salu Kyun village on 11 May.

Five oxen were found at the sea coast by the local security

forces and were assumed from the sunken boat.

The further investigation by the officials is underway. —Myanmar News Agency ■

President U Htin Kyaw Receives Chairman of ICRC

PRESIDENT U Htin Kyaw received a delegation led by Mr Peter Maurer, Chairman of International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), a humanitarian institution based in Geneva, at the Guest Room of the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw at 3 pm yesterday.

In the meeting, matters on provision of humanitarian aids

for Myanmar and promotion of bilateral relations between Myanmar and ICRC were discussed.

Present at the meeting were Union Ministers, Lt General Kyaw Swe, Dr Myint Htwe, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Tin, U Min Thu and responsible officials.—Myanmar News Agency ■



President U Htin Kyaw receives Mr. Peter Maurer, Chairman of the International Committee of the Red Cross and his delegation in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**



U Kyaw Tin holds talks with European Union Commissioner Mr. Christos Stylianides in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

Minister of State for Foreign Affairs receives European Union Commissioner

U Kyaw Tin, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs received H.E. Mr. Christos Stylianides, European Union Commissioner for Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Management at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Nay

Pyi Taw on 12 May 2017.

During the meeting, they exchanged views on matters related to assistance for regional development and humanitarian needs in Rakhine State.—Ministry of Foreign Affairs ■

Union Minister for Information receives Save Myanmar Film Project Team, Myanmar Translation Literature Network

Dr Pe Myint, Union Minister for Information, received Save Myanmar Film Project Team at 2 pm and Myanmar Translation Literature Network, at 3pm yesterday, respectively at the guest room of the ministry.

While meeting with Save Myanmar Film Project Team, matters on projects to be implemented by the team, conservation of old Myanmar movies by

the use of advanced technology and upgrading of film archive were discussed, whereas matters on Myanmar translation literature development, potential cooperation between the Ministry of Information and the Myanmar Translation Literature Network and holding all-inclusive literary seminar were negotiated while meeting with the Network.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Peace committee achieves breakthrough in political sector

FROM PAGE-1

The UPDJC has reached agreement on 21 facts under six political headings, one fact concerning sovereignty, one in the practice of sovereignty, two in equality, five in self legislation, ten in federal union principle (structure and delegation of authority), and two in the democracy system.

Moreover, 10 facts in seven titles of the economic sector; four facts in the social sector, six in the land and environment sector totalling 41 were agreed upon.

The 10th meeting of the Union Peace Dialogue Joint Committee (UPDJC) was attended by State Counsellor Daw Aung San Su Kyi, the committee's Vice Chairman Phado Saw Kwe Htoo Win, U Thu Wai, Union Ministers and other members of the committee.

During the meeting, the State Counsellor, who is also Chairperson of the committee, said today's meeting is mainly to discuss the details and framework of the conference which will be starting 24 May.

"We have been working for peace for more than a year now", she said. "Within and beyond the one-year period, it can be generally assumed that we have progress. We have attained the global interest to our peace process because it is assumed that it is the most important lesson learnt not only for our country but also other conflicts occurring in countries over the world. Some people assume that our success is not only for our coun-

try but also for the success of the global peace process. Therefore, everyone has the responsibilities to work for the success of the second Union Peace Conference 21st Century Panglong."

The State Counsellor also said that the success or downfall of this peace process depends on our will.

"Nothing is possible without will. If we desire peace, we will find a way by any means. If we do not want it, it can be delayed by numerous circumstances", she said.

"Do we have the desire for peace? If we have the desire, we can get success with endeavours, spirit and intelligence. Therefore, I expect everyone attending the meeting to have actual desire for peace," said the State Counsellor. Vice Chairman of the Committee, Phado Saw Kwe Htoo Win, said the solution must be discovered after open discussion in the political dialogue, made under the same vision. The solution needs to be a result of the whole country's interests and likewise should not go against the interests of all the groups. He said the proposed titles posted through the committee for discussion are compiled for the secretaries and are presented at the UPDJC meeting.

The agreed upon points for the upcoming meeting occurred among numerous participants who have historically disagreed on meeting details in the past.

Vice Chairman of the Committee U Thu Wai said it is obvious that "we serve for the duty

and participated in the important Union affairs. If we reach our expectation, we are happier than our people. We must continue to go for democracy and federal union building from the conference. The government and signatories or non signatories armed groups wanted all these facts. We understand it. We believe that all have the desire to accept the federal union building as the 93 political parties also agreed on it."

The respective working committee members then discussed the basic principles for each sector of politics, economic, social, security and land and environment of the working committees for Union Peace Conference— 21st Century Panglong and received approval.

The attendants then discussed the invitation programme to invite armed groups who have not signed the NCA to attend the second Union Peace Conference 21st Century Panglong.

Later, the secretaries of UPDJC presented the conference period and model, ways of organising the matters of the approval taken in the conference, the formation programme for the master of ceremony group and servicing group, invitations, and supports to the conference including budgeting and general issues.

The Vice Chairmen of UPDJC, U Thu Wai, Phado Saw Kwe Htoo Win and Dr Tin Myo Win expressed their delight on the agreement on the discussion and concluded the meeting.—GNLM ■

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Printed and published at the **Global New Light of Myanmar Printing Factory** at No.150, Nga Htat Kyee Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon, by the **Global New Light of Myanmar Daily** under Printing Permit No. 00510 and Publishing Permit No. 00629.

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Performances for the development of Rakhine



Ramong Suspension Bridge on Minbu-An-Sittway road.

Towards peaceful and developing Rakhine

By Maung Maung Myint Swe

RAKHINE State is a land embellished with all the natural beauties of mountain ranges with lush green forest, sea, rivers, creeks and fertile plain giving an impression to be a masterpiece painting of a famous artist.

Rakhine State originally is an important state of the country as it is situated along the sea coast at the westernmost part of the country bearing strategic and economic significance. Nowadays, the whole state is undergoing the development programmes of Rakhine State's infrastructure including road and bridge constructions and electrification. Soon the Rakhine State will emerge as a developed part of the country with better socioeconomic condition. So, it is likely to say icing on the cake.

Mountain Ranges

Rakhine Yoma mountain range, Mayu mountain range and other mountain spurs are found as barriers for travel and communication between Rakhine and other Regions and States.

Rivers

In the past, accessibility to Rakhine was very limited, airway is the most-frequented

mode of transport to Rakhine State. Lack of good land communication brought about the hindrances and difficulties in flow of goods and consequently slow trade and commerce in the state. The Mayu river, Kalatan river, Lemyo river, Kiswa Nadi river and other many smaller rivers and creeks without strong bridges have become barriers to road transport that engender the slow trading and impediment in developing works.

Three main entrances to Rakhine

The Union government is now building three main roads, Minbu-An-Sittway Road, Pyay-Padaung-Taungup-Kyaukpyu Road, Ngathaing Cyaung-Gwa-Thandwe Road which are the main entrances to Rakhine State and it is crucial to the all-round development of Rakhine State.

Minbu-An-Sittway Road

Minbu-An-Sittway road has been existing for years, however battered road and bridges and slew of bends and curves impeded the speed of travelling taking about 16 hours drive from Minbu to Sittway.

Ramong Suspension Bridge

The cars had to drive very slowly on

Ramong suspension bridge, as it, declining in strength, is not strong enough to support a loaded car. Sometimes heavily loaded cars had to stop at the bridge. With the advent of the incumbent government, the bridges are reinforced with new concrete supports, roads are upgraded and tight bends and curves are mended into gentler bends and curves. Temporary bridges were restructured into reinforced concrete bridges and stone and gravel roads were upgraded into concrete roads.

All weather road for rapid travel and transportation

As Ramong suspension bridge was now 100% fit for use after being upgraded by Japan JFE company and the roads were also repaired, land transportation on Yangon-Sittway road is now smooth and comfortable in all seasons without any delay, taking only 12 hrs. from Yangon to Sittway using Minbu-An-Sittway road.

Minbu-An-Sittway road continues to be upgraded during another 4 year period and then it will take only 10 hrs. from Minbu to Sittway. It is a good news for the rapid development of the Rakhine State.

SEE PAGE-5

Performances for the development of Rakhine

FROM PAGE-4

Pyay-Pandaung-Taungup-Kyaukpyu Road

That road being the 2nd entrance to Rakhine State is an important one. 6 concrete bridges on that road were upgraded under JICA and ODA aid programme in the first year of new incumbent government. Moreover, Taungup-Maei section and Maei-Alechaung section of the Pyay-Kyaukpyu road were also upgraded to concrete and tarred road with 9 bridges on it.

Upgrading those sections of the road with more bridge facilities leads to the rapid and smooth transfer by land from Pyay to Kyaukpyu and consequently the road will be busier with people visiting and trading between Pyay and Kyaukpyu. Towns and villages along the road will also be able to enjoy socioeconomic benefits by doing relevant business on a busy road.

Ngathaing Chaung-Gwa-Thandwe Road

The third entrance to Rakhine State is Ngathaing Chaung-Gwa-Thandwe road that was built passing through the Rakhine Yoma (Mountain range). As the road was built across the unfavourable hilly and rugged terrain, the quality of road was not up to the expected standard. Difficulties and delays along the road was a common occurrence.

