New Bridge to promote socio-economy of Rakhine people

A 960-foot long bridge over the Panzin Creek linking Buthidaung and Yathedaung townships in Rakhine State was inaugurated yesterday, becoming one of the infrastructure development tasks implemented in Rakhine State by the new government during its first year in office.

The opening ceremony of the reinforced concrete bridge with its width 24 foot and a 3 foot pedestrian walkway on each side, 19 foot above water line, 60 ton loading capacity was held at the site in Buthidaung.

Work on construction of the facility started in April 2014.

In his opening address, Union Minister for Construction U Win Khaing said that the Ministry had been focusing on the development of Rakhine State by working together with the Rakhine State government as the Rakhine State lagged behind in development because of its poor road transportation.

The Ministry of Construction has been working on the upgrading of all the roads providing access to Rakhine State. The major roads which are being upgraded are Thandwe-Gwa-Nagthainggyoung road from Ayeyawady Region and Yangon Region, Pyay-Padaung-Taung-gup-Maei-Kyaukpyu road from Bago Region, Minbu-An-Sitway road from Magway Region, Kyauktaw-Palatwa-Matupe-Hakha-Falam-Teddim-Tonzang-Kyikha road from Chin State and Taunggyo-Maungtaw-Buthidaung-Yathedaung-Ponna gyun-Sittway border trade road.

Besides, the Yangon-Sittwe road used by the most passengers buses and trucks has been upgraded to concrete road.

The minister said the local residents need to maintain the roads and bridges including Panzin Creek Bridge for their long-term sustainability.

SEE PAGE 9 >>

“The Ministry had been focusing on the development of Rakhine State by working together with its government as it lagged behind in development.”

Panzin Creek Bridge that links Buthidaung and Yathedaung Townships was commissioned into service in Rakhine State yesterday. Photo: MNA
Children's Literature Festival kicks off in Mawlamyine

HUNDREDS of school children and others who adore children’s literature are participating in the Children’s Literature Festival at the Mawlamyine University.

The event kicked off at the Mawlamyine University, with an opening address by Union Minister for Information Dr Pe Myint.

The festival was formally opened by Union Minister for Information Dr Pe Myint, Union Minister for Education Dr Myo Thein Gyi, Union Minister for Ethnic Affairs Nai Thet Lwin, Mon State Chief Minister Dr Aye Zan and school children.

In his address, Union Minister Dr Pe Myint stressed the need to promote reading habit in the country as part of efforts for development of literature which is directly proportional to the development of the country.

The three-day festival is aimed at development of children and literature.

“All are now aware of the fact that human resources is far more important than the natural resources for national development. A country however rich in above ground and underground resources cannot develop without the human resources development or in other words the prowess of the citizens,” he said.

“Public reading habit must be nurtured and promoted to get in touch with literature and to harbour literature-friendly spirit. Child age is the best time to nurture and develop reading habit. Hence, the ministry held the literature festival,” he added.

In his concluding remarks, the Union Minister expressed his belief that the children would have a great future ahead of their life when they love reading very much and love literature, adding that the children would bring the bright future of the country.

Following opening remarks by Union Minister for Education Dr Myo Thein Gyi and Mon State Chief Minister Dr Aye Zan, school children performed the traditional dances of Mon, Kayin and PaO. — Myanmar News Agency

Union Minister Dr Pe Myint poses for documentary photo with the attendees at Children’s Literature Festival in Mawlamyine. PHOTO: MNA

Union Minister Dr Pe Myint visits booth at Children’s Literature Festival in Mawlamyine. PHOTO: MNA

A child takes part in impromptu contest. PHOTO: MNA

Kids participating in Children’s Literature Festival in Mawlamyine. PHOTO: MNA

Children’s Literature Festival in Mawlamyine is crowded with the book lovers and enthusiasts. PHOTO: MNA
Vice-President U Myint Swe addresses Boao Forum for Asia Annual Conference 2017

Enacted law should be beneficial to the State and people: Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker

Earth Hour celebrated for first time in Myanmar
Singapore lists as top investor in Thilawa SEZ with over $110 million

SINGAPORE has been listed as the top investor in Thilawa Special Economic Zone, a huge industrial zone on the outskirts of Yangon, according to the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration.

The investments from the island state amounted to over US$110 million in seven projects, followed by Thailand with $67.60 million in six investment projects, Japan with $42.50 million in three projects, Korea with $26.80 million in two projects.

Austria invested $14 million in one project while Vietnam entered the SEZ with a $0.83 million project.

A total of $262.58 million investments have been granted in the Thilawa SEZ as of the first week of this month.

Since mid-2014, 78 companies from 16 countries invested in the Zone A of the SEA to run their services and manufacturing businesses, 24 of them are now operating in the area. Myanmar owns a 51-per-cent stake in the project while Japan has 49 per cent.

Singapore’s investment from 229 permitted enterprises in Myanmar as of February of this year reached $16.649 billion, according to the DICA.

—Kyaw Kyaw

More than 44,000 tonnes of diesel imported by sea

MYANMAR imported over 44,000 tonnes of diesel worth more than US$22 million from its trade partners by sea between 26 February and 4 March, a decrease of 5,970 tonnes compared with the same period of previous week.

According to the Ministry of Commerce, over $350,000 worth of diesel fuel weighing 1,052 tonnes entered the country through Tachileik border trade camp.

The fuel market in Yangon, Mandalay, Mawlamyine and Taunggyi remained unchanged, sources said.

According to the private fuel stations in the commercial capital, the prices of diesel on 6 March were Ks715 per litre when a litre of higher grade diesel was sold for Ks735.

In retail market in Yangon, buyers paid Ks3,100 per gallon of diesel, but retail sellers in Mandalay sold a gallon of diesel for Ks3,300.

In Mawlamyine and Taunggyi, the prices of diesel was Ks3,500 per gallon.

The diesel consumption in the country was 464,866 million gallons in 2010-11 FY. It decreased to 416,395 million gallons in 2011-12 FY, 316,749 million gallons in 2012-13 FY and 372,493 million gallons in 2013-14 FY, according to the Ministry of Electricity and Energy.

The diesel consumption went up to over 600 million gallons in 2014-15 FY and 807.619 million gallons in 2015-16 FY.

—Khine Khant

Local gold price declines on 24 March

THE drop in global gold price has pushed down domestic gold price in Myanmar on 24 March, according to local gold traders.

The price in global gold market was US$ 1,251 per ounce on 22 March, US$ 1,246 on 23 March and US$ 1,241 on 24 March respectively. Although the global gold price declined slightly, it is still record high, compared with that of the last week. The local gold price which hit a record high of Ks 900,000 per tical at the end of February has decreased slightly to Ks 880,100 per tical on 10 March. However, the local gold price increased to Ks 894,000 on 17 March, Ks 895,700 on 18 March, Ks 896,000 on 19 March, Ks 898,100 on 20 March and Ks 896,800 on 21 March.

However, the local gold price was Ks 898,000 per tical in 24 March, down from Ks 900,300 in 23 March. The local gold price market hit a record high of Ks 903,500 per tical on 4 October, 2016. Till now, the all time lowest price is Ks 840,000 per tical according to local gold traders.—Min Min

Trade with Middle Eastern countries hit nearly $332 million over past 10 months

TRADE between Myanmar and Middle East countries reached over US$332 million in the first ten months of this financial year, according to the Trade Department. The official statistics show that the country’s total trade with the Middle East nations amounted to $332.874 million between April of last year and January of this year.

Of the total, Myanmar’s export to those countries hit $100 million and its imports from the transcontinental region reached over $231 million.

Myanmar exports fishery products and agriculture products such as beans and pulses as well as rice to the market.


Since April, the trade between Myanmar and America countries was $534,015 million, trade with European communities was $1,077 billion and with ASEAN member countries reached $7.666 billion.—Nyin Chan
Performances in One-Year Period

Ministry of Information to Perform the Tasks of Developing Literary World and Sharing News & Information

When combined all presentations, the performances of the incumbent government during one-year-period will become a historical chronicle.

