Serious efforts made to ease local people’s difficulties in Rakhine State

LOCAL residents in Rakhine State presented explanations about their sufferings on social difficulties and having to deal with natural disasters almost every year and the requirements of preparedness when they met with Dr Win Myat Aye, Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement yesterday at the township administration offices of Kyaukphyu township.

Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye listened to the reports of the residents with the help of local responsible persons and visited the Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) camps in Kanyintaw to meet IDP people and fulfilled the requirements for moving to newly constructed houses and provided rice, cooking oil, beans and salt as humanitarian assistance.

Local people in the Kyaunktalone IDP Camp were encouraged to participate and work for stability and peace and were told of the plan for socio-economic development and received humanitarian assistance. SEE PAGE 3 >>

Local, foreign media to visit Maungtaw

THE Ministry of Information is working for both foreign and local media groups to make excursions into the Maungtaw District in northern Rakhine State, the site of violent attacks in October on border police outposts that prompted months of security clearance operations. A team of 20 foreign and local media groups led by General Manager U Ye Naing from the Ministry of Information’s News and Periodicals Enterprise will travel to Maungtaw District from 28 March to 1 April. The media groups have received permission to freely investigate the district for news concerning the October attacks, the fleeing and resettlement of families, damage and reconstruction of areas destroyed by fire, the resulting decline of the fishing industry of the district, immigration and trading of merchandise near the border. Foreign and local media made a previous trip to Maungtaw District on 19 December 2016.—MNA

Fishing is one of the sources of livelihood for the people in Rakhine State. PHOTO: REUTERS
Food safety can scale up value at export market

SAFE food production can increase value in the international market, said an official from Myanmar Consumer Affairs Department.

The products with no guarantee of safety can be placed only on the raw market, resulting in a lower than prevailing market price. In addition, there is no firm market for those products.

Food safety is positively related to the foreign market as foreign consumers demand only the food systematically produced from farm to production.

Myanmar exports the fishery products to foreign countries as raw goods. The technical and financial assistance from the foreign countries are required to proceed to safe food production system, said U Tun Sein, the secretary of Myanmar Fish Paste, Dried Fish and Fish Sauce Producers Association.

Fifty per cent of local food products face difficulties when they are placed on the export market due to the lack of adequacy and weakness in food safety. Some are rejected to be placed on the market because some local businessmen follow the simple way rather than pursuing the systematic methods in manufacturing process, said U Maung Maung, the secretary of Myanmar Consumer Union.

Exports from fishery sector fetched over US$500million this FY

THE export of fishery products as of 10th March this Fiscal Year hit US$525.986million, which is an increase of US$93.929million from that of the similar point last FY, according to statistics released by the Commerce Ministry.

The fisheries exports attained over US$668mln in 2011-2012, over US$493mln in 2012-2013 and over US$341mln in 2013-2014. The figure then declined slightly, but the export value was a bit up in 2015-2016 FY with over US$469mln.

Erratic weather adversely affected fisheries production and fish resources, and offshore fishing does not look very promising. As a result of this, to boost the export volume, the fish farming sector is being prioritised and concerted efforts are needed to be exerted by all the stakeholders in the fisheries export supply chain, including the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation and Myanmar Fishery Federation (MFF).

Those engaged in Myanmar’s fish and prawn farming need to switch over to a modern farming method from the traditional one. Adopting modern farming techniques can help prevent the fish from infectious disease, increase the growth rate of fish and prawn and help clean the farming lakes, according to MFF.

To control the quality of lake water, the farmers should also conduct testing at the laboratories of the Fisheries department.

Saltwater and freshwater prawn farming businessmen are being faced with difficulties. Out of 27 hatcheries for freshwater prawns, only four are left due to the difficulty in reproduction process.

Similarly in saltwater farming, only some prawn farmers are able to farm the saltwater prawns and they are faced with difficulty in maintaining the gene.

Only 40,000 tonnes of freshwater and saltwater prawns can be produced in the country and the prawns are being imported from Thailand, it is learnt. — Ko Htet

Chin Shwe Haw border trade up by over US$200million

THE value of trade through Chin Shwe Haw border trade camps as of 10th March this Fiscal Year 2016-2017 soared to US$ 539.834mln which is up by over US$ 206.023mln than that of similar point of last FY, according to the statistics of the Commerce Ministry.

Nevertheless, the total value of border trade between Myanmar and China as of 10th March in the current fiscal year showed a slight decrease of over US$2million against that of last FY as the trade value via Muse border trade camp which performed the largest trade out of all 16 border camps significantly declined by nearly US$310mln, according to the statistics of the Commerce Ministry.

Myanmar-China trade value from 1st April to 10th March this FY reached US$5,452.953mln aiong whereas that in the similar period of last FY hit US$5,425.518mln.

Myanmar and China trade is flowing in and out of these border trade camps: Muse, Lweje, Chin Shew Haw, Kan Pike Tee and Keng Tung. Out of the five, Muse and Keng Tung border trade camps were found to be almost equal in trade value, whereas the remaining three trade camps managed to bolster trade. The trade values as of 10th March this FY were US$4.638mln in Muse, US$179.421mln in Lweje, US$539.834mln in Chin Shwe Haw, US$90.359mln in Kan Pike Tee and US$4.357mln in Keng Tung respectively, according to the Commerce Ministry.

In the same period, the trade values via 16 border camps, Muse, Lweje, Kanpiktee, Chinshinhaw, Tamu, Reed, Myawady, Tachileik, Kengtung, Kawthaung, Myeik, Hteepee, Mawtaung, Mauce, Sittway and Maungtaw totaled US$6.788mln, with an export value of US$4.218mln and an import value of US$2.570mln. The figure is up by US$219.931mln from that of last FY, it is learnt. —Mon Mon

YSX to extend trading time to four times a day in April

TRADING time on Yangon Stock Exchange (YSX) will be extended to four times a day starting in April, according to the YSX Anniversary Forum held on 25th March at YSX office.

Currently, stock trading on YSX is opened twice a day at 11am and 1am. The extension of trading time aims to gain a more vibrant stock market.

If this plan brings a fruitful result, the stock trading time will possibly extend to six times per day, with the bylaws being drawn up, said U Yin Zaw Myo, the managing director of Yangon Stock Exchange.

The meetings will be held to set the timings of stock trading and the result will be submitted to the commission to approve, it is learnt.

The details of trading times will be publicised and disclosed through the YSX website.

Present at this forum were U Yin Zaw Myo; the MD of YSX, U Thet Tun Oo; the executive manager of YSX, U Ye Min Aung; the vice chair of Union of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI), U Aye Thiha; CEO of Thiha Group of Companies and U Thu rein Aung, the managing Director of MAEX Public Co., Ltd. —200
Vice President’s short excursion to Nanshan Temple

VICE President U Myint Swe, who is in China to attend the Boao Forum for Asia, travelled from Boao to Sanya by motor vehicle and visited the Nanshan Buddhist temple yesterday morning. Officials escorted the Vice President and briefed him about the historical significance of the temple, which was built on April 12, 1988 to commemorate two thousand years of Buddhism in China.

The Vice President then departed around noon from Sanya International Airport with Myanmar Ambassador to China U Thit Linn Ohn and Sanya City’s Deputy Mayor and officials bidding him farewell and seeing him off.

