By-election held for 19 vacant constituencies

BY-ELECTIONS began across Myanmar yesterday morning for the first time since the NLD Government took office a year ago.

Two million Voters went to the polls to cast their votes yesterday at the voting stations of all 19 vacant constituencies beginning 6 am yesterday.

Unlike the 2015 general elections in which long queues of people were waiting at the stations for their turn, less number of voters showed up at the polling centers this time.

Yangon Region opened 942 polling stations visited by diplomats including US Ambassador Mr. Scot Marciel and local and foreign watchdogs in four townships – Hlaingthaya, Dagon Myothit (East) – Hlaingthaya, Dagon Myothit (East) and Kawhmu—for the Pyithu Hluttaw and seven townships – Kamayut, Kyimyindaung, Seikkan, Latha, Hline, Lamdanaw and Aholne—for the Amyotha Hluttaw.

The results of the by-elections will be announced on 2nd April at the Union Election Commission’s office.

Latha, Hline, Lamdanaw and Aholne— for the Amyotha Hluttaw No 6 constituency for 1006252 eligible voters. The Yangon Region police force used half of its strength to ensure safety for the by-election.

The Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein cast his vote at a polling station in Ward 10, Kamayut Township, while Union Minister for Information Dr. Pe Myint voted at Ward 4 in the same township and Union Minister for Commerce Dr. Than Myint in Hlinethaya Township.

“A voting was convenient for me as I could draw my ballot in advance. Only a few voters were at the station in the morning. I chose the one whom I believe would help develop our ward and community. It was a free and fair election. We pinned our hopes on him.” said U Thein Naing who voted in Hline Township.

Another voter Daw Lwin Lwin Khaing said my only hope was the progress the one I had voted for would bring to the best of his ability.

After the closure of polling stations at 4 pm, volunteers started counting and documenting the ballots through valid and invalid vote scanning process.

The results of the by-elections will be announced on 2nd April at the Union Election Commission’s office, said Chairman of the Union Election Commission U Hla Thein.

Kyethee and Mongshu, which did not hold the general election in 2015, also held the 2017 by-elections, said U Hla Thein. —GNLM

Myanmar trains midwives to tackle maternal death rate

YANGON.—Myanmar is training up hundreds of midwives in an effort to reduce the number of women who die in childbirth, one of many social policy reforms launched by the country as it emerges from decades of military rule.

Statistics show childbirth and pregnancy-related complications are the leading causes of death among women in Myanmar, mainly due to delays in reaching emergency care.

According to the most recent census, 282 women die per 100,000 births in the country, equivalent to about eight deaths every day, double the regional average and far above the mortality ratio of 20 deaths per 100,000 in neighbouring Thailand or six per 100,000 in Singapore. Nay Hnin Lwin, 19, is among 200 midwifery students currently studying at the Central Midwifery School in Yangon.

She said her parents, who live in a rural area, still do not recognise the importance of midwives, relying instead on traditional birth attendants.

“If there is an emergency situation, they cannot save lives. Mothers are losing their lives because of them. I’m proud to be a midwife to save them from these situations,” she told Reuters Television.

At the end of the two-year course, Nay Hnin Lwin and other trainee midwives will be deployed to remote clinics with poor infrastructure and bare-bones medical facilities.
Journalists interview authorities, visit IDP camps in Sittway

Local and foreign journalists visit IDP camp and interview officials concerned in Sittway, Rakhine State. PHOTO: MNA

A media team comprising local journalists and foreign correspondents interviewed local authorities and visited the internally displaced camps in Sittway yesterday.

At the meeting, Minister for Electricity, Industry and Transport of the Rakhine State Government U Aung Kyaw Zan and State Minister for Development Affairs of the government U Min Aung clarified the efforts of the government.

Rakhine State Government has been making efforts for the stability, improvement of transportation and supplying power to Maungtaw, Rathedaung and Buthidaung townships, according to the ministers.

Meanwhile, the government would shut down unnecessary IDP camps, according to the government.

During the visit to the Bawdupha, Theikpyin and Darpaing camps, displaced persons expressed the hope that they want the situation in Rakhine State to return to the normality before 2012.

The team arrived back Yangon yesterday.—Myanmar News Agency

Robbers attack family in Maungtaw

A FAMILY of Bawtali (1) village in Maungtaw township in Rakhine State was attacked with rods, knives and axes and robbed of gold and cash by their own villagers who also took away with them two young men.

While Abutarbel was sleeping together with his family at home, 25 villagers including Sweyauttusaung broke into the house through the door with rods, knives and axes at about 2 am on 31 March and attacked the family of five with tier weapons.

The attackers took away Kyat 1020000, one gold chain, one pair of earring, one hand-chain total worth Kyat 2870000 and tied up and abducted two young men, 15 year old Ebhraein and 21 year old Abdulharival.

The security forces were able to find Abdulharivaldar in rode bondage, but Einraheim is still missing.

In the evening, six attackers including Sweyauttusaung were arrested and investigation was being carried out to arrest the remain attackers.—Myanmar News Agency

Villager found dead in Buthidaung Tsp

A 46-year-old man who gave interview to journalists on 29th March about terrorist training in his village was killed by unidentified attackers yesterday.

Seven masked Muslim men entered the house of Harmis Dullah, in Tinmay Village, Buthidaung Township, and attacked his family with knives and batons at 1:15 am yesterday.

He was found dead with stab and cuts at his neck and chin. Police led by South Bazaar station commander are investigating the incident and working to arrest the attackers.—Myanmar News Agency

Employees with social security reach about one million nationwide

THE number of employees with social security insurance reached about one million across the country and the Social Security Board issued social security cards to over 300,000 workers after the new Social Security Law came into force with effect from 1 April 2014, according to the ministry.

The SSB under the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population offered social security benefits worth Ks11.749 billion including Ks721.408 million family assistance to over 200 employees with social security insurance over the past 35 months in line with the new law, said U Maung Maung Aye, acting director-general of the Social Security Board at a recent ceremony.

The SSB provided about Ks7 million social security benefits including funeral expenses plus family assistance benefit to two workers—U Maung Chin, who died in workplace accident, and U Kyaw Min from Max Myanmar Co, who are now suffering from kidney disease.

According to the SSB, there were a total of 341,659 cases in the past three years.

The Social Security Board is offering healthcare services to individuals with social security insurance through almost 100 clinics plus three workers' hospitals and one traditional medicine hospital.—Min Min Latt (Man puckkor)

Myanmar trains midwives to tackle .......

FROM PAGE 1
"The role of midwives is very important because two thirds of our country is in rural areas. They are not only working on healthcare, but also documenting and compiling data for the country," said Dashi Hkwan Nu, head teacher at the Central Midwifery School.

Myanmar’s healthcare -- particularly in far-flung areas -- is plagued by ramshackle services, with hospitals lacking basic equipment.—By Aye Win Myint/Reuters

11 murder suspects arrested in Maungtaw

LOCAL police arrested 11 suspects who are believed to involve in murder cases happened in Sintaung Village on 12nd March and in Ngarsar-kyu Village on 27th March in Maungtaw Township.

Acting on a tip-off that the suspects were in Dotan Village, the local police carried out an area clearance operation in the village on 31st March and arrested the suspects including Mamud Fawri, aged 19.—Myanmar News Agency

Four men attacked by 30 people in black mask

FOUR people in Theikmanyar village in Maungtaw township were attacked by a group of black masked people. The attackers broke into the house with rods and knives at the mid night of April 1, while 35 year old Shangusuarlong, 35 year old Alzarahusung, 30 year old Sawdularme and 40 year old Marmathusein were present at the Shangusuarlong’s house.

The attackers abducted two of them, Shangusuarlong who is a clerk in the village administration office and Alzarahusung, a labour.

Sawdularme and Marmathusein who ran away while the attacker were beating them were injured in their head and body. Security forces are investigating the case.—Myanmar News Agency

Masked men abduct former village administrator

A group of masked men abducted 39-year old former administrator of Kyunpaukpyu Village in Maungtaw Township, Rakhine State on 30 March.

While sleeping together with family at his home, Namahmed was taken away after midnight by about 30 masked men who broke into the house by destroying the bamboo wall at the back of the house.

Security forces are investigating the case to expose the abductors.—Myanmar News Agency
U Win Htein reviews one year accomplishment of government

Interviewers
Myo Myint & Hmwe Kyu Zin (MNA)

2017 is the first year of the new government as well as the beginning of the salvation of the country from poverty — U Win Htein

NATIONAL League for Democracy Central Executive Committee member U Win Htein was interviewed on the new government’s first year undertakings.

