A ceremony to mark the 70th Anniversary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and a gala dinner were held on the lawn of the Ministry in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday evening.

Prior to the ceremony, State Counsellor and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs Daw Aung San Suu Kyi cordially greeted those present, followed by dinner with Union Minister U Kyaw Tint Swe, the Deputy Ministers, ambassadors and other attendees were served with dinner. After dinner, the State Counsellor and party toured the commemorative items the ministry displayed on the ground floor.

Speaking on the occasion, State Counsellor and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs Daw Aung San Suu Kyi said: “A nation’s history is similar to a person’s life; they both have ups and downs. We have to try our best to maintain our status while we are up, and not to be discouraged when we are down. We admit that the reputation of our Ministry for Foreign Affairs was not as good as it should be in the past decades.”

“There is no reason to be discouraged as there are many other opportunities to improve and for the young generation it means there is more time to improve.”

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Ministry of the Office of the State Counsellor
Press Release
16th March 2017


The Government would like to express its sincere thanks to the Chairperson Dr Kofi Annan and members of the Commission for their visionary and constructive approach to the need for stability, peace and prosperity in Rakhine.

The Government concurs with the recommendations set forth in the report and believes that these will have a positive impact on the process of the national reconciliation and development.

The large majority of the recommendations will be implemented promptly with a view to maximum effectiveness. The implementation of a few will be contingent upon the situation on the ground but we believe there will be speedy progress.

The Government of Myanmar will be happy to cooperate with the Advisory Commission in its endeavours to assist us in finding viable and sustainable solutions to the complex situation in the Rakhine State.
K 30 Billion To Be Spent For Supplying Electric Power Needed for Yangon Region During the Summer Season

—Myanmar News Agency

The Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw clarified that the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw with the majority votes of support. Pyidaungsu Hluttaw approved the matters concerning getting loan of Euro 23,883 million from the bank of KfW Development Bank of Germany for supplying electric power to 416 villages in Shan State (South) and getting loan US $ 200 million from Development Policy Operation (DPO) under World Bank’s loan arrangement.

In addition, the Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw clarified Hluttaw’s performances including 2nd Pyidaungsu Hluttaw 4th regular session’s works performed, followed by announcement that the meeting came to an end successfully. —Myanmar News Agency

MPs should do their best to fulfill constituents’ requests: Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker

The Speaker then announced that the terms of the other 12 committees in the Amyotha Hluttaw under the 2015 Amyotha Hluttaw Law is complete for one year and extended it for another year under Article 107 in the 2015 Amyotha Hluttaw Law.

The Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw, Mahn Win Khang Thaun, thanked the Hluttaw when they return home to their constituencies after Hluttaw’s meetings. Then he announced that the fourth regular section of second Amyotha Hluttaw had been successfully completed. —Myanmar News Agency

THE chairmen and secretaries of fifteen parliamentary committees presented the committee performance reports to be approved by the Hluttaw on the 19th day of the fourth regular section of the second Amyotha Hluttaw in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

The speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw, Mahn Win Khang Thaun, announced that the Hluttaw agreed with the committee’s performance reports after receiving reaction from all Members of Parliament. U Myint Naing, Member of Parliament for the No. 5 constituency in Rakhe State, discussed the performance report of the Government’s Guarantees, Pledges and Undertakings Vetting Committee in a constructive way. U Thein Swe, Chairman of the Committee and Member of Parliament for the No. 11 constituency in Ayeawady Region, presented the performance of the committee to be approved by the Hluttaw and received approval.

THE Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Min Myint replied to U Ah Moe Si from the Khaunglanphu constituency that to enhance the number of education providers in Khaunglanphu Township, various training courses are provided in every region and state’s educational institution and priority is given to a town’s resident in appointing of educators before recruiting from other townships if local educators are unavailable. The Deputy Minister then proceeded to reply to U Hnin Htun Win from Yamethin constituency’s question concerning the construction of a 3-storey hostel in Yamethin Technological University in the 2017-2018 fiscal year. The Deputy Minister replied that 65.76 per cent of the construction has been completed despite delays caused by budget discrepancies since the construction began in 26 June of 2014. However a proposal for the continuation of the project budget was approved by the Hluttaw in the current fiscal year. Deputy Minister U Min Maw Tun also answered U Bo Bo Oo from the Samkar constituency on whether Sikh nationalities will be continued to allow submitting exam forms and if wearing of turbans will still be permitted in certificate photos. Afterward, Deputy Minister for Electric Power and Energy Dr. Tun Naing answered various questions concerning restoration of the power supply for the broken 11 KV power line in Mogansai station and the status on completing the 33 KV power line from the Nantun substation.

Min Wai Myint announced the successful conclusion of the 2nd Pyithu Hluttaw 4th Regular Meeting,— Min Wai Myint (MNA)

2nd Pyithu Hluttaw 4th Regular Meeting — General

The Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Win Myint announced in his concluding speech of the 19th day of the Pyithu Hluttaw that, during the course of the Pyithu Hluttaw 4th Regular Meeting, 92 critical questions and 349 complimentary questions were successfully answered.

The Speaker announced that 14 proposals had been submitted with six proposals ratified, five proposals archived and three proposals left for further discussion. Concerning legal bills, 19 bills were successfully discussed with nine bills regulated and 10 bills left for further discussions. Also, 14 Pyithu Hluttaw Committees were granted extended terms, 34 Pyithu Hluttaw representatives appointed as committee members, and eight Tatmadaw Pyithu Hluttaw representatives were substitut-ed, two Pyithu Hluttaw representativa-tes sworn in from committee positions and 38 Tatmadaw Pyithu Hluttaw representatives were appointed as members of various committees and some as observers of the Hluttaw. The Speaker further stated that successful realisation of the Hluttaw’s objectives serve as the foundation for democracy and this responsibility rests on the Hlut-taw representatives. Therefore it is imperative that Hluttaw representatives adhere to the Hluttaw’s Laws, Acts, Rules and Regulations so that the hopes and wishes of each constituency’s citizens come to realisation. Kindness by itself cannot develop a nation, but needs to be partnered together with skills, knowledge, experience and rational-ity in performing upright and truthful tasks for the benefit of the country and its people. The Speaker concluded his speech by saying for the attainment of a peaceful and prosperous nation, the government, Hluttaw, Tatmadaw, and ethnic armed groups should foster trust, understanding, mutual respect, and patience in promising dialogues with benefit of the nation in mind.

Afterwards, the Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker requested Hluttaw representatives returning to their constituency to participate in its development efforts, and that to ensure straightforward and just administration and judicial power for each region and state alike, the Hluttaw under the Basic Constitution Law Act 11 (A) Parliamentary Oversight will do its best to analyse and provide assistance. The Speaker requested the representatives to support each other in a check & balance system but to keep in mind not to cross set authoritative bound-aries, and to aspire to become Hluttaw representatives that the citizens can look up to and trust.

Next, the Deputy Minister for Education U Win Maw Tun replied to U Ah Moe Si from the Khaunglanphu constituency that to enhance the number of education providers in Khaunglanphu Township, various training courses are provided in every region and state’s educational institution and priority is given to a town’s resident in appointing of educators before recruiting from other townships if local educators are unavailable. The Deputy Minister then proceeded to reply to U Hnin Htun Win from Yamethin constituency’s question concerning the construction of a 3-storey hostel in Yamethin Technological University in the 2017-2018 fiscal year. The Deputy Minister replied that 65.76 per cent of the construction has been completed despite delays caused by budget discrepancies since the construction began in 26 June of 2014. However a proposal for the continuation of the project budget was approved by the Hluttaw in the current fiscal year. Deputy Minister U Min Maw Tun also answered U Bo Bo Oo from the Samkar constituency on whether Sikh nationalities will be continued to allow submitting exam forms and if wearing of turbans will still be permitted in certificate photos. Afterward, Deputy Minister for Electric Power and Energy Dr. Tun Naing answered various questions concerning restoration of the power supply for the broken 11 KV power line in Mogansai station and the status on completing the 33 KV power line from the Nantun substation.

Finally, Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Win Myint announced the successful conclusion of the 2nd Pyithu Hluttaw 4th Regular Meeting.— Min Wai Myint (MNA)

Pyithu Hluttaw

Amyotha Hluttaw

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State Counsellor receives foreign delegations

STATE Counsellor and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs Daw Aung San Suu Kyi separately received President and Chief Executive Officer of Master Card from the United States Mr. Ajay Banga at 3 pm and a delegation led by Mr. Jingdong Hua, Vice President of Treasury and Syndications of the International Finance Corporation (IFC) at 4 pm at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

At the meeting with the President and CEO of Master Card, matters relating to further facilitating the payment and remittance system, improving the tax collection system and cooperation in the human resources development sector were discussed.

At the talks with the Vice President of Treasury and Syndications of IFC, views were exchanged on matters such as Myanmar’s economic development, infrastructural developments needed to increase the flow of foreign investments into Myanmar, and prospects for Myanmar and IFC to cooperate in the areas of agriculture, SMEs, development of the financial market and human resources development.— Myanmar News Agency

MOFA celebrates 70th Anniversary

>> FROM PAGE 1

“Improvement must not be just for oneself, but for the benefit of the country as well. Staff members working in MOFA are different from other Ministries as your manners, and way of speaking defines the standards of one’s country to others.”

“Especially when foreign service personnel begin working in other countries our country’s standards will be judged by their lifestyle and the way they interact with other diplomats and officials of the foreign government. You have to represent not only yourself but your country as well.”

“A public service personnel has to serve their elected government while they are in work or not as in a democratic system everyone has the freedom to elect whichever they choose. However, after the election results they have to faithfully serve the elected government, that is why I do not see public service personnel following every order as something to be blamed.”