The Vice President and entourage arrived at Nay Pyi Taw International Airport in the evening and was welcomed by Union Ministers Li-General Sein Win and U Pe Zin Htun, Deputy Ministers, Chinese Embassy envoy Ms. Li Xiaoyan and other officials.—Myanmar News Agency

Clinical partners sought to offer care to workers

PLANS are underway to join more private clinics in Yangon and Mandalay to offer better healthcare to workers with social security numbers, said U Maung Maung Aye, deputy director of the Social Security Board.

The SSB is now searching private clinics, Sayeikkyan, Shoeleinban Industrial Zone and Dagon Myothit (South) for willing clinics. The confisicated WY tablets have an estimated value of Ks3,600 Lakhs. The confisicated individuals with social security numbers will be Ks3,600.

Over 180,000 WY tablets seized

NAVY troops patrolling in Maungdaw stopped and confiscat-ed a boat containing psychotropic drugs yesterday. As the navy pat-trol approached the opening of the Ushaykya creek around 10pm, they sighted a suspicious-looking boat. After signaling the boat to come closer for inspection, the boat sailed away and was found at 10:40 pm 2,000 meters to the west of Ywetyangtaung creek. The boat measured 20 by 3 feet and was deserted. After inspecting the odd-looking bag, officials discovered 180,000 tablets of the WY drug with an estimated value of Ks 3,600 Lakhs. The confisicated drugs have been transferred to Maungdaw Township’s Drug Enforcement Squad.—Myanmar News Agency

Vice President U Myint Swe lights incense at Nanshan Temple. Photo:MNA

Finalists chosen for AFC Women’s Asian Cup qualification

TWENTY-THREE finalists from the Myanmar Women’s National Football Team have been selected to compete in the 2018 Women’s Asian Cup organised by the Asian Football Confederation.

For Myanmar, Mya Phu Ngon, May Zin Nwe and Zar Zar Myint were selected as goalkeepers. Khin Than Wai, Nge Ngii Hwwe, Zin Mar Tun, Loe Lai Hlaing, Zin Mar Win, Phu Pwint Khaiing, Wai Wai Aung and Aye Aye Moe will perform as defenders midfielders, while Khin Mala Tun, San San Maw, Naw Ar Lo Wah Phaw, Khin Mo Mo Tun, Rupa Khaiing, Aye Moe Myat, May Thu Kyaw and Hla Uin Win as midfields, and Yi Yi Oo, Khin Moe Wai, Win Thein Gi Tun and July Kyaw, as strikers.

The Myanmar team is in group D together with Vietnam, Iran, Syria and Singapore. The team will compete in the qualification between 3 and 11 April in Vietnam. The Vietnam team may be a strong opponent for Myanmar.

Myanmar footballers will play against Iran on 3 April, Syria on 7 April, Singapore on 9 April and the host Vietnam on 11 April. Those players are now undergoing training for the upcoming competitions.

The AFC Women’s Asian Cup is a biennial competition in women’s football for national teams in the AFC and it is scheduled to be held in Jordan. The top three finishers of the last AFC Women’s Cup qualified automatically and do not have to undergo qualifying.—Nyi Myat Thawda

Police to educate public for reduction of crime during Thingyan 2017

MEMBERS of the Myanmar Police Force are attempting to reduce the outbreak of crime across Myanmar before Thingyan, according to police.

Police officials performed drug-risk prevention procedures, including the banning of the selling of any sexual stimulant drugs and educating the public about crime prevention and mitigation.

Police from Pyinnmana police station and No. 1 police station investigated the pharmaceutical shops for narcotics and educated the regional people accordingly.—Myanmar Police Force

Serious efforts ...

>> From page 1

The Union Minister met with social organisations, elders of the community and local residents in the hall of the Yanbya administration office to support the financial aid requirements before visiting the IDP camp in Ward 6, where he discussed resettlement and provided food rations. The Union Minister and his team also spoke with community leaders and charity organisations and urged them to come up with solutions for the financial difficulties faced by local people.

The Union Minister also met with the Rakhae State Chief Minister and work committee members at the state government office in Sittway to discuss issues of development of the socio-economic situation and resettlement. He also asked the local residents about their views on resettlement matters.

The Union minister provided cash to locals to renovate the library and its facilities in villages in Myintga and Kyaukpyin village in Pauktauw township before going to the Smart Garment Factory in Sittway, where he observed the tailoring work being done for school dresses ordered by the Ministry of Education.

The Garment Factory was established by the Rakhae State Government and Minister of Social Welfare Relief and Resettlement and provided job opportunities to local residents and members of the Rakhae tribe. More than 100 people are employed at the factory.—Myanmar News Agency

Police officials performed drug-risk prevention procedures, including the banning of the selling of any sexual stimulant drugs and educating the public about crime prevention and mitigation.

Similarly, local police from Bago Region and Mandalay Region also investigated the pharmaceutical shops for narcotics and educated the regional people accordingly.—Myanmar Police Force

Over 180,000 WY tablets seized

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Carrie Lam wins HK leadership race

HONG KONG — Carrie Lam, the former No 2 in the Hong Kong government, was on Sunday elected the next chief executive of the semiautonomous territory by a pro-Beijing election committee, becoming its first female leader. Lam received 777 votes of the 1,194-member Election Committee, easily beating her two rivals — former financial secretary John Tsang, who received 365 votes, and retired judge Woo Kwok-hing, who had just 21. The total valid vote count was 1,163, according to the returning officer.

Lam will take office for a five-year term on 1 July. Her official appointment by Beijing’s is expected to come within days.

A career civil servant since 1980, Lam, 59, has built a solid reputation for her competence. She previously served as the chief secretary for administration under Chief Executive Leung Chun-ying, who decided not to seek re-election.

Lam was widely seen as Beijing’s favoured candidate to lead the former British colony, which returned to Chinese rule two decades ago.

Hundreds of people from the pro-democracy camp critical of what they called the “small-circle election” and others from a handful of pro-China organizations in support of the election demonstrated outside the voting venue where a heavy police presence was seen — Kyodo News

Carrie Lam receives flowers after being elected Hong Kong’s next chief executive by a pro-Beijing election committee on 26 March 2017. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

DPRK army warns US, South Korea against “special operation” targeting leadership

PYONGYANG — The military of the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (DPRK) on Sunday warned the United States and South Korea against any attempt to stage a “special operation” to hit its leadership and military installations, including the nuclear arms base.

The General Staff of the Korean People’s Army said in a statement carried by the Korean Central News Agency that it is ready to “mercilessly smash the enemy’s moves with its own style of special operation and preemptive attack, now that the sinister aim of the US imperialists and the South Korean War maniacs’ ‘special operation’ to hurt the dignity of the DPRK’s supreme leadership has become clear, and they disclosed even the dangerous attempt at ‘preemptive attack.’”

It accused the United States and South Korea of being “busy staging madcap joint military drills for aggression involving more than 300,000 troops, US nuclear carrier Carl Vinson and B-1B and other nuclear strategic assets.”

“The situation has reached an extreme phase which should not be overlooked,” the General Staff said in the statement.

The statement urged Washington and Seoul to think twice about the catastrophic consequences to be entailed by their outrageous military actions.

On 13 March, combined forces of South Korea and the United States kicked off the annual command post exercise code-named Key Resolve, following the launch on 1 March of the joint field training drill with the code-name of Foal Eagle. The DPRK has denounced the joint military exercises as a dress rehearsal for northward invasion.