Q: What is your view on the government’s first year work?
A: It is a bit early to comment about the parliament. The new government took office on 30 March 2016. According to the Constitution, there are three sectors – legislative, executive, and judicial – in governing the country. The executive sector is President U Htin Kyaw and State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi at the Union Government level and State and Region governments led by Chief Ministers. When the new government came to power, there were talks of whether it would survive for 2 or 6 months.

Overcoming difficulties
Now that one year has passed, these sorts have been silenced. My view is that the government doesn’t have experience. But it has good will (cetana). With good will (cetana) difficulties were overcome in their own way. Up till now, the executive branch is marching on.

Similarly, parliament on the legislative side consisting of Pyithu Hluttaw, Amyotha Hluttaw, State and Region parliaments were, chaotic at the beginning because all were inexperienced. In taking over the responsibility, they somehow had to look back at the examples of the previous government as well as find their own way according to their party’s policy.

Marching on correctly
The parliament (Hluttaws) are conducting the legislative duties sufficiently well. There will be Kyu Kyu Thin and Author by the people on the works of the executive and legislative sectors. As both were marching on correctly, one year period was successfully passed.

There are many weaknesses and faults in the judicial sector. Numerous complaints are received. But the policy of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi is not to hurt the people. People mean, all - the cabinet members, government employees, the public, Tatnadsaw. Leading by example, providing education, instead of taking harsh actions is governing by Myitpy through which the judicial sector will be straightened up.

For example, Rule of Law Centers were set up in Myitkyina, Taunggyi, Yangon and Mandalay. These are not set up with government budget but with the help of UNDP and other donor countries. Judges, police officers were trained and workshops held.

Especially, during the time of our National League for Democracy government, rule of law is prioritized in raising the role of Myanmar Police Force. Improvement is not only in quantity but in quality as well and thus this department is straightening up while corrupt practices are reduced. Due to this, executive, legislative and judicial sectors can be commented as running sufficiently well.

Peace activity
Q: What is your view on the peace efforts by State Counsellor and the government?
A: The peace process had been started since the previous U Thein Sein government. Eight groups signed the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA). The incumbent government fully acknowledges this and is attempting as well as aim to improve further on this.

Policy laid down since the founding of National League for Democracy in 1988 to now, is to achieve peace and resolve the armed conflicts through discussion. This policy laid down since that time is now being implemented.

In implementing, the policies set by U Thein Sein is acknowledged and continued. But as all knows, there are many difficulties. Problems in Rakhine State are growing while there are problems in Kachin State and northern Shan State.

Aim to proceed with determination
Daw Aung San Suu Kyi is determined to achieve peace regardless of how many the problems are and how long it will take. During the close to 30 years since 1988, National League for Democracy reaches this stage going through various difficulties such as threat to deregistering of the party and suspension of the UN membership. In the same way, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi will strive to achieve peace despite any difficulties. We have our part to play as well. We aim to do this with determination.

Q: How will you participate with the government in what it is doing now?
A: National League for Democracy took part in the elections with the slogan “it is time for change”. Nationwide, we win by 90 percent. Now it is one year. People said what changes were there? I used to say that since 1962 General Ne Win governs the country.

In 1988 Senior General Saw Maung government took over responsibility from General Ne Win government. Then Senior General Than Shwe took over the responsibility. Until end 2010 and 2011. Throughout all that time, generals governed the country. From such governments, formation of a civil-government in 2015 is a major change.

Cooperation
According to the Constitution, responsibilities for the Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Defence and Ministry of Border Affairs are given to the generals. We accepted this and cooperated in it. This is the first change.

The second change — we are reducing corruption according to our party policy and thus our union government, state and region governments are conducting their affairs with the least corruption. This is the second change.

The third change is fear. We were always looking about in fear because we were living in fear. Now we fear nothing. We can say whatever we want to say. We can tell Daw Aung San Suu Kyi. We can tell U Htin Kyaw. The ability to say whatever you want to say is a new change. This is the third change.

Good structures are established
When we go to States and Regions, government is allocating budget for development and this budget is fully utilized to construct roads, bridges, school. Because these projects are implemented with full responsibility. At the budget, good structures are established. This is the fourth change.

Despite these changes, the people had voted for us with much expectation. We take responsibility. We need to improve the condition of the people who have voted for us with much expectation.

100th year anniversary for Journal Kyaw Ma Ma Lay

JUST as there have been critical analyses made on current literature, critical analyses made on the literature created by all three types of teachers – by seeing, by teaching and by hearing, and senior famous authors (both male and female) of the successive generations of the past is a good tradition for the development of literature, said Dr Pe Myint, Union Minister for the Ministry of Information.

“It is a good tradition as I have learnt that famous authors would discuss thoroughly about the literature of Journal Kyaw Ma Ma Lay,” said the Union Minister at the 100th year anniversary of Journal Kyaw Ma Ma Lay held yesterday at the University of Nursing, Yangon.

Dr Pe Myint, Union Minister said that he had read about Journal Kyaw Ma Ma Lay’s novels, biography, her activities in the field of literature, that she was excellent in novel writing, that she was an influential author at that time in Myanmar, and also that she was active in literary affairs.

Today, it is the time when we can enjoy the fruits of literary freedom. As for the art creators, he wished to advise that they can freely create whatever models they desired in this time of freedom, said the Minister who pledged that he would help for the development of Myanmar Literature development as much as he could.

At the ceremony, Author Maung Khin Min (Damphuyu), Author Htet Myat, Author Ma Ka Ba, Author Maung Moe Thu participated in the event. U Thein Soe (Thein-soe-Thiha Yatana Publishing house) spoke words of thanks on behalf of the great author Journal Kyaw Ma Ma Lay’s family.

Journal Kyaw Ma Ma Lay was born on 13 April, 1917 in Kamakulu village in Bogalay township in Ayeyawady Region and passed away on 6 April, 1982 at the age of 65.

She wrote 100 short stories, 13 novels, two travelogues, 100 general articles. Some of her novels and others were translated into different languages.

The event is open from 9 am to 5 pm from April 1 to 3. The famous authors will discuss about Myanmar literature for three days. All are invited to listen to the discussions about Myanmar literature and look at the photos of the great author.—Myanmar News Agency

Press conference on government’s one year accomplishments on 4, 6 April

PRESS conference on the Government’s one year accomplishments in 2016 will be held on 4th and 6th April this year. As said, Amyotha Hluttaw and The Supreme Court of the Union will meet the press at 1:00 pm on 4 April and Ministry of Electric Power and Energy Ministry of Border Affairs and Ministry of Foreign Affairs at 1:00 PM on 6 April 2017.

Local and foreign media wishing to attend the press meet may apply at Internal and external relation and information session (e-mail: ir.pso.moi2015@gmail.com) with name, agen- cy, phone number and e-mail address. The schedule of next meet will be announced in advance.—Myanmar News Agency
New container terminal being built in Thilawa SEZ

WITH the loans provided by Japanese government, a new container terminal has been developed by the Myanma Port Authorities in the Thilawa Special Economic Zone to handle more large ships and meet growing demand.

Located 20 kilometers (12.4 miles) southeast of Yangon, the former capital and Myanmar’s largest city, the Thilawa SEZ is a large-scale joint project between Myanmar and Japan.

Thilawa is home to the country’s first special economic zone opened for business in the third quarter of 2015.

According to an official, U Thant Sin Maung, Union Minister for Transport and Communications, visited the Thilawa SEZ to inspect the progress of logistic infrastructure being constructed under the new container terminal project including the development strategy to build rail facility to operate container trains.

Thanks to economic reforms, investors from Southeast Asia, Asia and Western countries eye Myanmar as the last economic frontier in Asia. —Myint Maung Soe

Ginger is a potential export product

Hay Win

70 percent of the population are villagers who live in rural areas and they are looking forward to a better living standard and a better life with a slogan “It’s time to change.” The weather, soils and landscapes in the country are suitable to cultivate ginger.

Being a flowering plant, ginger is widely used for many different purposes in the world. Technically, the ginger root is called rhizome. With hot and humid weather, the sandy and loamy soil is the best to cultivate the ginger. To harvest them, it takes seven months. We can grow ginger in the monsoon and harvest in the winter.

Ginger is grown in India, China, Indonesia, Thailand, Japan and Australia as a national export product. Among them, India is the largest producer and consumer of ginger in the world. Ginger can be made in many different forms such as fresh ginger, dried ginger and powder ginger and so on.

The estimated world import of ginger is 300,000 tonnes per year while China share is 57 percent in ginger trade. With 190 million USD per year, ginger is traded globally. In the history, ginger became one of the most commonly traded spices in the medieval period in Asia.

