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President U Htin Kyaw, right, observes chemistry experiments on display as part of the children's literature festival, exhibition and book fair yesterday in Taunggyi. PHOTO: MNA

## President addresses children's literature festival in Taunggyi

President U Htin Kyaw spoke at the opening ceremony of the children's literature festival co-sponsored by the Ministry of Information, the Ministry of Education and Shan State Cabinet held at Taunggyi University in Taunggyi, Shan State yesterday.

The President said the event has created the perfect learning environment by providing an enjoyable atmosphere that encouraged children to read

and explore literature.

"We hope to bring about happiness for children, by increasing their exposure to ideas and knowledge, cultivating reading habits, improving nationalism and patriotism and enabling children to develop the courage to overcome hardships", the President said. "In this time, when we are using cutting-edge technology, parents need to take care that mindless entertainment and

games are not overwhelming the minds of children. Under these circumstances, it will not be easy to persuade children to avert their attentions to reading, but we want to urge parents to make concerted efforts for the development of our children's future".

The President added that it was never too early to start nurturing a child's interest in reading and overall learning.

"Lullabies and songs we

were told as children are in fact a part of the history of children's literature. In the past, they were central in Myanmar's literary canon. I hereby urge parents and teachers to cultivate the development of future leaders by using children's reading rooms and children's poems.

Present at the opening ceremony were Union Ministers Dr. Pe Myint and Dr. Myo Thein Gyi, Nai Thet Lwin, Shan State Cabi-

net's Chief Minister, Major-General Win Min Tun of Eastern Command, State Cabinet members, departmental heads, town elders, teachers, students and their parents, booklovers, invited guests and officials.

The President, Union Ministers, State Chief Minister and students opened the festival by cutting a ribbon and posing for photos.

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Pyithu Hluttaw

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Pyithu Hluttaw 5<sup>th</sup> regular session holds 8<sup>th</sup> day meeting

AT the 8<sup>th</sup> day meeting 2<sup>nd</sup> Pyithu Hluttaw 5<sup>th</sup> regular session held yesterday, seven questions were answered, a report submitted, a motion tabled and a bill discussed and approved.

In responding to the question of U Aung Soe, Yinmabin constituency, on a plan to build a single-story, 120 ft x 30 ft x 12 ft brick building for Basic Education Primary School, Ingyinbin village, Yinmabin Township, the Deputy Minister for Education U Win Maw Tun said there is a need for this building in the school and based on the availability of funding, instead of a 120 ft x 30 ft, a 80 ft x 30 ft single-story brick noggin building with zinc roofing will be built with Ks31.2 million from the FY 2017-2018 fund.

In response to a question by U Phone Myint Aung of DaikU constituency about the existence of a programme to upgrade the Letpan Thonegwa Basic Education High School



Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker arrives to attend the meeting. PHOTO: MNA

(sub) to a Basic Education High School, the Deputy Minister for Education U Win Maw Tun said the Letpan Thonegwa Basic Education High School (sub) is in its seventh year of existence and in the 2016-2017 academic year, there were a total of 206 students, which is more than the required number, and therefore, an upgrade it is already being planned to a Basic Education High School on 23 May.

U Moe Shwe of Putao con-

stituency asked if there were any plans to build a replacement building for the old Khakhabo (two-storey) hall of Dote Tan Basic Education High School. Excluding a hall and a new 90 ft x 30 ft hall, there are six teaching halls in Dote Tan Basic Education High School, and a case file has been opened to demolish the old hall and construct a new hall said the Deputy Minister for Education U Win Maw Tun.

In the FY 2016-2017, a Ks35

million, 90 ft x 30 ft, zinc roof, brick, single-storey building (science hall) is fully built and will be used as a teaching hall, said the Deputy Minister.

U Win Aung of Dawphonyan constituency asked about completing the construction of Nah Lone Basic Education High School (sub) and appointing a new high school teacher. Deputy Minister for Education U Win Maw Tun replied that the school building was damaged by strong winds on 28 April. Arrangements are being made to demolish the school hall and construct a 90 x 90 ft, zinc roof, brick, single-storey building in FY 2017-2018. In order to fulfil the teachers requirement in that school, new teachers are planned to be appointed in the 2017-2018 academic year, he added.

In addition, Deputy Minister U Win Maw Tun replied to questions on the education sector asked by U Soe San Thet Tun of Myinmu constituency, U Sai

Kyaw Moe of Mongpan constituency and U Sein Han of Kanma constituency.

U Yan Lin of Kyaiklat constituency said providing consumer education to consumers will increase consumers' knowledge and enable them to selectively avoid dangerous food, fake medicines and poor services resulting in such goods and services automatically disappearing from the market and, as such, he tabled a motion to include a consumer education subject to middle school grade 6, 7 and 8, to which the Hluttaw agreed to discuss.

In the day's Pyithu Hluttaw meeting, the amendment of the duties and responsibilities of the members of the Pyithu Hluttaw farmers and workers affairs committee was confirmed, annual report of the Pyithu Hluttaw Hluttaw Rights Committee was read and an artisan oil well bill was debated and approved. —Kyaw Thu Htet (MNA) ■

Amyotha Hluttaw

## Farm equipment sales to be used for loans for farmers

TO grant loans to farmers, the government's cooperative fund and a US\$400 million loan from China EXIM bank are being used while selling US\$100 million worth of farm equipment and machinery from Daedong Industrial Co. said Union Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation Dr. Aung Thu.

This was the minister's response to a question by U Kin Shein of Taninthayi of constituency 9 on Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation drawing up of long and short-term loan programmes to farmers with Japanese aid and loans to farmers by the Cooperative Department on the eighth day meeting of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Amyotha Hluttaw 5<sup>th</sup> regular session. The Union Minister continued and said the Cooperative Department is granting group loans with a loan period of six months, with each group comprised of five farmers. Furthermore, a cooperative member's individual loan was increased from Ks1 lakh to Ks5 lakh, depending upon the member's diligence and probability of loan repayment. Full repayment of the members' loans is made annually in the months



Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than. PHOTO: MNA

of January and July.

In January, a small-scale capital loan of Ks504.43 billion to state and regional cooperatives and a Ks11.51 billion loan for upgrading farms totalling Ks515.95 billion was disbursed in timely manner as loans to 2,641,350 cooperative members from 290 townships and Ks11.42 billion to 2,139 cooperative members from 797 townships to purchase 2,169 pieces of farm equipment and machinery. A two-step loan from the Myanmar Agriculture Development Bank to farmers will be provided after checking if any loans from other entities were made so that the loan system becomes an effective one, said

the Union Minister.

U Pe Chit of Yangon region constituency 9 asked if there was any plan to construct the The In Gu-Hnaw Gone-Thike Kone village road in Chaung Wa village tract, Hmawby Township and the Thike Kone Bridge which is near collapse in the coming fiscal year. Union Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation Dr. Aung Thu responded that concrete road work for the 2 mile, 3.79 furlong The In Gu-Hnaw Gone-Thike Kone village road and maintenance of Thike Kone Bridge were not included in the Department of Rural Development, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation in FY

2017-2018 allocation and thus it would not be done presently, but in the future depending upon the yearly prioritisation by the states and regions. On the question by U Khin Maung Latt of Rakhine state constituency 3 on any plans to draw up a master plan and build a sea water dam in Rakhine State and to obtain loans and aid from international organisations such as the World Bank and ADB if Union funds are insufficient, Union Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation Dr. Aung Thu said in Rakhine state there are 32 sea water dams with 61 sluice gates constructed and maintained by the ministry and 101 dikes constructed by the ministry and maintained by the farmers. In FY 2016-2017, 18 sea water dams and 38 dikes were constructed and maintained while the FY 2017-2018 funds to build and maintain eight sea water dams and seven dikes were obtained, out of which three were already started while the rest will be conducted in the open season after the raining season.

"These works are huge and require massive financial input and, depending upon the permit-

ted amount within the union's financial constraints and availability of aids and loans from developed nations and international organisations, priority will be given for the development of the agriculture sector in Rakhine state and the people's socio-economic development", said the Union Minister.

Furthermore, Chairman of the Union Civil Service Board Dr. Win Thein and Union Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation Dr. Aung Thu replied to questions asked by U Whey Tin of Chin constituency 11, U Myint Naing of Rakhine state constituency 5 and Dr. Zaw Lin Htut of Mon state constituency 9.

A bill on registering deeds was tabled by the Union Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation Dr. Aung Thu and Bill Committee member Dr. Myo Aung of Kayin state constituency 10 in order to read the report about the bill to the hluttaw.

Enrollment for discussing the bill was announced.

The ninth day of the fifth session of the second Amyotha Hluttaw will be continued on 5 June.—Thuya Zaw (MNA) ■



President U Htin Kyaw, Union Ministers, State Chief Minister and student cut ribbon to unevil children's literature festival in Taunggyi, Shan State. PHOTO: MNA

## President addresses children's literature festival in Taunggyi

### FROM PAGE-1

The President then planted a mahogany tree in front of Taunggyi University in commemoration of the literature festival opening accompanied by several children. The tree planting was followed by a rendition of the theme song of the Children's Literature Festival by students from Basic Education Schools in Shan State.

The President noted that yesterday's event in Taunggyi was only the latest in a long series of children's literature

festivals across the country.

"When respective ministries are striving for the success of their departments, it was found that the Ministry of Information was holding children's literature festivals across the country with a view to the multi-development of children who are to become future leaders and development of children's literature. In the past year, the Ministry of Information has held children's literature festivals in Nay Pyi Taw, Mandalay and Mawlamyine, in cooperation

with the Ministry of Education, respective regional and state cabinets and literature lovers. Moreover, it was very pleasing to hear that similar children's literature festivals have been held in 11 towns in some districts, in collaboration with the locals", the President said.

Dr. Pe Myint, the Union Minister for Information, said the aims and objectives for holding children's literature festivals were to make children happy and comfortable in the environment of literature and to make

children's futures brighter so that they can keep up with the developing world.