8 Hours for Yangon-Thandwe Journey by car

During one year term of the incumbent government, the Ngathaing Chaung-Gwa-Thandwe road was upgraded, the section between Thandwe-Gwa was paved by tarred layer and the old bridges were replaced by the newly built ones. Now, It facilitates the travel by reducing the travel time from Yangon to Thandwe using Ngathaing Chaung-Gwa-Thandwe road from 12 hrs to 8 hrs. Day trip between Yangon and Thandwe is now possible for the busy travellers. This is a great success for the Rakhine State and the great feat for the Union as well. Rakhine State, once somewhat isolated from other regions and states due to the lack of good roads,

is now open to all parts of the country and the socioeconomic progress of Rakhine State will be seen in near future.

Ngathaing Chaung-Gwa Road will be upgraded

After Ngathaing Chaung-Gwa road is upgraded by World Bank Aid 20 million US dollars, the travel time between Yangon and Thandwe will be only 7 hrs. It will also result in increase in trade volume, number of visitors including foreign tourists. Then the remarkable growth of socioeconomic condition of Rakhine State will be chalked up.

Kyauktaw-Paletwa-Matupi-Haka Road

Kyauktaw-Paletwa-Matupi-Haka Road will be built with target to finish within 5 years. In this project, roads will be tarred and reinforced concrete bridges will be constructed. That means one more road links to other parts of country from Rakhine State and faster economic growth of the State.

The road will bring about the comfortable travel and trading between Rakhine State and Chin State. The road starts from Kyauktaw of Rakhine and leads up to Haka via Paletwa of Chin State. The road will also give access to Kalay of Sagaing Region and Gangaw of Magway Region. The earth work for rough road was already finished with some parts of the road being tarred and construction of some bridges being finished at the end of the first year of new government.

To the whole State

The Kyauktaw-Haka road meets with Pakokku-Gangaw Road at Haka, therefore every part of the Rakhine State becomes accessible, thanks to the expanded new network of roads planned and materialized by the new government. Furthermore, the incumbent government had built all season roads and bridges in every part of the State defeating all the barriers and difficulties so that people can travel by car and communicate easily within the State.



Upgraded Minbu-Ann-Sittway Road.

Sittway-Ponnagyun-Yathedaung-Buthidaung-Maungtaung-Ale Thangyaw-Angumaw Road

The new government has made project planning to build roads in Rakhine State and building Sittway-Ponnagyun-Yathedaung-Buthidaung-Maungtaung-Ale Thangyaw-Angumaw Road is one of the projects targeted to be finished in two years. For the time being cars can drive up to the other bank of Sittway-Ponnagyun-Yathedaung. Buthidaung, Maungtaung and Yathedaung were accessible only by water way.

Bridges built between Yathedaung and Buthidaung

The bridges are planned to be built and finished within two years between Yathedaung and Buthidaung townships. The 658 feet-long tunnel existed on the Buthidaung-Maungtaung road section and as it has been a big obstacle to big trucks, the new roadway by passing the tunnel was searched and built the better road. Nowadays, transportation between Buthidaung and Maungtaung has been easy and can travel all season by car. In the previous years the 50-mile trip from Maungtaung through Ale Thangyaw to Angumaw took 5 hrs. due to the battered road and bridges. Now, it takes only 2 hrs. ensuring to foster the development of Buthidaung and Maungtaung townships.

After upgrading the road network, the townships in the northern part of Rakhine like Yathedaung, Buthidaung and Maungtaung will have better communication with other parts of the State and beyond that those townships will have all season access to other regions and states. The Rakhine State will advance its all round development harmoniously with other regions and states.

Over Ks 3600 million from reserved fund

Extended development works on rural roads and bridges including concreting the connecting roads between villages, building concrete bridges and gravel roads are being carried out in 16 townships in Rakhine State with the expense covered from reserved fund of Union Government.

Roads with total length over 1220 miles in Rakhine State

In Rakhine State, 8 roads with total length 514.5 miles under the management of Union Government, 43 roads having total length 71.5 miles under the management of State Government, in grand total 51 roads having 1226 miles have been built.

In 2016-17 FY during one year period of new government, about 14 miles of 18 ft. wide concrete roads, 20 miles of 23 ft. wide concrete road with asphalted coating and 12 ft. wide tarred road, about 17 miles extension of tarred road and building 34.5 miles of gravel road were also built in Rakhine State.

Tawphya Chaung Bridge

As the 1200 ft. long Tawphya Chaung Bridge was built on the road between Ponnagyun and Yathedaung, transfer by cars and trucks can be comfortably made in all seasons from Sittway to Yathedaung passing through Ponnagyun. Industrial Zone is now under implementation at Ponnagyun. So, Tawphya Chaung Bridge will help facilitate the flow of goods and commodities produced from Ponnagyun Industrial Zone to other parts of the States and also to other regions and states.



Panzinchaung Bridge that links Buthidaung and Yathedaung Townships in Rakhine State.

Performances for the development of Rakhine

FROM PAGE-5

Tawphya Chaung Bridge

As the 1200 ft. long Tawphya Chaung Bridge was built on the road between Ponnagyun and Yathedaung, transfer by cars and trucks can be comfortably made in all seasons from Sittway to Yathedaung passing through Ponnagyun. Industrial Zone is now under implementation at Ponnagyun. So, Tawphya Chaung Bridge will help facilitate the flow of goods and commodities produced from Ponnagyun Industrial Zone to other parts of the States and also to other regions and states.

Tunyawei Bridge, Panzin Chaung Bridge, Aung Tha Chaung Bridge

Tunyawei Bridge having 450ft. in length was built on the Ponnagyun-Yathedaung road section and it also helps transportation and communication in the State. Panzin Chaung Bridge having the length 960ft. Aungtha Chaung Bridge with 180 ft. length were also built on the road between Yathedaung township and Buthidaung township.

Ohnchaung Bridge

210 ft. long Ohnchaung bridge was also built across the Ohn stream on the road skirting Manaung Island.

Darlet Chaung Bridge

The Darlet Chaung Bridge having 960 ft. in length is being constructed on the Minbu-An-Sittway road. It will be finished at the end of the 2016-17 financial year.

Kyatsin Bridge

1920 ft. long Kyatsin bridge is now under construction and will be completed in 2018-19 FY. It is being built across Kyatsin river and on the road between Myebon township and Minbya township. Once isolated Myebon township will enjoy better communication and trade when this bridge is finished.

Yathedaung chaung Bridge

On Ponnagyun- Yathedaung road section Yathedaung bridge is now being built and try to finish it in two years.

Sai Din Chaung Bridge

Sai Din Chaung bridge is constructed on the road between Yathedaung Township and Buthidaung Township. The bridge is 600 ft. long and targeted to finish in 2018-19 FY.

Sat Yo Kya Bridge

It is in Sittway Township and built across the Sat Yo Kya stream having 1340 ft. in length. It will also be finished in 2018-19 FY. It is an important bridge as it can help in transporting the goods and commodities.

Kisapanadi Bridge

India has committed a pledge to build a new bridge across Kisapanadi River with target to finish in 5 years. When it is

finished, big passenger buses and freight trucks can have more comfortable journey between Ponnagyun and Minbya township.

Kin Chaung Bridge

The old wooden Kin Chaung bridge which was 440ft long and located on Minbu-An-Sittway road. Now it was replaced by a concrete bridge resulting in better transportation and trade.

Tan Hlwe Bridge

600ft. long wooden Tan Hlwe bridge located on the Taungup – Ma Ei section of Yangon – Kyaukpyu Road is upgraded to a concrete bridge. All the vehicles can drive past the bridge reliably.

Upgrading the 12 large bridges

The following above 180 ft. long bridges built of reinforced concrete and iron frames were upgraded.

1. 1216 ft. long Sunye bridge located on Pauktaw-Minbya road.
2. 900 ft. long Sin Khone Taing bridge.
3. 440 ft. long Kin Chaung bridge on Yangon-Sittway road.
4. 600 ft. long An Chaung bridge
5. 360 ft. long Pikauk bridge
6. 480 ft. long Sanmati Chaung bridge on Ponnagyun-Yathedaung Road
7. 400 ft. long Thayupe Pudon suspension bridge on Minbu-An road.
8. 480 ft. long Kwe Cahung bridge on Taungup-Thandwe road
9. 360 ft. long Gelong bridge on An-Tat-taung road
10. 180 ft. long Thedan bridge on Kyauktaw-MraukU-Minbya road
11. 180 ft. long Pegauk bridge on Myebon-Kantha-Kabaing road
12. 195 ft. long Tarong Chaung bridge on Yanbye-Kyauknimaw road

In 2016-17 FY one bridge with length over 180 ft., 14 bridges with length between 50ft. and 180 ft., 193 bridges with length below 50 ft. and associated culbert were constructed successfully.

Airways

Not only the road transport and communication were upgraded for the development of Rakhine State but upgrading of pre-existing airports, building of new airports and extension of new flights were also carried out to ease the travel by air. Construction of New Manaung airport and MraukU airport were started and earth working for runways and entrance road are under way.

MraukU Airport

Tenders were invited from private companies and tenders were selected transparently. Tender winning company has started the construction works and the project is targeted to finish in 2021.

The new MraukU Airport is constructed as the old one was located in the archaeological zone. When it is finished more foreign tourists will visit MraukU and the



Darlet Chaung Bridge on the Minbu-An-Sittway road.



Sittway Airport in Rakhine State.

socioeconomic condition of MraukU will get boosted up in near future.

Manaung Airport

Some extensions and renovations were carried out at Manaung Airport. Runway is extended to 4000ft. in length and 100 ft. in width in order that small plane can land at Manaung airport. One storied building was also built at the airport. Runway is planned to be extended to the required length and breadth to be able to accept the landing of ATR72 plane.