Union Minister for Information Dr Pe Myint. Photo: MNA

Ministry and their performances

Dr Pe Myint: Under the Ministry of Information, there are departments and organizations. With the office of the ministry excluded, the ministry has MRTV and the Department of Information and Public Relation Department, which opens libraries and public relation offices across the nation. Another one is the publishing and publication department, where prescribed books and readers for schools, the State Gazette and necessary documents for the government are being printed. Under it, Sarpay Beikman is a branch of the department. The next one is the News and Periodicals Enter-

So as to be well convinced of the performances for reforms of the Ministry of Information during one-year-period when the new government took office, an interview was made with Dr Pe Myint, Union Minister for Information.

Interviewer: Dear Sir, Please let me know about the major tasks of the Ministry of Information.

Dr Pe Myint: Concisely speaking, the ministry is the one that bridges between the government and the people. All governments are responsible for reporting what they are carrying out for the country, regularly. The Ministry of Information makes its broadcasting & printing media and public relation department perform the responsibilities. The Ministry of Information is reporting the performances of the government to the people, and simultaneously it is giving news and information to the government and the people.

Interviewer: I would like to know how the ministry spans between the people and the government.

Dr Pe Myint: In previous one-year-period, the Ministry of Information managed to present news on the events which are happening in the country and its related international events, for the public to know them all to the full. This is the major responsibility of the Ministry of Information.

So as to be more convinced of the duty, I would like to give an example. That is the programme presenting the performances of the incumbent government. The programme is being broadcast through TV. Dailies are also describing them on special programme pages. When finished, these collected reports will be published as a big chronicle.

Under the programme, there include the organizations of the legislature panel—Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, Pyithu Hlut taw and Amyotha Hluttaw, with the Government of the State at the Union level and the Ministries of the executive panel and the office of the Union Attorney General, the office of Union Auditor General, Union Civil Service Board, Cabinets of Regions and States; and Union Supreme Court of judiciary panel to report their respective performances to the public during the previous one-year-period.

Following the release of these reports, the Ministry of Information is to present collected accounts of reforms in the sectors of politics, economy and social welfare in the previous one-year-period, comprising of these policies.

When combined all presentations, the performances of the incumbent government during one-year-period will become a historical chronicle. Putting records of events is the one among the responsibilities of the Ministry of Information.

Interviewer: Please tell me about departments under the Ministry and their performances.

Dr Pe Myint: The moment people hear the word, “Ministry of Information,” they see radios, TVs and newspapers. Besides giving news and information to the public, the Ministry is serving the interests of the people, which is an important sector of making people’s intellectual development and progressive emergence of literary development in the country. As regards the sector, the Ministry performed programmes for literary campaigns, for example, there were paper-reading events on politics, monsoon book-fair festival, paper-reading events on contemporary historical literature and winter season book fair festival held under the sponsorship of printing and publication department. Very soon, discussions on translation and paper-reading events are to be held. Book-fair festivals used to be co-held together with paper-reading events. Yet, now Theinbyu Street, where the office of publishing and publication is situated and paper-reading events used to be held, was made “The Book Street” as an upgrade. This is one of the performances the Ministry carried out for the progress of books and literature.

On the other hand, information and public relation department is holding children literary festivals in many places of the country for the development of literature. Last year, the children literary festival was held in Nay Pyi Taw, with the one held in Mandalay and another one being held in Mawlamyaing presently.

The children literary festival in Nay Pyi Taw was sponsored by the Ministry of Information only, with in Mandalay co-sponsored by Ministry of Information and Mandalay Region Cabinet. Children Literary Festival being held in Mawlamyaing was co-sponsored by the Ministry of Information, the Ministry of Education and Mon State Cabinet.

Interviewer: Is there other organizations which are co-operating with the Ministry of Information for the development of literature?

SEE PAGE 6 >>
Performances in One-Year Period

>> from page 5

Dr Pe Myint: In performing the tasks of literature development, the Ministry is co-operating with other ministries, region and state cabinets, private institutions and individual well-wishers. Like, in co-operation with Tun Foundation, Sarpay Halman had arranged to publish the Myanmar Encyclopedia, a Treatise of great value and honour for Myanmar. In 1964, it commenced to have been compiled, so it lagged much behind, in keeping abreast with the time. Co-operation will be made to modernize the Encyclopedia by revising, adding and editing. Here, I would like to say that the Ministry of Information is to perform the tasks of its responsibilities by itself. Simultaneously, it is to co-operate the tasks of literature development with enthusiastic individuals, organizations and scholars who are interested in literature development.

Reading Rooms for Children
With the aids of Daw Khin Kyi Foundation, the Information and Public Relation Department managed to change libraries into Community Centers, having reading rooms for children in 133 districts as training sites and holding 51 lectures for children, 207 story-telling contests, 48 poem-recitation contests, 20 essay writing contests and 222 reading events during one year period.

Sharing Knowledge
Educative video titled, “We, three, once in the past,” which educates narcotic drug abuse may lead the whole community to destruction, a video titled, “A fire that starts from garbage,” for the public to take ethics—moral lessons from the world’s truths and the video titled, “Even Superman cannot help,” intended for people to learn to value and protect the natural environment were filmed and shown.

With a view to developing libraries and convincing people of current affairs and democratic practices, the video titled, “The next door illuminated by lights,” was filmed for showing the public, according to the information and public relation department.

IPRD published Myanmar Affairs (volumes) in 2016 and volume 2 in 2017, from the collect-ed works of term-papers of paper-reading events on research, by categorizing facts on politics, economy and social affairs concerning the State Government in one-year-period.

Changes in accord with the Time
During one year period when the new government took office, the Ministry of Information carried out the tasks of making inviting overseas media men conduct trainings for local media persons to abide by media ethics, sending local media men abroad to attend seminars and trainings, to upgrade the skills of personnel under the Ministry. Better presentation in filming, art creation, application of techniques, editing and news coverage were made.

Staff under the IPRD as well, managed to develop techniques and progress of literature as well as to make the practices of keeping records and facts. Upgrading the status of newsroom, reporters and editors, distribution systems, human resources and infrastructure were made, whereas reforming to become unbiased people’s media and people’s relation centers were also implemented.

Book Street in Yangon
Printing and publication department is a department that is mainly performing the tasks of printing State Gazettes, readers for basic education schools, election ballots for the whole country, commissioned by Union Election Commission.

Thanlyinu Street, the location of the office of printing and publication, where book fair festivals are co-held with paper-reading events was upgraded to Book Street. This is one of the achievements of the Ministry of Information in a year.

Dailies
Myanma Alin, Kyemon and the Global New Light of Myanmar have been making its effort to educate, inform and entertain the people starting from the day when the new government took office; bringing about the emergence of attractive pages on politics, economy and social affairs daily. At the same time, Mandalay pages on news and articles from Mandalay, and ethnic pages written in Mon, Sakaw Kayin, Poh Kayin, Paoh languages are also being described weekly.

The State-run papers, being the most subscribed and trustworthy ones, there are influx of advertisement into press houses. It managed to bring a lot of profits, though dailies are sold at 50 kyats a piece, instead of its actual cost—150 kyats per piece. Besides, dailies could earn much finance for the country.

Every week, Kyemon dailies describes page for new generation, while the Sunday Cartoon Programme for children included weekly in Myanma Alin and Kyemon upgraded reading speed of children and concurrently lifted up art creation and spiritual and moral courages.

Having an access to criticize
Platform for people’s opinions, transparent things to be amended and letters to the editor are being described in Kyemon and Myanma Alin. Thus people can disclose their feelings, sufferings, problems, difficulties, anxieties and desires to the government in the constructive way gaining direct effects almost every day.

11 National Ethnic Languages
MRTV broadcast traditional cultures and customs from national ethnic channel by using different techniques and presentations during one-year period when the new government took office, managing to revive ethnic language usages, cultures and traditions on the verge of extinction. In this period, by combining news sent by 11 local branches of 11 national ethnic languages with news from news branches from Yangon, Nay Pyi Taw, Mandalay, the system of sending news was modernized, according to MRTV, the Ministry of Information.

Digital type to be transformed
With changing into the democratic nation, MRTV is being fixed with installing transmitters and extending radio waves transmitting machines needed for Analogue Switch off Process, expected to commence digital TV and Radio broadcasts, in near future. With the advancing information technologies, arrangements are being made for the people to get news and information online as digital papers to keep abreast with the time.

Interviewer: Let me know as to policies and further plans to be implemented by the Ministry of Information.