At the end of the opening ceremony, the President and attendees inspected the ground floor and first floor of Taunggyi University where youth competitions were being held, along with reading rooms, exhibitions and book stalls.

Children took part in an origami competition, painting competition and other activities. The three-day festival will end on 3 June. There are a total

of 32 exhibitions and over 60 bookstalls. The biography of Sa-yargyi Min Thu Wun, his poems on children and documentary photos are being exhibited and sold at the festival.

In the afternoon, the President and party paid a pilgrimage visit to Mwedaw Kattu Pagoda in Kattu village in Taunggyi township, and made a similar pilgrimage to Shwebonepwint Pagoda and Cula Muni Loka Chantha Pagoda in the evening.—Myanmar News Agency ■

## Three remaining insurance policy categories to be implemented

By Ko Moe

THREE new insurance and welfare services will be regulated by Myanmar's government covering housing, unemployment and transportation, according to an announcement yesterday by Yangon regional government officials.

The Social Security Law of 2012 defined six categories of insurance, regulations for three of which – health care insurance, occupational injury insurance and maternity leave – have already been implemented.

U Zaw Aye Maung, the Yangon region government minister for Rakhine Ethnic Affairs and Labour, is preparing a proposal for a meeting between Union government and Yangon region government officials to fully implement insurance regulations.

The Social Security Law mandated that two percent of workers salaries were to be withheld for insurance and social services provision. Currently, nearly 800,000 million people in Myanmar are paying into the social security system, 500,000 of whom reside in the Yangon region. ■

## Financial aid arrives for cyclone-stricken Buthidaung

Director-General Dr. Ko Ko Naing from the Ministry for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, Maungtau District Administrator U Ye Htut and officials from various departments travelled to the various villages in Buthidaung Township yesterday to provide financial aid for the reconstruction of houses and buildings destroyed by Cyclone Mora four days ago, in the hope that people will have shelter before the rainy season sets in.

Director-General Dr. Ko Ko Naing said field inspections for the reconstruction of the houses have been completed and there will be future inspections and



Director-General Dr. Ko Ko Naing provide financial aid to villagers in Buthidaung Township yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

financial aid for the remaining houses in other areas.

Daw Hla Sein Phyu, a resident of Gwa Sone village, said that the next day after the devastating effects of the cyclone, the Ward Administrator came to collect the names of villagers whose houses were destroyed. She also said that the Ministry of Social

Welfare, Relief and Resettlement gave her Ks1 lakh yesterday.

The Department for Relief and Resettlement continues to collect data in the affected areas with cooperation from the District Administration Department, Township Administration Department and local residents.—Min Thit (MNA) ■

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# Yangon sanitation system to be upgraded

THE engineering department of the Yangon City Development Committee (YCDC) indicated its intention to upgrade the city's overburdened and outdated sewage system, according to a report in the Myawady Daily, but the agency did not provide a timeframe for a tender.

Yangon has not upgraded its sanitation for more than century, even as it has grown from a town of a few hundred thousand people to its current population of more than seven million.

The civil engineering officials said that between 150,000 and 200,000 gallons of sewage

flow through a pipeline system designed by British colonial military engineer Lieutenant Brendan Fraser in 1852 and serving only six townships. A remaining 33 townships collect their sewage and transport it by tanker truck to Yangon's sole sewage treatment plant in Than-

hletsun, Botahtaung township.

Over the years, many plans have been created to improve Yangon's sewers. The civil engineers said that they hope to build two new sewage plants to serve townships not currently connected to the Fraser system.— 200 ■

## Ford Continues 'Driving Skills for Life' Programme in Myanmar to help raise awareness of road safety

Ford Motor Company continued its global Driving Skills for Life (DSFL) driver safety programme in Myanmar by hosting a series of DSFL workshops in Yangon on 28-29 May.

More than 100 drivers - including civil servants, media, Ford customers and members of the community - participated in four half-day DSFL workshops free-of-charge.

The DSFL programme aims to raise awareness of road safety, and help to reduce traffic fatalities and injuries, by helping educate drivers on the skills and techniques needed to drive more safely.

Organized in partnership with Ford's local distributor partners, Capital Automotive and the RMA Group, trainers from the



Photo: Supplied

RMA Academy led the DSFL training.

"Ford is committed to helping raise awareness of road safety and educating drivers on safe driving practices and techniques, and helping make Myanmar's roads safer

for everyone," said Mike Pease, general manager, Capital Automotive.

"We are proud to continue this DSFL and provide Myanmar drivers with the tools and resources they need to drive safely," said Pease.

The programme is conducted through a mix of classroom and practical training sessions where drivers are offered a hands-on driving experience.

In addition to encouraging safe driving and address the rising number of road accidents, the programme also aims to provide economic benefits through tips on fuel-efficient driving, which often times are the same tips for safe driving.

An emphasis on the dangers of driving under the influence of alcohol was incorporated as part of the programme. This included having participants wear specially designed goggles that help simulate the experience of driving while movement, coordination and alertness are impaired.—GNLM ■

## Opium powder seized in Kawthoung

A Kawthoung anti-narcotics squad searched a three-wheeled motorbike on Aung Thabyay Road in Palonetone village in Kawthoung on 1 June and found 7.4 kilos of opium powder in a gunny bag.

Interrogation led police into detaining Aye Myint, Ma Tun Win and Ma Aye Kyi in possession a further 7.6 kilos

of opium powder from their house at Meethwayphaung road in Palonetone village in Kawthoung.

Similarly, a local anti-narcotics squad detained Ye Tun in possession of drugs on 30 May. The police also searched a house rented by Ye Tun and found 1,799 stimulant tablets from his room at No. 16, Room

204, Ward 94, Dagon Seikkan Township on 31 May. The police also arrested a suspect named Moe Lwin at No. 568, Thalawady 5th Street, Ward 10 in Thaketa Township.

Police have taken action against them under the Anti-narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.—Myanmar Police Force ■

## Six injured in accident on Yangon-Mandalay Highway

A Hyundai Starex van hit a Shwe Taung Yoe express bus when the van driver lost control after he apparently fell asleep at the wheel between mile posts 39/2 and 39/3 in Bago Township on the Yangon-Mandalay Highway yesterday morning.

There were no injuries among the 41 passengers on the express bus, including driver Maung Naing, but six passengers aboard the Starex vehicle were seriously injured. The injured victims were taken by Bawnetgyi Highway Police to Bago Hospital.

Local police filed charges against the van driver Win Ko for reckless driving.—Nyi Nyi Than (Nay Pyi Taw) ■

## New bridge construction planned for Myaungmya

A Myanmar government official announced a new bridge will be built this fiscal year with Japanese support in Myaungmya, Ayeyawady region, according to 31 May report in The Myawady Daily.

The concrete span will cost Ks6 billion and be designed to last at least 100 years and will replace Myanmar's first suspension bridge, which was built in 1996 but was critically dam-

aged less than 10 years later by trucks bearing relief supplies in the wake of Cyclone Nargis.

"Currently, the old bridge which is located on Yangon-Myaungmya-Labutta road is not strong enough for the heavy vehicles to cross", said U Kyaw Lin, chief engineer of Road and Bridge department. "Therefore, the new concrete bridge will replace the old one and be built

with the technical assistance from Japan".

Previously, the bridge could withstand the vehicles weighing 60 tonnes. But now, it can only bear 20-tonne vehicles. The new bridge will have two lanes and will be able to allow the 60-tonne vehicles to cross.

"We also have planned to pay compensation for farmlands used for the bridge," said U Kyaw Lin.—200 ■

## Myanmar's Consumer Goods Sector Transformation — Will the Local Brands Survive?

By Luc de Waegh,  
Senior Advisor to Roland Berger and  
Founder of West Indochina

For decades, Myanmar's fast moving consumer goods (FMCG) market was dominated by local brands: from Alpine drinking water to Sparkling soft drink, Duya cigarettes, Premier Coffee mix to Mandalay Rum. Mandalay Beer is even one of the oldest South-East Asian brands, founded in 1886.

Despite sanctions and sometimes (little enforced) import bans, international brands were still available, though at a premium. Most of these products were imported illegally, mainly from Thailand and Singapore. A network of both local and regional traders was in control of this lucrative business. In this context, international brand owners had little control over the development of their brands through advertising or promotions. The supply chain and consumer prices were unstable. Hence, domestic brands faced little competition and could thrive with limited budgets. There was no need to invest in international standards of marketing and branding.

After the political changes with the 2010 elections and the subsequent lifting of sanctions, large international FMCG companies rushed in. By then, Myanmar, with a population of more than fifty million people, was one of the largest markets where these corporations were

not yet present. Therefore, market entry was not an option, but a must. These large international corporations entered with a longer-term view – their objective is not always short-term profit, but rather to acquire or organically grow market share as fast as possible, with the expectation to profit when the middle class booms. Roland Berger estimates that, depending on the government's policies, Myanmar's GDP can surge from USD 74 billion in 2016 to USD 220 billion by 2030, significantly increasing disposable incomes and fuelling FMCG growth.

That said, the arrival of international FMCG companies is fundamentally disrupting the rules of the game for local players. In addition to "never seen in Myanmar before" marketing budgets, they bring along their global expertise in advertising, market research, branding, sales and distribution.

### Upheaval requires strategic thinking

#### Rule number 1: Do not panic.

The majority of consumers are likely to be conservative and brand loyal, especially in the rural areas. Only a minority of consumers are early adopters, trendsetters or innovators. The majority of consumers tend to stick with brands they have been using for so many years. It takes time to change habits.

#### Rule number 2: Craft a strategy.

Every case is different and the very first step is to develop a thorough understanding of the facts about the specific market you are in: market size, growth potential, segmentation, comparative strengths and weakness of your brands vis-à-vis local and international competitors. Options for most local FMCG firms can be distilled to the following three:

1. Sell. This is usually not the preferred option of entrepreneurs, but in some cases it might be the best option. In situations where several international players are concurrently eager to enter the market, they might be ready to pay a premium to secure domestic brands and get a foothold into the country with existing market share. Timing is everything, as the window during which this type of unusual valuation happens, is limited.