Sittway Airport

Sittway Airport was also upgraded by extending the runway from 6000 ft. to 7500 ft. and the width having 150 ft. the same as the old one. Before the extension, the original runway can be used only by ATR 72 plane and now Airbus 320 and Embraer 190 will be able to use the extended runway.

The new building was built at Sittway Airport in 2016-17 FY and the building to accommodate the VIP lounge was also built.

Kyaukpyu Airport

The runway was extended from 4620 ft. to 7500 ft. so that Airbus 320 and Embraer 190 can land at the airport.

Thandwe Airport

The airport busy with foreign travelers was also upgraded by paving 4 inches thick asphalt layer on the runway which is 8000 ft. long and 100 ft. wide. The airport building was also upgraded with some ex-

tensions and the new Flight Control Tower was also built at the Thandwe Airport.

Flights

As the number of travellers to Rakhine State is rapidly increasing, the number of airlines and flights are also rising. Air KBZ, Air Mandalay, Golden Myanmar, FMI and Man Yadanabon airlines are operating the flights from Yangon to Sittway. National Airline and Golden Myanmar Airline are taking flights from Yangon to Kyaukpyu. National Airline has the daily flight from Yangon to Thandwe whereas it flies 2 days a week from Yangon to An and three days a week from Yangon to Manaung. Due to the increased airlines and flights to the Rakhine State, journeys between Yangon and Rakhine State becomes more convenient. Thus, the airlines are supporting the socioeconomic development of the Rakhine State.

Water transportation

Water transport of Rakhine State will be improved as Japanese government gifted 3 water vehicles to be used in Rakhine State.

New water vehicles from Japan

The first vehicle from Japan was received on 29 March 2017. The second one will arrive in May 2017 and the last one will arrive in December 2018.

SEE PAGE -7

Performances for the development of Rakhine

FROM PAGE-6

Water crafts in Rakhine State

In Rakhine State 14 water crafts including both motorized and non-motorized, 77 private-owned freight vehicles, 700 water vehicles with engine of above 20 HP, 800 vehicles with engine of below 20 HP are under operation for passengers and goods transport.

Retaining Walls to prevent river banks from erosion

Dredging sand banks and constructing the retaining wall to prevent river banks from erosion were carried out in Taungup of Thandwe township, Yathedaung, Kyauktaw township, Minbya township, Manaung township and Yanbye township.

Expertise in water transport and water vehicles and service staffs of water vehicles are undertaking inspection works for the safety of passengers and goods transported by water vehicles. Signboards with educating propaganda for the safety passengers, goods and vehicle itself were also set up at the ports of the rivers in Rakhine State.

Projects for railway lines

The section of Sittway-MraukU railway line which is the part of the project of constructing 299.25 miles long Minbu-An-Sittway Railway Line has been built and presently construction on Sittway-Yechanbyin, Kwantaung-Yotayoke, Yotayoke-Kyauktaw rail lines totaling 54 miles in length and 6 miles long Yechanbyin-Kwantaung section have been finished.

From Sittway to MraukU

The construction works on rail lines are continuing and when finished people will be able to make a day trip between Sittway and MraukU providing a comfortable journey for the locals and foreigners as well.

Communication sector

21 auto-exchange stations, 22 microwave stations, 19 CDMA 450 stations, 2 CDMA 800 stations, 184 GSM/UMTS stations were already constructed. Only 297 mobile towers were built in 2015-16 and additional 479 mobile towers were constructed in one year term of the incumbent government. Fiber cable lines are also extended from 1959.80 km to 3303.22 km that can facilitate the telephone communication throughout the Rakhine State.

Building for Meteorological Radar

Rakhine State is a coastal region and accordingly more prone to cyclone than other inland areas. Therefore, the building for meteorological radar that can detect the location, strength and the possible track of moving storm or cyclone in precision was built at Kin village, Kyaukpyu township under the aid program of Japanese government.

Automatic Meteorological Instruments

The meteorological radar station has made daily announcement on the weather and storm condition. Automatic meteorological instruments have been installed at the meteorological stations of Sittway, Kyaukpyu, Thandwe and Gwa and detect the real time meteorological condition of the country. Earthquake instruments are also to be installed at Gwa township this year by the assistance of Indian Government.

Hotel and Tourism

As an endeavor to promote the hotel and tourism in Rakhine State, 3 new hotels and guest houses in Kyaukpyu and 2 guest houses in Sittway, totally 5 hotels and guest houses consisting of 193 rooms were given license to be opened.

2 tourism licenses in Sittway and another 2 tourism licenses in Thandwe were already granted in the tenure of previous governments. The incumbent government has issued one more tourism license in Sittway. Moreover, a pre-permission for building a hotel in Ngapali Beach was given in one year time of incumbent government.

Building of Religious Congregation Hall (Dhammayone)

In the first year term of new government a religious congregation hall was built in Maungtaw at the expense of 250 million kyats including money donated by well-wishers.

Furthermore, an ordination hall in Mawrawaddy monastery was built expending 100 million kyats. Repairing the Yadana Manaung Stupa which had been damaged by earthquake was also finished during one year term of new government. Some religious buildings including praying hall were constructed in Chongchaung monastery in Myebon township of Rakhine State.

Building Dams, Canals and embankment

Irrigation and related works including dredging the lake in Sittway, constructing network of canals and drains to supply necessary water for summer paddy in Buthidaung and Maungtaw townships and repairing embankment in Ngamanye islet of Myebon township were implemented in one year period of new government spending 2132.923 million kyats from Union Fund.

Moreover, building small dams blocking the valleys in Myebon, Yanbye, Minbya and Taungup townships, building dams and embankments in Ponnagyun, Yathedaung, Minbya, Myebon, An, Yanbye and Sittway townships and embankments deterring salt water intrusion, water storage embankments in Sittway, Pauktaw, Ponnagyun, Kyauktaw, Minbya and Myebon townships were implemented by State Government Fund. Those undertakings are much beneficial to the local farmers.



Meteorological Radar in Kin village, Kyaukpyu township, Rakhine State.



The dredging sand banks.

Building Border Fence

The 10 mile of 40 mile long border section between Tone Chaungwa and Angumaw is targeted to be fenced in along the border with Bangladesh with allotted budget 12875.672 million kyats in 2016-17 FY. Moreover, border guard stations, bridges and 69 places of the border fence are being repaired.

Deterring illegal trespassers, prevention of drug trafficking and scrutinizing the national identification and registration cards are also being carried out.

More Schools Are Constructed

In Rakhine State, during one year period of new government, opening and upgrading the schools were carried out. 11 State Basic Education High Schools, 12 affiliated SBEH Schools, 7 State Basic Education Middle Schools, 79 affiliated SBEM Schools, 167 Post-State Basic Education Primary Schools, 19 SBEP Schools and 29 affiliated SBEP Schools, 324 schools in total were upgraded. 1332 State Primary School teachers were also appointed. Government Technical Institute (Kyaukpyu), Government Technical Institute (Thandwe) and Government Technical School (Sittway) were opened to promote the vocational technology in Rakhine State.

Sittway University, Taungup College and Kyaukpyu Education College were opened and in the time of new government Taungup College was upgraded to Taungup Degree College.

Hospitals, Dispensaries

In health sector, hospitals, dispensaries and rural health centers are regularly providing health care to the people. Comprehensive Health Care Program is planned and is now being implemented so as to make people from far and wide

including people from Maungtaw District accessible to health care. As there are 3.3 million people in Rakhine State, one 500 beds hospital, five 100 bed hospitals, fifty two below 50 bed and below hospitals, 121 rural health centers, 558 rural health sub-centers are established to have a wide coverage in public health care.

Electricity Supply

In the endeavor to supply more electricity in Rakhine State, during one year period of time Ma Ei sub-station, Taungup sub-station, Kyaukpyu sub-station, Ponnagyun sub-station and Minbya sub-station were constructed and Taungup-Ma Ei, Taungup-Phone Nyo, MraukU-Minbya, Athoke-Gwa, Ponnagyun-Yathedaung-Buthidaung-Maungtaw 66 KV electric lines, 66 KV Kyaukpyu-Kyaukpyu (SEZ) electric line no.1, 66 KV Kyaukpyu-Kyaukpyu (SEZ) electric line no.2, 230 KV Mann-An electric line, 33 KV Minbya-Myebon electric line and 33 KV An-Kan Htaungyi are still under construction.

Due to the above undertakings of new government in one year period 55 villages including Ma Ei, Taungup, Kyaukpyu, Minbya and MraukU will be able to use electricity in the near future.

The Land that will flourish with Infrastructures soon

The utmost effort of the incumbent government in developing the Rakhine State has to be highly appreciated. Infrastructures, such as roads and bridges were constructed and electricity was supplied to the hilt of their capacity. Rakhine has primarily been endowed with natural resources which in combination with added infrastructure will bring about the emergence of developed State. —Translated by Khin Maung Win ■

Dilapidated eyesores, illegal annexes and canopies and urbanization problems

By Khin Maung Oo

With the increasing population of Yangon City dwellers since several decades ago, successive governments have experienced urbanization problems. Though the previous government tried to solve these problems, huge problems still remain. So, the incumbent government was left with a legacy of problems in a situation that cannot be solved easily. These problems cannot be removed in a short period of time, even if the legendary hero Hercules was able to clear up dung piled up for 30 years in the Augean stables, in a day. Among the problems, the most pressing problems are transportation, housing problems and increasing crimes. In case people demand that these problems be solved right away under the current

situations, their demands will surely be negative ones. In fact, the government alone cannot solve these problems. We must join our government's activities, assuming that these are concerned with all of us. With our willing contribution, we succeeded in helping the government to launch many campaigns such as YBS system, making vendors sell on designated places systematically, suppressing crimes, taking actions against those who commit bribery and corruption and making departments work with greater efficiency.