“How a faithful civil servant also speaks up when they have to and takes action when they need to. The higher ups too should not mislead and betray the trust of their staff members. If a department carries out its tasks in a just and correct manner then there is no need for us to deceive each other. We must also keep the door open to allow the younger generation on behalf to express their ideas and opinions freely.” In the 70 years of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs service there have been many ups and downs but not one has there been defamation. The State Counsellor concluded her speech with a statement by her father who was the First Minister for Foreign Affairs, “Have a clear conscience.”

Minister of State for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Tin presented the Bogyoke Aung San Stamp to the State Counsellor as a memorial of the 70th anniversary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Afterwards, he gave awards to prize winners in the debating contest and presented gifts to a veteran government employee on behalf of all retirees who retired in 2016. The staff from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs entertained the audience with songs and dance. A debate in commemoration of the 70th Anniversary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs was held in the afternoon at the Ministry, which was attended by the State Counsellor to give encouragement to the participants.

The Department of Foreign Affairs was formed on 17 March 1947 under the government’s notification 77 D (MM) 47 and General Aung San became the first Foreign Affairs Minister of Myanmar. After independence, the Department of Foreign Affairs was named the “Foreign Office” and was later renamed as the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on 25 May 1967.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs established diplomatic relations with 114 countries around the world. The ministry is currently operating diplomatic missions through 35 embassies, three branches and six consulates-general by establishing seven departments. During the 70th anniversary of its establishment, General Aung San was first Foreign Minister and State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi became the 23rd foreign minister of Myanmar.—Myanmar News Agency

Ministry prioritises good working environment for nurses, midwives

THREE days after hundreds of nurses demonstrated on the streets of Yangon, the Ministry of Health and Sports said it would make it a priority to provide good working conditions for nurses who are required to work at a government hospital for three years upon graduation from nursing school before they can seek employment elsewhere.

The group assigned by the Ministry of Health and Sports to communicate the issues of nursing made the announcement yesterday to respond to the complaints of about 500 nursing students from the University of Nursing and Institute of Nursing who took to the streets in their red-and-white uniforms to voice their displeasure at what they say is an unfair requirement.

The demonstration took place on March 15, one-and-a-half months after the Department of Medical Service’s notice letter was sent to private healthcare centres forbidding them from hiring nurses who breached the terms of their three-year government contract.

The Department of Medical Service said they issued the notice letter on 1 February because of a nursing shortage in government hospitals.

On Wednesday, one day after the demonstration, the Ministry of Health and Sports formed a team on 16 March to handle communications on nursing issues.

The press release said the Myanmar Nurse and Midwife Council will issue licenses and registrations that the nurses who served their country had asked for.

The agreement between the government and the students signed which was still in effect required them to serve their country without absence.

The Ministry of Health and Sports said they would not take action on those nurses from the University of Nursing and Institute of Nursing who demonstrat ed peacefully. The students will have to follow the code of conduct, rules and regulations laid down by the Myanmar Nurse and Midwife Council.

“If the same problem will happen again, it would be negoti ated internally, like a family,” the press release said.—Myanmar News Agency

Be adaptable to change says Minister for Information

UNION Minister for Information, Dr Pe Myint has called on the employees of the ministry not to lose sight of the changes in the government’s machinery in order to be adaptable to the changes as the incumbent government is carrying out reforms.

The Union minister met with the employees who were serving in Yangon at the meeting hall of Yangon Central Press building in Thambu Road yesterday.

“Civil staff need to be adaptable to the changes not only in the political system but also in the technical era because only those who have the ability to be adapt to changes can achieve success,” he said.

The Union Minister has also urged the employees to develop themselves and to contribute the development of their works as part of efforts for the development of the country.

At the meeting, the employees voiced their expectations from the government and the Union minister attended to their needs.

In the afternoon, the Union Minister attended the second work coordination meeting on holding a peace song contest at Myanmar Radio and Television (MRTV).

The competition titled “Peace Melody” would be held with the aim of contributing to the national reconciliation, peace effort and building a federal union.

A meeting on holding the Myanmar Democracy Week was held later at the same venue.—Myanmar News Agency

U Myint Swe, Editor of the Myanma Alinn newspaper, voices expectations of the employees at meeting with Union Minister for Information Dr Pe Myint. Photo: MNA
MYANMAR-US bilateral trade reached nearly $330 million over past 10 months

BILATERAL trade between Myanmar and the US reached almost US$330 million in the first 10 months of this fiscal year, according to figures released by the Ministry of Commerce.

According to official statistics, Myanmar-US trade amounted to $329.874 million between April of last year and January of this year. Of the total, Myanmar’s export to the US hit about $147 million and its imports from the US reached nearly $183 million.

Myanmar exports marine products, clothing, beans and pulses, forestry products and some agriculture products to the American market. Imports from the US include medicine and related equipment, industrial products, transportation products, dairy products, and other commodities. The total value of trade between the two countries was $196,902 million in 2015-2016 FY. Bilateral trade reached a record $544.640 million in 2014-2015 FY. The trade of both countries was $104.440 million in 2013-2014 FY, $122.791 million in 2012-2013 FY and $293.071 million in 2011-2012 FY.

Myanmar became a beneficiary of the US Generalized System of Preference (GSP) programme on 13 November, 2016. According to the Myanmar Investment Commission, the US’s foreign direct investment through existing enterprises in Myanmar as of this February was $4,651 million in total. —Khine Khant

Trade using ITCs at borders hits over Ks14 billion

TRADE value with the Individual Trading Card (ITC) at border gates reached Ks14 billion this financial year, according to the Commerce Ministry.

Between 1 April of last year and 3 March of this year, the import value with ITCs was Ks13,355 billion, while the export value with ITCs was Ks1,047 billion.

Trade values were Ks790 million at Tamu trade camp, Ks894 million at Muse border gate, Ks7,986 billion at Myawady trade station, Ks651 million at Tachilek trade camp; Ks26,406 million at Lwejel border; over Ks2,148 billion at Kan-piketee border gate; Ks370 million at Kawthaung border town; Ks641 million at Reed border trade camp; Ks924 million at Mawtaung; Ks24,493 million at Kengtung and Ks29,905 million at Maese trade camp.

From 2012-2013 fiscal year to date, the Commerce Ministry issued over 1,220 ITCs to individual businesspersons to trade at borders. The ministry granted 292 ITCs in FY2012-13; 261 cards in FY2013-14; 371 cards in FY2014-15; 146 cards in FY2015-16 and 204 cards at the end of this FY to trade up to Ks15m in five days at border trade stations and import and export offices, with a trade value of Ks3m a day on average. —Shwe Khine

US$230 million in FDI entered Myanmar in February

A TOTAL of US$229.033 million of foreign direct investments (FDI) flowed into the country in February, according to the statistics of the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA).

China topped the list of countries with the most foreign investments in the country, followed by Singapore, Thailand and Hong Kong. There was FDI of US$69.76 billion as of the end of February, which is up from US$69.536 billion as of Jan 2017.

The oil and gas sector made up over 32 per cent of the total FDI amount, while the power sector accounted for over 29 per cent. Transport and communication made up for over 11 per cent, manufacturing for over 10 per cent, real estate for 5 per cent, mining and hotel and tourism for over 4 per cent each.

A small amount of FDI entered livestock and fisheries, agriculture, industrial estate, construction and other services, according to official figures released by DICA.

Stated in the second five-year National Development Plan for Fiscal Years 2016-2017 to 2020-2021, concerted efforts are being made to drive export volume up, enhance the private sector, transform social development activities into economic coordination, and discuss matters of private investments to benefit the public.

Myanmar attracts foreign investors by giving permission to work under joint ventures with government-owned enterprises engaged in social development programmes and cooperating with government and private sectors for businesses under the Build-Operate-Transfer (BOT) system, with other business opportunities offering.

MIC permits the project proposals only after verifying the sector-specific development, job opportunity, innovation, technical sharing, getting country’s revenue, domestic and foreign market conditions, local requirements, environmental impact assessment EIA and social impact assessment SIA, it is learnt. —Mon Mon
Performances in One-Year Period

Efforts are being made for expanding into new overseas markets: Ministry of Commerce

FOLLOWING the 8th World Rice Conference in Thailand in which Ministry of Commerce participated and could find new overseas markets including the market in Africa, Myanmar has seen increasing in export volume of rice through the normal trade.

Quality of Rice

“We should work first to reduce the cost for agricultural inputs and to increase the production because the agricultural cost is higher and the production is low in compared with neighbouring countries,” said Union Minister for Commerce Dr Than Myint.

Besides, the quality of Myanmar’s rice has not yet met with the international quality.

“...To boost the country’s agricultural produce export, we should solve some issues including relying on small market share with neighbouring countries,” said Union Minister for Commerce Dr Than Myint.

He also called for cooperation between the ministries concerned and traders to solve that issue.

Exceeds of 470 million USD

Myanmar’s commerce status under the new government 2016-2017 fiscal year (till February) generated 25,255 million USD in trading. Compared with previous fiscal years this marks an increase of 636 million USD in trade and an increase of 470 million USD in export.

Until February of this year export of rice and rice husks reached 1.5 million tonnes, 1.1 million tonnes of corn, 1.2 million tonnes of a wide variety of legumes, and 1.5 tonnes of other agricultural products. To boost the rate of export, a re-export system had been adopted which resulted in importing and then exporting 1.5 million tonnes of sugar.

In the endeavor to establish a discernable market economy during the current government’s one year rule, the ministry is proceeding with 26 agendas placed in line with the nation’s ordained 12 economic policies.