Dr Pe Myint: The Ministry of Information is the one that is spanning between the people and the government. To do so, we mainly perform the task of presenting news and information to reach our people. Here I would like to inform that, on the other hand, we are making our concerted efforts to develop the literary world and to feed knowledge to our people.

Thank you, Mr Union Minister!
Major nations responsible for keeping world peace — China vice premier

BOAO — The world’s major nations are responsible for maintaining global peace, and all countries should remain committed to a road of stable and peaceful development, China’s Vice Premier Zhang Gaoli said on Saturday.

His comments followed media reports this week that North Korea was in the final stages of preparing for another nuclear test. Earlier this month, Pyongyang launched four ballistic missiles in response to joint US-South Korea military exercises, which it regards as preparation for war.

“Large countries have the responsibility to maintain global peace, should increase strategic dialogue, increase mutual trust, and respect each other’s core interests and major concerns,” Zhang said at the opening of the Boao Forum for Asia in southern China’s Hainan province. He did not identify the large countries.

North Korea has conducted two nuclear tests and a series of missile launches since the beginning of 2016.

Washington has been pressing Beijing to do more to stop North Korea’s nuclear and missile programmes. China has called for a dual-track approach, urging North Korea to suspend its tests and the United States and South Korea to halt military drills, so that both sides can return to talks.

Beijing has also been angered by the US deployment of the THAAD, or Terminal High Altitude Area Defence, missile defence system in South Korea, which it says will both harm China’s own security and do nothing to ease tensions.

“All parties should stick to dialogue to settle disputes and problems in a peaceful manner,” Zhang said, without specifying what disputes and problems.

Zhang’s comments also came ahead of a milestone meeting between Chinese President Xi Jinping and US President Donald Trump in the United States next month.

During a recent visit to Beijing by US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson, Xi said China and the United States must strengthen coordination of hot regional issues, respect each other’s core interests and major concerns, and protect the world frigates.

Trump has previously threatened a 45 per cent tariff on China’s exports and frequently said on the campaign trail that he would label China a currency manipulator. Trump has not followed through on that move yet.

US Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross has also complained about China’s excess industrial capacity, unfair subsidies for state-owned enterprises and a lack of access for foreign firms to Navy sectors of the Chinese economy.

“China remains committed to the strategy of opening up,” Zhang said. “China’s door is open to the world, and it will only be opened wider.” — Reuters

Russian design bureau ready to integrate BrahMos missiles into frigates for Indian Navy

LANGKAWI ISLAND (Malaysia) — The St Petersburg-based Severnaya Design Bureau is ready to integrate the BrahMos strike missile system into the armament set of Project 11356M frigates for the Indian Navy after they are ordered by India, Severnaya Deputy CEO and Chief Designer for Special Hardware Vyacheslav Senchurov told TASS on Wednesday.

“Problems will emerge with the integration of the BrahMos strike missile complex into the frigate. We have already integrated this system earlier into the other three Project 11356 frigates acquired by the Indian Navy,” Senchurov said at the LIMA-2017 international maritime and aerospace show in Malaysia.

The Severnaya Design Bureau is the developer of Project 11356 warships for the Russian and Indian Navies while Project 11356M frigates are the follow-up of this series.

The first three out of six Project 11356 frigates operational in the Indian Navy are armed with the Russian-made Club-N strike system (the export version of the Kalibr cruise missile complex) while the other three vessels are outfitted with the Russian-Indian BrahMos multipurpose missile system that is capable of hitting both surface and ground-based targets.

Director for International Cooperation and Regional Policy at Russia’s state hi-tech corporation Rosstec Viktor Kladov said earlier that the planned contract for the delivery of Project 11356 frigates for the Indian Navy would be implemented under the “two plus two” formula: two frigates were planned to be built in Russia and delivered to India and the other two would be constructed by the Indian ship-building industry at one of the national shipyards. — TASS

Russian design bureau ready to integrate BrahMos missiles into frigates for Indian Navy

Philippines’ communist rebels vow to revive ceasefire no later than 31 March

MANILA — The Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) said on Saturday that its armed units will declare a unilateral ceasefire no later than 31 March, ahead of the resumption of peace talks with the government of President Rodrigo Duterte next month.

The CPP, who’s armed wing, the New People’s Army, has fought a nearly five-decade-long insurgency, expects that the Philippine government will declare a similar unilateral ceasefire as part of an agreement reached during backchannel talks from 10-11 March, the group said in a statement.

Negotiators from both sides agreed on 12 March to resume formal peace negotiations in The Netherlands from 2 to 6 April, a month after an angry Duterte cancelled talks after the rebels ambushed soldiers after unilaterally ending a previous ceasefire. Duterte, in an interview on Saturday with re- porters in Bukidnon province in the southern Philippines, said he would consult with the country’s political and security leaders “whether or not it would be good at this time” to resume the government’s unilateral ceasefire. “I have to consult the (House) Speaker. I have to consult the Senate President, I have to convene the National Security Council, and I have to ask the generals of the army and the police,” he said. In the statement, the CPP urged Duterte to order the military to “slow down all-out offensive military operations and aerial bombing and shell- ing campaigns against rural (communities), to help create a favourable atmosphere for the mutual ceasefire.”

To give the peace talks a boost, the CPP said it also expects the government to release 19 elderly and sick political prisoners, as well as five detained consultants of its political arm, the National Democratic Front. — Reuters

Claim’s Day Notice

M/Y XETHA BHUM VOY. NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on M/V. XETHA BHUM VOY. NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 26.3.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M/LP/ where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Claims Day.

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
Myanmar Port Authority
Agent for: MS Regional Container Lines
Phone No: 2301185

Claim’s Day Notice

M/V. IRRAWADDY STAR VOY. NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on M/V. IRRAWADDY STAR VOY. NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 26.3.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M/LP/ where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses 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
Myanmar Port Authority
Agent for: MS Continental Shipping Line PTE LTD
Phone No: 2301185

China’s Vice Premier Zhang Gaoli. PHOTO: REUTERS

Chinese Defence

Bar News from the global light of Myanmar
The State Sanghamahanayaka Committee of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar

1. According to the functions and duties in accordance with the Pitaka Canonical texts, the Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee shall cancel these functions and activities by approval of at least 75 per centage of members of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee who attend the meeting.

2. Function and duties of the State Sanghamahanayaka Committee

1. Taking responsibilities of the Unity of the Sangha and carrying out the purification, perpetuation and propagation of the Buddha Sasana
2. Instructing the supervising the Theravada Buddhist monks to behave and dwell in accordance with the Vinaya Rules
3. Carrying out its functions and duties in accordance with adopted and prescribed rules and regulations of different levels of Sangha Committee, procedures, settlements of Vina, Adhikara Disputes, other decisions and instructions
4. According to the above-mentioned sub-paras (1) and (2), the State Sanghamahanayaka Committee shall have to supervise and instruct the Sangha Committee at different levels.
5. Instructing and supervising the matters relating to the administration of the respective Sangha Committees at different levels
6. Occasionally notify the Dhammavina gazette concerning the whole member of the Sangha
7. Being able to make suggestions, prescribed canonical texts and its curriculums relating the Government Pariyatti examinations and amendment the systems of the Pariyatti examinations
8. Being able to make scrutinization, decision, permission and prohibition regarding different views and opinions on Buddhism
9. Being able to make scrutinization, decision and prohibition of ceremonies, rituals and displays which are contradictory to and incompatible with the Pitaka Canonical Texts
10. Being able to make scrutinization, decision, and prohibition on practices of Patipatti which are contradictory to and incompatible with the Pitaka Canonical Texts
11. If the functions and activities carried out by respective Sangha Committees at different levels were not in agreement with the basic principles of the Sangha Committees, the plenary meeting of the State Sanghamahanayaka Committee shall cancel these functions and activities by approval of at least 75 per centage of members of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee who attend the meeting.

According to the functions and duties of the State Sanghamahanayaka Committee, it is found that various matters relating to the members of the Sangha or Sangha Committees can only be decided by any civil courts or authorities concerned.

Some parents have to send their children to the monasteries in towns. This is to prevent their children from being forced to become child soldiers or to work as porters.

But, today Monastic Education Schools have become more modernized with hired and volunteer teachers and are teaching the Courses prescribed by the Ministry of Education. So, even some of them have had great success in their Education and had become engineers, doctors, teachers of various important subjects. All the Sayadaws (the Abbot monks) take care of them and give them very good guidance.