Yet, there is still a threatening problem for our government to solve urgently, without any hesitation. It is none other than housing plans for the urban populace. Nowadays, there are many housing estates of high quality emerging before our eyes, under the urban renewal or regeneration plan. To

put it simply, ordinary citizens cannot afford to live in these places. Meanwhile, there are many people still living in poor conditions in urban slums. With the increasing population, we need to implement urban sprawl, that is, the spread of city buildings into the countryside. Now, many low-cost housing programs are being implemented. We will have yet to take time for all with no fixed abodes to be able to reside in apartments or low-cost houses of their own.

Apart from those living in grand luxury buildings of Occidental architecture, most of the people are living in old apartments built two or three decades ago. Due to utilization of inferior construction materials, lack of engineering knowledge and being age-old buildings, these are no longer fit for living. Anytime, they can be subject to disasters.

Some buildings are found to be in severe stages of dilapidation. In case of a moderate earthquake, not to mention a strong earthquake, these buildings will just crumble like a stack of cards. As for our authorities concerned, the problem should not be condoned.

Ultimately, I want to suggest that illegal construction of annexes and canopies built to solve the narrow living spaces in their homes be cleared away urgently, because these are hindrances, especially for traffic. Some people are excessively taking advantage to extend their building so that pedestrians have no alternative but to walk on the road. Had these problems been solved, the situation would have improved to a considerable extent. Public interest should have priority over individual interest. We welcome a prompt response from our authorities concerned. ■

For Information ...

Khin Yadanar

Holding a newspaper in his hand, a youth led a discussion of the most attractive news for that day with his friend at a famous teashop in Yangon. Enthusiastically, they were talking about the Korean Peninsula.

Next to their table was occupied by elder persons in their sixties focusing on religious teachings published in journals and some dailies while making small talks.

A teenage couple was also at the shop and they were attracted by news of Exo, a Korean pop band.

These are the living proofs of information age which show people have many choices of their favourites and the State as well as the media, the fourth pillar, quenches their thirst for information. At such a time, providing in time the correct and unbiased news to the people becomes vital importance. If there are widespread rumours or media bias, people may be easily swayed and their way of thinking be wrong thereby harming their interests and tarnishing nation's image.

James Madison, the fourth president of the United States, gave a speech in 1822 regarding news of government's activities shall be provided to the public. This concept also reflects today's situation and many countries are sticking to this concept. He said that if a government elected by the people cannot provide information to the people or there is no way to provide news that government will be ridiculous, or may be the situation is the opening of a sad drama, or both.

If we think about the correct information in Myanmar we can find radios and televisions which can spread news

quickly and online media which comes to the forefront but the most effective media both in the world and in Myanmar is "newspapers".

A reader expressed his opinion saying that no matter how many newspapers comes out, Kyemon (The Mirror) and Myanma Alin cannot be ignored because, the dailies embrace the essence of responsibilities and accountabilities and carry news with definite facts and figures, and they can reach far flung areas.

Developed countries are able to spread their information through online, papers or televisions which cover not only their countries but also the whole world, but in Myanmar dailies can be seen within the day only at regions with smooth transportation. There are regions that cannot buy all the dailies but it is of utmost importance to issue correct news to cover all over the country as well as to reach to the world. Because Myanmar is adjacent to neighbouring countries whose systems are different and it is home to various nationalities, it is very important for her not to cause misunderstanding and to prevent against fake news and rumours. Moreover, delivering authentic news as soon as possible is another important factor for her stability and national development.

According to her historical background and the current situation, the state-owned newspapers are essential in fulfilling the right to know of the people because these papers deliver message which the government wants to issue to the people and at the same time they publish people's voice and opinions which should be considered by the respective

authorities. To put it another way, dailies are bridges between government and the public.

"In the past dailies were like one-way traffic but nowadays it is in the form of two-way traffic. The government, in other words, the three branches of powers issue information to the public. And people's voice, their desire, and their needs which should be known by the government are also published. Therefore, it can be seen that the dailies act as bridges between the government and the public." said General Manager U Ye Naing of the News and Periodicals Enterprise.

 Digital Newspaper targets to share news and information with people, by changing their previous modus operandi of spreading propaganda into the new way of sharing news.

The state-owned dailies – Myanma Alin and Kyemon – are published in Myanmar language with high dignity, accuracy, correctness and fairness. The Global New Light of Myanmar is published under joint venture between a private company and the government, he said.

With the practicing of multi-party democracy system, Myanmar transformed the state-owned media into public service media in 2012. Public Service Media

Governing Body was formed and Code of Ethics, Code of Conduct and Code of Practice were issued on 28 December 2012 and practiced.

In practicing these codes of conduct, journalists are not to incite to cause religious and racial hatred, not to insult others based on race and religion, and not to publish obscene books and languages, and not to publish news, photos, cartoons and articles which are based on grudges to defame others. They are the important codes of ethics of journalists.

Moreover, the draft of Public Service Media Law was drawn and according to the law, news that are neglected by the private media are to be published in the state-owned dailies. Moreover, the needs of the people are fulfilled and their interests are served. The dailies assume the duties of publishing public opinions as their main duty.

The advertisement policy of public service media and social responsibility of media was adopted, and according to the policy the state-owned dailies strictly adhere to the policy that prohibits advertising of cigarette, tobacco, liquor and other ads that incite directly or indirectly the use of such products.

In the functions of public service media, there are many benefits people can enjoy. Although the law has not been enacted the state-owned dailies are practicing what they can practice according to the law and this benefits all the people as early as possible, said U Ye Naing.

In the functions of government ministries include departments and enterprises. Departments are eligible to spend the budget allotted to them but the enterprises as the state-owned economic organizations are to generate income in accord with the economic policy of the State.

SEE PAGE 9

KOICA hands over vehicles to MOALI

KOICA (Korea International Co-operation Agency) handed over 9 vehicles and also Korea Shinhan Finance donated 26 computers to the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation on 11th May as the part of the SMU project (2015-2019/ US\$22million) supported by KOICA.

The budget of this project is US\$22 million. The hand-over ceremony was held in the presence of SHIN Euicheol, the Chief Representative of KOICA and Dr. Aung Thu, the Union Minister of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation.

Through this occasion, township and village leaders will be effectively and closely working with the villagers. The 9 vehicles and 26 computers will be distributed to 9 states and 26 townships respectively.

The SMU project is an ongoing pilot project in 110 villages in 10 states in Myanmar which has started from 2016 until 2019. In this connection, the Rural Development of Agriculture Extension Training Center in which the farmer leaders are to be trained will be launched in September, 2017.—GNLM ■

A couple appears in court charged with inciting conflict

Zaw Gyi

A couple appeared in court yesterday charged with stoking tensions with Muslims in Mingala Taungnyunt Township on Tuesday evening.

U Tin Htut Zaw, also known as Ko Latt, and his wife Ma Aung Aung Myint, also known as Ma Aung, were arrested on Thursday after a local court issued arrest warrants for seven people accused of incitement to commit conflict.

The first appearance in court is to formally hear charges. The next hearing for the couple is scheduled on 22nd May. Police are still seeking the five other suspects.

The arrests came after several people led by the Patriotic Monks Union (PMU) raided flats on Tuesday in a Yangon district with a large Muslim population, igniting scuffles that were only broken up when police fired shots into the air. Two weeks ago, the same people had forced the

closure of two Muslim schools.

“We have arrested two people since yesterday evening, and are still looking for the rest of them,” said Police Major Khin Maung Oo, in charge the police station in Yangon’s Mingalar Taung Nyunt district, where this week’s scuffles took place.

The seven have been charged under Article 505(c) of Burma Penal Code. The article says any offender shall be punished up to two years imprisonment, or a fine, or both. ■

For Information ...

FROM PAGE 8

State-run newspaper enterprise is one of the State-owned economic enterprises, and it has to operate to earn income on targeted limit so as to gain reasonable profit in accord with the economic policies of the State, and simultaneously paying great stress so as not to suffer loss of State’s finance.

In an interview with Daw San San Myint, accounting manager of news and periodical enterprise so as to be well convinced of budget spending and taxes in sale of State-owned newspapers and business operation routine of the news and periodical enterprise under the Ministry of Information, she clarified, “Throughout the period of production of state-owned newspapers, it had never taken any opportunities as an favored institution, for being a state-run paper. There had never been any practices of buying at reduced prices, free of charges

and exemption from tax assessment. We had to pay like others, ranging from purchase of raw materials to transportation of newspapers. Depending upon the amount of sale of the newspapers, we paid commercial tax. Plus, 25% income tax had been paid depending on the profit gained. Furthermore, 20% had been contributed as the state’s contribution. And 55% out of annual profit had been required to be saved as the capital for the business. Now that our news and periodical enterprises had accumulated saved money to some extent, we need not spend annual expenditure from the category of Union Fund.”

In publishing news and advertisements, state-owned papers can be assumed to have gained People’s Trust on account of its accuracy of facts and figures and it must be assumed that putting advertisements in state-owned papers has been attributed to their recognition of

public reliance on these papers.

According to the news and periodicals, giving services of publishing social advertisements at reduced prices more than commercials were the results of increasing production of more and more copies gained due to delivering papers in time daily nationwide.

Due to increasing subscribers and success of advertisements, it can be distributed more cheaply to readers at reduced prices, said U Han Lin Aung, deputy director (admin) of news and periodicals enterprises.