The US-South Korea commands will exercise a so-called Operation Plan 5015 during the Key Resolve drill, according to local media reports. The operational plan includes preemptive strikes against the DPRK’s nuclear and missile facilities when signs of attack are detected. —Xinhua

Bangladesh bomb blasts kills six, scores injured

DHAKA — At least six people, including two police officials, were killed and scores wounded in two bomb blasts in Bangladesh on Saturday near a militant hideout that was raided by commandos, police said.

The explosions in the northeastern district of Sylhet came a day after a suicide bomber blew himself up at a security checkpoint near the country’s main airport in an attack claimed by Islamic State.

“At least six people including two police official were killed in two explosions, one near the hideout and another in front of the building,” said Sylhet police spokesman Zedan Al Musa.

More than 40 people were wounded, several critically, he added. About a dozen army and police personnel were among the injured.

Islamic State claimed responsibility “for a bombing on Bangladeshi forces in Sylhet”, the SITE monitoring service said, citing the militant group’s news agency Amaq.

Army commandos had stormed the hideout, which belonged to a domestic Islamist group that has pledged allegiance to the Islamic State, and was blamed for a cafe attack in July last year in which 22 people were killed, most of them foreigners.

On Saturday, commandos rescued all 76 people trapped inside the five-storey building for more than a day in an operation that was still underway.

The raid came after a string of suicide attacks on security bases this month.

A forensic report confirmed that Friday’s attack was a suicide blast that was the third incident involving explosives in the capital, Dhaka, in a week.

Islamic State and al Qaeda have made competing claims over killings of foreigners, liberals and members of religious minorities in Bangladesh, a mostly Muslim country of 160 million people.

The government has consistently ruled out the presence of such groups, blaming domestic militants instead. — Reuters

Signs detected of possible N Korean preparation for nuclear test

WASHINGTON — Satellite surveillance of North Korea’s nuclear test site suggests Pyongyang may be preparing to test another nuclear device, a US institute monitoring the site said on Saturday. “Commercial satellite imagery of the Punggye-ri nuclear test site indicates the presence of possibly four or five vehicles or storage lot, according to the institute.

While not conclusive, the institute said the presence of vehicles could indicate North Korea is preparing to conduct a sixth nuclear test, as they “could be involved in the installation of instrumentation or even a nuclear device.”

Satellite imagery also shows construction materials, likely sand and aggregate, piled in a nearby storage lot, according to the institute.

The think tank said the materials, when mixed with concrete, may be used to prevent nuclear materials from escaping into the atmosphere following the underground detonation of a nuclear bomb.

According to recent US media reports, North Korea is in the final stages of conducting a nuclear test in the next few days at the earliest.

North Korea conducted five nuclear tests between 2006 and 2016, with the last test occurring last 9 September. — Kyodo News

People participate in Pinkathon in Kolkata, India

People participate in Pinkathon in Kolkata, India on 26 March, 2017. Pinkathon is a women’s running event aiming to encourage women’s health and fitness and create awareness for breast cancer. PHOTO: XINHUA

People participate in Pinkathon in Kolkata, India on 26 March 2017. — Kyodo News

Photo: Xinhua

Photo: Reuters

Photo: Aman Dasgupta

Photo: CNN

Photo: CNN
A year of nation-building endeavours through the education promotion programs

News: Thoon Wathan
Photo: May Oo Moe

The education sector is an important yardstick in measuring the development of a nation. The current government since its assumption of the office has been striving with utmost efforts for the education promotion of the country, introducing a system in which advanced learning is provided from the pre-school to high school and offering technological and professional studies. I interviewed Union Minister for Education Dr. Myo Thein Gyi in connection with the ministry’s accomplishments during the one-year period.

Q: Please elaborate on the adoption of policies for educational reforms during the one-year period.
A: The Education Ministry made education reforms with the aim of promoting children and youths’ access to education and sharpening the learning skills of students. Its one-year efforts were within the framework of 2010 education objectives of the national education strategy. Nine different areas have also become other fundamental factors. In this regard, we make plans for upgrading two-mile radius in difficult terrains and three-mile radius in plain regions where measuring the entrance examination is easy. The ministry upgraded 3312 schools this year and set the basic education high schools are up and coming 1800 new teachers and 9.07 million students are attending schools together with their near-700000 handicapped students.

Q: We have witnessed the substitution of the outdated curriculum with the advanced ones by the ministry. Any comment about this sir?
A: We have conducted refresher courses for teachers to organize their kindergarten pupils to do writing skills were distributed for students who would attend the first standard in 2017-2018 academic year. We are planning to distribute first standard text books in the coming AY after compiling them in cooperation with JICA. Higher level teaching courses were also conducted for teachers.

Q: The Education Ministry made education reforms with the aim of promoting children and youths’ access to education and sharpening the learning skills of students.

A year of nation-building endeavours through the education promotion programs

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Q: Please explain me about the support made for students sitting for the matriculation examination this AY.

A: This AY, the matriculation examination began on 8 March. Over 714000 students sat for the examination, up over 80000 from the previous AY. Arrangements were made for the blind, the deaf and the dumb, the disabled and those who face problems for various reasons to sit for the examination as others. About ten minutes were spared to explain the examination rules to the deaf through the sign language.

Q: What are the ethnic languages that will be taught at schools under the supervision of region.

A: We have adopted in the syllabus for the four-year degree colleges in promoting the teaching qualifications. We have started the teacher mentoring program to enhance the qualification of teachers within a year. Qualification enhancement workshops were held to improve the knowledge of teachers and the Teacher Competence Framework has already been drawn.

Q: Please share with me some knowledge about the life-long non-formal education.

A: We have adopted continuous learning programs for those who cannot attend classes for certain reasons and those who have to leave school without completing their studies. The ministry formed the new body under the name “Non-formal and Life-Long Learning Department” in August last year. Last November we launched the all Kayah literacy campaign. And in January this year, we launched the nine-township literacy campaign in Taunggyi District, Shan State.

Q: What is your accomplishment in the vocational training program.

A: The Education Ministry has opened government technical high schools, technical institutes and technological colleges totaling 59 where over 2000 teachers are giving lectures to over 18000 students.

With the aim of ensuring greater access to vocational education and producing skilled labour for the country, the ministry opened the Yangon Vocational Training Institute-NVTI, and Singapore-Myanmar Vocational Training Institute-SMVTI, where short-term vocational education based courses are conducted. During the first-year term of our government we take back the government technical institute from under the Yangon Development Committee-YCDC. We are planning to open regular classes as usual.

Q: What are the Education Ministry’s implementations for students of institutions of higher learning?

A: The Higher Education Sector has 176 institutions of higher learning. Of them 133 are under the administration of Education Ministry. At the institutions 21000 facilities are giving lectures to 835000 students.

As to broaden the learning opportunities of the institutions of higher learning, Haka college was opened last year. In addition, Taungup college was upgraded into a degree college. A new building for Toungoo college was erected at a new location under JICA assistance. Those are all the educational developments of the government in its one year in office.

About half the population of the students of the higher education sector is attending the distance education universities.

The existing hostels can accommodate only a small portion of the regular students.

We are aiming at building more hostels for ensuring safe and secure learning for all students, promoting higher learning opportunities and creating a worthy university education environment in the country.

The ministry has been working a lot to realize this goal.

The Education Ministry in cooperation with parents, people, partner organizations, people, MPs, regions and state governments and the relevant departments is striving for the emergence of professionally qualified and skilled graduate youths for the country.