So, starting from the period before modern Western Education came into Myanmar Society and up till the present, the Monastic Education (Ba Ka) Schools are still playing an important role in our country.
Vice President U Myint Swe visits tropical botanical garden in Boao

Vice President U Myint Swe yesterday afternoon visited the tropical botanical garden in Boao, Hainan province in the People’s Republic of China.

Officials conducted the Vice President and party round the garden which grows tea, coffees, cacao and banana species for research, categorizes plants species and produces value-added goods.

The garden serves as a research centre for tropical plants, public recreation and knowledge dissemination for value-added goods.

In the evening the Vice President and party met the governor of the province at Boao International Conference Center, and shared experiences in agriculturalal, cultural, sports and tourism sectors and discussed setting up a direct flight between Myanmar and the province.

A dinner was hosted in honour of the participants to the Boao Forum at the center. —Myanmar News Agency

Man missing in Buthidaung Township

A MAN named Shibili or Naw-be Huusaung living at Myama ward in Buthidaung Township went missing on his way to Mikyaung Kaung Swe Village on Tuesday.

He informed his wife that he would visit the house of his mother-in-law, Marmuak Phweyound in Mikyaung Kaung Swe Village at about 9.30 am on 21 March and he was not got back and still lost.

Mabar kunthu, a wife of Shivieli opened a file of lawsuit over the case at the police station of Buthidaung Township.

Security forces and officials from the village searched him around Mikyaung Kaung Swe Village and its neighboring villages but significant information was obtained and further investigation is ongoing.—Myanmar News Agency

New Bridge to promote socio-economy of Rakhine people

>> FROM PAGE 1

Rakhine State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu said words of thanks for the development of roads and bridges on behalf of Rakhine residents. Then, U Aung Kyaw Zan, Rakhine State Minister for Electricity, Industry and Transportation, U Aung Thaung Shwe and U Maung Kyaw Zan, Members of Parliament, U Thein Naing, Deputy Director of Department of Bridge and local resident U Maung Myi Tha cut the ribbon and Union Minister U Win Khaing and Rakhine State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu switched on the memorial tablet before passing through the bridge together with local residents.

A local resident Daw Win Kyi from Ward 5 in Buthidaung said “I am very pleased to have better transportation due to the bridge. Before the bridge, it takes a long time in travelling by water way. It was also inconvenient for the daily travellers who have to pay for boat charges. Thanks to all the responsible persons.”

A local resident, U Mya Tha said “it is wonderful to have the bridge constructed. Now we can go both by water way and by road. But I would like to advise that it would not be complete for having it.”

It is required to construct other bridges for the development as the Rakhine State geographically has plenty of mountains and rivers.”

U Thein Naing, Deputy Director of Department of Bridge said “we constructed the bridge in priority to help local residents who depend on water ways. We continue to construct 600-foot long Saindin Bridge, 500-foot long Thaungdaya Bridge and other bridges across the creeks.”

He continued, “If the road reaches from Yathadaung-Punyagym to Sittway, it can access to the whole country. We will finish the road in 2018-2019. The bridge can be said Border Bridge and regional development will be expected through the use of that bridge.”

—Myanmar News Agency

Indian government donated two ambulances for YCH

IN order to upgrade Myanmar’s public health service, the government of India donated two modern ambulances equipped with medical instruments worth 154.600 USD to Yangon Children Hospital yesterday.

Indian ambassador to Myanmar, Mr. Vikram Misri told that, these ambulances fixed with modern medical equipment were donated to be able to save the lives of patients giving necessary treatment to patients in the vehicle, in such a situation of high traffic jam.

It is known that, as there is no specialists in Child Heart Disease in Yangon General Hospital and Eye, Ear, Nose and Throat Diseases (EENT) in Yangon Children Hospital, patients suffering from those diseases have to use those ambulances to go to Yankin Hospital EENT Hospital.

Dr. Su Su Dwe, Medical Superintendent of the hospital said that, “there are only 4 ambulances at the hospital. However we are facing inconveniences in transferring the patients to Yankin Hospital so we need more ambulances for the hospital.”

YCH has provided medical services to 100 to 150 patients daily in Orthopedic treatment ward, medical ward, surgery ward, neo-natal ward, Pediatric Oncology ward, Renal treatment ward, Neurology ward and Pediatric Nutrition ward respectively.

Indian government also recently donated “3 Tesla MRI” machine for the screening of bones and muscle joints and lumps of flesh and “CT Scanner and Oxygen Concentrator Plant for the diagnosing of pulmonary and Oncology diseases according to YCH and also donated 64-slice CT Scanner, Oxygen Plant, Ultrasound Scan Machine and other essential medical devices to Sittway hospital.

About 7 million USD will be used in supplying medical equipments and devices for YCH and Sittway hospital and 2 million USD for Monywa Children and Women hospital, according to the Embassy of India in Myanmar.—Nanda Win (MNA)

Stimulant Tablets Seized in Maungtaw

YESTERDAY evening in Maungtaw Tsp, Rakhine State, 80475 tablets were seized from a boat while the naval security troop is patrolling.

When naval security troop is patrolling on the west of Min-galargyi creek in Maungtaw on 24 March at 10 pm, they chase a suspicious boat, about 4 people escaped by diving into the creek but they were able to seize floating bundles.

When plastic bundles were opened, they found 80475 (WY/R) pink color, stimulant tablets worth an estimated Ks 16.1 millions. Seized boat and stimulant tablets were handed over to anti-drug squad. Police try to file law suit against them.—Myanmar News Agency
EU seeks post-Brexit unity by going back to roots at Rome

ROME — Sixty years ago, Britain shunned a meeting in Rome where six war-scarred neighbours founded what became the EU; on Saturday, it is again absent, this time from a sombre birthday party as it quiets a bloc which now embraces most of Europe.

It might have been a modestly hopeful summit to mark the 28-nation European Union’s 60th anniversary in the palazzo where old foes France and Germany, with Italy and the Benelux countries, signed the Treaty of Rome on 25 March, 1957.

Instead, it will be overshadowed by the unprecedented departure of a member state, which Prime Minister Theresa May will initiate next Wednesday.

All the bloc’s economies are growing after a slump that has blighted the past decade and recently border chaos has largely abated as refugees are, for now, being held in check.

But Brexit, which should take effect in March 2019 if a two-year timetable holds, has undermined the self-confidence of a Union that might see its 60 years of strengthening peace and growing prosperity as a success, and has encouraged eurosceptic nationalists challenging governments from Stockholm to Sicily.

It has also amplified the petty frictions among the more than two dozen national governments and obliged leaders’ aides to water down a grand birthday declaration of unity.

Britain originally snubbed the Treaty of Rome, but changed its mind about the Common Market three years later. It was made to wait however by the suspicious French until 1973 before joining and it voted to leave the Union last June in a divisive referendum whose consequences remain unclear.

After days of carping from Poland and Greece, seeking to show home voters they were getting Brussels to give assurances about equal treatment and social welfare, the Rome Declaration the 27 will sign in the late morning offers ringing phrases about peace and unity.

But it may disappoint those who think more ambition and coordination is the answer to malaise.

At the Vatican on Friday, Pope Francis told the assembled leaders, Roman Catholics and non-Catholics alike, that their Union had achieved much in 60 years but that Europe faced a “vacuum of values”. He condemned anti-immigrant populism and extremism that he said posed a mortal threat to the bloc.

“When a body loses its sense of direction and is no longer able to look ahead, it experiences a regression and, in the long run, risks dying,” said the Argentinian pontiff.

Their response, he said, should be to promote Europe’s ideals and values with more vigour and passion.

He urged states to show more “solidarity”, a vexed word today, where Germans, say, complain Poles are not taking in refugees or Greeks bemoan a lack of debt relief from Germany.

And the first non-European pope in over 1,000 years reminded them of the diminishing share of the world’s wealth and people in Europe. They were a “peninsula of Asia”, Francis told them, urging them to remain open to the rest of the world.

Security will be tight around the muted celebrations in the Campidoglio palace in central Rome, with protesters planning to gather through the day and police on high alert after the latest attack in Europe, on Wednesday in London.

Islamic State claimed responsibility for the attack, although it was unclear what links — if any — the attacker Khalid Masood, who killed four people, had with the militant group.