Economic Power

With a focus on developing the commerce and private sector, the Ministry for Commerce is boosting the trade sector with trade promotion, trade facilitation, trade negotiation, trade liberalization, trade education, and consumer protection as the six driving force in strengthening Myanmar’s economic power.
PERFORMANCES IN ONE-YEAR PERIOD

>> FROM PAGE 5

“After surveying the trade sector till 24 February, we can see that export and import values have exceeded 25 billion USD which is more than last year. The total value of trade amounts to 600 million USD and export values to around 400 million USD,” said Union Minister Dr Than Myint.

New area of export

To expand the country’s market range for export, the Ministry for Commerce send delegations of department officials and merchants to America, Switzerland, Korea, Kenya, China, Thailand, Italy, Viet Nam, India and Japan, discussing on ways to improve the production of Myanmar’s new export items and agricultural products.

In the modern transparent world there is competition for the marketplace based on the price and quality of the export items. Only when the export items have advantages on all sides will the value of export increase.

Unable to catch up yet

Compared with its neighboring countries, Myanmar’s production dynamism is still unable to keep up and the country’s cost for production of agricultural products is higher than its neighbors.

Union Minister Dr Than Myint said, “We have drawn a year-round programme to collaborate with international organisations, private business, local and foreign experts, and government organizations to solve local and foreign trade development, and exporting necessary items for expanding into new markets.”

Main Target

This programme includes 6 main points. For example, betterment of trade policies, rules and regulations, development of the quality of trade-related organizations, smoothness of the trade, reducing transport expenses, designing quality and standard of the products, examining quality control, development of entrepreneurs and increased sales of high-quality products instead of raw material. With the aim of the development of the State, these are being implemented,” said the Union Minister.

As regards the exports restricted to be exported, restrictions were reduced. From 9928 commodity lines needed to apply for import license, only 3988 commodities were made to apply for the import license.

Prompt and Smooth

Foreign-Joint Venture Companies were granted to trade fertilizers, insecticides, hospital utensils and commodities used in construction sites. E-license application was granted via internet for the smoothness of trade.

In performing export-import works, settlement of payment was carried out through the online payment system. In making settlement of trade payment, it has been arranged to pay by Myanmar Payment Union-MPU Cards.

As the cooperation on trade between the two countries, Myanmar-Thailand Joint Trade Committee, Myanmar-Bangladesh JTC, Myanmar-Vietnam JTC’s meetings were held, discussing increased trade between the two countries during one year period of the new government.

Posting Websites

With the increasing transparency, e-government system was managed to have been implemented for people to be able to observe. For informing the public concerning the performances of the Ministry, commerce website, Myanmar Trade Website, trade promotion Website, Consumer Website, National Trade Portal and Trade Repository Website, Commerce Journal Website have been posted.

In one year period when the new government took office, Myanmar Trade Promotion Board commenced to be formed as of April 2016, with a view to promoting trade.

For managing to connect the production with the international market, trade centers and 11 exhibition rooms were opened, with 50 internal trade fairs and 33 foreign emporiums held for connecting Myanmar products with local and international markets.

Strategy for national exports

Strategy for national exports was being implemented by choosing 11 prioritized sectors including rice, peas, oil crops, sesame, rubber, water products and tourism.

Strategy for national exports was being implemented by choosing 11 prioritized sectors including rice, peas, oil crops, sesame, rubber, water products and tourism. And, it has been arranged to include new exports in the prioritized sector, after negotiating with partner organizations, departments, institutions, professionals and exporters.

Now, it has been heard that consumers are facing with dangers repeatedly. So, the Ministry is emphatically performing examinations on the ground, holding knowledge-sharing talks in cooperation with international partner organizations and consumer protection organization.

Increasing Imports

Safeguard Law is being drawn. In implementing with Export Led Growth Model, all the stake holders are required to take part in.

Our Ministry can perform transparently ideas, suggestions and assessments of entrepreneurs, professionals, businessmen, news media men, international partner organizations, so as to be able to increase exports and trade, said the Union Minister.

Strategy for national exports was being implemented by choosing 11 prioritized sectors including rice, peas, oil crops, sesame, rubber, water products and tourism.

New Products

For the recovery of Myanmar Economy, special projects and SEZs are being implemented, with SEZs underway to establish in border areas.

New markets where there are no markets in the country are being searched. New markets were searched and coffee, tea leaves which had never been exported were exported.
Establish a joint mechanism
1. Following are the excerpts from the Interim Report released on Thursday in Yangon by Rakhine Advisory Commission led by former United Nations chief Kofi Annan.

whose homes have been de-
18. Following are the excerpts from the Interim Report released on Thursday in Yangon by Rakhine Advisory Commission led by former United Nations chief Kofi Annan.

ated by the violence.
20. The composition of the police force should reflect the popula-

tion of the verification pro-

cess.
21. Protracted statelessness has left the Muslim community in Rakhine vulnerable to dis-

crimination and persecution. Polit-

cal and security forces to anticipate
22. The Government of Myanmar should forcefully denounce all

kinds of hate speech, and hold

perpetrators accountable. Polit-

cal, religious and community leaders should be echoing this message.
23. Rakhine and Muslims are encou-

gaged to establish joint mar-

ket (“friendly bazars”) – ac-

cessible to both Rakhine Muslims and beggar and destitute Muslims – and the Government of Myanmar should proactive-

ly support and facilitate such efforts.
24. There is a fundamental lack of Muslim representation at all levels of Myanmar’s political system. As an immediate step, the government could establish

islamic consultative mechanisms which give voice to the state’s Muslims.
25. The process should address the issue of illegal migra-

tion.
26. A joint strategy to address the issue of illegal migration.

27. Strengthen the sharing and cooperation to combat ter-

torism.
28. When refugees from north-

ern Rakhine, particularly to

Bangladesh, the Government of Myanmar should help cre-

ate a secure environment and, where necessary, assist with con-
tact to all areas affected by recent violence.
29. Education: Immediately ex-

pand primary education to the

communities in the northern

Rakhine State.
30. The Union government and the Rakhine State government

should ensure – and publicly state – that all communities have equal access to education, irrespective of religion, ethnicity, race, gender, or citizenship status. As such, the government should also reverse discrimina-
tory policies that bar Muslim students from higher education.
31. The Union government and the Rakhine State government

should ensure – and publicly state – that all communities have equal access to health treatment, irrespective of relig-

ion, race, gender, or citizenship status. The au-

thorities should commence the removal of administrative ob-

stacles that impede access to health care.
32. The Union government and the Rakhine State government

should ensure – and publicly state – that all communities have equal access to health treatment, irrespective of relig-

ion, race, gender, or citizenship status. The au-

thorities should commence the removal of administrative ob-

stacles that impede access to health care.
33. Complaints related to the on-going verification process-

es should be addressed swift-

ly by a government authority independent of the institutions respon-
sible for the adminis-

tration of the verification pro-

cesses.
34. The Government of Myanmar should support shelter recon-

struction in their own vil-

lages, and help the affected Rakhine community for their return.
35. 215 Muslim households from Min Thar Yoe, who are curr-

ently living in Kyein Ni Pyin camp. The government should support the construction of in-

dividual houses for the return-

ees, and take the appropriate measures to facilitate reintegration into local communities.
36. Approximate 120,000 Muslims are currently living in Muslim-majority areas such as human rights and

areas such as human rights and

human rights. The Government of Myanmar should help cre-

ate a secure environment and, where necessary, assist with con-
tact to all areas affected by recent violence.
37. The Union government and the Rakhine State government

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ion, race, gender, or citizenship status. The au-

thorities should commence the removal of administrative ob-

stacles that impede access to health care.
39. Inter-communal cohesion was significantly weakened by the result of the violence in 2012. The Government of Myanmar – both at the Union and State level – should publicly encour-
age dialogue and promote harmony and encourage dialogue, and proactively dispel misinformation about different communities.
40. The Government of Myanmar should forcefully denounce all

kinds of hate speech, and hold

perpetrators accountable. Polit-

cal, religious and community leaders should be echoing this message.
41. Rakhine and Muslims are encour-

gaged to establish joint mar-

ket (“friendly bazars”) – ac-

cessible to both Rakhine Muslims and

beggar and destitute Muslims – and the Government of Myanmar should proactive-

ly support and facilitate such efforts.
42. There is a fundamental lack of Muslim representation at all levels of Myanmar’s political system. As an immediate step, the government could establish

islamic consultative mechanisms which give voice to the state’s Muslims.
43. The process should address the issue of illegal migra-

tion.
44. A joint strategy to address the issue of illegal migration.