## Perforances in One-Year Period

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Teacher</th>
<th>Student</th>
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</table>

- **Institution of higher learning**
  - Student: 46
  - Faculty: 1208

- **Tech/com**
  - Student: 74853
  - Faculty: 68
  - 0504

### Ethnic language, literature and culture associations have compiled syllabus for 49 ethnic languages that will be taught at schools under the supervision of region.
Tokyo — Support for Prime Minister Shinzo Abe has not been significantly shaken by the scandal over alleged influence-peddling in a cut-price land deal, even though a vast majority of respondents to a new Kyodo News poll remain doubtful about his version of events.

The approval rating for his Cabinet slipped only to 52.4 per cent, down just 3.3 percentage points from a survey on 11-12 March, according to the nationwide telephone survey conducted on Saturday and Sunday.

Yet 82.5 per cent of respondents said the government has not done enough to dispel doubts concerning the sale of government land at a huge discount for construction of a school in Osaka, or allegations that Abe did not intervene to prevent the school operator, the results released Sunday showed.

The disapproval rate for Abe’s Cabinet stood at 32.5 per cent.

Only 10.7 per cent believe the government has provided convincing explanations, while 62.6 per cent were “not convinced” with Abe’s denial of any involvement by himself or his wife Akie in the controversial land deal. Just 28.7 per cent said they were somewhat sure there had been neither any involvement.

Abe on Friday again dismissed accusations that he had donated 1 million yen ($8,900) to nationalist school operator Moritomo Gakuen, after Yasunori Kagoike, its head, repeated the accusation while testifying as a sworn witness in parliament the previous day.

The poll found that 88.7 per cent said they do not understand the explanation given by Abe, while 74.4 per cent said they were convinced.

Some two weeks after Kim Jong Nam’s assassination, with the aim of repairing frayed ties after the North’s then ambassador Kang Chol sparked an uproar by accusing Malaysia of colluding with “hostile forces” like South Korea to tarnish Pyongyang’s image over the murder.

Two female suspects, an Indonesian and a Vietnamese, have been charged with murdering Kim Jong Nam using the highly toxic nerve agent VX, a banned chemical weapon. Authorities, however, believe that four North Koreans who fled the country on 13 February, the same day of the attack at Kuala Lumpur International Airport, are the masterminds. Another three North Korean accomplices are believed to be hiding in the North Korean Embassy including Hyon Kwang Song, 44, the second secretary of the embassy.

In addition, federal police chief Khalid Abu Bakar said last week that authorities believe that more North Koreans, including “an important person,” are involved. 

Abe’s first mission to Kuala Lumpur ended miserably, with Malaysia expelling Kang Chol after the latter refused to retract his remarks and apologize. Pyongyang has even reacted swiftly, banning the nine Malaysian diplomats, including the half-brother of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, who said the body sent to North Korea was conclusively identified via DNA samples from his son.

During his previous trip, Ri had also sought to have the body sent to North Korea. On 5 March, both Kang Chol and Ri left Kuala Lumpur.

Two days later, Pyongyang imposed an exit ban on the nine Malaysian citizens living there who are mostly embassy staff and their families. Malaysia reacted swiftly, banning the hundreds of North Koreans working here from leaving the country.

Just when it looked like Miyazawa would cut off ties established over 40 years ago with Pyongyang, the government announced that it would hold talks instead with North Korea to resolve the issues. A flurry of activity has been noted in the past two days as Ri was spotted back in Kuala Lumpur.

There were rumors that both sides have reached a decision on the remains of Kim Jong Nam paving the way for the 45-year-old’s body to be given to Pyongyang. When asked about the rumors, Subramaniam merely said, “I don’t know as I was told a decision will be made soon. Most likely, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak will make the announcement.”

Kuala Lumpur — Malaysia and South Korea said they will hold talks in connection with last month’s murder of Kim Jong Nam, the estranged half-brother of North Korea’s leader Kim Jong Un.

The announcement will be made “very soon.” The Malaysian police said the body of Kim Jong Nam was conclusively identified via DNA samples from his son.

Four police officers, including the investigating officer of the murder, the Selangor state police chief and Selangor prosecution team officer entered the embassy in the morning and were there for two and a half hours, the report said. They were given permission to enter by the embassy.

Kyodo News

Kyodo News
The brilliant Performance of Tatmadaw in Nyaung Yan Period

Write for us

We appreciate your feedback and contributions. If you have any comments or suggestions, please feel free to contact us at info@globalnewlightmyanmar.com with your name and contact details.

Due to technical limitations, we are unable to publish "Letter to the Editor" that you have received or email. Should you submit a letter to be published, kindly ensure that your letter is written in English.

Let us set up genuine People’s contribution!

Khin Maung On

It may be said that the most powerful force in any country is people’s power and the iron will and starch of hearts of people. In all the affairs of the country, especially in politics of the country, the power of the people is of vital importance above all, currently. Hence, we need to set the willing and wherewithal participation and contribution of all of our ethnic nationalities for gaining Peace. To mobilize the people to get their wholehearted support, it is necessary for us to take risks and sacrifices not only for the present but also for our future. We must believe and trust that the present government will perform the above-mentioned tasks. The People and the Government should be seen as two separate entities with the government performing the task of ruling the people. It is up to us to determine who is the body administering people’s affairs on behalf of the people, and to urge them to perform the tasks of ruling the people, so that people’s forces of the country may be strengthened.

Looking back at the historical background, we have seen throughout the history of our country, we could change the country. Despite the depth of political knowledge, people can assess the performance and a reality in a way to the ruling people. People in our country, Myanmar, had been under various kinds of rule. Accordingly, this was the basis of the country’s very well. That is, it is knowing well that who took risks, sacrificed and devoted themselves for the people, and to which extent. Now that we have a representative government of the country, we should have the opportunity to decide the country’s affairs, and to determine the direction of the national life, which would be no different from the history they them- selves will write. After gaining Independence, people’s affairs were to be taken care of by the need of people, and it is essential for the government in the body performing people’s affairs, so that people’s forces of the country may be strengthened.

Or we put is lesson for our present and our guide- line. We cannot achieve the 72nd anniversary of the Independence of the People and the Government to be continued with people’s contribution and people’s power.

Maha Sudhamma Jotika Ddha Sitha,
Nyaungdaw, Sagaing Region

Hailing the 72nd anniversary of Armed Forces Day 27-3-2017

Don’t miss any important news in the recruitment of soldiers during the time of the government.

Best news entry is playing an important role in the recruitment of soldiers during the time of the government.

Mae Hla Maung Min

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi

We recommend that you visit our website for more updates and news.

In the中华民国 110年1月25日 1307年1月25日的年会

Omar Qureshi

Dear Sir,

I am writing to express my concern regarding the recent events in your country. The situation has become increasingly tense and unstable, with reports of violence and civil unrest.

As a concerned citizen, I urge your government to take immediate action to address the root causes of these problems. It is essential to promote dialogue, reconciliation, and cooperation among all parties to resolve disputes peacefully.

I would appreciate it if you could provide an update on the current situation and any ongoing initiatives to stabilize the region.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely yours,

Omar Qureshi

Address: 123 Main Street, Anytown, USA

Phone: (+1) 123-456-7890

Email: omarqureshi@anycompany.com
Fights erupt at pro-Trump rally on California beach

HUNTINGTON BEACH, Calif — Supporters of President Donald Trump holding a rally on a popular southern California beach clashed with counter-protesters on Saturday and four people were arrested, law enforcement said.