The attack on the first anniversary of suicide bombings in the EU capital Brussels underlined the common threats Europeans face and drew renewed expressions of concern and reassurance on continued security cooperation between Britain and the Union.

—— Reuters

EU leaders stand inside Orazi and Curiazi hall during their meeting on the 60th anniversary of the Treaty of Rome, in Rome, Italy on 25 March, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

Lights go out around the world for 10th Earth Hour

SYDNEY — The lights are being switched off around the world at 8:30 pm on Saturday evening, to mark the 10th annual Earth Hour, and to draw attention to climate change.

The initiative began in Australia in 2007 as a grassroots gesture by the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) Australia against man-made carbon dioxide emissions linked to a warming planet.

In 2017, it will involve the switching off of electric lights for an hour in 7,000 cities across 172 countries, at 8:30 pm local time, with the aim of highlighting the need to act on climate change, and saving a few megawatts of power in the process.

Among the famous buildings and structures taking part in Australia are Sydney’s Opera House, the Harbour Bridge, Luna Park, Town Hall, and Sydney Tower Eye. International- ly the list includes some of the world’s best known skyline- scrapers and historic buildings including the world’s tallest building, the Burj Khalifa in Dubai, London’s Big Ben and Houses of Parliament, the Colosseum in Rome, Istanbul’s Blue Mosque, the Eiffel Tower, Moscow’s Kremlin and Red Square and the Pyramids of Egypt. While the organisers of Earth Hour said they do not audit results of the energy saving initiative, the group has commissioned research indicating up to one in four Australians gets involved. WWF says Earth Hour can take credit for various environmental initiatives, like the 2013 declaration of a 3.4 million hectare marine park in the waters off Argentina, the planting of a forest in Uganda and a ban on soft plastics in the Galapagos Island. — Reuters

Vucic: Serbia will never go backward again

BELGRADE — I pledge to every Serbian citizen — every man, woman and child — that I will never take my duty lightly, that I will never be bigger than the country or ever take anything away from it, and that I will be ready to give everything to it, presidential candidate Aleksandar Vucic said at an electoral rally in Belgrade.

“I want to be the president of all, with no desire to divide people or intent to judge, and with full awareness of my own submis- siveness, I told a packed Kombank Arena.” — Tanjug

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One-year journey of Ministry of Transport and Communications

Nandar Win (MNA)

The transport sector needs to be upgraded to be on par with the characteristics of urban life as all the people for various reasons are relying on land, water or air routes in their daily life.

Once, Jarnaikyaw Ma Ma Lay wrote about a scene of a journey from Yangon to Delta depicting a scene on a paddle steamer of the Irrawaddy Flotilla of Pyinawtha times saying, “As soon as a ship moors alongside the quay, the new passengers rush to the ship and take seats on dust and rubbish left by passengers of the previous journey. It seems convenience to them although there is a pile of leftovers around them. They seem immune to such environment.”

Reforms

The Ministry of Transport and Communications today puts all its energy into transforming the transport sector to shift passengers and goods through convenient mode of transportation.

Existing as the separate ministries in the past were merged as the Ministry of Transport and Communications under which 18 departments were organized to contribute to social development, to bring about sustainable development, to be in line with international norms and to create job opportunities.

ADB’s assistance

To adopt a transport policy which is essential to make a change in the existing transport sector of low standard, ADB’s experts gave advice and the policy was adopted in May. Its main objective is to create efficient and cost-effective system, said Union Minister for Transport and Communications U Thant Zin Maung.

In accord with the policy, five-year plans each for air, water and railway sectors were made under the National Transport Master Plan 2016-2040 designed by the Japan International Cooperation Agency.

For the current year, the previous government’s projects that will not benefit to the people will be stopped and within the budget frame, money will be spent on projects benefiting the people will be implemented with last pace to be lasting for a long time.

Spread wings

Altogether 48 agreements for international flight have been made so far. Moreover, framework agreements among ASEAN and CLMV countries – Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Vietnam have also been made. During one-year period, flight agreements between Myanmar and Bhutan and between Myanmar and Netherlands and Draft agreement between Myanmar and Indonesia were made.

Currently, Myanmar’s airports accommodate 32 international flights and ten domestic flights. In the time of new government, four international flights namely Hong Kong Express Airlines, Thai Lion Air, Emirates Airline and Air KBZ operate business.

Myanmar National Airlines, the flag carrier of Myanmar, was transformed into corporation and it conducts international and domestic flights, chartered flights and fixed base operations to earn more money.

Flights are scheduled to and from 28 airports in the country and international flights are also expanded. In August last year Yangon-Singapore-Yangon flight, in September Yangon-Mandalay-Bangkok/Yangon flight, in October Bodgaya flight and in November Champagne flight were added.

In the last Fiscal Year there was only over 500000 air passengers but up to January this year the number increased to nearly 900000. The Union minister said that online sale of air ticket has been used to double the amount of passengers.

Myanmar engineers conducted heavy maintenance of an ATR plane together with foreigner engineers in April last year.

Acknowledgement

In coming May, Europe Air Safety Board will come to town to check if safety measure any issue air safety certificate. So, planes will no need to go abroad to be repaired and as a result spending of foreign exchange can be reduced.

Water transport

Transporting goods and passengers by waterway is cost-effective. Such navigable rivers in the country as Ayeyawady, Chindwin, Sittoung, Thanlwin and Kaladan and many others are flowing in the country. But, deforestation and indiscriminate mining have caused silting, floods and bank erosions and resulted in changing of water course.

The minister expressed that lack of waterway channel management and river training is the reason for floods in the rainy season and sitting up in the hot season and therefore measures are being taken to mitigate disasters. He also said that his team cannot cure the major disease but is struggling with minor illness. He exposed that Regions’ fund were spent on 131 bank erosion prevention tasks this year.

Maritime safety

To ensure safety in the maritime sector and to preserve environment, Myanmar is abiding by the rules and regulations of International Maritime Organization.

According to the Union minister, measures are being taken to improve waterway system, seven projects are implemented using Union’s fund and 13 with emergency fund in Saguing, Magway, Bago and Ayeyawady Regions and Shan State.

With the assistance of World Bank, a plan to improve river watercourse along Ayeyawady river from Mandalay to Nyang U has been made. Another attempt to prevent bank erosion is test cultivation of Vartivar grass in states and regions. If good result comes out the project will be continued.
PERFORMANCES IN ONE-YEAR PERIOD

>> FROM PAGE 11

Inland Water Transport

First, there was a plan for Inland Water Transport to transform into corporation. But this plan can cause hardships for government staff and thus not to cause harm to them it reenter into Union budget.

The Union minister explained that in the future, Chindwin Water Transport Corporation, Ayeyawady Water Transport Corporation, Rakhine Water Transport Corporation will emerge under public companies or joint ventures. He also said that systematic measures are taken to create corporate to improve waterborne transportation.

In accord with the National Transport Master Pan, container wharfs that can handle unloading and loading will be built – four at the bank of Bhamo, Mandalay, Pakokku and Magway along Ayeyawady river and two at Monywa and Kalaywa along Chindwin river.

Loans from Belgium

Mandalay has been chosen to build the first wharf and the test run was conducted between Yangon and Haimoke for plying containership. It is targeted to build the wharfs by 2020 to transport goods between Yangon and Mandalay by waterway. To get loans for improving waterway, coordination is being made with Belgium through the Ministry of Planning and Finance.

As Yangon port handles over 90 percent of goods, jetties and related services, computerized systems, and Port-EDI project to contribute to National Single Window are under implementation with the assistance of Japan. The services will be available in October.

Railway

As regards, the railway sector, electric trains plying on the Strand Road were immediately stopped as there were just ten passengers a day. Arrangements are being made to channel near-ly 3 million USD and 300 million MMK which were slated for this project into other projects that will benefit to people. With the assistance of Japan ODA loans, Yangon circular train system will be upgraded.

The ministry is trying to change Myanma Railway to become an organization on which people can rely. To meet this end, plans are being made with the help of ADB experts to upgrade railroads across the country.

Road transport

In the road transport sector car registrations for various kinds of cars have been made for road safety.

To reduce fatality due to accidents on roads, a national level council for prevention against road accident was formed and it supervises road safety measures.