Top 16 importers of the ginger in the world are USA, India, Bangladesh, UK, Spain, Morocco, Saudi Arab, Germany, Australia, Netherlands, Yen- en Republic, Japan, Malaysia, Canada, Belgium and Israel.

Among them, the big international markets are India, USA and Australia. Singapore also hopes to import ginger from other countries.

Ginger rhizome is used not only for spices and medicine but also for making juice, drink, candy, chocolate, snacks, tea and beer in the world.

In Australia, ginger beer is a popular product while ginger candy in Indonesia is penetrating the world market.

While ginger is good and effective for nausea, arthritis, pain and chemotherapy, eating ginger decrease the risk of obesity, diabetes and heart disease.

In Myanmar, ginger is cultivated in Shan state, Magway region, Kayin state and Mandalay region in a commercial scale, but it is grown in Rakhine state only in a manageable scale. 17,000 acres of ginger is grown in Myanmar according to the ministry of commerce. “If there are buyers, ginger will be a thriving product,” said a local from Rakhine state. We can grow ginger across the country as if we grow rice in the country.

The country trade deficit shows 5 billion USD in the current fiscal year because we import more rather than we export. I believe the ginger in the country will narrow the export and import gap in the country.

Reference: An international market study of ginger in Nepal and internet research.

Myanmar-Thai bilateral import value via border up by over $154 million

The import of Thailand products to Myanmar via seven border gates before the end of this fiscal year reached nearly US$980 million, a rise of $154 million compared with the same period last FY, the Commerce Ministry reported.

Thailand’s products flow in and out of the country from Tachilek, Myawady, Kawthaung, Myeik, Hteekee, Mawtaung and Maese border gates. During the same time of last financial year, Myanmar imported a wide range of products worth more than $800 million via those seven border gates.

Between April and mid-March, Myanmar bought $60.711 million worth of products from Tachilek border trade camp, products worth $810.751 million from Myawady border gate, products worth $59.686 million from Kawthaung border trade station, products worth $46.612 million from Myeik border, products worth $0.577 million from Hteekee, products worth $0.854 million from Mawtaung trade camp and products worth $0.146 million from Maese border gate.

Myanmar predominately imports food, soft drinks, cooking oils, plastic wares, mat and other personal goods and exports marine and fisheries products and others. According to the MoC, Myanmar-Thailand bilateral trade through both borders and sea routes hit $3.871 billion over the first 11 months of this year.—Khin Khant

Over 17 tonnes of dried ginger exported to China via Muse border

MORE THAN 17 tonnes of Myanmar dried ginger were sent to China via Muse border trade camp between 11 and 17 March, a decrease of one tonne compared with the previous week, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

Around 17.5 tonnes of dried ginger worth US$21,787 were exported to China. In the previous week, a total of 18.5 tonnes of dried ginger were sent to the Myanmar’s largest neighbor with over 1.3 billion population.

The price of dried ginger was Ks1,693 million per tonne, according to Muse market.

From 11 and 17 March, the country also exported seven tonnes of fresh ginger to Bangladesh through Sittway border trade station, an increase of five more tonnes than the previous week, when two tonnes of fresh ginger were sold to the same country.

One tonne of fresh ginger was worth Ks1,033 million in Sittway border market, according to the ministry. Myanmar mostly exports agriculture products, forest products and fisheries products to China and imports personnel goods, construction materials and many different items.—Shwe Khine
Performances in One-Year Period

Ministry of Defence in military and civil services in the time of the new government

THE Ministry of Defence is committed to ensuring the new government elected by the people to be on the right track of democracy. The activities it has undertaken include environmental conservation, relief and resettlement in times of natural disaster, reopening of universities' training corps, rural health care services and prevention of recruitment of minors into the army.

Natural environment

Natural environment encompasses all living and non-living things occurring naturally and the interaction of all living species, climate, weather and natural resources that affect human survival and economic activity. The natural environment is greatly modified into a simplified human environment. Man has changed landscapes to make urban settings and agricultural land, thereby resulting in gradual degradation of the environment in the period of over 50 years. Natural disaster and man-made disaster caused climate changes, thus triggering global warming, flood, landslide, earthquake, storm, forest fire and volcanic eruption. Therefore, different countries are extensively engaged in disaster reduction, alleviation of global warming and reforestation. Provisional services and regulating services are adopted of climate changes, carbonization, water and air purification, prevention of land erosion and landslide.

Prevention of climate changes

In order to prevent global warming, climate changes, disease spreading and to maintain ecosystem, the Ministry of Defence grew trees in different regions. Trees and forests contribute a lot to the absorption of carbon dioxide and heat, prevention of storm impact, soil preservation and others. Apart from prevention of lives and property of the people, the Tatmadaw in cooperation with the government planted a total of 1222569 tree saplings in the year 2016 as part of its efforts for environmental conservation and disaster prevention.

Disaster relief and rehabilitation

The Ministry of Defence is committed to disaster preparedness before disaster, search and rescue, emergency response during disaster and rehabilitation and resettlement after disaster in real time.

The Tatmadaw also donated cash over K 798 million for renovation of pagodas and religious edifices damaged by Bagan earthquake. In the 2016 fires, it helped evacuate 580 households and donated K 13 million as relief aid.

Safeguarding the country

Myanmar is home to over 100 national races whose population is over 51.4 million. In the 2016 fires, the average population density is 76 per one square kilometer with 4.6 per cent of disabled population. The today's security encompasses not only military but political, economic and social aspects. Towards this end, universities' training corps were opened to the general public, regardless of race, religion and status. In that regard, it visited far-flung regions and villages, giving free medical treatment under the arrangement of its command. From 2012 to 2016, altogether 1,332,012 people were given medical treatment and 13413 others referred to the Tatmadaw hospitals. The program benefited patients suffering from TB, respiratory diseases, cancer, chronic arthritis, traumatic injuries and breast cancer, utilizing modern medical equipment such as CT scan room, Minor Eye Operation room, Minor Operation theatre and Echo.

Public health care

The medical corps is committed to providing medical treatment not only to the Tatmadaw families but also to the general public, regardless of race, religion and status. In that regard, it visited far-flung regions and villages, giving free medical treatment under the arrangement of its command. From 2012 to 2016, altogether 1,332,012 people were given medical treatment and 13413 others referred to the Tatmadaw hospitals. The program benefited patients suffering from TB, respiratory diseases, cancer, chronic arthritis, traumatic injuries and breast cancer, utilizing modern medical equipment such as CT scan room, Minor Eye Operation room, Minor Operation theatre and Echo.

The Tatmadaw mobile healthcare team led by the specialists and nurses provided free healthcare services to the 40,818 people from the coastal areas in Rakhine State and Tanintharyi Region during the period from 18 March 2016 to 6 March 2017 through a seagoing hospital ship called “Thanlwin”. Altogether the 38,764 people in Yangon Region and in Kayin, Dala and Bogale Townships in Ayeyawady Region were provided with free healthcare services by the Tatmadaw mobile healthcare team through a river going hospital vessel (Shwepazaun) during the period from 28 April 2016 to 26 February 2017.

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public of the Union of Myanmar held 41 discussions with UNCTFMR.

The Tatmadaw had been serving the interests of the people in political, economic and social sectors partnering with the government, the parliament and the public.

3.9.2012 to 31.3.2016 in cooperation with UNCTFMR.

(a) Multiplier courses on prevention of military recruitment of underage children were conducted with the arrangement of the respective command.

(b) A total of 401 service personnel, 128 commissioned officers and 323 other ranks – who recruited underage children, had been taken actions. Cooperation with UNCTFMR during one-year period of the new government Cooperation with UNCTFMR for prevention of military recruitment of underage children during one-year period of the new government is as follows;

(a) Committee for the Prevention of Military Recruitment of Underage Children was formed with Letter No 205/ Na Ya Ka Os/ Ka Sa, dated 5.1.2004 and two members were included in the committee under the Notification No/68 2014, Letter No 112/2/8 of the President Office. So far 26 June 2012, the 597 child soldiers were freed from the armed forces before signing United Nations Country Task Force on Monitoring and Reporting (UNCTFMR) and Plan of Action. The Ministry of Defence under the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and United Nations Country Task Force on Monitoring and Reporting (UNCTFMR) signed an agreement on plan of action for prevention of military recruitment of underage children on 27 June 2012 at Thingaha Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw.

The Tatmadaw had been taking part in rescue and rehabilitation works for the natural disaster-hit victims in joining hands with concerned departments and local people. The Tatmadaw is being built as a powerful, modern and patriotic army; the eligible citizens above 18 years had been allowed to serve in the armed forces. The militia strategy has been adopted to ensure safety and security of the country. The Ministry of Defence is collaborating with UNCTFMR to prevent military recruitment of underage children and is providing free healthcare services for the needy people. The Tatmadaw had been serving the interest of the ethnic people, upholding our three main national causes in the fore.