Multiple fights broke out and at least one Trump supporter was doused with pepper spray when pro-Trump demonstrators marching along Bolsa Chica State Beach encountered a small group opposed to the Republican president who had gathered to denounce the rally.

Four counter-protesters were arrested, three for illegal use of pepper spray and one for assault and battery, Kevin Pearsall, a spokesman for the California State Parks Police said on Saturday evening.

The fights appeared to start in the early afternoon when around a dozen anti-Trump protesters dressed in all black refused to move from a bike path to allow a larger group of pro-Trump supporters taking part in the Make America Great Again rally to pass. The confrontation escalated into a fight with more skirmishes quickly breaking out.

At least one person was pepper-sprayed by an anti-Trump protester, Pearsall said. Park police estimated that 2,000 Trump supporters flocked to the stretch of coastline located south of the oceanside community of Huntington Beach. Around 20 counter-protesters attended, Pearsall said.

Known as Surf City, USA, Huntington Beach is located some 40 miles (64 km) south of Los Angeles.

Video footage from social media uploaded to the Los Angeles Times website showed a chaotic scene with men fighting in the sand and a group of around 20 Trump supporters, some carrying Trump flags, chasing a man in a black mask away from the beach and on to a freeway. The man was stopped by members of the California Highway Patrol, the newspaper said.

The masked man had used pepper spray on a female rally organizer and was set upon by a group of Trump supporters, the newspaper reported. Demonstrations denouncing the Trump administration have drawn hundreds of thousands since he took office in January. Smaller rallies have been staged across the country in support of Trump. On Saturday, Trump praised his supporters.

“Thanks you for all of the Trump Rallies today. Amazing support. We will all MAKE AMERICA GREAT AGAIN!” he said in a message on Twitter.

—Reuters

France’s Le Pen says euro exit ‘wouldn’t be chaos’

PARIS — French presidential candidate Marine Le Pen sought on Sunday to reassure voters concerned over her plans to withdraw the country from the euro zone, saying it “wouldn’t be chaos” and she would seek “well-prepared” talks with other European Union countries.

Opinion polls show the anti-EU, anti-immigrant National Front (FN) leader qualifying for the 23 April first round of the presidential election but losing the 7 May run-off to centrist Emmanuel Macron.

“Le Pen said in an interview published in Le Parisien newspaper on Sunday.

“It is also a serious hindrance to job creation because it triggered a loss in competitiveness for the French economy.”

However, some 72 per cent of French voters oppose a return to the franc, an Ifop poll published in Le Figaro newspaper showed.

With previous opinion polls also showing such opposition, Le Pen has said for months that if elected she would not abruptly withdraw from the euro but instead hold a referendum after six months of negotiation with the rest of the EU on a range of issues including leaving the border-free Schengen agreement and reducing the EU to a loose cooperative of nations.

She specified in the Le Parisien interview that talks on the euro would come at the end of those negotiations, after Germany’s general election in September.

“It must be done in a rational, well-prepared way,” she told Le Parisien.

“I don’t want chaos. With- in the negotiation calendar I want to carry out ... the euro would be the last step because I want to wait for the outcome of elections in Germany in the fall before renegotiating it.”

The Ifop poll showed that, unlike voters overall, a majority of FN voters back a euro exit.—Reuters

Egyptian court jails 56 over migrant boat shipwreck — judicial sources

CAIRO — An Egyptian court sentenced 56 people to prison on Sunday over the capsizing of a migrant boat that left over 200 people dead last year, judicial sources said.

The defendants were sentenced to jail terms ranging from seven to 13 years, the sources said, and one other person was acquitted.

The boat capsized off the Mediterranean coast on 21 September near the village of Burg Rashid. Rescue workers and fishermen rescued at least 169 people, but at least 202 people died. —Reuters
PERFORMANCES IN ONE-YEAR PERIOD

Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population

Naing Lin Kyi

Performance in one year

A worker, no matter where he works, locally or overseas, will have the difficulties to get through the problems pertaining to rights of labor and other related affairs without the help of Labour Organizations or Agencies and labour laws.

The Ministry of Labor, Immigration and Population, in implementing the creation of more job opportunities and other labour affairs that can lead to the people’s benefits, carried out the works in two divisions, labour affairs and immigration works.

There are 4 departments, Labour Department, Social Security Board, Factories and Labour Law Inspection Department, Labor Registration Department and Population Department to execute the affairs related to immigration affairs.

Wages

The ministry has laid the policy in carrying out the effective use of labour force for the development of the country, to place the able workers to a suitable work and consequently to alleviate the poverty, the perpetual production of the disciplined, capable skilled workers, the development of human resources, to boost the socio-economic status of workers by creating more jobs and to create safe and peaceful work atmosphere for the workers.

Validated and Precise Population

The ministry also carries out to prescribe the law that suits to the prevailing condition and protect the rights of workers, to bring out the social security project truly beneficial to the workers, to cooperate with local and international organizations in doing worker’s affairs, to set the lowest wage of the workers, the national registration work and foreigner controlling works in line with the existing law and regulations, to get the validated and updated population that are crucial in drawing national planning and national security and management.

Moreover, the ministry is finding the job opportunities both inside and outside the country, training the workers to be more skilled, holding job fairs where employers and employees can meet and it tries to be able to issue skill certificate, establishes the skill inspection departments and trains the inspectors, collects the data and make statistics on number of workers, wages, working time, number of factories and work shops in industrial zones.

Determining the lowest wage

The ministry is trying to prescribe the Ministry of Human Resource Development Index that includes settling the lowest wage of the workers and for them to be able to enjoy the rights and indices of 2014-15 and 2015-16 years. Holding the seminars for raising knowledge pertaining to eradication of forced labour and freedom of forming labour organizations, revising, amending and redrafting the existing labour laws and finally supervising the signing contract of job appointment.

The seminars and workshops to raise the knowledge of both employers and employees, to develop small and medium scale enterprise and workers of daily wages and work shops for labour law were also held at industrial zones to make the workers understand the labour law. Moreover the ministry finds the ways and systems of networking that provide chances for the employers and job seekers to meet, discuss and negotiate for the jobs.

Drawing the By-Law

The ministry is drawing the Labour Law and By-Law in line with the prevailing political system. Some laws and by-laws were revoked as it was not compatible with the prevailing system.

Re-entry Visa

The ministry has also undertook the works relating with the supervision and checking on the activities of foreigners staying in the country, taking care the entry and re-entry visas of foreigners, the issuing of e-visa for the visa on Arrival for the foreigners, extending the stay visa in accordance with the existing rules and regulations and issuing multiple re-entry visa for foreigners, taking relevant actions or penalize the law-breaking foreigners and deporting the convicts after the term of imprisonment, issuing of National Registration Card to those who apply to re-register the Myanmar citizen in line with the rules and regulations and keeping the record of foreigners and doing the preliminary registration works.

Employment

The ministry also carried out for the workers to secure the jobs through the Labour Exchange Management System. It can seek 183420 jobs for the workers within April 2016 and January 2017.

Displaced Workers

The government is managing for displaced workers to be able to secure the labour rights and human rights, to get protection from illegal abuses employing the labour law of the respective country and to get connection with their families.

Collecting and managing the data on the migration and development of workers, taking the news of foreign labour market, signing MOU for sending Myanmar workers with Thailand and Republic of Korea were carried out by the Ministry of labour, Immigration and Population.

As a result 5981 workers could be sent to Korea between January 2016 and February 2017.