2. Compete. Local firms may decide to push back against international brands. Local companies have brand equity and a better understanding of Myanmar consumers' tastes and local specificities. Taking foreign players head on will require the local firms to completely transform their business and go-to-market approaches. They will need to build much stronger brands, engage in more effective advertising campaigns, improve the quality of their prod-

ucts and provide after-sales and customer service, among many other difficult changes. Although a brave strategy, it is not impossible. MPT is a vivid example of how a local brand can be transformed. With the entry of foreign players into the market, MPT, with the support of KDDI and Sumitomo, transformed its organisation and brand, maintaining the number one position in the telecom market, despite intense competition with Telenor and Ooredoo. According to WPP's Brandz study "Myanmar – the Leapfrog Nation", MPT is now even the most-liked brand in Myanmar, a remarkable transformation for an organisation that was widely criticized for poor service and high tariffs, only a couple of years ago.

3. Cooperate. Local firms may decide to establish strategic alliances and work with international firms. For example, the domestic firms may shift their focus from owning and managing their own brands, to production, logistics or distribution for international brands.

Whichever strategy is chosen, domestic firms must act quickly and decide which approach to take. Failing to do so would keep them in the dark, cloud their vision and put them on a defensive rather than on an offensive approach.

Myanmar's consumer sector is rapidly changing, not only due to the entry of international players, but also with the intro-

duction of new technologies and changing consumer habits, exemplified by social media use and smartphone adoption. Domestic firms are at a crossroads and will need to decide wisely on which path to pursue.

Luc de Waegh arrived in Yangon in 1993 to start up the Myanmar activities of a leading international tobacco company. Luc is one of the pioneers of the consumer goods industry in Myanmar. He is the founder of West Indochina, an advisory firm, and acts as Senior Advisor to Roland Berger, a leading global consulting firm, which has advised the Myanmar government on sector liberalizations (telecom, banking, energy, and infrastructure), multinationals on their market entry and local conglomerates on transformation and professionalization. ■

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## Rural loans yield profits and expanding development opportunities

LOANS for rural development in Monywa Township earned Ks114.6 million in interest over a three-year term, proceeds which were disbursed to development projects in an additional 16 villages, according to a report in The Mirror Daily on Thursday.

The Mya Sein Yaung project started in FY2014-2015 with two initial loans in two Monywa Township villages. Fifty percent of the interest payments from those initial loans were provid-

ed to additional village development projects without decreasing the principal amount.

"Three years later, a project implemented in a village will earn interest amounting to at least Ks10 million," said Daw Yin Yin Cho, a Monywa Township rural development officer. "The development projects include water supply and electricity supply sectors, road and bridge construction sectors and other development sectors.—The Mirror ■

## Kamayut Data center launches

Kamayut Data Center launched yesterday in Yangon, offering sales of server collocation space.

The center comes after Myint & Associates Telecommunications Ltd (Myint & Associates Telecoms) signed a resale agreement with NTT Communications Ltd (NTT Communications) yesterday.

The agreement will enable NTT Communications to resell server collocation space, available from Myint & Associates Data Center to their ICT clients and customers within Myanmar as well as the Southeast Asian



region.

The initiative will enhance Myint & Associates Data Center's services to extend outside of Myanmar, leveraging NTT Communication's reputable brand name and international clientele.

The approach also enables NTT Communications to further

expand their data center services in the Asia-Pacific region in a rapid and practical manner.

Despite the collaboration with NTT Communications Ltd, one of the internet service providing companies, M& A Data Center will remain as a carrier-neutral data center.—Tayar/MNA ■

# Towards peace, stability and progress of Rakhine State

## Undertakings for progress and socio-economic development of Rakhine State

By Maung Maung Myint Swe

Rakhine State is now witnessing noticeable signs of social progress which we trust will gain further acceleration in the very near future as the incumbent government leaves no stone unturned in serving the local interest.

In fact, this significant social progress was achieved within a year as the government's enthusiasm for development and the local aspiration served as the engine of growth amidst the many natural barriers including mountains, forests and rivers.

### The pride of Sittway

Sittway the regional capital is famous for its Viewpoint overlooking the area where the Kaladan River meets the Bay of Bengal. The Viewpoint now has new additions — an 18-foot tall tower, a 12-foot high figure portraying the traditional Rakhine sprout, nine-foot tall statues of traditional wrestlers and other legendary figures. These new arrivals alongside the upgrading programme have turned the Viewpoint into an international level recreation centre or the pride of Sittway.

### Other improvements

In addition to its intra-road improvement scheme, the regional capital also saw the airport extension project which provided the facility with greater passenger handling capacity and the convenient lounge. Round-the-clock power supply has come to Sittway since it has been connected with the national grid.

### A village workshop

The erection of a workshop comprising 100 looms is under way at a cost of K 143 million at Kyama-thauk village in Sittway Township with the aim of generating new job opportunities for locals and improving their social status.

This significant social progress was achieved within a year as the government's enthusiasm for development and the local aspiration served as the engine of growth.



Labours work at soft-shell crab breeding farm in Kyaukpyu. PHOTO: MNA

### Jobs for trained persons

The workshop whose completion date is set in March end next year is one of the fruits the incumbent government has brought within a year. The workshop will bring social progress by employing 100 persons trained for this particular job. At the old project office of Sai-din Hydropower Project in Sittway is a pilot garment factory under construction for the benefit of local people.

### Guaranteed social life

The factory after its completion will be a facility helping improve the social life of youths, especially young women by generating jobs for them.

### Ponnagyun retransmission station

Ponnagyun now has a retransmission station that is distributing power to its wards and some nearby villages.

### Khamikyaingchaung Dam

The completed Khamikyaingchaung Dam located near Khamikyaingchaung village 11 miles north of Ponnagyun Township and the reclaimed Guwamoe reservoir with a storage capacity of 25.95 acre-feet at Ywahaung ward in the township are now supplying over 2736 million

gallons of water for the local people.

### Sluiceways

The newly constructed irrigation sluiceways and salt-water protection sluiceways Tabethlan village, Khamaung-taw village, Alechaung village and Kyauk-pyinseik village in Ponnagyun Township are now helpful to the success of farming in the region. In addition, the provision of farm material has improved the living conditions of farmers as they can now overcome all kinds of difficulties and boost per-acre yield.

### Youth handicraft school

Ponnagyun is now witnessing improvement of living standards thanks to the better road and sea transport which is the result of the roads and port upgrading project. The border youth handicraft school in the town serves as a vocational education disseminator for local youths. The townspeople can travel by train as Ponnagyun now has a newly-built railway station.

### Rati port

Kyauktaw Township in MraukU District is accessible by car as it is located on Yangon-Sittway road. During the first

year of its term in office, the government upgraded the Rati port on Kissapanadi River which is the main portal and the business centre of the township.

### Flourishing trade

As the port is now handling more ships than ever, it facilitates and promotes the trade activities of local people of Ponnagyun located on the west bank of the river. Hence the government's port extension work is effectively serving the interest of the local people.

### Kyauktaw 66-Kv power station

The newly installed 66-Kv power station is supplying electricity to Kyauktaw round-the-clock while the roadside lampposts are extending the electricity distribution network to reach every home of the town which is on its way towards social and industrial development.

### Passenger and freight trucks

Kyauktaw is accessible both by water and land transport. Increased in the number of cargo and passenger boats plying daily between Sittway deep-water port and Kyauktaw and Kyauktaw-MraukU route has facilitated the water transport sector of the town. **SEE PAGE-7**

**FROM PAGE-6**

**220 schools**

Kyauktaw Township has six high schools and another six affiliated high schools totaling 12. If middle and primary schools are added the number will be about 220. Construction of an affiliated high school is also completed. These schools are education distribution centres especially for rural youths of the township.

**Youths with advanced farming knowledge**

Agro Science School in Kyauktaw has started producing youths with advanced farming knowledge who will be the driving force for regional progress. The renovated Pyaing creek dam, canals linking Pikawkin creek, Zee creek dam and Mintha creek dam are beneficial to the progress of agriculture on which the township depends.

**MraukU ancient cultural zone**

Local youths are finding new jobs at the hotel business providing services for visitors to the MraukU ancient cultural zone. The new MraukU airport will also generate new job opportunities for youths and promote their social status. The existence of highway coach centres and ports has made MraukU easily reachable by land and water.

**Repair of spillway and control tower**

The repair of Gaya dam for effective irrigation and the provision of harvesters and millers have contributed to the timely cultivation of crops in MraukU Township.

**52 power-tillers for farmers**

The government has sold 52 power-tillers for farmers under its programme to sell farm equipment in installments at reasonable prices. The programme has improved the working environment and living standard of farmers.

**Community-based tourism**

Arrangements are under way to establish community-based tourism in MraukU Township. The government has sent officials to study three Chin villages located upstream Laymyo River in MraukU Township for two times during the period from 1 April 2016 to March this year to turn them into community-based tourism destinations.

The project is a great hope for the villagers as it will generate rapid progress for them. Transport development in Minbya Township on Yangon-Sittway Road has propelled it into a mini hub, linking Yangon by road and Myebon, Kyaukpyu and Taungup by sea. Transport development is a welcome change for local people. Minbya is now a modern town with paved roads and concrete buildings.

**A developing town**

Minbya has become a developing town with robust agriculture, livestock breeding and trade businesses. The townspeople get water from Myaungyi dam which is seven miles from the town.



Ethnic housing in Shwe Yin Aye village in Maungtaw Township. PHOTO: MNA

**Sluiceways against salt water**

Apart from government-built Bali-pauk, Shwebontha and Thetpon sluiceways, there are also public-built ones – Owun, Sonye, Thinganet and Kyaungshe – totaling eight sluiceways in the township. Thanks to these structures crops are thriving in it.