Encouraging motorcyclists to wear helmets, car drivers to fasten their seatbelts and to fol-

In the communication sector, expanding communication networks, providing better services, cooperation with international community, improving cyber security and introducing e-Government process are at the top of priority list.

Myanmar Communications needs to be transformed into corporation so do Myanmar Port Authority and Inland Water Transport.

Corporations are State-owned and a slight change in the administrative sector is done for them to be able to do business independently. It will be the State-owned or the public owned. The government will supervise them according to policies and laws, said the Union minister.

Satellite channel

A five-year agreement was made in May between Myanmar Communications and Intelsat Global Sale and Marketing Ltd. According to the agreement Myanmar Sat 1 was established. Arrangements are being made to hire satellite channels to ministries and private companies with reasonable price.

Myanmar telephone density jumped to 104.62 percent in January this year from 86.20 percent in 2015-2016 Fiscal Year. It means the number of mobile phones increased from over 44 million to over 54 million.

The Internet usage has also increased from 70.60 percent to 88.95 percent meaning it jumped from the population of 36 million to 46 million.

Mobile network to cover the whole country it needs to erect 16965 towers. Of them, 14872 have been completed up to January this year. The length of fiber cables touches 35362.27 kilometers and more cables of 10730.02 kilometers are being connected.

Post office

Japan is rendering assistance to development of Myanmar post office. Entrepreneurs within and without the country are allowed to run express mail services. Other businesses such as money order, online shopping and mobile money transfer will be expanded.

Meteorology and Hydrology

With the assistance of Japan, Mandalay-Myitkyina Railroad Section is being upgraded for convenience of commodity flow. Photo: MNA

Mandalay-Myitkyina Railroad Section is being upgraded for convenience of commodity flow. Photo: MNA

Mandalay-Myitkyina Railroad Section is being upgraded for convenience of commodity flow. Photo: MNA

Yangon-Mandalay Railroad is being upgraded with the use of heavy machinery. Photo: MNA

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Russia develops ‘grenade launcher-propelled’ reconnaissance drone

PATRIOT PARK (Moscow Region) — A reconnaissance drone propelled from a cannon based on the principle of a hand-held grenade launcher was unveiled at a military and scientific conference outside Moscow on Thursday.

The conference entitled: “Robotization of the Russian Armed Forces” is being held at the Patriot theme park in the Moscow Region.

The system is designed to transmit real-time video information to the operator’s monitor. The drone provides for concealed and continuous air reconnaissance of the terrain and objectives within the area of responsibility of a combined arms force.

According to the developers, the drone is prepared for launch within a period of 5 seconds to 3 minutes, depending on the time of preparing a flight program in cases when other similar drones require much more time for accomplishing the mission.

The drone will be able to carry a wide range of payloads, including observation and target acquisition systems. PHOTO: TASS

Air strike kills 16 in Syrian prison: Observatory

BEIRUT — At least 16 people died after a Friday night air strike on a prison in Syria’s rebel-held Idlib province, including both prisoners and staff, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, a Britain-based war monitor, said.

President Bashar al-Assad and his allies, Russia, Iran and Shia militias from nearby countries, are seeking to staunch the biggest rebel assault in months which began this week in the capital Damascus and the Hama countryside.

Insurgents have made big advances towards Hama, taking about a dozen towns and villages and moving to within a few kilometers of the city and its military airbase, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, a Britain-based war monitor, said.

“Units of our armed forces and allied forces re-stored the town of Kaakab and continue their military operations in more than one direction of the northern Hama countryside,” the military source said.

The Observatory said rebels had been forced to withdraw under rocket fire from some of the positions they had occupied, but mutual shelling in parts of the Hama battlefield continued.

In Damascus, the army said on Friday it had managed to recapture all the positions it lost early in the week to rebels in the Jobar area, which is on the north-eastern fringe of the central district of the capital. —Reuters

Chinese-made large passenger jet passes assessment for maiden flight

SHANGHAI — China’s first large domestically designed and built passenger jetliner has passed a major technical assessment, bringing it a closer to its maiden flight, sources with the developer said on Saturday.

An evaluation committee consisting of 63 aviation specialists from across China has agreed the C919 is technically ready for its maiden flight, said the Shanghai-based aircraft maker, Commercial Aircraft Corp of China (COMAC) in a press release.

The experts have worked in seven teams to assess the jet’s design, structure and performance, which they have tested in labs, on board and during low-speed taxing, it said.

The committee has proven the C919 is technically airworthy but the jet is still subject to electromagnetic compatibility and taxing tests before it takes to the air.

The jet was built in 2015 and COMAC completed the onboard systems installation as well as major static and system integration tests before the technical assessment.

The C919, with over 150 seats and a standard range of 4,075 kilometers, is expected to compete with the updated Airbus 320 and Boeing’s new-generation 737, which currently dominate the market.

By the end of 2016, 21 customers had placed orders for more than 500 C919 aircraft, and COMAC expects to sell at least 2,000.

China’s first regional commercial aircraft, the ARJ21, began commercial operation in June 2016.—Xinhua

Syrian army pushing back insurgent offensive, military source says

BEIRUT — Syria’s army and its allies retook a village near Hama on Saturday, a Syrian military source said, as the government tries to turn back a major insurgent offensive but bitter fighting continued, a war monitor said.

President Bashar al-Assad and his allies, Russia, Iran and Shia militias from nearby countries, are seeking to staunch the biggest rebel assault in months which began this week in the capital Damascus and the Hama countryside.

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Idlib, one of the most important strongholds of rebels, including jihadist factions, who seek to overthrow President Bashar al-Assad, whose air force, along with that of his ally Russia, has been heavily bombarding insurgents there.

While parts of Idlib are controlled by Turkey-backed rebels, including factions who fight under the banner of the Free Syrian Army, other areas are dominated by the hard-line Islamist Ahrar al-Sham and others by the Tahrir al-Sham jihadist alliance.

Tahrir al-Sham’s strongest component is the former Nusra Front group which was al-Qaeda’s official branch in Syria until last year when it broke formal ties with the global movement. —Reuters

Request for Proposal for Joint Venture in Onshore Seismic Acquisition Services with Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprise

Date: March 24, 2017

MOGE is a state-owned enterprise which is responsible for the upstream oil and gas sector under the Ministry of Electricity and Energy (“MOEE”) of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar. MOGE intends to select a suitable internationally proven service company in onshore seismic acquisition services. The main goal is to strengthen MOGE’s technological know-how, upgrade its workforce, gain access to financing, adopt international best practices and widen market access.

MOGE had initially launched a public invitation for interested parties to submit a Letter of Expression of Interest (“LEOI”) for a Joint Venture in Onshore Seismic Acquisition Services with MOGE in June 2014. MOGE is now launching this Request for Proposal (“RFP”) in the form of an open tender to interested parties, including but not limited to LEOI respondents from the LEOI exercise conducted in June 2014, to submit a response to this Request for Proposal (the “Application”). In this context, MOGE intends to select a suitable internationally proven seismic acquisition services company as the “Joint Venture Partner” through a step-by-step process:

Phase 1: Request for Proposal; Phase 2: Evaluation Process; and Phase 3: Negotiations and Signing.

Interested parties are required to submit an Application no later than 3 PM, local time (Nay Pyi Taw, Republic of the Union of Myanmar), on April 4, 2017 to which MOGE will duly respond to all questions.

Interested parties who have purchased the RFP are welcome to submit questions regarding the RFP and comments on the draft Joint Venture Agreement attached in its annex, no later than 12 PM, local time (Nay Pyi Taw, Republic of the Union of Myanmar), on April 4, 2017, to which MOGE will duly respond to all questions submitted and issue a revised draft Joint Venture Agreement.
Rebooted Power Rangers return to big screen

LOS ANGELES — The latest reboot of the 1990s “Power Rangers” children’s television series held its world premiere in Los Angeles on Wednesday night.

Directed by Dean Israelite, the film tells the backstories of the five teenage characters — a misfit, a loner, a school bully, an intellectual and a drop-out — and their transformation into action heroes.

“It’s like an instruction manual of how to become a Power Ranger because you go through the kids’ journey...these inadequate insecure little kids, and how they become superheroes,” said actor Ludi Lin, who plays the Black Ranger.

As in the television series, the Rangers’ mission is to stop arch villain Rita Repulsa, played in the rebooted film version by American actor Elizabeth Banks.