45. Strengthen the sharing and cooperation to combat ter-

torism.
46. When refugees from north-

ern Rakhine, particularly to

Bangladesh, the Government of Myanmar should help cre-

ate a secure environment and, where necessary, assist with con-
tact to all areas affected by recent violence.
47. The Union government and the Rakhine State government

should ensure – and publicly state – that all communities have equal access to health treatment, irrespective of relig-

ion, race, gender, or citizenship status. The au-

thorities should commence the removal of administrative ob-

stacles that impede access to health care.
48. The Union government and the Rakhine State government

should ensure – and publicly state – that all communities have equal access to health treatment, irrespective of relig-

ion, race, gender, or citizenship status. The au-

thorities should commence the removal of administrative ob-

stacles that impede access to health care.
49. Complaints related to the on-going verification process-

es should be addressed swift-

ly by a government authority independent of the institutions respon-
sible for the adminis-

tration of the verification pro-

cesses.
50. The Government of Myanmar should support shelter recon-

struction in their own vil-

lages, and help the affected Rakhine community for their return.
51. 215 Muslim households from Min Thar Yoe, who are curr-

ently living in Kyein Ni Pyin camp. The government should support the construction of in-

dividual houses for the return-

ees, and take the appropriate measures to facilitate reintegration into local communities.
52. Approximate 120,000 Muslims are currently living in Muslim-majority areas such as human rights and

areas such as human rights. The Government of Myanmar should help cre-

ate a secure environment and, where necessary, assist with con-
tact to all areas affected by recent violence.
53. The Union government and the Rakhine State government

should ensure – and publicly state – that all communities have equal access to education, irrespective of religion, ethnicity, race, gender, or citizenship status. The au-

thorities should commence the removal of administrative ob-

stacles that impede access to health care.
54. The Union government and the Rakhine State government

should ensure – and publicly state – that all communities have equal access to health treatment, irrespective of relig-

ion, race, gender, or citizenship status. The au-

thorities should commence the removal of administrative ob-

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struction in their own vil-

lages, and help the affected Rakhine community for their return.
**Opinion**

We have yet to move on to our destination: A Federal Democratic Union!

Khin Maung Oo

ALMOST every individual has gone on a trip or a journey. As we all know, a trip is meant especially for a short one for pleasure or a particular purpose. Dictionaries define journey as an act of traveling from one place to another, especially when they are far apart. So, it is evident that it will take us more time to go on a journey than on a trip. Plus, we may usually find it more difficult to reach the goal. Once we decide to set out on a trip or a journey, we need to get to our destination. Failing that, we will miss an opportunity we want; pleasure or any other gains. Likewise, the people of Myanmar decided to set out for an extraordinarily long journey with a definite goal in mind: a peaceful and developed Federal Democratic Union. Our journey is a rough one. We may take a lot of time because we have many hindrances ahead.

In this long journey, it is imperative that we get nationwide peace. So long as it is not achieved, our desires will not be fulfilled. The only way to gain peace is just to come to the negotiating table. To reach this stage, we need to stop armed conflicts. However, armed conflicts cannot be stopped by one side only.

In other words, the Tatmadaw and all armed national ethnic groups must take part in the nationwide cease-fire, unanimously. We all belong to the same Union. We all are national brethren who are brothers and sisters of the same Union. Now, we should be well convinced of the true situation. If we procrastinate to implement the peace process at the present time, our national brethren and their offspring will be displaced for decades and the whole nation will be groping in the dark for ages.

What we have to do simultaneously while marching along the nationwide peace process is to repair and strengthen the dilapidated pillar of the rule of law in the country. We all know what brought our country to this state. This is also a great problem. If the problem remains unresolved in time, it will destroy the future of the whole population like a pandemic disease.

There is a well-known Myanmar saying, “If we know the ailment, there is a medicine.” We have found a well-qualified physician. Our duty is to take the medicines she gives us. The physician is not a charlatan. Our physician will not give us a temporary palliative, just to relieve the pain we are presently suffering.

In the same way, our leaders will give us correct guidelines to cure the deteriorating situation in the rule of law area.

“No we wait for the shade that will reach us while staying in the sunshine?” Or “Will we go to the shade without waiting for the shade to come to us?” Whatever it is, our ultimate goal is to be able to live in the cool and shady place called Peace.

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**Tommy Pauk**

In Myanmar, there is no one who does not wish to donate water to those who need water. As our saying goes; a person who does not drink water for a day will die. We, humans need to consume enough water in our daily life and we regard water as an essential sustenance of life. In other words, water is a life-saving element for human beings as well as living things on earth.

We, Myanmar are never ever reluctant to donate or offer drinking water whoever is thirsty around us or beg for drinking water. Besides, we Myanmarese are very generous to donate our blood and water to those who need them.

We have the notion that blood donation and water donation are regarded as meritorious deeds.

Remarkably, in the streets of cities, towns, wards and villages in Myanmar, at least one cool drinking-water pot can be found on the wooden altar or bamboo altar for public or wayfarer or passers-by. Under the big shady tree, we can find an altar on which an earthen pot or plastic bottle holding drinking water and a cup is attached to the pot. This cool earthen drinking-water pot or plastic bottle is available for public free of charge. It is always donated by individuals or by a charity or by a community. It is a part of Myanmar culture that people donate cash for digging well and lake in public area or in the compound of Buddhist monasteries as a charitable work as well as a meritorious deed.

Within the precincts of pagodas, drinking-water provision is made available for the devotees or pilgrims by the charities. There are charitable water donations being made for the residents at water scarcity affected areas in Myanmar. On the way up to the Kyaik-Htih-Oo Pagoda Known as The Golden Rock Pagoda, the traditional style of drinking water pots is placed on the altar or stand for the visitors or pilgrims or public.

The drinking-water for the pilgrims and devotees is available on the premises of the pagodas in the country. Drinking water donation charities donate clean drinking water to devotees and pilgrims at various famous pagodas in Myanmar. The water donation is made for anyone almost everywhere in Myanmar regardless of any races or any social classes.

The government organization has laid down a formation of ground fresh water in the arid areas and some drought affected areas in Myanmar. The project has been implemented to some degree i.e. sinking artesian wells to supply fresh water to the residents there. Since Myanmar abounds with river water, rivulets, ponds, stream and waterfalls, we can live and survive around these areas. In addition, the south-west monsoon brings a lot of rain water to Myanmar.

Few arid areas exist in upper Myanmar, but those residents can access water from the nearest river. However, we need to purify some water which is contaminated with wastages from some factories so that we can get clean water for daily consumption.

By the way, in Myanmar, people in the arid areas and some drought-stricken areas induced by El Nino were severely facing drinking water scarcity problem. The local NGOs, individual donors, military service personnel, police personnel and the philanthropists went to these areas, carrying potable and drinking-water of tankers and then supplied them to the local thirsty people. They supplied fresh water to quench the thirst of the residents all day. The water in the water tanks in the villages or wards of these areas for bathing, washing and drinking. The well-wishers also had sent the water tankers to the areas where the residents had suffered drinking water scarcity or water shortages due to El Nino.

People, police force, armed forces, philanthropists, local NGOs did contribute their voluntary services and charity in supplying potable water to those who had encountered clean and safe drinking water scarcity in drought affected areas in Myanmar. Apart from this, some local foundations had sunk more artesian wells with sophisticated drilling machinery to supply the fresh water or clean water to the population affected by drought in some areas in Myanmar. These days, more and more artesian wells have been sunk in some of the arid areas and some areas in which people suffer fresh water scarcity problem. Now, it can be said that the local people can consume and use fresh water easily. Before, it was very hard for them to get clean water in the environment.

During the summer, when the water of creeks or streams or rivulets are dried up, the people who live around them have to make hand-scooped water holes in the sandy creek or sandy ground to take out water for drinking. Under these circumstances, it takes time to take out water from the hand-scooped water holes. Nevertheless, due to Myanmar’s marvellous spirit of water donation, the charities or well-wishers who live in abundant fresh water areas in Myanmar donate fresh water to the people facing water scarcity. This charitable work is derived from the generosity and compassion of Myanmarees indeed. The foreigners visiting Myanmar find this charity work amazing and they do respect Myanmar’s marvellous spirit of water donation.!!!
Myanmar bamboo products to penetrate international market

Myanmar businessmen are seeking international market for their bamboo products decorated with paintings, caricatures and photos, according to the bamboo products creation artists.

The lamps which are made of bamboo are being sold in the market starting from January, 2017. The bamboo lamps are receiving greater demand from Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon and Mawlamyine as well as from China and Thailand.

Besides, the bamboo artists have planned to build a bamboo enterprise showrooms in Amarapura township, Mandalay region. It will be built with bamboo through the use of both Myanmar traditional methods and modern techniques. The bamboo showroom will exhibit 15 kinds of bamboo products and furniture such as cupboard, seats and bed so on.

Putting the photos on the bamboo costs a lot. The price will be Ks 3,500 for products with over 10 photos,” said U Win Maw Nyein, owner of Bo Thayga bamboo products enterprise.

To make a bamboo lamp, the bamboo has to be dissolved in a chemical liquid for seven days to prevent the termite attack. We give three-year warranty for our lamps. The bamboo lamps can be used for five years.

We have to buy raw bamboo from Thabeikkyin, Pyin Oo Lwin, Taikkyin and Pinlaung townships. There are over 1,500 bamboo species in Myanmar. Currently, the bamboo products manufacturers are using 15 species of bamboo.

Tatinthayi Region bans import of frozen chicken from abroad

OFFICIALS from the Tatinthayi Region Livestock Breeding Department are taking preventive measures to control the spread of avian influenza (bird flu).

The animals and animal products protection team is checking fish and meat markets including chicken markets in Tatinthayi Region following the outbreak of avian influenza in another country. They also inspected Hee Khee, Maw Taung and Kwa:Thaung border gates to prevent the import of frozen chicken, according to Tatinthayi Region Livestock Breeding Department Deputy Director Dr. Tin Htay.

“We have warned chicken breeders in the region to report if their farms meet with unusual events. And we are also conducting field trips to have the shops cleaned and to prohibit sale of frozen meat,” the Dr Tin Htay added.

Those wishing to import the raw meat are required to undergo an inspection by the Ministry of Commerce and the department of livestock breeding so that they can import the meat legally. Awareness courses are being given every Monday for business engaged in livestock breeding.

“We have already told the FDA to check on a tight scale the imported frozen chicken. Besides, we’ve also told the shopkeepers to be careful of cleanliness,” said U Win Tin officer in charge of Da:Wei Consumers’ Protection Department.—Myitmakha News Agency

New expressway bus terminal to emerge in Yamethin within 15 years

YAMETHIN Township Development Committee will establish a new expressway bus terminal in the township within one and a half years to provide better highway bus services in addition to improve the systematic operation of highway buses.