**School for ethnic races**

A school for ethnic races in Kinseik village near Minbya is providing vocational education free of charge. Skilled labour generated by the school is a bonanza for social improvement.

**Junction**

As it is a junction of Rakhine State, Minbya serves as the gateway to other regions and states via Ramong Bridge. Hence, it has bright potentials for progress. As the town now has enough electricity supply from a sub-power station increase in power consumption means increase in economic growth for the town whose sub-power station is providing enough energy for households and businesses.

**33Kv power line**

The 33Kv Minbya-Myebon power line

is distributing electricity to Myebon which is a port town.

**Kyethsin Bridge**

After its completion, the 1920-foot long Kyethsin Bridge between Minbya and Myebon will be a booster for rapid progress of the latter that is unconnected with the regional road network till now. But this situation will end soon.

**Over 500 fish farming ponds**

Fish farming is flourishing in Myebon which has 522 ponds in 13874 acres of fish farms. Development in transport sector coupled with irrigation dams and provision of farm equipment has served as the springboard for the growth in the agricultural sector which is the base for socio-economic progress.

Kyaukpyu a township and a district administrative centre by its name is also a transport hub reachable by sea and road. Kyaukpyu has two ports of which Ngalabway mainly handles passenger ships, cargo boats and trawlers coming in from or going to the north including Sittway.

**Freighters**

It is a port always busy with incoming and outgoing freighters and trawlers.

Fishing and agriculture are the main businesses of the town which has become modern and new with upgraded roads and fine buildings.

**Good transport**

Good transport and adequate power supply are the driving forces behind socio-economic development of Kyaukpyu whose airport is handling domestic flights. Kyaukpyu will achieve rapidest economic growth in Rakhine State because of its special economic zone and deep seaport. The government provided 300 units of farm machinery including harrows, winnowers, tractors and power-tillers for agricultural development of Kyaukpyu Township. The government during its first year in office erected 479 power towers, up 182 from the previous year's 297.

**Telecom towers**

Courses on the application of farm machinery have promoted human resources of the state, apart from the provisions for health and education sectors telecom towers have been extended alongside the increase in the number of cell phone users. During its first year in office, the government installed telecom towers, up 182 from the previous fiscal year which saw the erection of only 297.

**Manual to mechanized farming**

The distribution of 430 units of farm machinery, erection of sluiceways, provision of loans and seeds in Manaung and Yanbye have steered the two towns towards mechanized farming. The government provided 14496 baskets of quality seeds, 446 power-tillers, five tractors and 572 winnowers at reasonable prices in Rakhine State in 2016-2017. The same fiscal saw the state producing over 74 million baskets of rice of which over 49 million was for local consumption and as seed corn. Hence the state produced surplus rice during the time.

**SEE PAGE-10**



File photo shows an aerial view of Sittway in Rakhine State. PHOTO: MNA

# Social Pension and the Aged

Khin Maung Oo

In Myanmar, it is generally accepted that those aged 60 and above are categorized as the seniors. The seniors who are still healthy and active in spite of their advancing years are found working, whereas some are spending the rest of their lives in peace at meditation centers and monasteries with some spending at homes helping their families. Meanwhile some are finding it difficult to survive in this helpless world.

It is a noble cause for us to help desperate and family-less old people out of 4 categories of the aged group. Those people are mostly seen in monasteries, homes for the aged and on road-sides, most of whom the social

welfare department and good Samaritans are providing assistance and support.

Presently, we are greatly pleased to hear that social pensions are to be paid to nonagenarians in Regions & States of the nation. It has been learnt that social pensions will be provided after Ward/Village-tract administrative offices have made their data collection of the number of nonagenarian.

The aged belonged to the group who dutifully performed national and families' duties in some way or other, once in the past. Just after entering the sexagenarian group, some lose jobs, accumulating nothing for future use and being left in the lurch by families, relatives and colleagues. Whatever it is, we all are responsible

to help them in gratitude for the help or support in they have given in some way or another towards their families and working environments.

Not only nonagenarians but also octogenarians, septuagenarians and sexagenarians need to be provided with monetary subsidies. From the current financial year on, social pensions will be given out to those aged 90 and above at K 10,000 per month every 3 months.

K 10000 subsidy can be said to be only a meager amount, but the State will have to spend monthly K 300 million for more than 30000 nonagenarians. It was generous for the State to have granted K 4.2 billion as the social pension from the national budget. All the aged tend to suffer physically or

mentally, hence the need to provide 90 and above as well as those aged 60 and above who lack families with financial background. Under the current situations, only such an amount can be subsidized. If and when the country has flourished and develop, it will be likely for all the unemployed, the helpless and all the aged to enjoy similar provision of funds.

Myanmar is a country where generous, kind-hearted and helpful people reside. Donations made individually or in groups are ubiquitous across the nation. Had we on our side joined in the activities of the government, we firmly believe that the senior in our society will be able to spend the remaining part of their lives in safety, comfort and financial hardship. ■

# SDG goal 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institution

Dr. Khine Khine Win

FOR the first time, the UN member States have formally recognized the critical nature of peacefulness in advancing the global advancement by putting the goal 16 in SDGs: Peace, Justice and Strong Institution. Have you ever heard sustainable development goals? The Sustainable Development Goals, SDGs officially known as Transforming our world 2030 agenda for sustainable development with 17 global goals and goal 16 of the Sustainable Development Goals is dedicated to the promotion of peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, the provision of access to justice for all, and building effective, accountable institutions at all levels. According to the Transforming our world 2030 agenda for sustainable development, peace is one of the areas of critical importance of humanity and the planet. The world leaders determined to foster peaceful, just and inclusive societies which are free from fear and violence. My point of view is that SDG goal 16 is very challenging and ambitious objective for every Nation.

Without peace, there is no sustainable development. And also without justice, conflicts remain unresolved and people cannot obtain

protection and redress. In order to address human rights violations, we need to raise awareness in our community about the realities of violence and the importance of peaceful and just societies.

People believe peace creates progress and happiness. Without peace, we cannot hope for sustainable development. And also no progress can be achieved without free from violence, conflict and threat

People believe peace creates progress and happiness. Without peace, we cannot hope for sustainable development. And also no progress can be achieved without free from violence, conflict and threat of violence.

of violence. In order to achieve all sustainable development goals, there must be peace within country as well as within globe as un-peaceful somewhere is un-peaceful everywhere. So how we build peace? What are the blocks for building peace?

Education, education is one of the essential tools for Peace. We need to educate the public by raising the positive impact of peace and negative impact of conflict. Without knowledge they may not have the ability to understanding the meaning of peace. If there is peace, we can eradicate illiteracy, enable ethnic people to pursue higher education and promote ethnic literature will be carried out.

Trust, trust is also an essential ingredient in building peace. Without trust there can be no genuine peace. In order to build peace, we need to build trust. Without peace nothing good things can happen. No education, no rule of law, no justice, no good governance, no good economic, no peaceful life and so on. Peace provides the appropriate environment for many other things such as better economic performance, more inclusive societies, including gender equality and better measures on ecological sustainability. How we can aim to achieve the SDGs in countries where peace is the main challenge.

Then we need to know our rights and rights of others. Respect toward people with different background, no matter who they are, where they live or what they believe. We have to reduce all forms of violence and end abuse, exploitation, trafficking and promote the rule of law at the national and international levels and ensures equal access to justice for all. In deed we have to promote and enforce non-discriminatory laws and policies for sustainable development. There is no access to justice where people do not have legal awareness or information or knowledge of rights or where there is a weak justice system. As access to justice improves, a lot of other things we value improve as well.

Good governance: without good governance, the other efforts to improve human well-being outlined in the Goal 16 will be impossible to realize. Taken together justice, good governance, rule of law, accountable and inclusive institutions are the linchpin of shared social progress for every human being.

To conclude, we need world peace to achieve not only goal 16 but also the rest goals. If we want our future with sustainable development, stop fighting and let's build peace, let's build trust. Without peace, everything is nothing. ■

## Senior General, Chinese General visit special forces training school

COMMANDER-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and General Fang Fenghui, Member of the Central Military Commission of China and Chief of the Joint Staff Department of the Chinese People's Liberation Army of the People's Republic of China observed training exercises of special forces at the training grounds of the Tatmadaw Advanced Training School in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

The head of the Tatmadaw Advanced Training School explained the training programmes for the special forces. Afterwards, special forces trainees demonstrated martial arts skills, parachute simulation training, rescue of hostages, psychological train-

ing and other programmes.

The Chinese general noted that the exercises are up to international standards and was proud to see the trainees' ability to overcome obstacles in a short period. The Chinese general said he believed that the Myanmar Army's special forces are a reliable force and that these exercises contribute dramatically towards mental acuity. The Chinese general and entourage then visited the National Defence University, where he was greeted by the principal of the university. The principal explained the background history and profile of the Academy with a video clip. The General greeted the trainees and toured the campus of the University.—Myanmar News Agency ■



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and Chinese General Fang Fenghui meet with trainees of the Tatmadaw Advanced Training School in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. PHOTO: MNA



Union Minister for Education Dr Myo Thein Gyi and wife Daw San San Yu are welcomed by Italian Ambassador to Myanmar H.E. Mr. Pier Giorgio Federico Aliberti as they arrive at the reception for the National Day of Italy in Yangon on 2nd June.—Myanmar News Agency ■

## Young winner of Aungbarlay lottery collects grand prize

A FOUR-YEAR-OLD girl from Pinlone has won a Ks1 billion state lottery, it was announced yesterday.

On Thursday, the Aungbarlay (state lottery) Department yesterday announced the winner of the grand prize of Ks1 billion as Ma Nan Htoo Thada Aung, 4, of Pinlone in Shan State, who came to collect the prize the next day. This was the third state lottery after the price for a lottery ticket was raised to Ks500 from Ks200.