Without Legal Documents

The ministry could bring 31791 Myanmar illegal workers in Malaysia into the legal fold by issuing passport within February 2014 to July 2016. It is in the process to sign a MOU between Myanmar and Japan to give technological training to Myanmar workers in Japan as part of the program to produce apprentice workers and to protect those apprentice workers. Between January 2016 and February 2017, 161256 Myanmar workers were sent abroad with legalized passport and visa. 12 Myanmar Rehabilitation Centers for displaced workers were established in 12 townships to manage for the safety of displaced workers.

Assessment on the skill

Certificate of National Level Working Skill (Level-1) could be issued to 727 workers who could pass the assessment test level 1 of preliminary planning of skill assessment on 11 types of works under the program implemented by NSSA. Now in the 3rd phase 251 workers of pass level 1 and 2 and multiple 16 types of works and the certificates were issued at certificate awarding ceremony at UMFCCI in Yangon.

Union Minister U Thein Swe observes immigration process at Yangon International Airport on 30-10-2016. PHOTO: MNA

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PERFORMANCES IN ONE-YEAR PERIOD

Workers who wish to work abroad can get free admission to steering course on overseas jobs conducted at the skill training schools of Yangon and Mandalay starting from January of this year.

The course includes culture, environment and geography of the countries of destination, some facts of human trafficking, labour laws, safety of the work place, safety in transfer, facts about immigration, employment agreement contract, contacts for the help, monetary management and departure procedure. To turn out well qualified human resource and perpetual availability of skilled labour that are crucial to the development of the country is one of the main responsibilities of the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population. The ministry in cooperation with other 18 ministries including Ministry of Education could churn out 29854 workers who finished the training course on basic welding, supervising, inspection, repairing air-con and Korean language between the period of April 2016 and February of 2017.

Social Security

A worker, to be able to work needs a good health. Social Security Board of the ministry takes the responsibility in taking care of the health of the workers by upgrading the hospitals, replenishing the medicines and giving medical treatment to the workers. From April 2016 to January 2017, 71028 workers were given medical treatment at 3 Worker Hospitals and medical team visited the worksites and treated the ill workers. 35704 patients took the treatment at 96 dispensaries opened by Social Security Board, 5691 took treatment at hospitals. 1606 of times of mobile health educating and health-caring trips by MUU vehicle could have made treatment to 34635 workers working in 1340 work sites.

Social Security Dispensary was opened at Salingyi Township, Yaminabin District, Sagaing Region in September 2016 and gave health care in cooperation with private clinics. In Mingladon Townships where there are numerous workers covering the social security insurance, Social Security Board in cooperation with Care Well Medical Co., Ltd. opened a medical care unit on 4th march.

From the time when Social Security law was ratified in 2012 to January 2017, 697781 Social Security Registration Card (Smart Card) and 512995 temporary cards were issued. During one year period of the incumbent government 41055 Smart Cards and temporary cards 288315 had been already issued. More efficient e-Smart Card containing micro-processor chips is now under way to be issued.

The Union Minister confirmed that there were 248 locals and 371 foreigners who were erased from the blacklist, and that scrutinising is underway to remove further people.

The principal duty of the Social Security Board is to register the works entitled to registration according to the law, to register the workers, to collect the contribution money and to give medical treatments to workers. By contributing 5% (3% from employer, 2% from employee) of the salary, the workers will get the privileges of medical care and other 15 types of monetary benefits.

Regarding to the given advices, the ministry is working on the national level discussion about gender issues to be put in the national work plan for migration and to amend the overseas employment law to be able to put the gender related matters based on the past experience.

Ministry has been working with total 17 laws which are nine approved laws, one amending law, three new laws under developing, two abolished laws, two new laws which are required. The ministry had transferred one labour law established in 1951 to the Ministry of Electric Power and Energy. The Ministry also submitted the draft of occupational safety and health to Pyidaungsu Hluttaw on 17 February 2017.

Labour disputes

To settle the labour disputes in the country, Labour organizations and employer organizations have been allowed to form independently under the labour organization law enacted in 2011, and a total of 2,399 employer organizations, including 2,369 labour organizations and 30 employer organizations, have been formed so far up to February, 2017, while some labour organizations have formed federations in accordance with the law.

In solving the disputable labour issues, Ministry can manage transparently, harmoniously and impartially in making fair decision base on social justice, getting trust on the solution for the labour disputes, working with labour committees in the factories on the disputable issues which can be solved under the existing laws without a tribunal help.

Population and Households

The ministry has conducted analysis training courses on census resulted map and made 13 research paper based on the result of population and household census in 2014. By working on the preparation for data management, making data user workshops, compiling data and reporting, the ministry has issued the papers about urban emergence, migration, population changes, birth and marriage, death and maternal death.

More than 1 million Citizenship IDs nationwide in the one-year period

The ministry relaxed the rules on issuing the citizenship scrutiny cards since November 2016 and has issued the IDs to 1,034,658 nationwide during the one-year period of the new government in accordance with the 1992 Citizenship Law.

E-Visa tourists

Today, tourists can use to enter and exit Myanmar if they have a valid e-Visa to enter Myanmar. To enter and exit Myanmar if they have a valid e-Visa to enter Myanmar, Electronic visas (e-Visa) are now issued that allow at Yangon, Mandalay and Nay Pyi Taw international airports and border crossings.

Citizens of 100 countries are eligible for an e-Visa. They simply go online complete the form and pay via a credit card a non-refundable USD50 for a 28-day stay. Usually, they receive a confirmation email with a visa approval number, which they present to immigration officials along with their passport at the border checkpoint. The actual visa is stamped into the passport.

Wiping the slate clean

Nearly 620 people erased from blacklist

A total of 619 people were removed from the previous government’s blacklist, said Union Minister for Labour, Immigration and Population U Thein Swe.

At the press conference in Nay Pyi Taw last year, the Union Minister confirmed that there were 248 locals and 371 foreigners who were erased from the blacklist, and that scrutinising is underway to remove further people.

Registration cards issued to Myanmar migrants

Registration cards were issued to Myanmar migrants who are illegally working in neighbouring countries and others aiming at enabling them to enjoy legal protection of the countries where they work in.

Under the registration card issuance program, 41,892 migrant workers in Thailand have received the card so far up to 23-2-2017.
Germans in tiny Saarland vote in big test for Merkel

BERLIN/SAARBRUECKEN — Germans in the small western state of Saarland voted on Sunday in a regional election that could deliver an upset to Chancellor Angela Merkel and hurt her prospects of winning a fourth term in September’s national election.

The election carries significance as it is the first of three regional votes ahead of the 24 September federal vote and as such it offers an opportunity for the parties to build — or lose — momentum in their quest to prevail at national level.

The vote is the first electoral test for the Social Democrats under their new leader, Martin Schulz who has re-energised the centre-left party with a promise to tackle inequality that is resonating with many voters tired of Merkel.

“This time every vote really counts,” an unusually impassioned Merkel told a rally in Sankt Wendel, near Germany’s border with France and Luxembourg, on Thursday.

“Shep, I’ll do my best.”

“The second evening, 2017 March 26, Merkel and Schulz are in the Saarland for the federal elections to vote in green-red-red coalition.”

“With Schulz, the SPD, Social Democratic Party, and the Greens, the state of Saarland is in a coalition.”

The SPD, Linke and Greens have discussed from attacking each other during the national campaign.

Shulz is wary of talking about coalition formations before the state and federal elections, keen to maximise SPD support.

“Today is the day for Saarland to vote,” he said.