The new bus depot facility is planned to be constructed on 4.3-acre cemetery land located in the north part of the township in Mandalay Region. The Mya Myint Thida Company will build two-storey building which is planned to be outfitted with 24 rooms worth Ks23 million and 64 rooms worth Ks20 million, in addition to filling stations and guest houses. The committee has no budget to implement the new scheme but it has the land. It invited investors through tender.

We chose the second tender winning company as the first winner refused to make a financial investment in the project,” said U Paw Lwin, chair of the committee. He continues to say that the investors are now making soil preparations for the construction project.

Under the bilateral contract, the project implementing company has to pay 10 per cent of the money obtained from the sale of rooms.

Mandalay Region Chief Minister Dr Ye Myint Lwin visited the project area last Sunday, urging project managers to finalise ground preparation tasks before the monsoon season. —Myitmakha News Agency

Thanlyn Bridge 1 will not collect gate fees beginning in April

THANLYIN Bridge 1, which links the cities of Thanlyin, Kayan, Thanlyin and Kyaukyaw, will not collect a toll on the bridge beginning 1 April.

Previously, the bridge was under the purview of Myanmar Railway. Now, Thanlyin Bridge 1 was gated by a panel of judges composed of both Myanmar traditional methods and modern techniques. The Thanlyin Bridge 1 was not included in this plan because the bridge was then owned by Myanmar Railway. Now, the bridge was handed over to the ministry of construction. The Ministry of construction will not collect the toll bridge. Previously, the toll bridge for Thanlyin bridge 1 collected Ks100, Ks200 or Ks700, depending on the weight of the vehicle,” said U Nay Lin Aung, Regional Hluttaw MP Thanlyin constituency-1.

“The Regional Hluttaw MP submitted the report to the Yangon chief minister in 2016 concerning the traffic problem and some difficulties of the passengers on the Thanlyinbridge 1,” he added. Regional Hluttaw MP Thanlyin constituency-1 U Nay Lin Aung said that authorities need to repair damaged roads and traffic problem near the bridge. —Myitmakha News Agency

U Ko Ni court case scheduled for next week

The case is being investigated by a panel of judges comprised of the Deputy Judge from Northern District Court, associate judge from Eastern District Court and Judge from Western District Court.

Aung Win Khine remains at large. The court is investigating whether he will be considered a fugitive or not. U Ko Ni’s lawyer appealed to label him fugitive. As all the border gates were blocked, there is no condition of him being out of the country. So the court decided not to label him as fugitive,” said U Nay La, U Ko Ni’s lawyers to Media.

The defendants’ next scheduled court date is March 24.— Zaw Gyi (Panita)

Accounting and finance sector seeks more skilled employees

EXPERIENCED finance sector employees are in high demand in the labour market, according to work.com.mm, a popular online job website that connects jobseekers with employers.

Accounting and finance professional with five to seven years of working experience have been invited to join high-paying jobs at both local and foreign companies.

The IT and software companies also seek IT project managers, software developers and mobile application developers, inviting them to join each position with salaries of above Ks750,000, according to the work.com.mm.

In February, more than 28,000 applicants were searching for new jobs in different sectors through the website. The majority of applicants want to join the accounting and finance sector, engineering, sales and marketing, telecommunication services and import/export trading.

According to work.com.mm, Yangon, Mandalay, Ngapali, Nay Pyi Taw and Ayeyawady are the locations with the most vacancies.

Capital Diamond Star Group, the Banyan Restaurant, Ooredoou Myanmar, DKSH (Myanmar) Ltd and Max Myanmar Holding Co Ltd are the top companies offering the most jobs.—Swe Nyen

Yaba pills seized in Hpa Kant and Lashio

AN anti-narcotic squad from Mohsin searched a motorcycle driven by Kyaw San from Yangon with an identity card bearing the name “Hkha Shwe” in Hpa Kant and Lashio on March 16 and found 19,700 yaba pills from them.

Likewise, another anti-narcotic squad from Lashio searched a vehicle driven by Eik Ngo with Maung Yi on board near Oriental toll gate in Lashio on the same day and seized 30,000 yaba pills.

Police have taken action against them under the Anti-narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.—Myanmar Police Force.
Tatmadaw clears base camps of MNDAA in Shan State

THE TATMA/D have occupied an area in Lauktak, Shan State known as Point 1088, a strategic area on a hill near the China border that was once controlled by the Myanmar National Democratic Alliance Army (MNDAA).

The area is critical because it is on higher ground, making for better surveillance, and provides a base to escape into China for insurgent groups. By controlling the Lauktak-Yanlonkynye route that leads into China, the MNDAA had been able to engage government troops in skirmishes and then quickly flee. The Tatmadaw column regained control of Point 1088 on 8 March after it battled MNDAA troops with heavy weapons fires starting at 6 am and finally occupying the territory at 10 am.

Point 1088 is only 800 meters away from the China border, which required the Tatmadaw to be careful that their bullets and bombs did not land in China. The battle resulted in six casualties.

Sixteen different weapons and assorted accessories were recovered. Several Tatmadaw officers and soldiers were injured. Government troops scored another success on 15 March, when the Tatmadaw occupied Point 1269, which mainly controls the Lauktak-Yanlonkynye route, further strengthening the Tatmadaw’s hold along the border route. The Tatmadaw will continue to clear MNDAA’s base camps in the hills, authorities said.—Myanmar News Agency

Armed group blocks Union Highway

A GROUP of armed men on Thursday evening halted and forcibly took the car keys and mobile phones of 6 vehicles in Kukai Township’s Union Highway between Hanks and Komone village, causing a traffic jam, and then took 10 cars and extorted money from the drivers. Border Security forces were dispatched at 7 in the evening. By the morning of 17 March, traffic on the Union Highway had returned to normalcy.—Myanmar News Agency

Thai court dismisses labour abuse suit against chicken farm

BANGKOK — A Thai court on Friday dismissed a compensation claim by 14 migrant workers from Myanmar who had alleged labour violations at a chicken farm that supplied to the European Union.

In their lawsuit against Thammasak farm and its buyer, agricultural giant Betagro, the workers had alleged forced overtime, unlawful salary deductions, passport confiscation and limited freedom of movement. They demanded around 51.3 million in compensation and civil damages.

The Samut Songkhram labour court dismissed the case and upheld an August 2016 order by the labour protection department for the farm to pay the workers nearly 49,000 for unpaid wages for overtime work.

“The court stood by the investigators’ findings, but they didn’t look into our claims about passport confiscation or sleeping next to the chicken coops,” said Suthasinee Kaewleklai, a coordinator with the Migrant Worker Rights Network (MWRN), a local non-profit supporting the workers’ case.

“We’re satisfied to an extent, but we need to ask the workers if they have the energy to continue fighting this case,” she said.

In interviews with the Thomson Reuters Foundation last year, the workers said they clocked 20 eight-hour days is $8.60, with one day off per week. Thammakaset owner Chanchai Pheephorn denied the charges and said the staff voluntarily worked nights to rack up bonuses and chose to sleep next to the chicken warehouse.

Chanchai said on Friday he would appeal the court’s ruling. “I want them to cancel the compensation order,” he said. “I am appealing because I don’t agree with the order to pay the workers 1.7 million baht ($49,000).” Chanchai, who has said he is facing bankruptcy after Betagro halted business with him, has separately pursued criminal defamation cases against the 14 migrant workers and British rights activist Andy Hall, who has championed the workers. Thailand has been at the centre of scores of reports of slavery and human trafficking, with migrants from Myanmar suffering the worst exploitation.

In the face of mounting scrutiny of supply chains, Thailand has strengthened laws to crack down on labour exploitation.—Reuters

RAKHINE

Arrangements for families to meet relatives in custody for October Maungtaw events

U AUNG NAING and U Saw Thalay Saw, members of the Maungtaw region investigation commission, went to Butahtuon Prison Thursday afternoon, helping family members meet their relatives who had been arrested in connection with the attacks on border police outposts in October, it is learnt.

The commission members first visited the special court of justice at Butahtuoon, Maungtaw district court to inspect the preparation of the court. Then the commission members met with family members of the arrested. Town- ship and district administrators interrogated the family members as to the situations to meet with the arrested, negotiating with authorities from the penitentiary.

It is learnt that Commission members met U Myint Tin, Maungtaw District Judge and U Nyi Nyi Lwin, deputy legal officer, discussed the performances for prompt and rightful action in making judgements.—Myanmar News Agency

Villager found dead in Maungtaw

IT IS learnt that a villager from Yawnaung Village (middle) was found dead in the grove Dusailar, in Maungtaw township’s outskirts.

The victim, Soh Mullar, went into the forest to the east of the village to fetch firewood on Thursday morning. After he failed to return home, villagers searched for him, finding him with injuries on his neck, right part of forehead, right part of his head and stomach, and stabbed in the left part of ribs.

Arman Ullar, the brother of the victim, filed a case at the Aungziru police station. The investigation is ongoing, police said.—Myanmar News Agency

KS 300 million worth of WY seized

ON MARCH 16 at 7 pm, 159,920 tablets of psychotropic drugs with the words WY labeled on them were apprehended at the docks near Thaetchaung village in Sitway Township.

Security forces acted on a tipoff and searched a motorboat docked at Thaetchaung, discovering 16 huge sacks of the WY drugs with an estimated value of KS 319,840,000.