“It’s hard work. I will say that but it was really fun to yell at everyone,” Banks said. “It’s fun to feel like I was invincible.”

Earlier in the day, Power Rangers creator and producer Haim Saban received a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame for his achievements in television.

The TV series that debuted as “Mighty Morphin Power Rangers” in 1993 is now in its 24th season, making it one of the longest running children’s action series in television history.

It also spawned three theatrical films, with the latest, “Saban’s Power Rangers”, set to open in US theaters on Friday.—Reuters

Kanye West settles with Hungarian singer over alleged song theft

NEW YORK — Kanye West has settled a lawsuit by a Hungarian rock singer who accused the hip-hop star of sampling one of his best-known works without permission for the 2013 song “New Slaves.”

The accord resolves claims that 85 seconds, or one-third, of “Pearls in Her Hair,” a lyricist, Anna Ady assigned by Hungarian singer Lany, which appeared on Kanye...these inadequate insecure little kids, and how they become superheroes,” said actor Ludi Lin, who plays the Black Ranger.

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Entertainer Kanye West arrives at the Metropolitan Museum of Art Costume Institute Gala in New York, May 2, 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Ministry of Electricity and Energy
Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprise (MOGE)
Nay Pyi Taw

Request for Proposal for Joint Venture in Onshore Drilling Services with Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprise

Date: March 24, 2017

MOGE is a state-owned enterprise which is responsible for the upstream oil and gas sector under the Ministry of Electricity and Energy (“MOEE”) of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar. MOGE intends to establish a joint venture with an internationally proven service company in onshore drilling services. The main goals are to strengthen MOGE’s technological know-how, upgrade its workforce, gain access to financing, adopt international best practices and widen market access.

MOGE had initially launched a public invitation for interested parties to submit a Letter of Expression of Interest (“LEOI”) for a Joint Venture in Onshore Drilling Services with MOGE in June 2014. MOGE is now launching this Request for Proposal (“RFP”) in the form of an open tender to interested parties, including but not limited to LEOI respondents from the LEOI exercise conducted in June 2014, to submit a response to this Request for Proposal (the “Application”). In this context, MOGE intends to select a suitable internationally proven drilling services company as the “Joint Venture Partner” through a step-by-step process: Phase 1: Request for Proposal; Phase 2: Evaluation Process; and Phase 3: Negotiations and Signing.

Interested parties are required to submit an Application no later than 3 PM, local time (Nay Pyi Taw, Republic of the Union of Myanmar), on April 24, 2017 to the following address: MOGE Tender Committee for Joint Venture Establishment in Petroleum Services (Drilling), Complex 44, MOGE Office, Nay Pyi Taw, Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

The RFP, which includes guidelines for submission, can be purchased by any interested party starting March 24, 2017 (excluding Saturdays, Sundays and Public Holidays) at Complex 44, MOGE Office, Nay Pyi Taw, Republic of the Union of Myanmar for a non-refundable cash payment of five hundred United States Dollars (USD 500). The purchaser will be provided with a payment acknowledgement when payment is made. Only Applications from Applicants that had purchased the RFP document officially from MOGE will be evaluated.

Interested parties who have purchased the RFP are welcome to submit questions regarding the RFP and comments on the draft Joint Venture Agreement attached in its annex, no later than 12 PM, local time (Nay Pyi Taw, Republic of the Union of Myanmar), on April 4, 2017, to which MOGE will duly respond to all questions submitted and issue a revised draft Joint Venture Agreement.

Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprise
Ministry of Electricity and Energy
Treehouses and mansions — Life in the shadow of the US-Mexico fence

TIJUANA — The rust-red US fence along the Mexican border has inspired various quirky architectural structures, from a frontier-themed mansion to a humble treehouse with an uninterrupted views across the Californian scrubland.

Carlos Torres, an architect in the northern Mexican city of Tijuana, has lived in a house in the shadow of the US border for three decades, and the fence that US President Donald Trump has vowed to expand begins at the end of his garden.

Yet far from seeing the metal wall as an eyesore, he chose to make it a central piece of the design aesthetic of his lavish home, which he has named “The First House in Northwest Mexico.”

A specially erected viewpoint provides a panoramic vista into the United States, while his garden is littered with border paraphernalia, such as a signpost indicating the start of US territory.

Although Torres has embraced his little section of wall, he doubted the larger fence that Trump envisaged would work.

“We no’t want him to build the fence, as this would be the reason for him to talk about it. Here at this fence, people keep crossing every week.”

The wall also dominates Pedro and Carmen Hernandez’s garden, but unlike Torres, they don’t have the means to turn it into a design feature. Instead, they use the corrugated metal that looms over their modest home to hang their clothes to dry.

“Sometimes, we’ve had people in our gardens who are trying to cross over,” Carmen said. “This area has been dangerous for years. We’ve had murders and kidnappings. But one learns to live with it.”

A few kilometres east of Torres’s mansion, Guatemalan chef Joaquín set up a much simpler home in the branches of a tree, just meters from the border.

Having left the United States a few years ago and with little money to spend, Joaquín — who did not want his last name used so he would not be identified — hoisted a scruffy mattress into the heart of the tree and spends his nights staring up through the leaves into the heavens. During the day, he often spots dozens of migrants trying to sneak into the United States. “I’ve tried to cross so many times that the US border guards even got to know me, but I never made it back,” said Joaquín, who makes a living by collecting trash in Tijuana that he tries to sell to a local recycling plant. — Reuters

A girl climbs stairs near a section of the fence separating Mexico and the United States, in Tijuana, Mexico. Photo: Reuters

Madrid turns down offer to build $2.3 bn entertainment project

MADRID — The city of Madrid on Friday turned down an offer from US real estate developer Cordish Companies to build a 2.2 billion euro ($2.3 billion) entertainment complex in the Spanish capital.

The 134-hectare piazza dubbed “Live! Resorts Madrid” and comprising dining, shopping and hotel facilities would have been the largest of its kind in Europe, with the creation of over 50,000 jobs.

The regional government, however, ruled that it would have cost 340 million euros of public money to build the needed infrastructure around the complex, while the economic viability of the project was not certain.

It is the second time a project of this kind has failed to come to fruition in the Spanish capital.

In 2013, US casino operator Las Vegas Sands abandoned plans for a 3 billion gambling resort “Eurovegas” after the government refused to give ground on certain demands, such as lifting a nationwide smoking ban inside the complex. — Reuters

Millet News

Myanmar International Programme Schedule

(26-3 - 2017 07:00am – 27 - 3 - 2017 07:00am) MST

07:00 Am News

07:26 Am Paper Products... Plain but Pretty

07:46 Am Your Day’s Mouthpiece

08:03 Am News

08:25 Am The Man and The Elephant

08:56 Am Moe La Wi’s Pompe Melody 7

09:03 Am News

09:27 Am Snow Flakes... Scenic Confluence... To Kazhuri State

09:49 Am Gold from Garbage

10:03 Am News

10:26 Am Reflected Glory

10:49 Am Capable Though Disabled

(11:00 Am - 03:00 Pm) Saturday Repeat (07:00 Am - 11:00 Am)

(08:00 Pm – 07:00 Pm) Today Repeat (07:00 Am - 11:00 Am)

Prime Time

07:03 Pm News

07:26 Pm Travelogue: A Tour in Korea (Ep-5)

07:43 Pm Kyenikhtoryoe: Welcome All

07:49 Pm Today Myanmar: Pristine Nature - Gav Yan Gyi Island

08:03 Pm News

08:25 Pm The Stories of The Great Souls (Mar Mar Aye (Ep-2)

08:55 Pm Danses of Myanmar “Lah Traditional Dance”

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

(11:00 Pm – 03:00 Am) Saturday Repeat (07:00 Am - 11:00 Am)

(08:00 Am – 07:00 Am) Today Repeat (07:00 Am - 11:00 Am)

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

Last double-decker Shinkansen bullet trains to retire in few years

TOKYO — Japan’s last double-decker bullet trains operate on the Tokaido Shinkansen Line connecting Tokyo and Nagano will retire in a few years, a railway operator source said on Saturday.

East Japan Railway Co plans to replace the E4 series, the last remaining two-deck Shinkansen bullet trains, with the single-deck E7 series from fiscal 2018 as part of its effort to improve speed and comfort, according to the source.