"This time we were able to award the winner the day after our announcement. We immediately gave out the prize when the winner came to collect it," said an official from the state lottery department.

The grand prize winner and her family left Pinlone on Thursday night to collect the prize.



The young winner Ma Nan Htoo Thada Aung and her family accept the grand prize from the State Lottery Department. PHOTO: 001

The Aungbarlay Department said they are always ready to give out the cash prize even if it's the next day after their official announcement, as long as it isn't a public holiday.

The family of Ma Nan Htoo Thada Aung said they are regu-

lar buyers of Aungbarlay lottery tickets.

The first winner of the Ks1 billion was from Rakhine State, the second winner was from Yangon Region and now the third is from Shan State.

—001 ■

## Public Remonstrations

1. National Democracy New Party headquartered at No.72, Lay Daung Kan Street, H/North Ward, Thingangyun Township, Yangon Region, has submitted its application for registration as a political party to the Union Election Commission in accord with Section 5 of the Political Parties Registration Law, along with the following party's name and flag.

2. It is hereby announced that those who want to remonstrate with the party's name and flag, they may submit a complaint along with the strong evidences within seven days starting from issuance of this announcement in line with Section 14 (d) of the Political Parties Registration Rules.—Union Election Commission ■



Flag of National Democracy New Party

## About Ks 30million worth of amphetamine pills seized in Sittway

POLICE seized 10,320 stimulant tablets found in a house of Satyoekya ward in Sittway Town, Rakhine State on Wednesday.

A combined force comprising the members of the Border Guard Police searched a house owned by Myint Myint Than, according to the authorities.

During the search, police discovered 7,000 WY branded stimulant pills in her hand bag and other 3,320 WY branded pills from a bedroom of the house.

The total 10,320 tablets are estimated to worth about Ks30million.

According to the investiga-

tion after seizure, it is found that the suspect, Myint Myint Than was forced to carry the pills to Star Guest House by U Wou Chay from the same ward.

Myint Myint Than was arrested by the Sittway Police force and has been sued under the law.—Myanmar News Agency ■



One of the site for natural gas extraction under the Shwe natural gas project in Kyaukpyu Special Economic Zone, Rakhine State. **PHOTO: MNA**

## FROM PAGE-7

### Village development

Ann Township has seen the implementation of a public-centred project alongside the village development project in cooperation with the World Bank. Road transport is good enough to reach Ngathaingchaung in Ayeyawady Region.

### 230Kv Man-Ann power line

The government has been adding new infrastructures and facilities in providing health and education for the whole Rakhine State. Ann is achieving town-and-village economic development together with social improvement as electricity supply has reached it though the newly installed 230Kv Man-Ann power line that is nearly seven miles long. The increase in the mobile phone users in Ann and nearby areas is a sign of change in lifestyles.

### Nylon tar road

Thandwe District also has good transport. The Bayintnaung Road between Thandwe and Ngapali, the Bogyoke Aung San Road and the Marga Road were paved with nylon tar along with the improvement of the intra-town roads.

### Trade and tourism centre

Highways coaches are running on Yangon-Thandwe road daily apart from short or long trips to the towns and places situated all along the thoroughfare. In this regard, the highway coach terminal in Thandwe is a busy place witnessing the arrival and departure of passengers and goods day and night.

### Shwehlay and Dwarawady bridges

The two bridges — Shwehlay and Dwarawady — are facilitating road transport between Taungup and Thandwe. Moreover, Thandwe is also linked with Gwa by road. Better road transport is also the main spring of social development in the district.

The direct road links between Yangon and Taungup and Gwa in Rakhine State and the less-than-12-hour drive to Yangon from Thandwe are the facilitators for economic and social development.



The completed port in Sittway that is part of the Kaladan Multi-Modal Transit Transport Project in Rakhine State. **PHOTO: MNA**

### Ngapali Beach

Thandwe has the Ngapali Beach and Thandwe airport, while Gwa also the Kanthaya Beach. The yearly arrival of a large number of local and foreign visitors has boosted hotel business in Ngapali which is generating new job opportunities for locals who are experiencing social progress.

### Taungup Degree College

The degree college in Taungup in Thandwe District is a higher learning centre for youths inside and outside the area. The government in office has built 324 new basic education schools — 11 high schools, 12 affiliated high schools, — seven middle schools, 79 affiliated middle schools, 167 post primary schools, 19 primary schools and 29 affiliated primary schools — in Rakhine State. It also appointed 1,332 primary teachers as a means in fulfilling the teachers for the growing number of students. It has also brought social progress by opening the government technical institute (Kyaukpyu), government technical institute (Thandwe) and government technical school (Sittway) where professional knowledge is shared. Moreover, the government upgraded Taungup college into a degree college in Rakhine State which also has Sittway University and Kyaukpyu Education College.

### New Taungup 100-bed hospital

Taungup degree college on Taun-

gup-Ann-Sittway Road has now become a centre of higher learning. Although Taungup already has a 40-bed hospital, the government with the goodwill of extending public health services is building a new 100-bed hospital which is now at its near completion. A total of 121 rural health centres and 558 health care sub-centres are providing health services especially for the villages in Rakhine State which has a population of 3.3 million. The government in office spent Ks 3,953.490 million in fiscal year 2016-2017 for 52 projects for health structure development in the 17 townships of the state, up from Ks 1,365 million for 22 projects in the previous fiscal year.

### Taungup-Manaung-Kyauktaw-MraukU route

From the port in Taungup, coastal vessels are sailing along the Taungup-Manaung-Kyauktaw-MraukU route. Thandwe District is gaining rapid socio-economic progress thanks to the land, air and road transport, availability of electricity and the fulfillments in the agriculture, health and education sectors. One of the significant progresses of Thandwe District is the increasing number of mobile phone users.

### 100 units of rural homes

The rural housing project in Maung-taw and Buthidaung townships of Maung-taw District covers the work of building 100 new homes.

### New Panzin creek bridge

Local people are grateful for the government's opening of the new Panzin creek bridge on the road linking Maung-taw and Buthidaung townships in the northern part of Maung-taw District during its one-year service in office on 25 March this year.

### Maung-taw-Buthidaung tarred road

In addition to the Panzin creek bridge, Maung-taw-Buthidaung tarred road was inaugurated on the same day. The all-weather facility and road will help develop multi sectors including economic, social, health and education fields of Maung-taw District.

### Two new towns

The government during its first year in office upgraded the former villages — Khamongseik and Myinhlut — in Maung-taw District into towns, providing necessary infrastructure to meet the requirements.

Khamongseik will become a border trade point with Bangladesh after it is formed into a town with five wards. Now Khamongseik has a General Administration Department office that will oversee the upgrading project. The upgrading of Khamongseik 40 miles from Maung-taw will surely bring progress in all sectors including transport, health and education.

### K 3660 million for 122 villages

Under the Myaseinyaung Village Project, the government is developing 122 villages with the provision of Ks 30 million for each village. The project to be implemented fiscal-year-wise with a total expenditure of Ks 3660 million is aimed at creating new job opportunities and income generation for villagers.

### Border region homes

The government provided 183 homes and office buildings for nine border villages in Rakhine State. Thanks to the one-year accomplishments of the incumbent government all-round development of local people of villages and towns in Rakhine State is gradually reaching a new and brighter age.—*Translated by Tin Maung Than*

## Greece clears out makeshift migrant camp in old Athens airport

ATHENS — Greek police on Friday began clearing out a makeshift migrant camp which sprung up in the former Athens airport over a year ago.

Authorities say about 100 refugees and migrants were still living in tents in Hellenikon, the former airport complex that also houses abandoned venues used in the 2004 Olympic Games, down from about 3,000 last year, most of which have been moved to other sites.

Human rights groups criticized conditions there as deplorable and unfit for humans. Hundreds slept crammed in tents in the old arrivals terminal last summer, in scorching temperatures with little food and bouts of crime and violence.

They were first taken to Hellenikon in November 2015

when police began transferring hundreds from the Greek-Macedonian border.

The government had long promised to empty the site, which it has agreed to lease to private investors under its bail-out programme, but struggled to convince the migrants to move to other camps in the mainland.

Many migrants, mostly Afghans not eligible for an European relocation programme to other member states, feared moving farther from Athens would make it harder to leave Greece.

More than 62,000 migrants and refugees heading to northern Europe have been stranded in Greece since countries in the Balkans shut their borders to those seeking passage in March last year.—Reuters ■



Migrants carry their belongings during a police operation to clear out a makeshift migrant camp at the disused Hellenikon airport in Athens, Greece, on 2 June 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

## Afghan protesters, angry at truck bomb blast, clash with police at anti-government rally

KABUL — Hundreds of chanting Afghan protesters demanded the resignation of President Ashraf Ghani's government on Friday following this week's devastating truck bomb attack in Kabul, squaring off against police who fired into the air to keep them back.

More than 1,000 demonstrators, many carrying pictures of victims, rallied near the site of Wednesday's blast, which killed more than 80 people and wounded 460, holding Ghani and Chief Executive Abdullah Abdullah responsible.

Police in riot gear used water cannon and tear gas to block the protesters, many throwing stones, from gaining access to the road leading to the presiden-

tial palace, occasionally firing automatic weapons into the air.

Wednesday's attack, at the start of the Muslim holy month of Ramadan, was one of the worst in Kabul since the US-led campaign to topple the Taliban in 2001 and underlined the growing violence across much of the country.

"The international community has to put pressure on them and force them to resign," said Niloofar Nilgoon, one of a relatively large number of women taking part in the protest. "They're not capable of leading the country."

Others demanded that the government execute prisoners from the Haqqani network, the Taliban-affiliated militant group

that intelligence officials blame for the attack.

"Until we do that, we won't have peace. The only way to get security is to punish criminals," said another protester, Asadullah, who like many Afghans goes by one name.