The owner of the motorboat, Adusalam, is on the run and the Mhanse police outpost have issued a warrant for the fleeing man. The investigation continues.—Myanmar News Agency

Motorboat catches fire in Kyaukpyu

A MOTORBOAT sailing from Kyaukpyu to a donation ceremony in Kalibartaung village in Rakhine State caught fire near Thiipote mountain yesterday afternoon. Four women died and two children are still missing.

The motorboat was piloted by U Ba Maung Oo and caught fire from its engine around 1.35 pm. Seven men and eight women, a total of fifteen passengers were on board. Four of the eight women, Ma Aung May Than, Ma Aye Than Myint, Ma Khin May Than and Ma Sandar Nway, drowned and two children went missing.

The rest of the nine survivors were rescued by Dan- yawadya Naval Force and are receiving the necessary protection and aid.—Myanmar News Agency
PERFORMANCES IN ONE-YEAR PERIOD

Achievement made by Magway region government in one year period

Phoe Thet

SITUATED in the central part of Myanmar, Magway Region is 17305.62 square miles in area, made up of five districts, namely, Magway, Minbu, Thayet, Pakokku and Gangaw. The five districts are made up of 3 towns, 184 wards, 1435 village-tracts and 4771 villages.

There are 780,956 households forming a population of 3,924,000 in the region, and Burmese are the majority with Chinese races residing in hilly areas. The mighty Ayeyawady river flows 240 nautical miles down Magway region from north to south. A variety of creek and small rivers originating from Chin mountain ranges, west Yoma mountain ranges and east Yoma ranges flow down to the Ayeyawady river. Lying 300-1200 feet above sea level, Magway region is an arid region with a shortage of rainfalls. It is Magway region which is dotted with historic pagodas such as Shwesettaw and Magway Myathalun and where human primates of over 40 million years pounded by poverty.

Transportation

In the transport sector, the Magway region government with the use of the Union budget and the region budget is taking steps for the development of transport sector, careful scrutinizing of construction tenders in the 2016-2017 fiscal year. With this end in view, it utilized K 3314.450 million out of K 10,2735 billion in tender surplus for upgrading and tarring of six major high ways in the city of Magway and the project is near completion. Moreover, different roads of 38 miles long in the city were upgraded, utilizing K 2012.3317 million whereas string of rural roads with a length of 142.17 miles were upgraded with the use of K 5546.728 million.

Education

As regards the education sector, altogether 69 schools big and small were upgraded with the emergence of new school buildings, utilizing K 930.150 million to meet the set standards. At the same time, a total 352 schools were provided with 11051 desks using the funds to the value of K 472.319 million for the convenience of school children.

Health

To be in line with two objectives of the health sector—ensuring people to live long and ensuring people to be free from diseases, health awareness was given to rural people while effective prevention and treatment were provided throughout the nation. Meanwhile, altogether 60 health centres and sub-centres were built, utilizing K 4470.828 million in order to undertake health activities in an effective manner. Similarly, K 106 million out of K 500 million in tender surplus were used for nutritious development of children under 2 and K 400 million used for health care of pregnant women and children under 5.

Agriculture

With a shortage of rainfalls, the region largely relies on water fed creeks and rivers such as Ayeyawady, Mone, Mann, Salin, Yaw, Pin and Myinttha as well as reservoirs, lakes and natural lakes for agricultural purposes. The extension of spillways of Ohnhyi-Ohnwa dam in Pwintpyu township was carried out to ensure the safety of local people and effective flood prevention.

In the meantime, altogether seven small dams and lakes were renovated with the use of K 563 million plus reclamation of 300 acres of new mechanized farmland and quality species of seeds were distributed for farmers to enjoy higher yields of crops.

Drinking water supply

With a scarcity of water, the region utilized K 511.4487 million on urban water supply facilities including sinking artesian wells for security of drinking water and K 1990 million for rural water supply facilities including digging wells and lakes.

Electricity

For electrification, 11 KV power line (44.8 miles), 45 11/0.4 KV transformers and 400 Voltage power line (18.81 miles) were constructed along with the replacing of 1793 wooden lampposts with concrete ones. Moreover, 33/11 KV 5 MVA Blattaw Sub-power station was upgrade into 33/11 KV 10 MVA and 66/11 KV 5 MVA No. 2 Sub-power station into 10 MVA one respectively. And some procedures on rural electrification have been eased, and efforts are being made for 42 villages that are not connected to the national grid to have access to solar energy plus diesel in cooperation with the Parami Energy Co and EDN (Electricite De France).

Labour and industrial sector

Swift registration of labour organizations and resolving of eight industrial disputes were made through regional industrial tribunal during the one-year period of the new government. Under the social security law, the rights prescribed for premiums and mobile medical unit were facilitated to seven departments. In cooperation with the Ministry of Industry, the Magway region government had a series of industrial and vocational training courses in 15 townships of five districts.

Issuance of citizenship scrutiny cards

A plan to issue citizenship scrutiny cards to the locals was carried out in Magway Region from 1 November 2016 to 2020 with the arrangement of the regional government. As part of the first phase of the plan, the 18-year citizenship scrutiny cards were issued to 42,574 people and 18-year citizenship scrutiny cards to 16,508 persons totaling 58,780 citizens from 57 schools in 193 village-tracts and nine wards during the period from 1-11-2016 to 26-12-2017. Citizenship scrutiny cards were issued to the 49.91 percent of the people in Magway Region who have yet to apply national identity cards, within three months of the plan.

People spending their leisure time at Bogyoke Park in Magway. Photo MNA

Photo: MNA

60 health centres and sub-centres were built, utilizing K 4470.828 million in order to undertake health activities in an effective manner.

SEE PAGE 12 >>
PERFORMANCES IN ONE-YEAR PERIOD

>> FROM PAGE 11

Natural disaster response in Magway Region

Magway Region government managed to assist in relief efforts for the people affected by natural disaster such as heavy rain, inundation and a 6.8 magnitude earthquake during the period from July to August in 2016. In doing so, the 23,880 acres of crop plantations damaged by the flood were provided with K 1,374,832 million contributed by the regional government and respective departments. The union minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement and officials concerned supplied relief items to 3,107 flood victims from 987 households in Minbu Township and K 1,662,200 cash contribution to 258 households from a village in Pwintbyu Township.

Natural disaster response tasks were undertaken in the affected areas with K 400 million allotment from the Presidential Reserve Fund. The Relief and Resettlement Department in Magway Region provided K 518,928 million for the natural disasters such as fires, floods, earthquakes, erosion and landslides. K 358,524 million was contributed to the people in 28 areas affected by the natural disasters with the arrangement of the Magway Region Natural Disaster Management Committee. The 175 houses from the nine villages in six townships were evacuated to safer places due to river bank erosion.

Commemoration and festivals

During one-year period of the new government, the Magway Region government reorganized the new pagoda board of trustees led by the local people, undertaking all-round development of the pagodas in a systematic manner. The regional government made necessary arrangements in health and security sectors for convenience of the pilgrims from four corners of the country, fixing reasonable accommodation for them.

The regional government managed to open Bogyoke Aung San Residence Museum in Natmauk. The government offered permanent knowledge on auspicious days of the country, Martyrs’ Day, Independence Day and Union Day celebrations were held in the region on a grand scale during one-year period of the new government. The 69th Chin National Day celebration was held in Magway Region for the first time within 69 years.

Public services

With a view to offering better services to the public, winning public trust in nurturing effective services and practicing check and balance system among government departments in fullfilling basic necessities of the people in Magway Region, 14,429 times of public services by the General Administration Department, 12,622 times by the Myanamar Police Force, 3,865 times by the Immigration and National Registration Department, 2,771 times by the Department of Agricultural Land Management and Statistics, 3,753 times by the Electric Power Distribution Enterprise, 3,491 times by the Fire Services Department, 5,462 times by the Development Affairs Committee, 13,032 times by the Department of Health, 7,520 times by the Internal Revenue Department, 79 times by the Department of Social Welfare, one time by the Department of Rural Development and 130 times by the Forest Department have been offered to the people in time of the new government.

As part of efforts to issue land lease grant to one village in each township of the region, the village land lease grants were issued for 2,195 land plots during one-year period of the new government. In an attempt to return confiscated farmlands to the rightful owners in the region, 49-acre of farmlands were returned to the 16 farmers and farmland work permit certificates were issued for 6,220 acres of farmland including the relinquished lands to 2,937 farmers.

The region, district- and township-level registration committees issued registration certificates to altogether 81 associations. In the past, those wishing to apply registration certificates need to pay registration fee. The new registration process is not required to pay registration fee and is allowed the applicants to form associations/organizations freely.

Knowledge dissemination

In an effort to educate the public with knowledge, the Magway Region government permitted 31 literary talks during its one-year term. The regional government encouraged the civil society organizations, departments and social and political parties to organize talks on peace, democracy, knowledge dissemination and human resource development, workshops and assemblies. The regional government also cooperated with the abovementioned organizations to expose freedom of expression, freedom of belief and peaceful assembly. Under the MoU signed by the Ministry of Information and Daw Khin Kyi Foundation, a community center and a mobile library were opened at the office of Information and Public Relations Department in Natmauk. The aforesaid community center and mobile library became a gathering point for the civil society organizations and learning center for human resource development course.

The Magway Region government purchased 15 mini excavators at a cost of K 1218.75 million to be able to undertake rural development tasks during one-year period of the new government. The move is thought to be one of the Magway Region government efforts to reduce poverty rate in the region. The regional government is trying to ensure development and stability to emerge a democratic federal union by exercising national reconciliation approach in a harmonious manner. Rule of law and anti-corruption drive are being implemented in Magway Region.