The Tatmadaw members participating in rehabilitation task in the disaster-hit area. PHOTO: MNA

The Tatmadaw members partaking in rescue work in the flood-hit area. Photo: MNA

Services personnel and their family members are seen at a tree planting ceremony. PHOTO: MNA

The Tatmadaw had been taking part in rescue work in the flood-hit area.
Bangladesh Flower Fest 2017

China’s BeiDou system to expand cooperation to SE Asia

BEIJING — China’s home-grown BeiDou Navigation Satellite System (BDS) will expand its cooperation to Thailand and Sri Lanka, and then to the entire Southeast Asia, in a bid to go global, the system’s operator has said.

Du Li, general manager of Wuhan Optics Valley BeiDou Holding Group Co., told Xinhua recently that his company will continue to explore models for international scientific and technical cooperation on BDS, including the joint construction of base stations, joint technical development and research, personnel training and exchanges, and others.

Wuhan Optics Valley BeiDou established the first batch of three overseas Continuously Operating Reference Stations (CORS) and its networking for BDS in Chonburi province, eastern Thailand in December 2013, while it is also planning to build a China-ASEAN science and technology city in Thailand for promoting BDS applications.

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) consists of 10 countries, including Thailand, Malaysia, Vietnam, India, Cambodia and Laos.

Wuhan Optics Valley BeiDou this year will cooperate with Sri Lankan related authorities to develop at least 10 CORS in the South Asian country for such applications as land surveying and mapping, ocean fishery and disaster warning, Du said.

The establishment of CORS in Thailand and Sri Lanka will extend the BDS coverage at least 3,000 km more towards Southeast Asia and South Asia, Du said.

Wuhan Optics Valley BeiDou is based in Wuhan, capital city of Hubei province in central China. It is in charge of the operations and services of BDS, a GPS-like global positioning system. By the end of 2016, BDS already had a constellation of 32 satellites.

The Belt and Road Initiative is an opportunity for China’s space science and technology, said Li Deren, a professor at a state key laboratory in Wuhan University located in Wuhan.

“Our priority is to expand BDS from China to the frontline of the Belt and Road Initiative, and Optics Valley BeiDou is a pioneer,” Li said.

China-made smartphones, such as Huawei smartphones, will be good platforms for BDS to go overseas as they carry Chinese chips, Li said.

—Xinhua

At least 11 buried in landslide in Indonesia’s Java

JAKARTA — At least 11 people were buried by a landslide triggered by heavy rain on Indonesia’s Java island on Saturday, including villagers who were harvesting a crop of ginger, a disaster official said.

Police and soldiers were helping residents to clear the mud and debris to look for victims after the landslide in the village in the Ponorogo area of East Java, said National Disaster Management Agency (BNPB) spokesman Sudarto Purwo Nugroho. Up to 30 houses had been engulfed by the landslide and the exact number of people missing was still unclear, with heavy equipment needed to shift the earth, said Nugroho.

Rescue efforts were also hampered by people flocking to the area to see the landslide and causing traffic jams, he said.

The local disaster mitigation agency had warned of the risk of a landslide due to recent rain, and some people had only returned to the village on Saturday after staying the night in a shelter, said the official.—Reuters

Trump sends letter to Viet Nam’s president to promote ties

HANOI — US President Donald Trump has written to Vietnamese President Tran Dai Quang to promote more cooperation between the two countries, the government website cited Quang as saying.

Viet Nam and the United States had advanced ties to a new level under the Obama administration amid a dispute with China over South China Sea issues, while Trump has also expressed his hope for a stronger relationship.

Trump sent a letter to Quang “affirming his wishes to promote cooperation on economics, trade, regional and international issues”, the Vietnamese government website said.

Quang made the remarks during a meeting with the US ambassador to Vietnam on Friday.

Quang emphasized that Viet Nam welcomes US efforts to improve cooperation with countries in the region to maintain the freedom of navigation and aviation.

US Ambassador Ted Osius was reported as saying that Trump is considering attending the upcoming Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) summit in Viet Nam this year.

Viet Nam had been expected to be one of the biggest beneficiaries of the Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP) free trade deal which Trump pulled the US out of in January, but Hanoi has also been building links with the United States amid a maritime dispute with China. Prime Minister Nguyen Xuan Phuc said last month he was ready to visit the United States to promote ties, particularly trade.—Reuters

CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE

MV OEL MALAYSIA VOY. NO (1705)
Consignees of cargo carried on MV OEL MALAYSIA VOY. NO (1705) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 2.4.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of B.S.W where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm on Claim’s Day.

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S BLPL SHIPPING LINE
Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE

MV CAPE FLORES VOY. NO ( )
Consignees of cargo carried on MV CAPE FLORES VOY. NO ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 2.4.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm on Claim’s Day.

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S NEW GOLDEN SEA LINES
Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE

MV YANTRA BHUM VOY. NO ( )
Consignees of cargo carried on MV YANTRA BHUM VOY. NO ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 2.4.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claim’s Day.

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S REGIONAL CONTAINER LINES
Phone No: 2301185

A young woman collects flowers during “Bangladesh Flower Fest 2017” in Dhaka, capital of Bangladesh, on 31 March 2017. A three-day flower festival kicked off here on Thursday. PHOTO: XINHUA
Money hoarders manipulate commodity prices

Khin Maung Oo

If asked what the most commonly discussed topic of everyday conversations among people is, the reply may be “commodity prices.” On streets, in buses and at work places, people talk about it. Their voices are full of annoyance, disappointment and sometimes anger. It is a big problem for most in the country, especially people from grass-root level as it causes many difficulties for them to deal with it. Accordingly, the problem becomes an extremely big problem for the government per se, because it is like a parent to all citizens. Here, I would like to say that many people have this misunderstanding that the government is solely responsible for dealing with this problem. We are all well aware that we find it difficult to manage even the affairs of a family consisting of less than a dozen members. The bigger an institution or organization, the greater is its responsibility. Ruling a country is certainly not like running a boot-camp. And, we should not think that we have already done our duty just by electing the government we want and hope for—the rightful and trustworthy parliamentarians. We need to support them by giving feedback and by being interested in the work being done by the Hluttaws at different levels. Just as it is the duty of Hluttaw representatives to report back to the people on a regular basis, it is also important for the people to monitor the effectiveness and honesty of the Hluttaw representatives they have chosen by exercising their right to vote.

We had been under the suppressions of former regimes, hence the desire to escape from their chaos. Our basic aspirations, like our great desires to change everything, we voted for change. However, we have forgotten to change ourselves, or may have pretended to forget to change ourselves. Cheating oneself is worse than tricking others. One knows the most about oneself. A person who wishes to make secular success in life, we ought to have the quality of thinking or doing meritorious deeds and charitable works so that we will be able to attain spiritual merit in accord with the world of human life. Therefore, we also need to gain both secular success and spiritual merit. Basically spiritual merit is regarded as an award for those who refrain from committing sins and do evil deeds by the respective religions in human society. Good moral behaviors and meritorious deeds lead us to attain spiritual merit. It is hardy ever to gain the secular success and spiritual merit on equal ratio in life. Some people try hard to gain spiritual merit in accord with the religious faith they profess. Different people around the world profess to different religion. Nevertheless, all the Hluttaws and teachings guide the believers or disciples to honestly and correctly for gaining the secular success in life. Then they do have their own practices to attain spiritual merit with specific doctrines. The focal point of all faith is based on charitable work, charitable donation, compassion, peace and harmony for all mankind in deed. We all are taught not to commit sins or do evil deeds by the respective religions in human society. Good moral behaviors and meritorious deeds lead us to attain spiritual merit. Basically spiritual merit is regarded as an award for those who refrain from committing sins and doing evil deeds in human life. We value that award and eagerly want it for eternal life after attaining Nirvana. We ought to analyze our conduct and contributions toward humanity so that we will be able to improve or upgrade our meritorious deeds and charitable work as much as we can. Essentially, we need to gain both secular success and spiritual merit. We must value the human existence because humans can attain the enlightening if they practice correctly. However, if a person behaves recklessly and does nothing for spiritual merit, he or she will meet crisis certainly. A man without secular success is like a vehicle without fuel. Similarly, a man who does not attempt for gaining spiritual merit is like a traveler without map or itinerary indeed. We understand the value and benefit of human life. As a matter of fact, we need to live beneficially, wisely and honestly in secular society. In order to enjoy the tempting luxuries in modern age, we have to work harder than before. At the same time, we strive for secular success with stable life. Since we are associated with other fellow human beings, we need to contribute to the social welfare activities by showing a sociable disposition. Thus, we realize that a secular success alone is not meaningful or complete for human life. Therefore, we also pay attention to the practice or work for gaining spiritual merit. We follow and practice in conformity with our faith, aiming to gain spiritual merit successfully.
U Win Htein reviews one year accomplishment of government.....