“Whoever wants to govern with us, is very welcome to come to us.”

—Reuters

Communal strife in home state of India’s Modi kills one, 14 hurt

NEW DELHI — One person was killed and about 14 injured when violence erupted following a scuffle between Muslim and Hindu school students in Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s home state of Gujarat, a senior administrative official said on Sunday.

A crowd of about 5,000 people attacked Muslim residents and set dozens of homes and vehicles on fire at Vadavali village in Patan district on Saturday after Hindu students complained of misbehaviour by Muslim students, said K K Nirala, the district’s top administrative official.

“Members of the Muslim community retaliated by throwing stones and police used teargas and fired seven rounds to disperse the crowd and control the violence, Nirala said.”

Gujarat has a history of serious communal trouble.

Rioters killed about 1,000 people, most of them Muslims, in the state in 2002, according to estimates.

—Reuters

The Global New Light of Myanmar Invitation for Open Tender (6/2017)

1. Open Tender is invited for The Global New Light of Myanmar news office for raw materials to be paid in USD and received at Yangon Port. 

   a. 1,500 tonnes of 1,626 mm papers
   b. 300 tonnes of 813 mm papers
   c. 11,000 plates of CTP Plate

2. Tender forms are available from 23 – 31 2017 to 5 – 4 – 2017 during our office hours at the address featured below.

3. Tender documents and detailed information are available at the Global New Light of Myanmar office address featured during our office hours from 9:00 to 16:30, commencing 6 – 4 – 2017 and are to be submitted before members of the tender at our office.

4. We will provide further information of the tender opening.

Address for tender submission

The Global New Light of Myanmar
No (150), Ngarhtetgyi Payar Road, Bahan Township, Yangon
Contact Ph No. 8604530/8604532

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

Nay Pyi Taw

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Ministry of Electricity and Energy

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 international oil and gas service company in onshore seismic acquisition 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 has initiated a public invitation for interested parties to submit a Letter of Expression of Interest (“LEO”) 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 LEO respondents from the LEO 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 24, 2017 to the following address: MOGE Tender Committee for Joint Venture Establishment in Petroleum Services (Seismic), 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 that 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.
Filmmaker Gurinder Chadha gets Sikh Jewel Award

LONDON — Indian-origin British director Gurinder Chadha has been honoured with the Sikh Jewel Award for 2017 for her immense contribution to British cinema. Chadha, whose films include “Bhaji on the Beach”, “Bend It Like Beckham” and “Bride and Prejudice”, received the award from UK Defence Secretary Michael Fallon at the Vaisakhi Dinner organised by the British Sikh Association at the Lancaster Hotel here Thursday night.

The High Commissioner of India to the UK, Y K Sinha, who was the Guest of Honour, was also present on the dais.

Chadha’s latest film, “Viceroy’s House” tells the true story of the final five months of British rule in India and coincides with the 70th anniversary of the Independence of India and the founding of Pakistan.

Receiving the award, Chadha said, “Some people use religion to divide — that is the theme of my film — and also the atrocities inflicted on us. It is a fair film.” Jasminde Singh, OBE, Chairman and founder of Edwardian Hotels, Jagi Joerg Singh Sohar, a writer, broadcaster and communications consultant, and Khalsa Aid founded in 1999, also received the Sikh Jewel Awards. In his address, Sinha said, “We were really touched when we saw the films screened on the occasion depicting the sacrifices made by Indian soldiers, mostly Sikhs and Gurkhas in the two world wars, winning more laurels than others. ‘Sacrifices made by Sikhs are always remembered in India. The Government of India and the people of India gratefully acknowledge the contributions made by Sikhs.’ Fallon said he would be visiting India next month and “utilise the opportunity to have greater defence cooperation between Britain and India.”

“Sadly, the contribution of over a million Indian soldiers in each great war is not taught in British schools and if it were, there would be a better understanding about our shared history,” Dr Rami Ranger, CBE, Chairman of the British Sikh Association, said.—Reuters

REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR
Ministry of Electricity and Energy

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

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.

BELL THORNE GOES TOPLESS IN MARILYN MONROE – INSPIRED SHOT

LOS ANGELES — Actress Bella Thorne posed topless for a sizzling photo shoot inspired by Hollywood icon Marilyn Monroe.

The 19-year-old star shared the photo on Instagram sporting a platinum bob while peering over her shoulder with a seductive glance.

"The body is meant to be seen not all covered up. #marilynmonroe #flashing," she captioned the picture.

Thorne also treated her Snapchat followers to another hot photo with her dark locks.—PTI

Amy Schumer
My boyfriend is very protective of me

LONDON — Actress Amy Schumer feels lucky to be in a relationship with Ben Hanisch because he is very protective of her.

The 35-year-old “Trainwreck” star has been dating the furniture designer, who relocated from Chicago to live with her in New York City, for over a year and she is thankful he is always “really cool” with the attention that comes with life in the public eye, reported Glamour magazine.

“He’s very protective of me. Like, not overprotective, but if someone’s taking pictures of me or filming in a restaurant, he’ll start taking pictures of them,” she says.

“He’s really cool; it’s not a problem to be around any of the sorts of people who are at these events. He takes it all in his stride.—PTI
PATTAYA (Thailand) — With mascots dressed as smiling fish and a police rock band, Thai authorities launched a “Happy Zone” at the weekend to improve the image of a city notorious for sex tourism.

Stung by foreign headlines portraying the seaside resort of Pattaya as “Sin City” and “The World’s Sex Capital”, Thailand’s junta has begun a new effort to rebrand it.

But the contradictions in Pattaya highlight Thailand’s challenge in tacking a side of its tourist industry that remains economically vital while being officially excoriated.

“I want people to see that we are not like what they say. We are not allowing prostitution in these entertainment places,” provincial governor Pakkaratorn Teienachi told reporters on the infamous Walking Street in Pattaya, southeast of Bangkok.

Less than 10 metres (yards) away, women accosted foreign men to offer sex for 2,000 baht ($60). Others lined up with numbers so customers could take their pick. Masses in mankiets offered “happy-ending” massages whose euphemistic title has nothing to do with the Happy Zone of the authorities.

“Everyone is here to make a living,” said one 35-year-old woman who came originally from a village in central Thailand. Tagged with the number “136”, she declined to give her name.

“I would rather be a waitress, but then I couldn’t make a living,” said one masseuse.

Given a 305 baht ($8.80) a day minimum wage, the chance of earning several times more is an obvious lure, particularly in poorer rural regions.

The latest of many crackdowns in Pattaya happened after foreign newspaper reports last month, which drew an angry response from junta leader Prayuth Chan-ocha, for whom bringing order is a mantra.

A handful of bars were raided. Bar owners and working women were fined.

Scared to venture out, tourists looking for sex stayed in hotels. Street vendors and shops saw sales tumble. The money which flows to all levels in the city — including law enforcement agencies — fell off.

The Happy Zone approach is a softer way to try to show that something is being done. If it works on Walking Street, the idea will be spread to the less sanitized side streets - the sois.

Businesses in the Happy Zone are asked to make the area feel safer, there are increased security patrols, police launched a mobile phone app for visitors to summon them in emergency.

“This is a pioneer project to organize a tourist destination and elevate it to promote Thailand’s quality tourism,” Apichai Kropthep, chief of Pattaya city police, told Reuters.

“We will also stamp out prostitution in the area.”