As part of efforts to ensure rule of law in the region, action has been taken against 26 gamblers along with one vehicle and 102 motorcycles in Pwintbyu Township, Minbu District. Similarly, one township judge, one district education officer and one township administrator in Magway Region were charged with code of ethics of civil servants. The Magway Region government is making utmost efforts to exercise culture of democracy in judicial pillar through check and balance system. At the same time, the regional government put emphasis on improving socioeconomic status of the local people, endeavoring to make equitable development in all townships in the region.

Natural disaster response tasks were undertaken in the affected areas with K 400 million allotment from the Presidential Reserve Fund.

Circular steel sheets being replaced with rectangular sheets for better flow of water along the Taungman channel. Photo: MNA

Magway Region Chief Minister views plans for better water pipelines in Myaing Township. Photo: MNA

CBT (Award) winner from Myaing, Magway Region accepts prizes in Singapore. Photo: MNA
South Sudan government to blame for famine, still buying arms — UN report

UNITED NATIONS — South Sudan’s government is mainly to blame for famine in parts of the war-torn country, yet President Salva Kiir is still boosting his forces using millions of dollars from oil sales, according to a confidential United Nations report.

UN sanctions monitors said 97 per cent of South Sudan’s known revenue comes from oil sales, a significant portion of which is now forward oil sales, and that at least half of the budget — “likely substantially more” — is devoted to security.

“Revenue from forward oil sales totalled approximately $243 million between late March and late October 2016,” the panel of UN monitors said in the report to the UN Security Council, seen by Reuters on Thursday.

“Despite the scale and scope of the political, humanitarian, and economic crises, the panel continues to uncover evidence of the ongoing procurement of weapons by the ... Government for the SPLA (South Sudanese army), the National Security Service, and other associated forces and militias,” the report said.

The United Nations has declared a famine in some parts of the world’s youngest country, where nearly half its population — some 5.5 million people — face food shortages. A civil war erupted in 2013 when Kiir, an ethnic Dinka, fired his deputy Riek Machar, a Nuer, who has fled and is now in South Africa.

“The bulk of evidence suggests that the famine ... has resulted from protracted conflict and, in particular, the cumulative toll of military operations undertaken by the SPLM/A in Government in southern Unity state; denial of humanitarian access, primarily by the SPLM/A in Government; and population displacement resulting from the war,” the report said.—Reuters

A woman waits to be registered prior to a food distribution carried out by the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) in Thonyor, Leer state, South Sudan on 16 February 2017. PHOTOS: REUTERS

Volcanic explosion on Mount Etna injures 10 people

SICILY. (Italy) — Ten people were injured in an eruption on Mount Etna on Thursday when magma flowing into snow caused a violent explosion that sent stones and rocks flying into the air, emergency services said.

Amongst those hurt near the summit of Etna on the island of Sicily were members of a television crew filming for the BBC.

“Running down a mountain pelted by rocks, dodging burning boulders and boiling steam — not an experience I ever ever want to repeat,” the BBC’s science correspondent Rebecca Morelle wrote on Twitter.

“BBC team all ok — some cuts/bruses and burns. Very shaken though — it was extremely scary,” she said.

Italian officials said six people had to be taken to hospital, but none were in a serious condition.

Etna is Europe’s most active volcano. After a quiet couple of years it burst into action in February with repeated explosive eruptions that sent orange plumes of lava into the air.

Thursday’s explosion was the result of a so-called phreatomagmatic eruption, caused by magma hitting water — in this case snow.—Reuter

CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE

MV HUNSA BHUM VOY. NO ( )

Consignees of cargo carried on MV HUNSA BHUM VOY. NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 18.3.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T/A.P.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY AGENT FOR: MS REGIONAL CONTAINER LINES Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE

MV WEST SCENT VOY. NO (143N)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV WEST SCENT VOY. NO (143N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 18.3.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPping AGENCY DEPARTMENT MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY AGENT FOR: MS INTERASIA LINES Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE

MV SANTA MARGHERITA VOY. NO (8571)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV SANTA MARGHERITA VOY. NO (8571) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 19.3.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MIPL where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPping AGENCY DEPARTMENT MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY AGENT FOR: MS CHUN AN SHIPPING PTE LTD Phone No: 2301928

CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE

MV TAN BINH 79 VOY. NO (+)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV TAN BINH 79 VOY. NO (+) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 18.3.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.I.P.T-3 where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPping AGENCY DEPARTMENT MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY AGENT FOR: MS MERIDIAN SHIPPING AGENCIES PTE LTD Phone No: 2301928

CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE

MV SIGAP VOY. NO (3)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV SIGAP VOY. NO (3) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 19.3.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MITT-4 where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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SHIPping AGENCY DEPARTMENT MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY AGENT FOR: MS MERIDIAN SHIPPING AGENCIES PTE LTD Phone No: 2301928
Entertainment

18 March 2017

Singer Selena Gomez reveals Instagram addiction, low self-esteem

LOS ANGELES — Pop star Selena Gomez said she canceled her world tour last year and went to therapy because she was depressed, anxious and “my self-esteem was shot.”

Gomez, 24, who has more than 113 million Instagram followers, also said in an interview published on Thursday that she was freaked out by her social media obsession and no longer has the Instagram app on her phone.

“As soon as I became the most followed person on Instagram, I sort of freaked out. It had become so consuming to me. It’s what I woke up to and went to sleep to. I was an addict,” Gomez told Vogue magazine in a cover story for its April edition.

The former Disney Channel singer and actress made headlines last August when she abruptly quit her “Revival” world tour, saying she needed to take time off to deal with panic attacks and depression.

She told Vogue she entered a treatment programme for three months.

“My self-esteem was shot. I was depressed, anxious. I started to have panic attacks right before getting onstage, or right after leaving the stage. Basically I felt I wasn’t good enough, wasn’t capable. I felt I wasn’t giving my fans anything, and they could see it — which, I think, was a complete distortion,” she said.

Gomez said she had also found it hard — as have other young stars like Miley Cyrus and Lindsay Lohan — to shake off her perky “Wizards of Waverly Place” persona from her Disney days.

“For a guy there’s a way to rebel that can work for you,” she said. “But for a woman, that can backfire. It’s hard not to be a cliché, the child star gone wrong.”— Reuters

In Bollywood, if you’re doing good, you will get work: Anushka

MUMBAI — Actress Anushka Sharma says in Bollywood, one gets work based on their performance and it does not matter if the artist is an outsider or an industry kid. The actress says she realised this post “Band Baaja Baaraat”, which made people take note of her performance.

“My life changed after ‘Band Baaja Baaraat’. People started taking me more seriously. Of course I got appreciation for my first film, but not as much as I got after ‘Band Baaja...’ So, with that experience, I realised one thing that if you are doing good work, people will want to work with you,” Anushka told reporters here last evening.

The 28-year-old actress says an outsider like Shah Rukh Khan became a superstar purely on the merit of his work, which is why many people want to team up with him.

“If you are not working well, come what may, people won’t want to work with you. This is a business and everyone takes business (oriented) decisions. For example, if you have an outsider, a big star like Shah Rukh Khan, why wouldn’t you want to work with him?”

The actress says over the years with what she has “experienced” in the industry, she has learnt that everybody has their own struggles and one should not be judgemental about it.

“As I am evolving, I am learning that everyone’s struggles are different. I am becoming less judgemental day by day. I will not want to pass any judgemental mental on anyone else’s experiences because their battles are their own, about which I don’t know anything,” she says. Anushka’s next film “Phillauri” is scheduled to release on 24 March. —PTI

Don’t learn classical music if you want to be an outsider: Khan

NEW DELHI — Sarod maestro Amjad Ali Khan has a word of caution for aspiring musicians, “Don’t learn classical music if you want a career.”

“If you want to make a career then don’t learn classical music... Become an engineer, scientist or a bank manager. Classical music is a lifelong service, commitment and dedication to understand music,” Khan told PTI.

The musician was here to perform at a charity concert held by Indian Cancer Society.

Khan said only a few who can “entirely dedicate their lives to music and their masters” manage to find the light in the “dark tunnel that is music”.

“For music, you have to entirely dedicate yourself to the Gods and your teacher. Classical music is like entering a dark tunnel with this hope that some light will reach you someday. “A few of us find that light, while thousands of others are still stumbling around in the darkness,” Khan said.

Pointing at the increasing commercialisation of music, he said that people were learning music only “to make an album or to be on television”. “These days you see people who learn music to make an album, to appear on reality shows or to perform on stage. You don’t find many people who are learning music to actually understand music,” the Padma Vibhushan awardee said.

While Khan disapproves of the commercialisation of music, he also feels that the “future of classical music is secure” in the hands of “talented” young aspiring musicians like his sons Aman and Ayaan and their contemporaries.

“There are some very young talented musicians in this generation. Amaan, Ayaan and their contemporary musicians are very talented and they are quite established. So, I feel the future of classical music is secure,” he said.

The Sarod player also noted that while legacy played its part in a musician’s life, it was largely his or her dedication and hard work that pays off.

“It is not necessary that only a newcomer with a legacy can find his or her place in this field. Legacy helps, but not always.—PTI

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Egypt says ancient colossus pulled from slum likely not Ramses

CAIRO — A massive eight-meter statue discovered in the ground water of a Cairo slum this month is likely not a depiction of the revered Pharaoh Ramses II as first believed, Antiquities Minister Khaled Al-Anani said on Thursday.

The colossus is instead thought to be of King Psammetich I, who ruled from 664 to 610 BC and, if confirmed, would be the largest statue of the Late Period ever discovered. Egyptian and German archaeologists found the statue in the working class area of Matariya among unfinished buildings and mud roads, but near the ruins of Ramses II’s temple in the ancient city of Heliopolis.