He said, “Sale of paper at 50 kyats per copy is targeted for people to know news at cheap prices. The Enterprise is a successful economic enterprise of the country, operating smoothly without loss and paying tax to the State as the national finance annually.”

U Han Lin Aung added, “We had to perform our work routines in accord with the tender rules and regulation, if needed to buy materials for the department. Among them, there has been the purchase of printing machine at the high price included. We performed the tasks of inviting tenders to purchase items and quantities needed for newspapers, examination and scrutiny of qualities of the materials bought by tender winners transparently and monitoring the operation work through CCTVs installed.”

U Khin Maung Kyaw Din, chief editor of Kyemon Daily said, “Being state-owned papers, they reflect the image of the nation. We describe news and information of accuracy and truth. And, we pay stress on vocabulary, spelling and usages. We respect prescribed laws, rules and regulations of the

news media, media ethics. Hence, there are still restrictions for our state-owned media to express news and information parallel with private media.

It has been found out that arrangements are being made to spread news and information through Digital Newspaper timely at such a time of targeting to share news and information with people, by changing their previous modus operandi of spreading propaganda into the new way of sharing news. Digital Newspaper under the Ministry of Information is operating by joint-venture system with a privately owned company, without spending national budget. Print media faded across the world and on-line media are developing when the state-owned papers have followed suit like others in accord with the changing technology on news and information.

U Thet Swe, director (news) of the news and periodicals enterprises disclosed, “Digital Newspapers are being made with a view to expressing news which are difficult to be described for the limitation of pages timely, so that not only Myanmar but also the whole world to view the current news simultaneously. As a result, on-line readers will be increasing, who would have an access for knowing the actual news on Myanmar.”

U Aung Naing Oo, chief editor of Myanmar Alin said, “We are trying our best to fulfill the needs of people to know news with possible means and ways. At such a time, we did not yet achieve success as expected but we firmly believe that we have fulfilled for the sake of the people and the country to some extent. We are attentively listening to

the voices and advice, criticism and suggestions for necessary changes.” At the time of publishing more papers, press media are responsible for survival in media world with dignity individually.

U Aung Moe, a regular subscriber residing in Yankin township said, “Previously old age groups used to read Myanmar Alin, Kyemon and New Light of Myanmar but now youths, adults and minors came to read them. They are now very popular with businessmen as well as people.

Daw Khin San Hsint, retired headmistress living in Bahan Township expressed, “People-orientated newspapers are still being needed. We learnt that government-owned papers did not have any losses. The days are gone when we said that there had been nothing strange, and we had read obituary column only. It was said one decade ago. Now it is impossible to claim that we do not touch it as there is nothing to read. Without people’s support, circulation of papers and advertisements will plunge. As for me, I read all papers including private issues. Yet, state-owned papers can give more accurate news and information concerning social and economic affairs.” Now, we are exercising multi-party democracy. In such a time, state-owned papers are required to review regularly whether they are really people-orientated and giving true news for the people. Concurrently, we need to assess whether ours are not people-orientated and the ones people dislike. Moreover, we must try our best for our state-owned papers to be with the people by observing and suggesting.”— (Translated by Wallace and Khin Maung Oo) ■



Printing press of the Global New Light of Myanmar in Yangon.

More than 90,000 motorbikes imported via Muse last month

THE country earned more than US\$30 million revenue from the import of nearly 95,000 motorcycles through Muse border gate in April, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

Border merchants mostly import popular Chinese motorcycle brands including Kenbo, Canada, Toyomax, Dayaung, Yunde, Sha Yan, Follow Me, Super Anbo, Taryan, Felling, New Zhineng and Loujia.

The imported motorbikes mainly entered the local markets in Mandalay and central regions. "Motorcycle demand has been high in rural areas, where people mainly rely on those bikes for transportation," said one of the

motorcycle brokers.

Motorbikes from Thailand and India are also available in the Myanmar market.

The ministry allows motorbike imports through an import licence via cross-border stations. According to the ministry's statistics, 367,000 motorbikes worth almost \$120 million were imported over the past seven months since October, 2016. The import duty rate for an importing motorbike ranges between Ks40,000 and Ks80,000, depending on its model year, brand name and engine size.

The Road Transport Administration Department continues to register vehicles entering into the country.—Kyaw Saw ■



A truck carrying motorbikes seen at 105-mile Muse Trade Zone, Shan State. **FILE PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR**

Demand for dried anthurium stems exceeds supply in export market

DEMAND for dried anthurium stems produced in the Ayeyawady Delta is greater than the supply in the export market, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

Anthurium grows naturally in the delta region, especially in Nyaungdon, Maubin and Panta-

naw townships in the Ayeyawady Region. Vast stretches of land containing the plants can be found both in vacant land and farmland.

The dried anthurium stems, the new export item, have become popular in the foreign market. Korea is a major buyer for the

country's natural product, paying US\$1,600 for a ton of dried anthurium stems.

Although demand for the organic product continues to rise in the market, the country is able to export only around 80 tons of dried anthurium stems a year, said an exporter, adding that the

country exports five containers per year and each container can carry maximum of 16 tons.

In the domestic market, one viss (3.6 lbs) of dried anthurium stems produced from the Ayeyawady Region is worth Ks2,200, while the collectors pay Ks2,500 for a viss of the market-

able product sent by Shan State. A local worker reportedly earns about Ks3,500 a day.

Efforts have been made by the government and private entrepreneurs to grow anthurium on a commercial scale to reduce the demand-supply gap.—Shwe Khine ■

Available @

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

သတင်းစာများကို ဤဆိုင်များတွင်ဝယ်ယူဖတ်ရှုနိုင်ပါပြီ

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Market Place by City Mart (6.5 Mile) • Market Place by City Mart (Damasidi Road) • City Mart (Aung San Stadium) • City Mart (47th street) • City Mart (Yankin) • City Mart (China Town) • City Mart (Myay Ni Gone) • City Mart (FMI) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City Mart (Junction Square) • City Mart (Junction Maw Tin) • City Mart (Sule Square) • City Mart (Star City - Thanlyin) • City Mart (Waizayandar) • City Mart (Hledan) • City Mart (Myanmar Plaza) • Ocean North Point (9 mile) • Ocean Shwegonedine
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Japan construction gear rental firm Aktio makes new foray into Myanmar

Aktio Corp., a Japanese construction equipment rental company expanding its business in Asia, has set up its seventh regional foothold in Myanmar.

Aktio Myanmar Co., launched last December by Aktio and local machinery dealer Aung Hein Min Co., held a groundbreaking ceremony last week for its first office-cum-factory in the country in the Thilawa Special Economic Zone on the outskirts of commercial hub Yangon.

Makoto Yoshida, general manager of Aktio Myanmar, said the facility, being constructed by major Japanese contractor Penta-Ocean Construction Co., is expected to be completed at the end of this year.

Established in Tokyo in 1967, Aktio is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year. The Myanmar office follows those

in Thailand, Indonesia, Singapore, Malaysia, Bangladesh and Taiwan.

In this anniversary year, "it is so impressive to start a business in this country," Yoshida said, adding that the factory is targeted to start operations in February 2018.

It will be used as warehouse and maintenance facility as well as renting out a wide range of machinery and equipment for the construction industry. The new base is to be staffed by 40 workers, including three Japanese.

Aung Hein Min, established in 1996, has partnered with Japan's trading giant Sumitomo Corp. since 2001.

Last December, Mitsubishi Corp. and its subsidiary Nikken Corp. launched a rental business for construction and other equipment in Thilawa by forming a joint venture, Diamond Rental Myanmar Co.,

with its local partner Myanmar Kaido Co.

Thilawa, one of three SEZs under development in Myanmar, has been developed by Myanmar Japan Thilawa Development Co., a joint venture formed by the governments and private consortiums of Myanmar and Japan.

Thein Han, chairman of MJTD, said a total of 83 companies have invested in Thilawa and that Aktio's arrival in Myanmar comes at a good time for the country, which is trying to improve infrastructure for economic development.

"At the time when infrastructure development is given priority in our country's development activities, the services of Aktio Myanmar can make a valuable, important contribution to the construction industry of Myanmar," he said.—Kyodo News ■

WORLD
BRIEFS



International Monetary Fund Managing Director Christine Lagarde arrives at the Petruzzelli Theatre during a G7 for Financial ministers in the southern Italian city of Bari, Italy, on 11 May 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

G7 finance chiefs in Italy try to gauge Trump's policy plans

BARI, (ITALY) — Finance chiefs from the G7 begin a two-day meeting in Italy on Friday, with Europe, Japan and Canada hoping to come away with a clearer picture of US President Donald Trump's direction on important policies that he has yet to spell out.

The official agenda for Group of Seven finance ministers and central bankers who arrived in the Adriatic port city of Bari on Thursday focuses on inequality, international tax rules, cyber security and blocking the funding of terrorism.

However, many participants will be looking to US Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin to gauge US intentions on issues where Trump has threatened to upset the group's consensus: protectionism and climate change.

"It will be another chance to learn what the US government is thinking and planning," said a G7 official at one of several briefings by national delegations this week. At a meeting of the larger Group of 20 finance ministers in Germany in March, ministers dropped their traditional pledge

to keep global free trade open, bowing to an increasingly protectionist United States.

Trump will decide whether to quit the global Paris agreement on climate change — a campaign promise — after meeting leaders at a G7 summit on 26-27 May, the White House has said. A US Treasury spokesman said Mnuchin will brief his counterparts in Bari on the Trump administration's still-emerging plans to revamp the US tax system — with major cuts for businesses — and ease regulatory burdens.