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The year to alleviate people from poverty

We need to improve the conditions of the people and create jobs. These two are the main points. Thus, 2017 is reaching the first year point of the NLD government as well as the year in which we will alleviate the people from poverty.

Q: Tell a little about actions taken against those who are responsible.

A: From U Htin Kyaw and Daw Aung San Suu Kyi to the bottom level personnel, all have good will (cetana). Despite good will (cetana), there can be some wrong acts. We don’t hesitate to correct those wrongs. Why? Because if there are any obstacles or hindrances in forming a democratic federal union and achieving of democratic aims, we will remove it. We will remove it without grudges. One Deputy Minister from the union government and Hlaing State Chief Minister were changed because they are not supporting this principal. In future too we will take actions against members of the union government, state and region government if they are doing things against the goodness of the people who voted for them.

Q: What do you want to say about government’s national reconciliation efforts?

A: Daw Aung San Suu Kyi’s policy is to base on national reconciliation for establishing a federal democratic union. Based on this Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker is U Win Myint from National League for Democracy, Deputy Speaker is a Kachin national U Khun Myat, from Uningyi Development Party. Amyotha Hluttaw speaker is U Mahn Win Khang from Than from National League for Democracy and Deputy Speaker is U Aye Tha Aung, from Arakan National Party.

For national reconciliation, we appoint politicians of different races and ethnic nationals as well. It is the same with Tatmadaw. Daw Aung San Suu Kyi is working well with Lt. General Sein Win, Lt. General Ye Aung, Lt. General Kyaw Swe. She work openly.

Have hope

Especially important is Senior General Min Aung Hlaing. Because he is the Tatmadaw leader relationship between Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and Senior General Min Aung Hlaing must be good in order to achieve our aim of amending the Constitution. A federal democratic union can be established. Convenient for peace as well.

With this aim, Senior General Min Aung Hlaing attended last year Martyr Day. Past Tatmadaw leaders has no precedent of doing such thing. Senior General Min Aung Hlaing was conciliatory in such way. In the same way, when Senior General Min Aung Hlaing attended the multi-religion prayer ceremony at Daw Aung San Suu Kyi residence, she realize that he is doing things for the country with good will (cetana) and let Senior General Min Aung Hlaing know about her realization.

Up to now there are no big problems between National League for Democracy and Tatmadaw. From this, the hope is to have more understanding through which more political matters can be accomplished. This is the expectation. And this is how Daw Aung San Suu Kyi will continue.

(Unofficial Translation)

Housing authorities plan to finalise construction of over 8,700 flats this year in Yangon

HOUSING authorities are planning to finish the construction of over 8,700 apartments from low-and-affordable housing projects in the Yangon, said a spokesperson of Urban and Housing Development Department under the Construction Ministry.

According to the department, a total of 8,712 housing units have been constructed in the commercial capital. Before the end of 2016–17 fiscal year, more than 2,000 newly established low-cost apartments and affordable apartments were sold to general public in installment.

Nearly 1,400 flats from Yandana Hninzi housing in Ayeyawady-Yadana Project in Dagon Seikkan Township, Yangon Region, were also sold out to the people within this FY.

Currently, the low-cost and fair-cost housing projects are being implemented in Yangon, Mandalay, Sagaing, Magway and Pathein townships with the aim of fulfilling the housing needs of residents.

Establishment of a million of housing units across the country is a major objective of the Ministry of Construction.

—200

Myanmar joins ADB’s South Asia economic body

MYANMAR has formally become a full member of South Asia Subregional Economic Cooperation (SASEC) programme of Asian Development Bank (ADB) being the seventh country to join the group.

The SASEC programme of ADB has provided a response to the request of Bangladesh, Bhutan, India and Nepal to assist in facilitating economic cooperation among them. Sri Lanka and Maldives joined the sub-regional group in 2014.

Addressing a meeting of ADB in New Delhi today, Shaktikanta Das, Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance of India, said development of multi-modal connectivity between North Eastern region of India, Bangladesh and Myanmar has the potential of unleashing tremendous economic energy in the sub-region, reports our local correspondent.

He noted that Myanmar is the key to realising greater connectivity and stronger trade and economic relations between SASEC sub-region and the countries of East and Southeast Asia.

Myanmar’s membership in SASEC can offer a host of opportunities for realising synergies from economic cooperation in the sub-region, he observed.

SASEC member-countries recognise that most of SASEC’s multimodal connectivity initiatives include Myanmar as road corridors in Myanmar provide the key links between South Asia and Southeast Asia and ports in Myanmar will provide additional gateways to the landlocked North Eastern region of India, Das said.

SASEC’s connectivity and energy trade prospects will be enhanced with the inclusion of Myanmar, involving its substantial resources of hydropower and natural gas, he said — Star Online.

Myanmar film to feature in Festivalde Cannes 2017

The Myanmar Film Project entitled One Summer Day by Wera and Aung Min has been selected for the Festivalde Cannes 2017—La Fabrique des Cinémas du monde.

According to a press release, MEMORY! International Film Festival, an annual Script Fund are pleased to announce that the film is one of the 10 projects from around the world selected in La Fabrique des Cinémas du Monde at Festival de Cannes 2017.

Director Wera and Script-writer Aung Min were part of the shortlist candidates of the nine projects selected for Myanmar Script Fund in November 2016, that took place within MEMORY Film Festival 4th edition in Yangon, Myanmar.

The project was also previously selected in Locarno Festival Open Doors Locarno Lab in August 2016.

Myanmar Script Fund 1st edition took place in 2016 as a Competition and Education programme within MEMORY International Film Festival in Yangon. Nine finalists candidates presented their film projects infront of an international jury chaired by Oscar-winning Director Michel Hazanavicius.

Recognised international institutions such as Locarno Film Festival, Open Doors, FAMU (Czech Republic), Myanmar Motion Picture Organization (MMPO), Yangon Film School and Arte Cinema were key partners alongside Goethe Institut, with the support of Forever Group.

The 2017 Myanmar Script Fund will open in May 2017 for the new application process. Competition and coaching sessions will take place within MEMORY International Film Festival 2017 (Nov 3-12, 2017).

Vehicle overruns on Yangon-Mandalay Highway

Volunteers rescue injured passengers. PHOTO: MYANMAR POLICE FORCE

A vehicle overturned en-route to Mandalay from Yangon on the highway between mile posts 227/0 and 227/1 yesterday morning.

The vehicle of CANTER type driven by Tham Zaw Lynn was out of control due to the flat tyre and it overturned over the midway platform. A total of 11 passengers, 6 were injured in the accident and were sent to 1000-bedded hospital in Nay Pyi Taw.

The driver was taken action under the criminal code 337/338 of careless driving by local police.—Myanmar Police Force

Significant Water Level Bulletin

The water levels of Ayeyawady River at Myitkyina rose about (2½) to (6) feet at Shwegu and Katha within (1) day according to the (12:30) hr observation on 1.4.2017. The water levels already rose up about (2½) feet to (5½) feet at Bhamo and Shwegu within (1) day.

The water levels in Upper Ayeyawady may rise above their present water level about (2½) to (6) feet at Shwezig and Katha during the next (2) days and about (2½) to (4) feet at Tbeikkyin, Mandalay, Saging, Myinmu, Pakokku and Nyaung Oo during the next (2) to (6) days.

It is advised that the vessels running along the river and those who made plantations on sandbank during low flow period should make precaution measures for the rise of water level.

Myanmar women entrepreneurs leave for Vietnam on 31st March to participate in AGRI PRESHURMST Study Tour @ Mekong Program. PHOTO: MNA
Merkel ally welcomes EU Brexit offer, warns UK against dividing bloc

BERLIN — A transition period offered to Britain by the European Union in Brexit negotiating guidelines is the only way to avoid the talks failing, an ally of German Chancellor Angela Merkel said on Friday.

In the guidelines, the EU offered Britain talks this year on a future free trade pact but made clear that London must first agree to the bloc’s demands on the terms of Brexit.

The document, seen by Reuters, sets tough conditions for any transition period, insisting Britain must accept many EU rules after any such partial withdrawal. Complex talks such as these are key to unforeseen events that could make a Brexit deal “impossible”, said one EU diplomat.

The guidelines are being issued to help Britain and the Union prepare for negotiations. The UK government has insisted that the talks are a new stage that Britain will not accept the EU’s terms.