The history of double-decker Shinkansen bullet trains started with the 100 series on the Tokaido and Sanyo Shinkansen lines in 1985, and railroad enthusiasts and fans of the trains may be disappointed to see their retirement.

The all-double-deck E4 series, which debuted in 1997, had a seating capacity of 1,634, the largest in the world among high-speed trains, and contributed to the transportation of increasing numbers of commuters in the country.

The E4 series trains were initially operated on the Tokohoku Shinkansen line connecting Tokyo and Aomori, northern Japan, but ended services on that section in 2012. The E7 series, jointly developed by East Japan Railway Co and West Japan Railway Co, will be introduced on the Joetsu Shinkansen Line from fiscal 2018 and the E4 series trains will gradually be replaced with by E7 series, according to the source.

Currently on the Joetsu Shinkansen Line, the E2 series is in service as well, but will be replaced by the E7 after the E4 series, the source said. The E7 series, with luxury “GranClass” cars, has already been introduced on the Hokuriku Shinkansen Line linking Tokyo with the Hokuriku region on the Sea of Japan coast. — Kyodo News

Request for Proposal for Joint Venture in Onshore Pipeline Construction and Maintenance Services with Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprise

Date: March 24, 2017

MOGE is a state-owned enterprise which is responsible for the upstream oil and gas sector under the Ministry of Electricity and Energy (“MOGE”) of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar. MOGE intends to establish a joint venture with an internationally proven service company in onshore pipeline construction and maintenance services. The main goals are to strengthen MOGE’s technological know-how, upgrade its workforce, gain access to financing, adopt international best practices and widen market access.

MOGE had initially launched a public invitation for interested parties to submit a Letter of Expression of Interest (“LEOI”) for a Joint Venture in Onshore Pipeline Construction and Maintenance Services with MOGE in June 2014. MOGE is now launching this Request for Proposal (“RFP”) in the form of an open tender to interested parties, including but not limited to LEOI respondents from the LEOI exercise conducted in June 2014, to submit a response to this Request for Proposal (“the Application”). In this context, MOGE intends to select a suitable internationally proven pipeline construction and maintenance services company as the “Joint Venture Partner” through a step-by-step process: Phase 1: Request for Proposal, Phase 2: Evaluation Process, and Phase 3: Negotiations and Signing.

Interested parties are required to submit an Application no later than 3 PM, local time (Nay Pyi Taw, Republic of the Union of Myanmar), on April 4, 2017 to the following address: MOGE Tender Committee for Joint Venture Establishment in Petroleum Services (Pipeline), Complex 44, MOGE Office, Nay Pyi Taw, Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

The RFP, which includes guidelines for submission, can be purchased by any interested party starting March 24, 2017 (excluding Saturdays, Sundays and Public Holidays) at Complex 44, MOGE Office, Nay Pyi Taw, Republic of the Union of Myanmar for a non-refundable cash payment of five hundred United States Dollars (USD 500). The purchaser will be provided with a payment acknowledgement when payment is made. Only Applications from Applicants that had purchased the RFP document officially from MOGE will be evaluated.

Interested parties who have purchased the RFP are welcome to submit questions regarding the RFP and comments on the draft Joint Venture Agreement attached in its annex. no later than 3 PM, local time (Nay Pyi Taw, Republic of the Union of Myanmar), on April 4, 2017 to which MOGE will duly respond to all questions submitted and issue a revised draft Joint Venture Agreement.

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Ministry of Electricity and Energy
Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprise (MOGE)
Nay Pyi Taw

(For Detailed Schedule – www.myanmaritv.com/schedule)
Vesnina stunned by world number 594 at Miami Open

MIAMI — Elena Vesnina, fresh off her victory at Indian Wells, crashed out of the Miami Open on Friday after a stunning 3-6, 6-4, 7-5 loss to world number 594 Aija Tomljanovic.

The Croatian wild card, who led Russia’s 13th-seeded Vesnina 5-3 in the third set on Thursday when a thunderstorm halted play, returned on Thursday and crashed in on her third match point to secure a spot in the third round.

French Open champion Garbine Muguruza, whose opening match on Thursday was also interrupted, fared better than Vesnina after her night’s sleep.

The sixth-seeded Spaniard, who trailed 46th-ranked American Christina McHale 6-0, 3-2 when play was suspended Thursday, escaped a match point in the tiebreak and emerged with an 0-6, 7-6(6) 6-4 victory.

Vesnina twice double-faulted to present the 23-year-old Croatian with match points after returning on Friday, but Tomljanovic failed to cash in.

Yet another double fault by Vesnina made it 30-40 in the 12th game to put the Russian on the brink of defeat again before a rain shower caused another delay.

This time the wait was worth the while for Tomljanovic. When play resumed the Russian netted a forehand to end it and send the wild card to the third round against Czech Lucie Safarova.

Vesnina, five days removed from the biggest victory of her career at the BNP Paribas Open, committed a dozen double faults in the two hour 12 minute match.

Tomljanovic, after enduring the tension of such an on-again, off-again huge upset, figures to make time to celebrate with her boyfriend Nick Kyrgios, who is playing in the Miami men’s event.

Romanian third seed Simona Halep was pushed to three sets by Japanese teenager Naomi Osaka before advancing 6-4, 2-6, 6-3 while seeds Timea Babos and Roberta Vinci were also eliminated.

France’s Pauline Parmentier overcame Hungarian Babos, the 24th seed, 6-3(1), 6-2, 6-0 three sets, and American qualifier Taylor Townsend beat 25th seed Vinci of Italy 6-3, 6-2.—Reuters

Young England must grow up fast, says Dier

LONDON — Eric Dier said England’s young players “cannot play the age card forever” as they seek to grow into a World Cup campaign and end the country’s familiar under-achievement at big tournaments.

Speaking ahead of Sunday’s Group F qualifier at home to Lithuania, the England midfielder was asked if a largely young and untested group of players might peak in the finals in Russia in 2018.

“We might be quite young but I don’t think we can play the age card forever,” he told reporters on Friday.

“I’m 23 now and I don’t think that’s very young. We’ve all played a lot of games and age isn’t everything,” he added.

“In all internationalists now there’s no easy game and every team sets up to try and stop us, especially here at Wembley. We want to play quick, exciting football and hopefully we won’t be able to handle that. We have to be aggressive with the ball and move it quickly.”

Dier was part of the England team who flopped so badly at Euro 2016, where they were humiliated by 2-1 by Iceland in the round of 16, an exit that led to the resignation of manager Roy Hodgson followed by a familiar inquest at home. “Whenever you’re in an England squad now we will think of that Iceland defeat. It’s a painful reminder but it’s a good lesson for the future,” Dier said.

Hodgson’s replacement Sam Allardyce lasted 67 days in the job before leaving it following a newspaper sting. Former Under-21 boss Gareth Southgate was put in charge, overseeing a creditable 1-0 defeat by Germany in a friendly in Dortmund last Wednesday.

Southgate has indicated that the England captaincy could be rotated in future, and Dier said he would like to be on the roster.

“It’s an ambition of mine, I would love to do that one day. I think I can do that job but it’s up to the manager to decide.”

“Gareth has been around the England set-up for a while. I don’t think he’s eager to change everything. It’s just little things here and there,” Dier added.

“We are a very young team and we want to be part of something with him that’s something special.”—Reuters

AC Milan deal closing pushed to 14 April after further payment

MILAN — Former Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi, owner of Italian storied soccer club AC Milan, has agreed to postpone the closing of the deal by an extra six weeks after being granted a further 100 million euros (87 million pounds) in cash and securities, a source told Reuters.

The accord originally inked in August and expected to be signed off first in December and then in March — is now due to be finalised on 14 April, two sources said.

The Chinese consortium which has committed to buying AC Milan has, in exchange for the delay, paid 50 million euros in cash to Berlusconi’s family investment vehicle Fininvest this week, the first source said. A further 50 million euros have been guaranteed through securities, the source added.

The investors have already paid 200 million euros and are now due to pay a final 220 million euro installment. They have also committed to inject a further 100 million euros into the team.

The full composition of the Chinese group is still unknown and is due to be revealed at the closing.

The agreement values the club at 740 million euros ($780 million) including 220 million euros of debt.—Reuters

Italy’s former Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi attends television talk show “Porta a Porta” (Door to Door) in Rome, Italy, on 30 November 2016. Photo: Reuters