Reflecting tensions over Trump's attitude to protectionism, there will be no formal discussion of trade in Bari, Italian Treasury officials said. However, the US Treasury spokesman said the issue was likely to come up in bilateral talks.

The closing statement from Bari will reiterate a warning against competitive devaluations, Italian officials said, as March's G20 did, allaying fears that the new US administration might weaken the G20's united front on global currency policy.—Reuters ■

Australia considering NATO request to send more troops to Afghanistan

CANBERRA — Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull said on Friday he is considering a NATO request for more troops in Afghanistan, as US President Donald Trump considers whether to expand the NATO-led mission there by several thousand.

Turnbull did not specify

the details of the request from NATO's military authorities, which he received during a visit to Afghanistan late last month, although he said he was "open" to the idea.

"We are certainly open to increasing our work there, but we've obviously got to look at the commitments of the Australian

Defence Force in other parts of the region and indeed in other parts of the world," Turnbull told reporters in Sydney.

"It is very important that we continue — we and our other allies in the effort in Afghanistan — continue to work together," he said.

Australia currently has

nearly 300 troops stationed in Afghanistan, training and advising Afghan forces.

The top US intelligence official said on Thursday security in Afghanistan would deteriorate even further without a modest increase in troops from the United States and its allies for the NATO-led force.—Reuters ■

US decision to arm Syrian Kurdish YPG counter to relationship with Turkey, Erdogan says

ANKARA — Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan said on Friday the United States' decision to arm the Syrian Kurdish YPG is contrary to its relationship with Turkey, adding he believed issues with Washington would be largely solved in an upcoming visit.

Erdogan, who was speaking at a news conference in the capital Ankara, also said he would pursue the issue of the extradition of the US-based cleric Fethullah Gulen to "the end".—Reuters ■

Blast hits convoy of Pakistan Senate deputy, 10 dead — police

ISLAMABAD — A bomb exploded by a convoy of the deputy chairman of Pakistan's Senate on Friday, in the violence-plagued province of Baluchistan, killing at least 10 people, police said.

The blast occurred the town of Mastung, 50 km (30 miles) from the provincial capital of Quetta. Television footage showed a vehicle mangled by the blast. Senator Abdul Ghafoor Haideri, the deputy chairman of the upper house of parliament, told Reuters minutes after the blast that he believed he was the target and he had sustained minor injuries.—Reuters ■

Two devices explode in Rome, no injuries reported

ROME — Explosions damaged a car near a post office in central Rome on Friday, Italian media reported, although nobody appeared to have been injured in the blast.

"Double explosion in Rome ... initial information from the scene indicates no one was injured. Only one car damaged," state broadcaster RAI said on its website, quoting an emergency services worker saying the situation was "under control".—Reuters ■



A soldier walks at Red Sea port of Hodeidah, Yemen on 10 May 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

Attack on Yemeni port would displace at least 400,000 — UN

GENEVA — An attack on Yemen's Hodeidah port would displace more than 400,000 people, the UN International Organization for Migration said on Friday, doubling its previous minimum estimate.

"A minimum of 400,000 people will flee the city eastwards, once Al Hudaydah is under attack," IOM's Director of Operations and Emergencies

Mohammed Abdiker said in a statement, using a different English spelling for the port's name.

The UN has previously warned against any attack by Saudi-led coalition forces on the Houthi-held port, the aid lifeline for millions of people in desperate need of food, saying that 200,000-500,000 people could be displaced.—Reuters ■

2nd batch of rebels, families start evacuating northern Damascus neighbourhood

DAMASCUS — The second batch of rebels and their families started evacuating their neighbourhood of Barzeh, northeast of the capital Damascus, on Friday toward the rebel-held city of Idlib in northwestern Syria.

State news agency SANA cited Bishr Sabban, the Damascus governor, as saying that the second stage of the evacuation has started. The evacuation of the second batch was supposed to take place on Thursday, but some differences emerged, causing the process to be pushed over to Friday. There is no clear information on the number of the rebels and their families that will leave Barzeh on Friday, but according

to previous estimates and info by sources, over 700 rebels and their families will leave on Friday.

Last Monday, as many as 1,022 people, including 568 rebels, evacuated Barzeh toward Idlib and the northern city of Jarablus near the Turkish borders.

The rebels evacuating Barzeh are largely affiliated with the al-Qaida-linked Nusra Front.

The rebels' evacuation from Barzeh is the latest in a string of rebel departures from the vicinity of the capital toward rebel-held areas in northern Syria.

Barzeh witnessed a "reconciliation" deal with the government in 2014, and the neighbourhood remained largely calm,

with some breaches to the deal happening every now and then by the al-Qaida-linked groups.

But as the de-escalation zones' deal went into effect last Saturday, with Idlib being included as a safe zone, more rebels are opting to leave to that rebel-held area.

Other than the al-Qaida-linked groups, there are other rebel groups which want to reconcile with the government and remain in that neighbourhood.

All these evacuations of rebels and their families as well as sympathizers will help secure the government grip on the capital and its surroundings.—Xinhua ■

Turkey detains dozens of former bourse staff over Gulen links

ISTANBUL — Turkish police detained 53 former employees of the Istanbul stock exchange on Friday over alleged links to the US-based cleric accused of orchestrating last July's attempted coup, Haberturk newspaper said.

The suspects were the latest among some 150,000 people investigated in Turkey regarding the failed putsch. Some 49,000 of the suspects have been remanded in custody pending trial.

Prosecutors ordered the detention of 102 people as part of the bourse-related investigation, Haberturk said on its website. Ankara has blamed the network of the cleric Fethullah Gulen for the failed coup. Gulen has denied

involvement.

Dawn raids were launched on 70 addresses, targeting suspects who were removed from their posts at Borsa Istanbul in the wake of the attempted putsch on 15 July, 2016, Haberturk said.

Prosecutors in the Turkish capital Ankara ordered the detention of another 38 people, former employees of educational facilities linked to Gulen that were closed down after the coup, state-run Anadolu news agency reported.

It said police have so far detained 16 in that operation across 12 provinces.

About 145,000 civil servants, security personnel and academ-

ics have also been suspended or sacked as part of a related purge.

Last week, Turkey dismissed 107 judges and prosecutors over alleged links to the putsch in what was the third major purge since President Tayyip Erdogan was granted sweeping new powers in a referendum last month on constitutional changes.

The mass detentions were initially supported by many Turks, who supported Erdogan in blaming Gulen. But criticism has mounted as the arrests widened, with relatives of many of those detained or sacked denying their involvement in the coup and calling them victims of a purge.—Reuters ■



The celebration of Singapore Airlines's 70th Anniversary with Travel Fair 2017 is being held at Myanmar Plaza in Yangon from 12 to 14 May 2017, offering customers special deals to over 60 destinations around the world. Popular destinations including Singapore, Bali, Japan, New Zealand, Europe and America will be featured during the travel fair.—GNLM ■

Iraqis dig their own wells in battle-scarred Mosul

BAGHDAD — The families start queuing every day near the well in Mosul's Karaj al-Shamal neighbourhood, filling their large plastic containers with sulphurous, nearly undrinkable water. As the battle to clear out Islamic State drags on around them, the residents of the wrecked city in northern Iraq have given up waiting for the government or international aid groups and started digging their own water out of the rubble.

They don't always hit the cleanest sources.

"We have no water, no electricity, no salaries, and no food. What are we supposed to do? Eat grass?" says 56-year-old Fasla Taher, as she take her containers home to the nine orphans and two widowed daughters under her care.

Shaker Mahmoud, a carpenter and day labourer, says he helped dig the well, funded by a local benefactor. The same unnamed donor has paid for five others in the area and local charities have dug some more.

Families try boiling the water to make it safer to drink, but the smell and the taste linger. "It is not fit to drink. I took it to a lab once and they said it was 15-25 per cent sulphur," says Mahmoud. The supply is still invaluable for washing - at least 10 children had died in the area because of unsanitary conditions since the fighting started.

Islamic State militants overran the city in 2014, taking it as their biggest base in Iraq and triggering counter-attacks that have destroyed large parts of the infrastructure, including the water pipes.—Reuters ■

Egypt's auto rickshaw gets a new, home-grown challenger

CAIRO — In his workshop near Cairo's pyramids, Ahmed Saeed Omar has manufactured a mini four-wheeled vehicle that he hopes will fill a gap in the market.

Omar's "mini car", a rectangular vehicle made of a solid steel body which seats up to six people, is cheaper than the widely-used imported auto rickshaw — not much more than a covered three-wheel scooter with a passenger bench — because it is almost entirely locally produced.

Prices of imported products have soared since Egypt devalued its currency in November as part of measures to stimulate the economy.

A rickshaw can cost



Workers carry the main body of new 'Mini-Car-Egypt' car in a workshop, near Egypt's pyramids of Giza, in Kerdasa, Egypt on 10 May 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

around 38,000 Egyptian pounds (\$2,105) and has a 175cc engine, while Omar's mini car costs

34,000 pounds and has 300cc engine. "This is a better alternative to the (rickshaw), more cost-efficient and more spacious," Omar, 35, told Reuters. —Reuters ■

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR MINISTRY OF ELECTRICITY AND ENERGY NATIONAL ELECTRIFICATION PROJECT Invitation for Bids

Date: 11st May, 2017

SPECIFIC PROCUREMENT NOTICE

IDA Credit No. : 5727-MM

Contract Title: ACSR Conductors for National Electrification Project

Reference No. : C1-G4

1. The Ministry of Electricity and Energy has received financing from the World Bank toward the cost of the National Electrification Project, and intends to apply part of the proceeds toward payments under the contract for ACSR Conductors for National Electrification Project.