“The swiftly-inspired offer would be hard to turn down,” said one EU diplomat. “But it’s only a breathing space if London accepts the bloc’s demands.”

One of the few bright spots of a draft document is that “the bloc” (of 27 EU states) is able to agree to the bloc’s demands “on the terms of Brexit”, said a spokeswoman for Mr. Schwab, who also mentioned that London must first agree to the bloc’s demands.

“Without transitional provisions, the negotiations would be doomed to failure from the start,” she said. “The proposals provide the necessary room and flexibility to negotiate reasonably and to reach high-quality arrangements.”

She said the guidelines, which may be revised before leaders of the remaining 27 EU states endorse them at an April 29 summit, “are more access to the internal market Britain wants, the greater the trade-off and so the more Britain must submit to EU law.”

She said “Seif”, warning Britain not to try to divide the bloc by negotiating with individual member states.

“Should this transpire, it would be the end of the EU’s good behaviour and willingness to compromise, which can clearly be seen in the draft guidelines,” she added. —Reuters

Trump’s orders target trade abuses, import duty evasion

WASHINGTON — US President Donald Trump sought to push his case for fair trade and more manufacturing jobs back to the top of his agenda on Friday by ordering a study into the causes of US trade deficits and a clampdown on import duty evasion.

The executive orders came a week after Trump’s promise to replace Obamacare imploded in Congress and a week before he meets with Chinese President Xi Jinping in Florida, a summit that promises to be fraught with trade tensions.

Trump said at a White House signing ceremony that he and Xi were “going to get down to some serious business” next week and vowed that “the fate of American prosperity” by foreign countries would end.

One of the orders directed the Commerce Department and the US trade representative to conduct a 90-day review of the causes of massive US trade deficits. It will study the effects of abuses such as the dumping of products below costs, unfair subsidies, ‘misaligned’ currencies and ‘non-reciprocal’ trade practices by other countries.

“We’re going to investigate all trade abuses, and, based on those findings, we will take necessary and lawful action to end those many abuses,” Trump said, adding that he won’t ‘shoehorn’ to any businesses.

Trump administration officials have said they plan tougher enforcement of trade remedies and will initiate more unilateral trade deals. In his 2016 White House bid, the New York businessman campaigned heavily against free-trade deals and accused China of draining jobs from US factory towns with cheap exports. Chinese Vice Foreign Minister Zheng Zeguang on Friday said the US-China trade imbalance was mostly the result of differences in the two countries’ economic structures and noted that China had a trade deficit in services.

“China does not deliberately seek a trade surplus. We also have no intention of carrying out competitive currency devaluation to stimulate exports.” Zheng told a briefing about the Xi-Trump meeting.

China tops the list, with a $347 billion surplus last year, followed by Japan, with a $69 billion surplus, Germany at $65 billion, Mexico at $63 billion, Ireland at $36 billion and Vietnam at $32 billion.

The study also will examine past trade deals that have failed to produce forecast benefits for the United States, as well as World Trade Organization rules that US Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross said do not treat countries equally, such as the tax.

The United States has long complained that WTO rules allow exports from other countries to be exempt from value-added taxes (VAT), but do not allow equivalent corporate income tax benefits for US exporters. The Trump administration is considering a border tax that would be levied on imports and which would aim to put the United States on a similar tax basis for trade as countries that have VAT.

The second trade order will fight nonpaying and anti-dumping and countervailing duties the United States slaps on many foreign goods. —Reuters

Colombia’s FARC rebels give up guns in disarmament camps

MOUNTAINS OF CAUCA (Colombia) — Former fighters from Colombia’s FARC rebel group are handing over thousands of weapons and other materials to international officials in special camps, as the six-month disarmament process continues.

The Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC), which operated in mountains of Cauca province, were among 6,900 FARC fighters who left behind clandestine camps where they had lived for decades, crossing the country on foot, by boat and by truck to get to 26 zones monitored by the United Nations.

The zones will be their homes for the foreseeable future as they comply with bureaucratic processes to determine whether they will serve special sentences for war crimes or receive amnesty. Ex-fighters will also reunite with long-lost families and make amends to victims.

Under the terms of the peace accord, the FARC, which began as a peasant uprising 52 years ago, is to form a political movement in the South American nation.

The FARC’s leadership has raised concerns about conditions in some of the camps, including the lack of permanent toilets and facilities such as gyms they say they were agreed in the accord. Some FARC members have told local media they will not hand over their weapons until the camps are more habitable for fighters, who are well used to rough-and-tumble living conditions in poverty-stricken rural areas.

The government says it is working as quickly as possible to finish each camp, that the FARC is partly responsible for construction and that the facilities are far superior to the tap and bamboo-lean-tos traditionally used by the rebels. —Reuters
**One-year journey of Taninthayi Region**

Taninthayi Region is the long narrow southern part of the country. It borders the Andaman Sea to the west and the Tanintharyi Hills, beyond which lies Thailand, to the east. To the north is the Mon State. Since 15th century, the region has played a role in world maritime trade. Currently, Dawei Deep Sea port project is being implemented in Taninthayi Region.

There are many islands off the coast, the large Mergui Archipelago in the southern and central coastal areas and the smaller Moscos Islands off the northern shores. The region covers an area of 43,344.9 km², and had a population of 1,406,434 at the 2014 Census.

**Economic Development**

Taninthayi Region has seen 5.1 percent progress in the economic sector in compared with the same period in previous fiscal year.

**Fishery products**

Taninthayi Region’s fishery business contributes much to the country’s GDP. According to local fishermen, jellyfish appearing in the sea in Myanmar water is unusual and happens only once or twice a year. The cleaned and processed jellyfish are exported to the America and European market through Thailand market. One wet jellyfish is traded at the price 4 to 5 Thai baht (Ks 2000), in the market. Three fishermen in a boat can catch more than 600 to 800 jellyfish a day, which can fetch more than one lakh per day.

The region produced about 20 jellyfish this season. In the first one-year period of the new government, the region exported fishery products worth US$195 million, increasing from US$151 million in the same period last fiscal year.

**Agriculture**

Rubber is one of the major products of Taninthayi Region. The region produced more than 66933246 pounds of rubber in the 2016-2017 fiscal year. A total of 294719 acres have been put under palm oil in the region.

**Mining**

In the mining sector, 2 mining companies have been allowed to mine tin and tungsten. There are 36 blocks for tin and tungsten mining in Taninthayi Region. The region sets its target of producing more than 910 metric tons metal in the 2016-2017 Fiscal Year, and so far, have produced 739,581 metric tons. Seventeen companies have been allowed to carry out pilot mining of metal and others.

**Salon tribe and Tourism**

Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation is preparing to showcase the lifestyle of the salon tribe who are on the brink of extinction at the National Races village located in Thaketa Township, Yangon. The ministry is set to build a Salon house furnished to display the lifestyle of Salons within the village. The ministry will build a miniature building in which documents and photographs will be shown. There will be a traditional curved wooden boat on display.

The Mergui Archipelago, which consists of more than 800 untouched islands, is part of the Taninthayi Region. All islands lie in the Andaman Sea off the coast of southern Myanmar. Since 2016, the natural, unspoiled islands have become increasingly popular among international tourists, most of whom enter through neighbouring Thailand. From April to February of the 2016-2017 Fiscal Year, the region received 90,202 local visitors and 60,690 tourists, most of whom spent more than US$1 million and more than US$1.3 million. Motorboat tourists from Asia, Africa and some European countries enjoy visiting Mergui Archipelago for its beautiful landscapes along the coast such as coral reefs, mangroves and a diverse species of birds and aquatic animals and traditional culture, such as the sea-based life of the Salon, also known as the sea gypsies, a seafaring ethnic minority. Tourists also visit the country’s first marine national park, Lampi Island, 115 Island, Nyaungwee Island, Philar Island, Myaukni Island, Bocho Island, Nanathu Island, Tower Rock Island, Cave Island and Satan Island.

**Electricity**

Six gas engines with a capacity of 1MW backed up by six 620 KVA Volvo diesel generators provides electricity cheaply before connecting with the national grid. In Myeik and Kawthaung districts, authorities committees are providing electricity through diesel generators.

**Transportation**

Transport in Tanintharyi Region is good and road, water and air travel can be done at all weather. Cars, ships, aircrafts and highspeed boats are running regularly for ease and safe travel.

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**Performance in One Year Period**

**A One Soe**

An oil palm factory is seen in Taninthayi Region. Taninthayi Region can be called big oil pot of Myanmar.

**Taninthayi Region has seen 5.1 percent progress in the economic sector in compared with the same period in previous fiscal year.**

**Transportation**

Transport in Tanintharyi Region is good and road, water and air travel can be done at all weather. Cars, ships, aircrafts and highspeed boats are running regularly for ease and safe travel.