There was no sign of that at the weekend. In fact, Pattaya’s sex industry has become an attraction in its own right for the millions of Chinese who make up about one in three visitors to Thai tourism.

“Pattaya when it became an international city it has been sex tourism,” said one tourist.

Sex in Thai city frustrates junta

Policemen dance during the launch of the “Happy Zone” program aiming to improve the image of the city in Pattaya, Thailand on 25 March 2017. PHOTO/Reuters

Suyamaygi A Bharadwaja (Accagi) BA, M.A., B Ed
Aged (88) years
Principal (Retired)
B.E.M.S. (2) Pabedan
B.E.R.S. (4) Insen
Principal, MLA International School
Daughter of (Sir Ram Chandra and Smt Menakshu), beloved wife of (Sir Gautam Bharadwaja), Retired Lecturer, (Physics Dept. R.A.S.I.T), sister-in-law of (Sir Prashant Bharadwaja and Padmini), (Sir Ved Varsh Bharadwaja — Dov Khan Mya Oo, Dint Laa Bharadwaja, Rey Head of History Dept, Mandalay College), beloved aunt of (Dr Indira Bharadwaja), (Dr Vaday Laxmi Naikhi), (Dr Krishen Bharadwaja), (Sir Jag Tilok Bharadwaja, Smt Asha Khetrapal, Rishi Bharadwaja — Aye Aye Myin, Khitada Nith Bharadwaja, (Rai Raj Bharadwaja), Smt Mala Bharadwaja — U Win Lwin, Smt Neela Bharadwaja, (Tony Sing), beloved mother of Dr Vasant Bharadwaja — Dr Nana (Mg Win Myin Thaw) daughter of Kevaphy Bharadwaja peacefully on 26-03-2017 at 2:10AM (1ST) at the Global Hospital, Chennai, India.

Cremation date and time will be announced at a later date.

Bereaved family

Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprise

Ministry of Energy and Economy

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
MIAMI — Roger Federer continued his impressive 2017 campaign with a straight-sets, second-round victory at the Miami Open in Florida on Saturday. But it was far from a cakewalk for Federer, who came within two points of losing the first set before breaking twice in the second for a 7-6(2), 6-3 triumph over American teenager Frances Tiafoe. Next up for Federer is Juan Martin del Potro, who beat Dutchman Robin Haase 6-2, 6-4 in a night match at Crandon Park. Federer has a 15-5 career record against del Potro.

Tiafoe provided a good competitive test for the 35-year-old Swiss maestro in his first match since he won the BNP Paribas Open at Indian Wells on Sunday. Tiafoe broke in the first game of the second set, but fourth seed Federer broke straight back with a sizzling backhand winner and another break was all he needed to clinch his 100th career victory at tour level. Tiafoe, ranked 101st in the world, has only four career victories, but he showed enough to suggest he will add that number sooner rather than later. Federer could be on course enough to suggest he will add to his 19 Grand Slam titles and another break was all he needed for a semi-final showdown with compatriot Stan Wawrinka, less than two weeks after they met in the Indian Wells final.

Top seed Wawrinka defeated Argentina’s Horacio Zeballos in 65 minutes, firing seven aces in a 6-3, 6-4 victory in less than favourable morning conditions.

“Tiafoe played a really good match today,” Wawrinka told reporters. “It’s quite tough conditions, raining and really windy today. It’s really windy on the court, so it’s never easy. I’m happy with the way I was moving, the way I was playing and my attitude in general was really positive,” he added.

“So it’s a great match.”

Austrian number six Dominic Thiem was the only high seed to suffer a loss on Saturday. Thiem fell to 20-year-old Croatian Borna Coric, who overcame an embarrassing brain freeze in the final game to win 6-1, 7-5. Setting up for the match, Coric stopped in the middle of a rally, challenging a line call, only to be reminded by the chair umpire that he had no challenges left.

Volatile Australian Nick Kyrgios won his match, and also received a code violation warning from the chair umpire for swearing at a spectator who called out during a point.

Kyrgios, the 12th seed, dropped his first two service games, but roared back to beat Damir Dzumhur 6-4, 6-3.

—Reuters

Barcelona to name one of its stadiums after Johan Cruyff

BARCELONA — La Liga champions Barcelona will pay tribute to visionary midfielder and coach Johan Cruyff by naming one of their new stadiums at the late Dutchman and his statue will also be erected at the Nou Camp. The club are planning to relocate their Mini Estadi, the home of their B team and occasional venue for their women’s team, to their training ground and president Josep Maria Bartomeu said the new ground will be named the Estadi Johan Cruyff. “Cruyff broke down barriers, he was the man who made us lift our heads up and see that nothing is impossible,” Bartomeu said at a presentation on Saturday, a day after Cruyff’s first death anniversary.

His death was a huge loss, not just for everyone connected with Barcelona but also for anyone who loves football.”

Cruyff, who died of lung cancer aged 68, signed for Barca from Ajax in 1973 and helped them to a first league title in 14 years in his first campaign. He stayed until 1978, when he became the godfather of the modern Barcelon, coaching the club to their first European Cup in 1992 and instilling a style of football imitated by future managers. Bartomeu also revealed plans for a special space dedicated to Cruyff at the club’s museum. He is seen by many as the father of modern Barcelon, coaching the club to their first European Cup in 1992 and instilling a style of football imitated by future managers.

Chinese investors create new firm to finalise purchase of AC Milan

MIlan — Chinese investors set to buy AC Milan have created a new company structure in Luxemburg to finalise the acquisition of the Serie A soccer club, a spokesman for the consortium said on Saturday.

Rossoneri Sport Investment Lux will replace the Chinese bidding group identified by AC Milan’s owners as Simo-Europe Sports Investment Management Chongxing Co Ltd, the spokesman said in a statement. It added that the new entity was controlled by investor Li Yonghong.

The company is “completely external to China,” the statement said. The accord — originally inked in August and expected to be signed off first in December and then in March — is set to be finalised on 14 April, the statement added.—Reuters

Lucic-Baroni beats Radwanska for second time this year

MIAMI — Polish fifth seed Agnieszka Radwanska was the highest women’s casualty at the Miami Open on Saturday, blown away for the second time this year by Croatian Mirjana Lucic-Baroni. Radwanska had no answer to the 26th seed, who rolled to a 6-0, 6-3 win in barely an hour. Lucic-Baroni also beat Radwanska at the Australian Open in January, in the second round en route to the semi-finals, where she eventually fell to Serena Williams. “She was playing unbelievable tennis today,” Radwanska, speaking about Lucic-Baroni, told the WTA.

“She was very solid from the beginning, very aggressive, hitting everything with unbelievable speed. I couldn’t do much.” The first set went so quickly, and in the second set I had chances, but I didn’t come back and unfortunately I missed the chance to stay in the match. She was just too good today.” Another high seed had a fright, number six Garbine Muguruza overcoming a slow start to beat China’s Zhang Shuai 4-6, 6-2, 6-2 in over two hours.

“She’s got a lot of matches like this, and I’m expecting that every time I go on court,” Muguruza said.

“A win is a win, I don’t wish to have matches this tough every day, but I’m very happy with the way I’m facing them.” It was Muguruza’s second victory over Zhang in barely a month, after their match in Doha in February that also went three sets. Second seed Karolina Pliskova’s match went according to form, the Czech beating Kazakh 27th seed Yulia Putintseva 7-5, 6-3. But 17th seed Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova was sent packing, beaten 4-6, 6-0, 6-3 by American Bethanie Mattek-Sands.—Reuters

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