However most of the anger appeared directed against the Western-backed government, underlining growing impatience with its failure to ensure public security, almost three years after most foreign troops left Afghanistan.

"Ghani! Abdullah! Resign! Resign!" read one banner adorned with the pictures of bloodstained children and held out of a car window.

The pressure on the government complicates the choice facing US President Donald Trump's administration which is considering plans to increase the number of American troops in the country by between 3,000 and 5,000 to help break what US commanders say is a "stalemate" in the war.

Taliban insurgents now control or contest around 40 percent of the country. Even before the attack, 715 civilians had been killed in the first three months of the year after nearly 3,500 in 2016, the deadliest year on record for Afghan civilians.—Reuters ■



Afghans throw stones towards security forces, during a protest in Kabul, Afghanistan, on 2 June 2017. PHOTO: REUTER

## Palestine, Israel to reactivate joint economic committee: official

RAMALLAH — The Palestine and Israel agreed on Thursday to reactivate the joint economic committee and expand its power in the West Bank, a Palestinian government spokesperson said.

Yousef Al-Mahmoud, the Palestinian government spokesperson said in a press release that the agreement was signed in a rare meeting between Palestinian Prime Minister Rami Hamdallah and the Israeli minister of finance Moshe Kahlon in Ramallah on Wednesday.

According to Al-Mahmoud, the agreement includes opening Al-Karama crossing between the West Bank and Jordan all the time except Friday and Saturday, starting from 20 June to November. The crossing will be running all the time from the beginning of 2018 as well.

He added that both sides agreed to activate the joint economic committee, reconsider Paris Economic Agreement and expand the Palestinian Authority influence in area (C) according to the previous agreed agreement that linked to stopping Israeli demolition of the Palestinian facilities under non-licensing excuse.

The meeting also agreed

on establishing an industrial area in Tarqumiya, Hebron governorate that includes customs clearance area and oil, gas stores. Al-Mahmoud said the meeting discussed Palestinian national rights and interests that Israel must offer and commit according to the signed agreements.

The spokesperson also said that Hamdallah affirmed during the meeting on the necessity of the political solution, insisting on the two-state solution and the Arab peace initiative as a comprehensive solution in the region.

Hamdallah also considered the Israeli people want peace and they need a courageous political leadership. Israeli ministerial council approved on 21 May facilities for Palestinians in the West Bank.

The approval was endorsed hours before the first visit of the US president Donald Trump to Israel and the West Bank which took two days with promises to work on resuming peace talk between both sides.

The peace talks between Palestinians and Israelis halted in the end of March 2014 after 9 month of US-backed talks, with no positive results to end the long-term conflict.—Xinhua ■

## Nikkei tops 20,000 but autos, banks and yen make investors doubt sustainability

TOKYO/SINGAPORE—A 10 per cent surge over six weeks swept Japan's Nikkei stock index above the 20,000-point barrier for the first time since late 2015 on Friday, without dispelling doubts about the rally's shelf life given the outlook for automakers, banks and the yen.

Data shows foreign investors, who make up 70 per cent of trading activity in the Tokyo market, rushed to cover short positions as a rally from the year's low on April 17 gathered momentum.

But the data also shows foreigners avoided making heavy bullish bets, probably because analysts expect Japan Inc.'s earnings growth to falter.

The number of companies on the MSCI Japan index .MIJP00000PUS with earnings estimates down from the previous month has climbed steadily since mid-April and is now at its highest since December, according to Thomson Reuters DataStream.

After 16 per cent profit growth in the year ended in March, Japanese firms are expected to show slower growth in the year end-



A woman takes a photo of an electronic board showing Japan's Nikkei average outside a brokerage in Tokyo, Japan on 2 June 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

ing March 2018. According to Nomura, consensus forecasts for full year profit growth came down to 11.4 per cent in May from 13.3 per cent in April.

"The conservative earnings guidance has tempered sentiment towards Japanese stocks in the near term," said Jeremy Osborne, investment director at FIL Investments in Tokyo.

Notching a third straight week of exits, US-based Japanese stock funds posted \$194 million of withdrawals during the

week ended Wednesday, according to Lipper data.

Investors' biggest concerns are the potential for the yen to strengthen, undermining Japan's export driven corporates, and the murky outlook for the two biggest sectors in the benchmark index - automakers and financials.

"The problem is a big chunks of the market are exporters, and the biggest export sector is autos, and the outlook for the auto sector globally has turned down," said John Doyle, chief investment officer

for equities and multi-asset at UOB Asset Management in Singapore.

"And the low interest rates that are persistent in Japan are not good for financials," Doyle added, explaining why he is neutral on Japanese stocks in the group's global portfolio.

New vehicle sales in the United States, Japan's top export destination, fell in April following disappointing numbers in March, signalling a long boom cycle may be losing steam.—Reuters ■

## Scientists detect Einstein gravitational waves for a third time

WASHINGTON—Scientists have for a third time detected ripples in space from black holes that crashed together billions of light years from Earth, a discovery that confirms a new technique for observing cataclysmic events in the universe, research published on Thursday shows.

Such vibrations, known as gravitational waves, were predicted by Albert Einstein more than 100 years ago and were detected for the first time in September 2015. They are triggered by massive celestial objects that crash and merge, setting off ripples through space and across time.

The latest detection occurred on 4 January, 2017. Twin lasers in Louisiana and Washington picked up the faint vibrations of two black holes that were 20 and 30 times more massive than the sun, respectively, before they spiraled toward each other and merged into a larger black hole.

The discovery marks a turning point in the nas-

cent field of gravitational-wave astronomy, which scientists are developing to learn more about how the universe formed. The first detection of gravitational waves created a scientific sensation.

"We're really moving from novelty to a new observational science," said Massachusetts Institute of Technology astrophysicist David Shoemaker.

A team of more than 1,000 scientists published their findings in this week's issue of Physical Review Letters.

Like the previous two detections, the gravitational waves discovered in January slightly jiggled the L-shaped, 2.5 mile-long (4 km) laser beams that comprise the heart of the Laser Interferometer Gravitational-Wave Observatory, or LIGO.

By matching the shape of the waves with computer models, scientists confirmed the collision took place about 3 billion light years from Earth, twice as far as previous detections.—Reuters ■

### TRADEMARK CAUTIONARY NOTICE

It is hereby notified to all that NIPPON MENARD COSMETIC CO., LTD., a company incorporated in Japan, having its registered office at 130, Torimi-cho 2-chome, Nishi-ku, Nagoya-shi, Aichi 451-0071 Japan is the Legal Owner and Sole Proprietor of the following trademarks duly registered in Myanmar:-

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(Reg. No. 4/5167/2017)

This trademark is used in respect of the following goods:

Class 3: "Soaps, dentifrices, cosmetics, natural perfumery prepared from vegetable natural perfumery prepared from animals, synthetic perfumery, compound perfumery and incenses and fragrances; cosmetics for skin care and acne-preventing; skin lotions; facial washes; bath salts; beauty masks".

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This trademark is used in respect of the following goods:

Class 3: "Cosmetics; massage creams, other than for medical purposes; facial washes; beauty lotions; emulsions, gels and lotions for skin care; eye creams; perfumes; soaps and detergents, dentifrices, perfumery, fragrances and incenses, namely, jasmine oil, clove oil, peppermint oil, vanilla oil, rose oil, bergamot oil, lavender oil, natural musk, ambergris, synthetic perfumery, food flavorings prepared from essential oils, fumigating incenses (Kunko) and perfuming sachets; false nails; false eyelashes".

Any fraudulent imitation or unauthorized use of the said trademarks or any other act of infringements will be dealt with according to the law.

For NIPPON MENARD COSMETIC CO., LTD.

Daw Khin Khin Zaw, LL.B, LL.M, Advocate

LawPlus Myanmar Ltd.

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Dated: 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2017

## Prithvi-II missile successfully test-fired

BALASORE (Odisha) — India today successfully test-fired its indigenously developed nuclear-capable Prithvi-II missile from a test range in Odisha as part of a user trial by the Army.

The trial of the surface-to-surface missile, which has a strike range of 350 km, was carried out from a mobile launcher from launch complex-3 of the Integrated Test Range (ITR) at Chandipur near here at around 9.50 am, official sources said.

The trial of the sophisticated missile was successful and the mission objectives were met, they said.

The Prithvi-II missile is capable of carrying 500

kg to 1,000 kg of warheads and is thrust by liquid propulsion twin engines. It uses advanced inertial guidance system with manoeuvring trajectory to hit its target with precision and accuracy.

The state-of-the-art missile was randomly chosen from the production stock and the entire launch activities were carried out by the specially formed strategic force command (SFC) and monitored by the scientists of the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) as part of training exercise, a DRDO scientist said.

"The missile trajectory was tracked by the DRDO radars, electro-optical tracking systems

and telemetry stations located along the coast of Odisha," the sources said.

Teams on board the ship deployed near the designated impact point in the Bay of Bengal monitored the terminal events and splashdown.

In salvo mode, two Prithvi-II missiles were successfully test fired in quick succession from the same base, on 21 November, 2016.

Inducted into Indian armed forces in 2003, the nine-metre-tall, single-stage liquid-fuelled Prithvi-II is the first missile to have been developed by the DRDO under the Integrated Guided Missile Development Programme.—PTI ■

# Delaware-sized iceberg on verge of split from Antarctic shelf



A rift across the Larsen C Ice Shelf that had grown longer and deeper is seen during an airborne surveys of changes in polar ice over the Antarctic Peninsula from NASA's DC-8 research aircraft on 10 November 2016. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

SEATTLE — A Delaware-sized iceberg is very close to splitting off from one of the largest ice shelves in Antarctica, scientists say, after a fast-growing crack stretched to within 8 miles (13 kilometers) of the open ocean this week.

Last month, aerial observations showed that the crack had shifted toward the edge of the ice sheet and the open ocean, leading scientists to estimate that an iceberg more than 300,000 times the size of the one that sunk the Titanic could calve off as soon as summer.