2. The Ministry of Electricity and Energy now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for supply of ACSR Conductors to be delivered in 2017 and 2018 to multiple destinations in all Regions and States of Myanmar. Domestic preference with the margin of 15% will apply. The goods will be grouped into 10 lots and bidders may submit bid for any one or more lots.

3. For quick reference, some of the key qualification requirements include :

The minimum average annual turnover (or annual sales volume) of the last three years should be USD 600,000 or higher which varies by lot and is cumulative if bidding for multiple lots.

The bidder has successfully completed at least two (2) contracts in supplying similar goods in any years over the last five (5) years, and at least one of the two contracts had a value equivalent to or greater than 50% of the value of the bid.

The details of the qualification requirements are seen in the bidding documents.

4. Bidding will be conducted through the International Competitive Bidding procedures as specified in the World Bank's Guidelines: Procurement of Goods, Works and Non-Consulting Services under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits & Grants by World Bank Borrowers [edition of January 2011 revised in July 2014] ("Procurement Guidelines"), and is open to all eligible bidders as defined in the Procurement Guidelines. In addition, please refer to the paragraphs 1.6 and 1.7 setting for the World Bank's policy on conflict of interest.

5. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from Project Manager, Project Management Office, Office No.(27), Ministry of Electricity and Energy, nep.pmo moep@gmail.com and inspect the bidding documents during office hours 10:00 to 16:00 hours Myanmar time at the address given below.

6. A complete set of bidding documents in English may be obtained free of charge by interested eligible bidders upon the submission of a written application to the address below. The Bidding Documents will be issued through email only.

In case of any difficulty in obtaining the bidding documents, interested parties may contact in writing:

Director General, Department of Electric Power Planning
Office No(27), Ministry of Electricity and Energy
City: Nay Pyi Taw
Country: The Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Email: nep.pmo moep@gmail.com

7. Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before July 11, 2017, 10:00 hrs (10:00 am) Myanmar time. Electronic bidding will not be permitted. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be publicly opened in the presence of the bidders' designated representatives at the address below on July 11, 2017, 10:00 hrs (10:00 am) Myanmar time.

8. All bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security as stated in ITB 19.1 Bid Data Sheet of the bidding document.

9. The address referred to above is :

Attention : Director General Office, Department of Electric Power Planning
Office No(27), Ministry of Electricity and Energy, Nay Pyi Taw
The Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Telephone : +95 67 410203
Facsimile : +95 67 410077
E-mail : nep.pmo moep@gmail.com
Web site : http://www.moep.gov.mm

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

MV TETON VOY. NO (17035)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV TETON VOY. NO (17035) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 13.5.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MITT-5 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 HONG GLORY SHIPPING
CO LTD.**

Phone No: 2301928

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

MV INFINITY V VOY. NO (V0614)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV INFINITY V VOY. NO (V0614) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 15.5.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MITT 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 CHUN AN SHIPPING PTE
LTD.**

Phone No: 2301928

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

MV SINAR SOLO VOY. NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV SINAR SOLO VOY. NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 13.5.2017 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 SILKAGO LOGISTICS PTE
LTD**

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

MV HUNSA BHUM VOY. NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV HUNSA BHUM VOY. NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 13.5.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T/A.I.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S REGIONAL CONTAINER
LINES**

Phone No: 2301185



Cast members Goldie Hawn (L) and Amy Schumer pose at the premiere of the movie 'Snatched' in Los Angeles, California, US, on 10 May 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

Goldie Hawn, Amy Schumer hit the red carpet for 'Snatched'

LOS ANGELES — Actresses Goldie Hawn and Amy Schumer attended the premiere of their new film "Snatched", a comedy centered on a mother and daughter whose holiday in South America goes awry, in Los Angeles on Wednesday.

"People love Goldie, but the two of us really wanted to make it together and we showed them what we could do and read scenes together and it was very clear and everybody was on board very quick," Schumer told reporters about her partnership

with Hawn.

The film is the latest in a line of female-led comedies from producer Paul Feig, who directed the recent all-female "Ghostbusters" reboot, as well as "The Heat" and "Bridesmaids".—Reuters ■

Jackie Chan, Sylvester Stallone team up for action movie



PHOTO: PTI

LOS ANGELES — Veteran actors Jackie Chan and Sylvester Stallone are collaborating for an action film "Ex- Baghdad". The story centers on two ex-special forces soldiers who must escort a group of civilians along Baghdad's "Highway of Death" to the safety of the Green Zone, accord-

ing to The Hollywood Reporter. "Need for Speed" director Scott Waugh is in negotiations to helm the movie, which is expected to be made on a budget of USD 80 million. Talent International is set to finance with Chan, Hans Canosa, Esmond Ren, and Joe Tam producing.—PTI ■

Mexican President tweets DiCaprio in reply to plea over rare porpoise

LOS ANGELES — Mexico's President Enrique Peña Nieto wrote to Leonardo DiCaprio on Twitter on Thursday in a bid to reassure the Hollywood actor his government was taking steps to protect a rare porpoise in Mexican waters teetering on the brink of extinction.

Populations of the vaquita, a tiny snub-nosed porpoise that lives in the Gulf of California, have dropped sharply in recent years because of gillnet fishing for shrimp and totoaba, a popular delicacy in Asia, sparking increased international concern.

On Wednesday, DiCaprio called on his 17.5 million Twitter followers to get behind a World Wildlife Fund campaign online, which urged people to petition the Mexican president to "take strong action now" to save the vaquita.

On Thursday evening, Peña Nieto took to Twitter in

English to defend his government's efforts on behalf of the vaquita, addressing the actor directly with his first tweet.

"I welcome @LeoDiCaprio and @World_Wildlife's concern regarding the Vaquita Marina," Peña Nieto wrote. "@Mexico has focused all its efforts to prevent the extinction of this species," he said before sending out five more tweets, all in English, to draw attention to what Mexico is doing.

Mexico imposed a two-year ban on gillnet fishing in the vaquita's habitat in 2015, extending it earlier this year. Critics have complained the ban needs better enforcement.

Viva Vaquita, a group dedicated to saving the porpoise, says on its website that the vaquita population was estimated to be less than 50 in January 2017, based on earlier study findings.—Reuters ■



US actor and UN Messenger of Peace Leonardo DiCaprio. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

Bieber lip-syncs at debut India concert, fans furious

MUMBAI — Indian 'Beliebers', who had shelled out thousands of rupees to listen to Justin Bieber, said today they were appalled when they realised that the teen



PHOTO: PTI

pop sensation was lip-syncing some of his songs at his much awaited concert here.

The 23-year-old singer, who was in India as part of the Asia leg of his Purpose World Tour, is believed to have left the country, contrary to reports that he would visit New Delhi, Jaipur and Agra, said an organiser.

Director Anurag Basu, amongst the many thousands who packed into the D Y Patil Stadium in Navi Mumbai yes-

terday evening with his daughter, a huge Bieber fan, said the "Cold Water" singer was "not prepared".

"I would have been happy if he would have sung all songs live. He only sang four songs live. An artist of his calibre should sing live. He was not prepared," Basu told PTI.

Another fan at the event said, "I attended Coldplay's concert and I think that was much better than this. Justin's

performance was low on energy and the worst part was he was lip-syncing to many of his songs."

A couple who had flown in from Pune and paid Rs 36,000 per pass said Bieber's lip-syncing was quite a turn-off. "It's quite clear that he is not singing these songs," the husband said.

Bharti Mamgain, a banker who accompanied her 10-year-old daughter Ria to the show, was equally upset. "I wish I had

not paid a bomb for this awful concert."

The Canadian singer faced huge flak on social media as well.

"Bieber was so bad it was hilarious. He had the stage presence of khichdi. Plus kaafi lip sync. (Lucky that my tickets were free :D)," AIB comic Ashish Shakya said on Twitter.

Taking a jibe at Bieber's hit "Sorry", a user wrote, "So Justin Bieber was lip syncing... Is it too late to say sorry now?" —PTI ■

Dior elevates festival fashion with Los Angeles-inspired Cruise collection

LOS ANGELES — Fringed capes, pleated skirts and bolero hats peppered the runway at the Dior Cruise 2018 collection on Thursday as the luxury Parisian label spun its own twist on music festival fashion.

“Dior Sauvage” drew inspiration from the scenic landscapes of Los Angeles and the show took place outdoors against the backdrop of the Santa Monica mountains at sunset.

“Hollywood, it’s about celebrity, red carpet, but I think there is also another side of Los Angeles,” creative director Maria Grazia Chiuri told Reuters before the show.

“The natural element, open space ... in some ways, Dior says that California is a new paradise,” she said.

Models walked between tents, wearing pleated skirts with horses painted or birds embroidered, wide-legged printed trousers, capes with fringe details and belted furs, accompanied by studded bolero hats and laced boots.

The collection was a modern-day spin on styles of the old West, with a colour palette of dusky reds and oranges that accented earth tones and textured plaid.

Layering was a key element to the collection that elevated the fashion often seen at festi-



A model walks on the makeshift runway at the Dior Cruise 2018 Collection, Calabasas, California, US, on 11 May 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

vals such as Southern California’s Coachella.

“I want to have a dialogue with the new generation of Dior women, that they can choose the piece, they can mix in different ways,” Chiuri said.

Popular with celebrities, the Dior show drew Rihanna, Charlize Theron, Demi Moore, Nick Jonas and Brie Larson.