It was initially hailed by the Antiquities Ministry as among the most important discoveries to date on the basis that it depicted Ramses the Great, the most powerful and celebrated ruler of ancient Egypt. After examining pieces of the 8-meter statue however, Anani said its characteristics pointed to a different time.

“When the head was lifted, we started to find some features which are characteristic for other periods,” he told a news conference.

A key piece of evidence is the name “Nebaa” inscribed on the statue. “The only pharaoh who got his name ‘Nebaa’, is Psammetich I. He’s a pharaoh of the 26th dynasty,” said Anani.

Egypt is hoping renewed interest in its ancient past could be a boon for its tourism industry, a vital source of foreign currency that has suffered many setbacks since the uprising that toppled autocrat Hosni Mubarak in 2011.

Despite the statue’s clues, Anani said it could take months to determine whether it is Psammetich or someone else whose historical figure it depicts as archaeologists search for additional fragments.—Reuters

Giant satirical puppets go on display in Spanish ‘Fallas’ fiesta

VALENCA (Spain) — Satirical effigies of United States President Donald Trump, German Chancellor Angela Merkel and footballer Cristiano Ronaldo went on display on Thursday for Spain’s Fallas festival in the Mediterranean port city of Valencia.

Made of materials such as wood, plaster and paper mache, months of painstaking work go into constructing the “ninots”, Valencian for dolls, some reaching soaring heights only to be burned to the ground in an explosive finale. Commemorating Saint Joseph, the patron saint of carpenters, the annual tradition is believed to have evolved from pagan rituals marking the change of seasons with a five-day fiesta of processions and fireworks. Hundreds of sculptures, often of celebrities, are exhibited beforehand for the public to vote on their favorite with only two saved from the bonfire to join fellow survivors in a permanent collection at the local Fallas Museum.

—Reuters

Sierra Leone pastor discovers 706-carat diamond

FREETOWN — A Christian pastor has found one of the world’s largest uncut diamonds — weighing 706 carats — in Sierra Leone’s eastern Kono region.

The stone, a photograph of which was posted on the president’s official website, is being stored in the country’s central bank, government sources said.

A local chief from Kono handed the stone to President Ernest Bai Koroma on behalf of Emmmanuel Momoh who made the discovery. The government plans to auction it. The presidency said in a statement on Thursday that Koroma thanked the chief who acted as an intermediary for not smuggling it out of the country.

Diamonds fueled a decade-long civil war that ended in 2002 in which 50,000 people were killed. Rebels forced civilians in the east to mine the stones and bought weapons with the proceeds, leading to the term ‘blood diamonds’.

“He (Koroma) underscored the importance of selling such a diamond here as it will clearly give the owners what is due them and benefit the country as a whole,” the statement said.

The stone is yet to be valued but could be worth millions of dollars. Sierra Leone’s gross national income per capita stood at $620 in 2015, according to World Bank data. The United Nations lifted a ban on diamond exports from Sierra Leone in 2003. The International Monetary Fund expects the country to export $113 million worth of diamonds this year though the sector remains plagued by smuggling. Despite its size, this week’s discovery is considerably smaller than the Cullinan diamond, which was found in South Africa in 1905. That 3,106-carat stone was cut into several polished gems and the two largest pieces are part of Britain’s crown jewels.

A 1,111-carat diamond was unearthed in a Botswana mine in 2015.

—Reuters

mtv Myanmar International Programme Schedule

(18-3-2017 07:00AM ~ 19-3-2017 07:00AM) MST

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>07:03 Am</th>
<th>News</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>07:26 Am</td>
<td>Great Shwedagon-The Exhibition Hall Of The Great Chronicle Of Buddha</td>
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<tr>
<td>07:54 Am</td>
<td>A Girl Guide</td>
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<td>08:03 Am</td>
<td>News</td>
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<td>08:26 Am</td>
<td>Winkabar Festival</td>
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<tr>
<td>08:49 Am</td>
<td>Kay Ta Mu Lar “The Family”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>09:03 Am</td>
<td>News</td>
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<tr>
<td>09:26 Am</td>
<td>A Day Life Of Kayan Padaung Tribe</td>
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<tr>
<td>09:55 Am</td>
<td>Kid’s Home</td>
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<td>10:03 Am</td>
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<td>10:35 Am</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:00 Am - 03:00 Pm</td>
<td>- Friday Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)</td>
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<tr>
<td>03:00 Pm - 07:00 Pm</td>
<td>- Today Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)</td>
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Prime Time

| 07:03 Pm | New |
| 07:27 Pm | The Korean Treasure. Kimchi, Black Garlic & Apple Wine |
| 07:48 Pm | Safari World |
| 08:03 Pm | New |
| 08:25 Pm | National Literary Icon & Guiding Light of Myanmar Literature: Sayar Zaw Gyi (Episode- 2) |
| 08:50 Pm | Myanmar Masterclass: Artist Tin Win (Beikthano) |
| 09:00 Pm - 11:00 Pm | - Today Repeat (09:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am) |
| 11:00 Pm - 03:00 Am | - Friday Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am) |
| 03:00 Am - 07:00 Am | - Today Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am) |

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

An undated picture released 16 March 2017 of a 706-carat diamond discovered by pastor Emmanuel Momoh in eastern Sierra Leone. Photo: Reuters
Wawrinka wins Thiem thriller to reach Indian Wells semis

INDIAN WELLS — Stan Wawrinka won his 10th match this season against Dominic Thiem. The 30-year-old Swiss, who won 6-1, 3-6, 7-6(7-4), beat the 23-year-old Austrian, hammering three third-set aces including one to reach quadruple break point in the tiebreak.

“The level was really high tonight,” Wawrinka said in an on-court interview. “I’m really happy the way I was playing, the way I found a way to win it.” Thiem kept pace with the Swiss on the strength of his booming forehand, but by the end of the two-hour 31-minute marathon, he lost the range on his favoured shot, sending three forehands wide long to lose his way in the third-set decider.

The Swiss advanced to his first final four at Indian Wells, where he will meet 21st seed Pablo Carreno Busta, who was also extended to a third-set decider in his 6-1, 3-6, 7-6(4) win over Pablo Cuevas of Uruguay. — Reuters

Bayern’s Ancelotti gets Real reunion, Juve meet Barca

NYON, (Switzerland) — Title-holders Real Madrid must face their former coach in the Champions League quarter-finals after they were drawn against Carlo Ancelotti’s Bayern Munich on Friday. Ancelotti led Real to the 10th of their 11 European Cups in 2014, inflicting Bayern’s heaviest home defeat on the way with a 4-0 win at the Allianz Arena in the second leg of the semi-final. Barcelona were pitted against Italian champions Juventus in a repeat of the 2015 final which the Spanish side won 3-1. Rank outsiders Leicester City will take on Diego Simeone’s Atletico Madrid, runners-up in two of the last three seasons, with the first leg at the Vicente Calderon where no English side have won.

Borussia Dortmund face AS Monaco who upset Manchester City in the previous round. Bayern will host the first leg against Real as the two sides renew one of Europe’s oldest and most bitter rivalries.

“The match against Real Madrid will be special for me. It is going to be exciting to play against them,” Ancelotti said.

“We have a lot of confidence and want to win the Champions League this season. I think we have the ability to beat Real Madrid. But they have a fantastic team with a fantastic coach.”

Juventus will host the first leg against Barcelona and the second will see their full back Dani Alves return to the Nou Camp where the Brazilian made 247 appearances in eight years. Dortmund chairman Hans-Joachim Watzke was relieved not to draw Bundesliga rivals Bayern. “We wanted to avoid Bayern, and I think they wanted to avoid us. From that perspective, it is a good draw,” he said.

“I saw Monaco’s match against Manchester City and I am aware that they have a goal difference of -56 in the league. It’s a difficult match. At this level, it doesn’t really matter if you play at home first.”

Three-times European Cup winners Manchester United were drawn against Belgian league leaders Anderlecht in the Europa League quarter-finals. Ajax Amsterdam will meet Germany’s Schalke 04, French club Olympique Lyon face Turkey’s Besiktas and Spain’s Celta Vigo take on Belgian side Genk. — Reuters

Vesnina ousts Venus to reach semi-finals at Indian Wells

INDIAN WELLS — Elena Vesnina denied Venus Williams another comeback win, while Kristina Mladenovic roared back from a set and a break to down to beat Caroline Wozniacki on Thursday to reach the semi-finals of the BNP Paribas Open at Indian Wells.

Vesnina, who saved eight of 11 break points, continued an impressive run of form beating 13th seed and 2011 winner Wozniacki 3-6, 7-6(4), 6-2 to reach her first Premier Mandatory semi-final and guarantee her debut in the Top 20 in next week’s WTA rankings. — Reuters

Wayne Rooney, Photo: Reuters

Manager Southgate cannot promise Rooney’s England return

LONDON — Wayne Rooney faces a battle to get back into the England squad due to his lack of playing time at Manchester United, with a number of in-form players currently ahead of him in the pecking order, manager Gareth Southgate has said.

Rooney, who was omitted from England’s 26-man squad for the upcoming international fixtures against Germany and Lithuania, has started only nine Premier League games this season. “We have to look at Wayne as a No. 10, which is his predominant role,” Southgate told the British media. “In the last two games we’ve played Dele Ali there and we’ve played Adam Lallana there. Both are playing very well, scoring and assisting for their clubs. “Ross Barkley has been playing very well for his club. So there’s competition, I can’t dress it up any other way.”

Alli has scored 13 league goals for Tottenham Hotspur this season, compared with Rooney’s two at United. — Reuters