The formation of the iceberg fits within a broader trend of shrinking ice shelves in the region, which scientists believe is

linked to global warming.

The crack has grown an additional 11 miles (17 kilometers) in just the last week, according to observations released on Wednesday by Project MIDAS, a European research group that has been monitoring the region, making the iceberg's separation imminent. "I would expect it to occur quite rapidly, within days or weeks," Dan McGrath, a scientist with the US Geological Survey who has studied the ice sheet extensively, said on Thursday in a phone interview.

The 1,900-square-mile (5,000-square-kilometer) chunk of ice has nearly completely broken off the Larsen C ice shelf, the fourth largest in Antarc-

tica. When it does, it will shrink Larsen C by about 10 per cent and leave it with the smallest area ever recorded.

Scientists from Project MIDAS warned in 2015 that the loss of such a large mass of ice would create a "significant risk" of the shelf as a whole becoming unstable and breaking up, although McGrath cautioned that the larger outcome is not guaranteed.

While the generation of such a large iceberg is striking, McGrath said, it is less worrisome than other processes scientists have recently observed in the Antarctic, most of which are thought to be tied to climate change.

Chief among those is the destabilization of

major glaciers in Western Antarctica connected to the interior portion of the larger Antarctic ice sheet.

"If Larsen C were to collapse, it would be concerning for its own reasons, but the contribution to global sea level rise would be very small, something in the centimeters," McGrath said. Continued destabilization and eventual breakup of the larger masses of ice in Western Antarctica, by comparison, would likely raise sea levels by three feet or more, McGrath added.

"It's dramatic," McGrath said of the potential split of the Larsen C iceberg. "But ... it's not the most concerning (part) of what we're seeing down there."—Reuters ■

# Oil prices drop amid glut concerns, US withdrawal from climate deal

SEOUL — Oil prices tumbled below \$50 on Friday amid worries that US President Donald Trump's decision to abandon a global climate pact could spark more crude drilling in the United States, stoking a persistent glut in global supply.

Global benchmark Brent crude futures LCOc1 was down 1.7 per cent, or 80 cents, at \$49.75 a barrel, as of 0725 GMT.

US West Texas Intermediate crude CLc1 futures dropped 87 cents, or 1.81 per cent, to \$47.46 per barrel.

Commodity markets were absorbing news the United States would withdraw from the landmark 2015 global agreement to fight climate change, a move that fulfilled a major campaign pledge but drew condemnation from US allies.

"This could lead to a drilling free-for-all in the US and also see other signatories waver in their commitments," said Jeffrey Halley, senior market analyst, OANDA. "This outcome could increase the supply-side equation from the United States and complicate OPEC's forward projections. A scenario that would not be favourable to oil prices."

Surging US produc-

tion has put a strain on OPEC members' efforts to curb production to drain a global crude supply overhang.

A week ago, the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) and some non-OPEC members met in Vienna to roll over an output cut deal to reduce 1.8 million barrels per day (bpd) until the end of next March.—Reuters ■

## CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

MV ASCL MICHELE VOY. NO (MZ 1703)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV ASCL MICHELE VOY. NO (MZ 1703) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 4.6.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of NO.2 BUOY/AIPT where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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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.

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LINE

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

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

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## Tickets to Ariana Grande's Manchester benefit concert sell out

LONDON — Tickets for an all-star benefit concert in aid of the victims of the Manchester bomb attack sold out within minutes of going on sale on Thursday.

The "One Love Manchester" concert will be headlined by Ariana Grande, the US singer whose concert in the northern English city on 22 May was hit by a suicide bombing that killed 22 people and wounded 116.

Coldplay, Justin Bieber, Miley Cyrus, Pharrell Williams, Take That and the Black Eyed Peas will also perform at the concert at the Emirates Old Trafford Cricket Ground on Sunday. Fans who attended Grande's previous show

are being offered free tickets to the concert which will be broadcast on British television. Proceeds from tickets sold will go to the We Love Manchester Emergency Fund set up to aid grieving families and victims of the attack.

In a statement announcing the benefit concert, Grande said she hoped to "honour the ones we lost, their loved ones, my fans and all affected by this tragedy".

—Reuters ■



PHOTO: REUTERS

## Actress Julianne Moore urges Americans to mark gun violence awareness day

NEW YORK — Actress Julianne Moore is urging Americans to wear orange on Friday to mark National Gun Violence Awareness Day.

Moore got involved in campaigning for an end to gun violence after the 2012 shootings of 20 children at Connecticut's Sandy Hook elementary school, and she is now chair of the Everytown Creative Council.

"When our federal government failed to act I was really shocked and that's when I realized that I was not being a responsible parent or a citizen by not becoming involved



Actress Julianne Moore. PHOTO: REUTERS

in an issue I cared deeply about," Moore said on Thursday.

New York's Empire State Building will be lit up in orange on Friday to mark gun violence awareness.—Reuters ■

## Cubans rock to once-censored Beatles at Havana tribute concert

HAVANA — Communist-run Cuba, which once frowned upon the Beatles as a decadent Western influence, on Thursday held an open-air covers concert in a Havana park to celebrating 50 years since the release of the band's landmark album "Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band."

Beatlemania has flourished belatedly on the Caribbean island, where authorities in the 1960s and 1970s considered Beatles songs "ideological diversionism."

That censorship faded after the Cold War ended and late President Fidel Castro in 2000 pulled a cultural about-face, calling John Lennon a "revolutionary" hero and unveiling a bronze statue of him sitting on a bench in a park. Today, Beatles music is played on the Cuban airwaves and Lennon Park is one of Havana's minor landmarks.

Hundreds of Beatles fans turned up there on Thursday evening to rock to Cuban covers of emblematic songs from the band's eighth album, considered by many to be their best, sometimes with a local twist like a salsa beat.

"The Beatles are beloved in Cuba. They are the greatest there is in the history of music," said Ivan Rico, a dock worker who like many at the concert sported a T-shirt emblazoned



Beatles fans buy shirts during an open-air covers concert in celebration of the release of the band's landmark album 'Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band' 50 years ago, in Havana, Cuba, on 1 June 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

with the image of Liverpool's Fab Four. Rico said he felt his school punished him for enjoying the Beatles so he was delighted now to be able to indulge his passion. Other music lovers recalled smuggling in tapes or records and listening to them at clandestine parties.

"I couldn't live this at the appropriate time of my life, so I'm fulfilling that dream I still have now," said Ruben Urias Raurell, 62, who traded his fishing equipment for his first Beatles record as a youngster.

Lennon Park has become a pilgrimage destination for local fans as well as foreign tourists. Guards ensure they do not make off with the iconic round-rimmed spectacles placed on the Lennon

statue.

"We look after them 11, 12 hours per day, and then we take the glasses home with us," said Aleyda Rodriguez, 72.

She said it hard to find the right type of glasses in Cuba so people traveling abroad would sometimes bring her some back.

"You may say I'm a dreamer, but I'm not the only one" from the song "Imagine" is engraved in Spanish at the feet of the statue. Around the corner from the park is The Yellow Submarine, one of several tributes bars across the island.

The Rolling Stones, another band that was once censored in Cuba, played to a crowd of nearly half a million people in March 2016.—Reuters ■

## I have been more 'Baahubali' than myself in five years: Prabhas

NEW DELHI — Coming out of a larger-than-life role like "Baahubali" and its stupendous success is difficult, says Prabhas who admits to withdrawal symptoms and being more Baahubali than himself in the last five years.

Already a huge star in Telugu cinema, Prabhas is basking in the pan India glory of his blockbuster hit. He did not sign any other film while shooting for "Baahubali". The gamble paid off — and how.

"It is always difficult to move on from something that you have been associated with for this long. In these five years, 'Baahubali' has not been a part of my life, it has been my life. I have been more of Baahubali than my own self in these years," Prabhas told PTI in an interview.

"So, withdrawal symptoms are natural but what's overpowering right now is all the love that people across the nation are showering on me," said the 37-year-old.

Made in two parts, "Baahubali: The Beginning" and "Baahubali: The Conclusion", the S S Rajamouli-directed CGI-heavy fantasy drama is breaking all records.

The movie, whose second part released on 28 April,

continues its run in theatres with collections of Rs 1,600 plus crore. The Hindi version alone earned Rs 500 crore.

Its impending China release is expected to help it cross the Rs 2,000 crore figure at the box office.

Prabhas, who has become something of a rage with his portrayal of the heroic character and his son in the royal drama, says he always knew that doing this film would be "a once in a lifetime opportunity".

Buzz has already begun of a Bollywood debut with Rajamouli and Karan Johar, who distributed the Hindi version of the film. But Prabhas isn't giving anything away.

"There is no immediate plan but it will be quite interesting. Working with Rajamouli and Karan is home ground for me now having worked with them for such a long time. But I think 'Baahubali' has paved the way for pan Indian films."

The actor can't stop praising Rajamouli and says he is fascinated by the director's ability to transform his vision into reality.

"How much ever I talk about Rajamouli sir will be less.—PTI ■



Ananya Vinay of Fresno, California celebrates after winning the 2017 Scripps National Spelling Bee at National Harbor in Oxon Hill, Maryland, US, on 1 June 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

## Ananya Vinay wins the 2017 US Scripps National Spelling Bee

OXON HILL, (MD) — Ananya Vinay of Fresno, California won the Scripps National Spelling Bee on Thursday, taking home a \$40,000 cash prize after 12 hours of picking her way along a precarious lifeline of consonants and vowels.

Vinay, 12, correctly spelled the word marocain, a dress fabric made of warp of silk or rayon and a filling of other yarns, to win the spelling bee held at the Gaylord National Resort and Convention Center in suburban Washington.

She said she felt “amazing” after defeating Rohan Rajeev, 14, of Edmond Oklahoma during the stirring 25-word championship round.

“It was just fun to see how far it would go,” Vinay said. The two determined spellers went back and forth for about 45 minutes, peeling off word after word in tense competition of spelling prowess.