**Electricity**

Six gas engines with a capacity of 1MW backed up by six 620 KVA Volvo diesel generators provides electricity cheaply before connecting with the national grid. In Myeik and Kawthaung districts, authorities committees are providing electricity through diesel generators.
PERFORMANCES IN ONE-YEAR PERIOD

Power generation and distribution royalty reduced 102 villages to be provided with electric power.

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Per unit royalty fee for the power generation and distribution by lighting committees and private companies in the Tanintharyi Region was uniformly reduced from 10 Kyat per unit to 5 Kyat per unit in 2016 September.

For connection with the national grid, 24,726.655 million Kyat is allocated for Tanintharyi Region’s Myeik, Tavoy and Kawthaung districts to connect 50 miles of 33KV power line, 223 miles of 11 KV power line, 148.45 miles of 0.4 KV power line, installation of two substations, 128 33/11 KV 5MVA transformers and conduct 281 projects. Once all these are completed 102 villages in the region will be provided with electric power.

During the past year there were 12 fire and natural disasters. Regional Government’s fire and natural disaster fund provided 7.901 million Kyat for 12 households from 11 houses in Tavoy Township, 16.0727 million Kyat for 59 households from 59 houses in Myeik District, 2 million Kyat for 4 households from 4 houses Kawthaung District totaling 25.9737 million Kyats for 73 households 74 houses.

Striving together in joint effort

During the first year, the new government was able to accomplish sector by sector its four policies of national reconciliation, internal peace, establishment of a federal democratic union and advance in social conditions.

As part of efforts for national reconciliation, two armed groups in Tanintharyi Region are striving together with various ethnic and religious groups for peace, stability and rule of law.

Joint Monitoring Committee (JMC-S) was formed for the Region and 5 meetings were held during the year to maintain regional peace and stability.

Construction of Emergency Shelters

Heavy rains on 9 and 10 January resulted in landslides and flooding in Thein Khov village tract, Mawtaung region in Tanintharyi town, Myeik district that swept away some houses and causes some deaths. Regional government provided 1 lakh Kyat per household to 43 effected households totaling 4.3 million Kyat.

National Disaster Management Committee chairman approved a reserve fund of Kyat 350.4 million for the construction of 3 emergency shelters that can shelter 500 person each in Thahawsik village tract, Launglon Township, Kanathiri village, Thayetchaung Township and Palontonton village, Kawthaung Township.

There were 35 natural disasters in the region that affected 233 buildings, 240 households with a population of 1,123 that resulted in nine deaths. Relief and Resettlement Department provided Kyat 18.2 million to support the affected.

Education

On the 2016-2017 education year enrollment day, donors and the government donated funds and educational materials worth about 478,612 million Kyat. 79 of the 149 schools recommended to Basic Education Department for upgrade were upgraded. In those upgraded schools 111 graduate teachers were further upgraded and employed as highschool teachers. In order to reduce the teacher to student ratio, 291 local graduates were employed as primary school teachers while 59 graduate Karen teachers were employed in Karen villages.

During the fiscal year 2015-2016 Ministry of Education allocated 3,708 million Kyat for construction of 77 buildings and in 2016-2017 budget year; the number was increased up to 106 buildings.

Health

Ministry of Health provided Kyat 1,386 million for construction of 3 village tract clinics, 17 sub-clinics and staff accommodations in the region that were started in December 2016.

Constructions are underway for a two-storey and five-storey extension wards and four-room three storey accommodation for doctors in Dawei hospital, staff accommodation in Sakhahtbil Ward Hospital, eight rooms four storey staff accommodation building and a two storey extension that includes an operation theatre and a delivery room in Thayetchaung Township Hospital, an extension ward and staff accommodation in Tanintharyi Township Hospital, six rooms three storey staff accommodation in Kawthaung Township Hospital, eight rooms four storey staff accommodation in Kawthaung Township Hospital.

Coordination meeting

As the region was at peace, nothing much was required on the internal peace process. But the regional government met with ethnic leaders three times to avoid conflicts between armed groups.

Tanintharyi Region government is giving priority to the people’s wish of establishing a federal union.

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi formed a nine member committee to hold national level political dialogue in the region. Thus, Tanintharyi Region is ready to participate in the 21st Century Panglong Conference.

A new earthen road is constructed to facilitate commodity flow in Taninthary Region. Photo: MNA
British role in European security “unconditional” — foreign minister

LONDON — Britain’s contribution to European security is “unconditional”, Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson told a French newspaper, denying the government had made a veiled threat to reduce cooperation if there was no post-Brexit trade deal.

Prime Minister Theresa May said in a letter to the European Union on Wednesday that “our cooperation in the fight against crime and terrorism would be weakened” if Britain left the bloc without a new deal on trade and other matters.

Asked in an interview with France’s Le Figaro whether Britain was trying to use security cooperation as a bargaining chip to secure an EU trade deal, Johnson said: “No, not at all.”

“We consider the historic contribution of the UK to the security and stability of Europe as unconditional,” he said in the interview published on Saturday.

“We will maintain this contribution, which benefits all of Europe and the world. It’s in our interest and in the interest of others, and we hope this will be one of the planks of our deep and special partnership (with the EU).”

Brexit minister David Davis also said on Thursday that May’s words did not amount to a threat.

“This is a statement of the fact that this will be harmful for both of us (Britain and the EU) ... if from next week,” Australian Transport Minister Chester said in a statement on Friday. “Explosive de-tection screening will be conducted for randomly selected passengers and their baggage. Checks may also include targeted screening of electronic devices. The increased security measures will affect passengers flying direct to Australia from Doha, Abu Dhabi and Dubai. Affecting airlines include Qantas and Gulf carriers Etihad, Emirates and Qatar Airways.—Reuters

Australia bolsters security checks for flights from Middle East

SYDNEY — Australia will conduct additional security checks on passengers flying directly from Muslim-majority countries in the Middle East to prevent security threats. The new rules follow similar measures introduced by Britain and the United States, but do not include the same bans on electronic devices in the cabins of passenger flights. “In response to national security advice the Federal Government has made precautionary changes and instructed airlines to implement new protocols.

Paraguay rioters set fire to Congress after Senate re-election vote

ASUNCION — Protesters stormed and set fire to Paraguay’s Congress on Friday after the Senate secretly voted for a constitutional amendment that would allow President Horacio Cartes to run for re-election. The country’s constitution has prohibited re-election since it was passed in 1992 after a brutal dictatorship fell in 1989.

“A coup has been carried out. We will resist and we invite the people to resist with us,” said Senator De- scree Mas from the opposition Progressive Democratic Party. Firefighters managed to control the flames after protesters left the Congress building late on Friday night. But protests and riots continued in other parts of Asuncion and elsewhere in the country well into the night, media reported. Earlier, television images showed protesters breaking windows of the Congress and clashing with police, burning tires and removing parts of fences around the building. Police in riot gear fired tear gas and rubber bullets. Several politicians and journalists were injured, media reported, and Interior Minister Tadeo Rivas said several police were hurt. One member of the lower house of Congress, who had been participating in protests that afternoon, underwent surgery after being hit by rubber bullets. The number of casualties was unknown. Cartes called for calm and a rejection of violence in a statement released on Twitter. “Democracy is not conquered or defeated with violence and you can be sure this government will continue to put its best effort into maintaining order in the republic,” he said.

“We must not allow a few barbarians to destroy the peace, tranquility and general wellbeing of the Paraguayan people.” The unrest coincides with a rare high-level international event in the landlocked South American country. Thousands of businessmen and government officials descended on Asuncion this week for the Inter-American Development Bank’s annual board of governors meeting.

While Paraguay long suffered from political uncertainty, the soy and beef-exporting nation has been attracting investment in agriculture and manufacturing sectors in recent years as Cartes offered tax breaks to foreign investors.

Instability in the country of 6.8 million is a concern for its much larger neighbours Brazil and Argentina. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights said it was monitoring the events. “I call on political leaders to avoid inciting violence and seek dialogue,” the commission’s regional representative for South America, Amerigo Incacelletta, said in a statement.—Reuters

Invitation for Open Tender Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation

Department of Rural Development

1. The Republic of the Union of Myanmar has received a Grant from the Federal Republic of Germany (KfW bank) through the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation towards the cost of Rural Development Phase II & III.