“It’s always a pleasure and a luxury to wear Dior,” Rihanna told Reuters. “For one, it’s expensive (laughs), for two, it’s always well-made and it’s al-

ways something that allows you to express your femininity in the highest level.”

South African actress Theron said the rustic, rural setting of the show was “somewhat magical. It reminded me of home.”

Christian Dior Couture, recently acquired by the world’s largest luxury group, LVMH, has 198 stores in more than 60 countries. Sales for the brand have doubled over the past five years.

Dior is the latest luxury

label to head to Los Angeles, following Yves Saint Laurent, Burberry and Tom Ford, which showcased collections in the past two years.

“It’s good business, it’s good inspiration,” Sidney Toledano, president and chief executive officer of Christian Dior Couture, said of Los Angeles.

“You have a lot of people from Europe, from France, from Italy and people coming from Asia, so it’s becoming a cultural hub ... there is a fantastic energy,” he added.—Reuters ■

Chocolate’s sweet history on display at New York museum

NEW YORK — From cacao beans to truffles, the history of chocolate has been curated inside New York’s first museum dedicated to the sweet treat.

Choco-Story New York, created by pastry chef and chocolatier Jacques Torres, opened in March at Torres’ flagship sweets store in Manhattan.

“I love to transfer the love that I have for chocolate and the knowledge that I have for chocolates to whoever wants to learn about it,” Torres, known as Mr. Chocolate, told Reuters.

The French-born chef demonstrated how to make a chocolate truffle, pouring rich liquid chocolate into molds and filling it with a creamy, soft chocolate ganache.

The exhibition includes the early origins of chocolate from the Mayan civilization some 5,000 years ago, the tools used to create chocolate from the fermented cacao bean, and even special cups with a small bar inside to protect mustaches from hot chocolate.—Reuters ■

MRTV		Programme Schedule (13-5-2017, Saturday)	
6:00 Am	◆ Paritta by Venerable Mingun Sayadaw	League (MNL) (1) (2017) (LIVE Broadcast) (Shan United Vs GFA FC)	
7:00 Am	◆ Breakfast News	6:15 Pm	
7:35 Am	◆ Weekly Sport Info	◆ Analysis For Myanmar Movie	
8:35 Am	◆ Pan Pyo Khin	6:30 Pm	
9:10 Am	◆ Documentary	◆ Tasty Trip	
10:40 Am	◆ Poem For Children	7:15 Pm	
11:15 Am	◆ Health and Vegetables	◆ TV Drama Series	
12:30 Pm	◆ TV Drama Series	8:00 Pm	
1:30 Pm	◆ Talk on Old Flim (Part-4)	◆ News / International News / Weather Report	
2:30 Pm	◆ TV Drama Series	8:35 Pm	
3:20 Pm	◆ Documentary (Traffic)	◆ Unity Melody	
3:45 Pm	◆ “Myanmar National	8:50 Pm	
		◆ Towards All Sector Development	
		8:50 Pm	
		◆ Unity Melody	
		9:20 Pm	
		◆ TV Drama Series	
		10:05 Pm	
		◆ Musician’s Talk	



Myanmar

International

Programme Schedule

(07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)

(03:00 Pm ~ 07:00 Pm)-Today Repeat

(07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)

(13-5-2017 07:00am ~ 14-5-2017 07:00am) MST

07:03

Am

News

07:26

Am

Great Shwedagon-The Architectural Heritage

07:54

Am

A Girl Guide

08:03

Am

News

08:26

Am

Winkabar Festival

08:49

Am

Distinguished Myanmar Ladies “Tin Moe Lwin”

09:03

Am

News

09:26

Am

Discovering Tribes: Taisun (Their Life and Customs) (Part-1)

09:44

Am

Amazing: May Phoo Han

09:54

Am

Kid’s Home

10:03

Am

News

10:26

Am

Next Generation “Sammy Tin (Clarinetist)”

10:35

Am

Coconut Shell Artist

(11:00 Am ~ 03:00 Pm)-Friday Repeat

07:03

Pm

New

07:26

Pm

The Korean Treasure, Kimchi, Black Garlic & Apple Wine

07:48

Pm

Safari World

08:03

Pm

New

08:26

Pm

National Literary Icon & Guiding Light of Myanmar Literature: Sayar Zaw Gyi (Episode- 2)

08:50

Pm

Myanmar Masterclass: Artist Tin Win (Beikthano)

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

(11:00 Pm ~ 03:00 Am)-Friday 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)

Predictable European soccer leagues

LONDON — Following are some of the European soccer leagues which have come to be dominated by one team over the last few seasons:

Scotland: Celtic won the title this season with eight games to spare. It was their sixth successive title.

Austria: Salzburg need one point from their last four games to clinch the title for the eighth time in the last 11 seasons. Their run of success followed a takeover by energy drinks manufacturer Red Bull.

Greece: Olympiakos won the Greek Super League with one game to spare, their 19th in the last 21 seasons. Panathinaikos are the only team to have interrupted the run, winning in 2004 and 2010.

Switzerland: FC Basel won the league with six games to spare after leading from the first round last July - their eighth title in a row.

Croatia: Dinamo Zagreb won the title in the previous 11 seasons but current leaders Rijeka, five points clear with four matches to play, are aiming to end that run.

Slovenia: Maribor won the title for the sixth time in the last seven seasons, and the 14th since independence.

Belarus (calendar year season): BATE Borisov won the 2016 title, their 11th in a row, by an 11 point margin. The Belarus sea-



Juventus' Gonzalo Higuain in action against Torino during Italian Serie A at Juventus Stadium, Turin, Italy, on 6 May 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

son follows the calendar year: The new season has just started with BATE the early leaders.

Bulgaria: Ludogorets Razgrad won the title for the sixth successive time with five matches to play.

Cyprus: APOEL, who have won the title in five of the last six seasons, are four points clear with two rounds to play.

Germany: Bayern Munich won the Bundesliga this season for the fifth time in a row, clinching the title with three matches to spare by winning 6-0 at VfL Wolfsburg.

Italy: Juventus need three points from their last three games to clinch Serie A for the sixth time in a row. In 2013/14 and 2014/15 they finished 17 points

clear. Lithuania (calendar year season): Zalgiris Vilnius have won the title for the last four seasons.

Ukraine: Since Tavriya Simferopol won the inaugural contest in 1992, the title has been shared between Dynamo Kiev (15) and Shakhtar Donetsk (10). Shakhtar won this year, the sixth time in the last eight seasons.—Reuters ■

Ajax reach Europa League final despite defeat at Lyon

PARIS — Ajax Amsterdam weathered an Olympique Lyonnais storm to reach the Europa League final 5-4 on aggregate after suffering a 3-1 away defeat in a thrilling clash on Thursday.

They will face Manchester United in the showpiece match in Stockholm on May 24 after the Premier League side beat Celta Vigo 2-1 on aggregate after a 1-1 draw at Old Trafford.

Kasper Dolberg opened the scoring for Ajax in the semi-final second leg but Alexandre Lacazette's double just before halftime put Lyon ahead on the night and substitute Rachid Ghezzal added another goal for the hosts late on.

But Ajax, who finished with 10 men after Nick Viergever was sent off in the finale, held firm to reach their first European final since 1996 when they lost in the Champions League.

"It hurts, because we played an almost perfect game but that first goal cost us dearly," said Lyon defender Maxwell Cornet.—Reuters ■

Summer Tennis Competition for youths

THE 2017 Youth Tennis Championship organized by Myanmar Tennis Federation will be held for interested youths in their summer holidays.

The Championship is divided into three groups for

individual male and female competition under 12, 14 and 16 years of age, but fees for the competition were not announced.

Interested participants need to register no later than

21 May. Further information for the contest can be inquired at the sport ground's in-charge of Myanmar Tennis Federation's Mobile phone 09-250-187-040.—Than Maung (Yankin) / Myanma Alinn ■

Myanmar Futsal League Championship to be held in May 24

THE remaining competitions of 2017 Myanmar Futsal League Championship will be held on 24 May.

Though second round competitions of 2017 Myanmar Futsal League Championship were held in April, it was paused after the competition on May 6 as there were competitions of Myanmar

U20 Futsal Teams for the Asia U20 Futsal Championship.

In the match (14), former champion team, MIC and current top team, PU will play. This match result can become the outcome for the champion prize.

The third place team, VUC will play again with Yamanya team. The mark gaps of the

teams are very low. It will be worth watching if the VUC teams can take the opportunities from the playing results of MIC and PU teams.

In the current mark table, total mark of PU team is 37, MIC is 36 and VUC is 34. They are trying their best to get the champion prize.—200

IOC's 2024 evaluation commission gets full LA experience

LOS ANGELES — The International Olympic Committee's Evaluation Commission got the full Los Angeles experience on Thursday, playing basketball at the Staples Center, hitting Santa Monica beach and negotiating the city's notorious traffic.

After spending Wednesday indoors hearing presentations from Los Angeles 2024 bid officials, the commission and a media caravan fanned out across the 'City of Angels' for a tour of proposed venues, many of which are already in place.

"On the logistics side there were a lot of 'WOW' moments," Los Angeles mayor

Eric Garcetti told reporters. "The Olympics asked us not to buff the city up.

"This is Hollywood. We could have had the best show, the cutest kids lining the streets, we could have had the most amazing fireworks, but we didn't change a single thing.

"We didn't go out of our way to show a city that's any different than the city we know."

The commission, headed by Swiss Patrick Baumann, got an early start after a glitzy party on Wednesday evening hosted by LA2024 bid chief Casey Wasserman at his home.—Reuters ■