Cheirotompholyx, durchkomponiert and tchefuncte were among the words the two spelled correctly during the round. In the end, Rajeev misspelled the word marram before Vinay spelled two words correctly to win the bee.

Vinay plans to split the money with her 7-year-old brother and put it in her college account. “She had a deep passion for reading. The biggest thing that she wants to do is sit and read,”

her father Vinay Sreekumar said. Competitors age 6 to 15 emerged from early spelling bees involving more than 11 million youths from all 50 US states, US territories from Puerto Rico to Guam, and several countries, from Jamaica to Japan. In earlier rounds, some spellers tripped over words including Corriedale, toreutics, cleidoic and panettone, weeding down the field headed for the finish of the 90th national Bee.

Others hung on by correctly spelling catafalque, outarde and chryselephantine. “What?!” exclaimed Maggie Sheridan, 13, from Mansfield, Ohio, throwing her hands up in disbelief when she learned she cor-

rectly spelled whirlicote, a type of luxurious carriage, with one second to spare.

Marlene Schaff, 14, was ousted by misspelling cleidoic, which means to be enclosed in a relatively impervious shell, like an egg.

“I’m disappointed because I was debating between two spellings,” said Schaff of Lake Forest, Illinois. The youngest-ever competitor, Edith Fuller of Tulsa, Oklahoma, who turned 6 on 22 April, was eliminated from the competition late on Wednesday.

New rules this year are aimed at preventing tie endings like last year’s, when two joint winners both got \$40,000 cash prizes.—Reuters ■

## New exhibition gives rare insight into life of diva Maria Callas

ATHENS — Forty years after her death, the personal life of opera great Maria Callas still has a rapt audience.

An exhibition in Athens, called “Maria Callas — The Myth Lives On”, is displaying 200 personal items belonging to the star, including some never put on display before, offering a rare glimpse into her personal life until her death in 1977.

Born Maria Anna Sophie Cecilia Kalogeropoulos in New York to Greek parents, her dramatic and emotional presence on and off stage kept people in thrall; whether it was the depth of emotion in her operatic roles or her tumultuous personal life.

“It’s very difficult to even realize what her private life exactly was,” said Fotis Papathanasiou, general manager of the Theocharakis Foundation hosting the exhibition in

central Athens. The items belong to a private collector.

“What you see is the person, and this person bore this mark of tragedist in every aspect of her life, she was a complete artist in every day of her life and in each hour of her life.”

The exhibits range from a diamond-encrusted Bulgari clutch bag to a Gucci bag given to her as a gift from Princess Grace of Monaco. But it is memorabilia from her explosive love affair with shipping tycoon Aristotle Onassis which dominate.

Their affair was initially kept secret as they were both married. But once they were both free to marry, Callas was dealt a painful and shocking blow when Onassis decided to marry Jacqueline Kennedy, widow of John F. Kennedy, instead of her.—Reuters ■

## Japan sees record population drop in 2016 as births fall below 1 m

TOKYO — The annual number of babies born in Japan fell below 1 million for the first time in 2016, while over 1.3 million people died, resulting in the largest population decline on record, a government survey showed Friday.

A total of 976,979 babies were born in 2016, down 28,698 from a year earlier and the lowest number since records began in 1899. The number of deaths also rose to a postwar high of 1,307,765, resulting in a record population decline of 330,786, the health ministry said.

The country’s total fertility rate — the average number of children a woman will bear in her lifetime — was 1.44, down 0.01 point, according to the ministry. Japan is said to require a fertility rate of

2.07 in order to maintain its population.

The figures show it will be harder for the government to achieve its fertility rate target of 1.8 by the end of fiscal 2025 and its goal of maintaining the population at around 100 million in 2060.

The number of births has fallen gradually since the 1970s baby boom, during which more than 2 million babies were born annually. The number dropped below 1.5 million in 1984 and 1.1 million in 2005.

The number of babies born in 2016 to women in their 20s was 13,911 fewer than the year before, while among mothers in their 30s it fell by 14,962. Among mothers in their 40s, however, the figure increased by 1,009.—Kyodo News ■

**Myanmar International**  
Programme Schedule

(3-6-2017 07:00am ~ 4-6-2017 07:00am) MST

|   |    |  |
|---|----|--|
| 10:51   | Am | Myanmar’s Export: Mango                      |
| (11:00 Am ~ 03:00 Pm) - Friday Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)<br>(03:00 Pm ~ 07:00 Pm) - Today Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)   |    |  |
| <b>Prime Time</b>   |    |  |
| 07:03   | Pm | New  |
| 07:27   | Pm | A Journey To Southern Shan State (Ep-1)      |
| 07:47   | Pm | Art Students: Sculpture                      |
| 07:54   | Pm | Today Myanmar: The Smart Cards for Squatters |
| 08:03   | Pm | New  |
| 08:26   | Pm | Creator Of Imagination                       |
| 08:55   | Pm | Now in Yangon                                |
| (09:00 Pm ~ 11:00 Pm) - Today Repeat (09:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)<br>(11:00 Pm ~ 03:00 Am) - Friday Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)<br>(03:00 Am ~ 07:00 Am) - Today Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am) |    |  |
| (For Detailed Schedule – <a href="http://www.myanmaritv.com/schedule">www.myanmaritv.com/schedule</a> )   |    |  |



Leicester City's Kasper Schmeichel applauds fans after the match, Premier League, at Etihad Stadium on 13 May 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

## Injury forces Denmark's Schmeichel out of Germany, Kazakhstan games

COPENHAGEN — Denmark goalkeeper Kasper Schmeichel has injured his thigh and will miss next week's matches against Germany and Kazakhstan, the Danish Football Association (DBU) has said on its official Twitter account.

A replacement for Schmeichel, who plays his club football for English Premier League side Leicester City, will be announced later on Friday, the DBU said.

The Danes are due to meet Germany in Copenhagen on Tuesday to mark the 25th anniversary of their victory over them in the final of Euro 92 in Sweden, before travelling to take on Kazakhstan in a World Cup Group E qualifier on Saturday.

Denmark are currently third in Group E on seven points, six behind leaders Poland and trailing second-placed Montenegro on goal difference.—Reuters ■

## Dutch striker Huntelaar rejoins Ajax on one-year deal

AMSTERDAM — Striker Klaas-Jan Huntelaar has rejoined Dutch side Ajax Amsterdam on a one-year deal after ending a long stint at German side FC Schalke, the former Dutch champions announced on Thursday.

Dutch international Huntelaar has scored 42 goals in 76 appearances for the national team and the 33-year-old striker made 136 appearances for Ajax between 2006-08, winning the domestic cup.

"It's no secret that Ajax is my club. So I'm extremely happy to come back here. My role is clear, but I'm not coming here to slow down," Huntelaar told Ajax's official website.

"I feel very fit and I'm already looking forward to starting preparations at the end of June. I've won trophies with Ajax, but



Jan Huntelaar. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

not the championship. The goal at the end of the season is to hoist that trophy up with the team."

Huntelaar won the German Cup during his seven-year stint at Schalke and has also played for Serie A side AC Milan and La Liga team Real Madrid in his 15-year career.—Reuters ■

## Ko's world golf number one reign set to end

NEW YORK — Lydia Ko will relinquish her world number one ranking on Sunday, ending an 84-week reign at the top of women's golf.

The South Korea-born New Zealander is not playing this week's ShopRite LPGA Classic in New Jersey, which means she is certain to be overtaken by either Ariya Jutanugarn or Ryu So-yeon, the LPGA announced.

With Thai Ariya also skipping the event, South Korea's Ryu can pinch the top ranking if she wins in New Jersey, finishes in a two or three-way tie for second or comes outright third. Otherwise, Ariya will be number one.

Either way, it will mark the 10th different number one since the rankings were created in 2006, after Annika Sorenstam, Lorena Ochoa, Shin Ji-yai, Ai Miyazato, Cristie Kerr, Yani Tseng, Stacy Lewis, Park In-bee and Ko.

"Since I dreamed about the LPGA Tour, I also dreamed about becoming the number one



Lydia Ko hits from the seventeenth course tee box during the continuation of the first round in the ANA Inspiration golf tournament at Mission Hills CC, Dinah Shore Tournament Course Rancho Mirage, CA, USA, on 31 March 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

player in the world," Ryu told reporters at Stockton Seaview Hotel and Golf Club in Galloway on the eve of the tournament on Thursday.

"I definitely want to become number one at some point, and I'm working really hard for that, as well, but I think the more important thing is enjoy this moment and enjoy playing golf. I believe that will

get me to number one."

Ryu leads the LPGA money list after a stellar start to the season, highlighted by a victory at the year's first major, the ANA Inspiration, where her playoff win over Lexi Thompson was overshadowed by the American's penalty for replacing her ball in the wrong spot on a putting green during the third round.—Reuters ■

## Guardiola confident City can close gap on London rivals

LONDON — Manchester City will close the gap on rivals Chelsea and Tottenham Hotspur next season, manager Pep Guardiola has said after the side secured a third-placed Premier League finish in his debut campaign.

City endured an inconsistent season, finishing 13 points behind champions Chelsea and eight behind Tottenham as the Spaniard failed to secure a trophy for the first time in his managerial career.

"Always the leagues are complicated to win," Guardiola said during a Q&A with fans on Thursday.

"But of course we are going to close the gap between especially Chelsea and Tottenham, trying to be close for the next season."

Guardiola also said that his first season in England did not



Manchester City manager Pep Guardiola. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

call for too much adjustment compared to his time with Barcelona and Bayern Munich.

"It's not too much, the principles are the same so the way you want to play is the same, so of course I adjust," the Spaniard said.

"When I adjust it's because of the quality of the

players not because here the Premier League is different from the other ones. But the fundamental principles are the same." City have already splashed out big money on striker Bernardo Silva and goalkeeper Ederson Moraes to strengthen their squad for next season.—Reuters ■