2. Department of Rural Development under Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation intends to implement , with contract system, the construction of bituminous roads (total length around (60)Km) and bridges along the roads in Taunggyi District Shan State. Rural roads express as follow:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No</th>
<th>Township</th>
<th>Road Name</th>
<th>Length(Km)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(i)</td>
<td>Taunggyi</td>
<td>KanLaung-Zale</td>
<td>17.36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(ii)</td>
<td>Hopone</td>
<td>Lwe Omt - Ht Bwar</td>
<td>7.11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(iii)</td>
<td>NyaungShwe</td>
<td>Nyaung Shwe - Kanu</td>
<td>6.51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(iv)</td>
<td>YetSauk</td>
<td>Pin Phit - Wapyar</td>
<td>11.37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(v)</td>
<td>Kalaw</td>
<td>BawNing-Thaytypu</td>
<td>12.48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(vi)</td>
<td>Kalaw</td>
<td>KumphParNi-SuPanNi</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(vii)</td>
<td>Kalaw</td>
<td>Kum Par Ni - Paw Toke</td>
<td>5.67</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3. Interested companies may obtain further information and may inspect the complete bidding documents, and may purchase a set of the documents upon payment of a non-refundable fee of MMK-50000 at the Purchaser’s following address or on or before the 26-5-2017.

Daw Tin Moe Myint
Director
Department of Rural Development
Office No(14), Naypyitaw
Tel: 067409029
Email: rbbdrd@gmail.com

4. Submitting the tender document, Individual document must submit each lot.

5. A pre-bid conference will be held in the Meeting Room of the DRR at (26-4-2017) at 10:00AM. Each bidder is invited to attend the conference with maximum two representatives.

6. Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before (26-5-2017). Late bids will be rejected.
Latin singer Maluma eyes English music crossover with upcoming album

LOS ANGELES — Already one of the biggest names in Latin music, Colombian pop star Maluma is hoping to cross over to a wider audience with an upcoming album of Spanish and English music.

Maluma, the 23-year-old singer from Medellin, Colombia, has already collaborated with some of Latin music’s most successful cross over talents, such as Shakira and Ricky Martin.

“I’m trying to find the balance and do like, ‘Spanglish’ music or some songs in Spanish and others in English or do a translation,” Maluma told Reuters at the end of his US tour in Los Angeles.

Maluma’s second album, “Pretty Boy, Dirty Boy,” was released in 2015 and became his breakout record, with hit singles “Borro Cassette” and “Sin Contrato.” So far, his native Spanish has already garnered him a legion of fans on social media. Maluma, whose real name is Juan Luis Londoño Arias, is the most-followed Latin male artist on Instagram with more than 22 millions fans.

“That connection that I have with my fans is really special and every time when I have moments, when I have free time, the only thing that I think about is what I’m going to post, what I’m going to say to my fans,” he said. “I think that’s the key to being a success right now,” he added.

It was Maluma’s social media presence that brought him to the attention of pop star Selena Gomez, whom Maluma invited to collaborate on a new song.

“I found out that she was following me and I tried to be in touch with her to make some music but we can’t do it … maybe because she’s a busy girl and me too, I’m a really busy man, and maybe next time we can do something,” he said.

Maluma’s world tour next takes him to Mexico, Brazil and Argentina. “I have a lot of surprises in store,” Maluma teased of his upcoming shows, although he remained tight-lipped about whether any special guest stars might join him on stage.

“I like to prepare each tour in a different way. Now that I’m heading to Mexico, I’m preparing something special for my fans in Mexico,” —Reuters

Alex Rodriguez confirms Jennifer Lopez romance

LOS ANGELES — Alex Rodriguez has confirmed his relationship with Jennifer Lopez by gushing about her on TV.

The 41-year-old former baseball star recently started dating Jennifer, 47, and during a TV appearance on “The View”, he couldn’t resist talking about her, reported People magazine.

When asked about their relationship, he says, “It’s obvious. Were having a great time, shes an amazing, amazing girl, and one of the smartest human beings Ive ever met and also an incredible mother.

“She just likes simple things. I mean, she’s a very, very simple person. Loves family. Is a great sister. Is a great daughter.”

Jennifer has nine-year-old twins Max and Emme with her former husband Marc Anthony, while Alex and his ex Cynthia Scurtis have daughters Natasha, 12 and eight-year-old Ella together.

The pair are believed to have met at one of the singers shows in Las Vegas last month in February and have been inseparable ever since.

After a trip to the Bahamas together in early March, Alex jetted to Los Angeles recently, where he was spotted with Jennifer at the Bell-Air hotel.

Jennifer and Alex also worked out together at her trainer Gunnar Petersons gym and spent quality time together at her Bell-Air home. —PTI

Managing my depression a daily struggle: Selena Gomez

LOS ANGELES — Singer-actress Selena Gomez says she fights hard to balance life and work as she faces symptoms of anxiety and depression daily.

The “Hear Wants What It Wants” hitmaker checked herself into rehab last year to address her mental health issues, which have become a huge problem since she was diagnosed with auto-immune disease lupus in 2015, reported Extra.

“Trust me, it’s a daily struggle,” Gomez says of her ongoing anxiety and depression treatment.

“Balance is the key. Patience. Being kind to yourself. Having grace. I think that’s important.”

The 24-year-old Latina relies on the loved ones in her life for support, but she also surprisingly finds confidence and strength for her health pursuits in people who antagonise her.

“My family. My little sister, who is three (keep me going). (But) a lot of the people who have pushed me down have actually motivated me. I can’t allow myself to believe the words that people are saying to me,” she adds.—PTI

Gary Barlow to renew wedding vows

LONDON — Take That singer Gary Barlow and his wife Dawn will renew their wedding vows next year.

The singer and Dawn have been married since 2000 and Gary reveals his big plans for next year include renewing their vows, reported Daily Mirror.

“I’d like to renew my wedding vows with my amazing wife, That’s definitely on the agenda,” Gary says.

Gary and Dawn met in 1995 and have three children; Daniel, Emily and Daisy, together. —PTI

Jennifer Lopez and Alex Rodriguez have been spotted together over the weekend in Los Angeles. Photo: Reuters

Jennifer Lopez performs “Sin Contrato” during the 2015 Latin Grammy Awards in Las Vegas, Nevada on 19 November 2015. Photo: Reuters

Singer Selena Gomez. Photo: Reuters

Maluma performs “Sin Contrato” during the 2015 Latin Grammy Awards in Las Vegas, Nevada on 19 November 2015. Photo: Reuters
Cambodia’s famed Angkor earns nearly 31 mln USD from ticket sales in Q1

PHNOM PENH — Revenue from ticket sales to foreigners visiting Cambodia’s famed Angkor archeological park reached 30.8 million US dollars in the first quarter of 2017, up 51.6 per cent over the same period last year, according to an official report on Saturday.

The ancient site welcomed 764,146 foreign tourists during the January-March period this year, up 9 per cent over the same period last year, said the report of the state-owned Angkor Enterprise.

The remarkable increase in the revenue was due to the hike in ticket prices since 1 February.

The current price for a one-day ticket is 37 US dollars, up from 20 US dollars, a three-day pass increased to 62 US dollars from 40 US dollars, and a seven-day ticket climbed to 72 US dollars from 60 US dollars.

Located in northwestern Cambodia’s Siem Reap province, the Angkor archeological park, inscribed on UNESCO’s World Heritage List in 1992, is the kingdom’s top tourist destination.

Most tourists to the site are Chinese, South Koreans and Americans. — Xinhua

Medvedeva emulates Kwan with back-to-back world titles

HELSINKI — Russia’s Evgenia Medvedeva will be the woman to beat at next year’s Winter Olympics after soaring above her rivals to win back-to-back titles at the world figure skating championships with a performance full of grace and technical wizardry.

Friday’s triumph with a world record total of 233.41 points made her the first woman since American Michelle Kwan in 2001 to win successive world titles and enhanced her reputation as a skating phenomenon as she has now captured 10 titles in a row.

No one came close to ending that run on Friday as she romped to victory by 15.28 points over Canadian Kaetlyn Osmond.

The 17-year-old Russian also made it a clean sweep of world records as her free skate score of 154.40 was an all-time best.

Osmond and her teammate Gabrielle Daleman earned their first world medals by finishing second and third respectively. — Reuters

Gold medallist Evgenia Medvedeva (C) of Russia, silver medallist Kaetlyn Osmond (L) of Canada and bronze medallist Gabrielle Daleman of Canada attend Ladies Victory Ceremony of the ISU World Championships 2017 in Helsinki, Finland on 31 March 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

Germany pays 1.2 mln euros for Kirchner painting seized by Nazis

BERLIN — A 1913 painting by Expressionist Ernst Ludwig Kirchner that was seized by the Nazis as “degenerate art” will remain in a Ludwigshafen museum after the German government and others paid 1.2 million euros to the heir of the painting’s original owner.

The painting’s title, “The Judgment of Paris,” which shows three nude women and a clothed man posing in Kirchner’s studio, was looted from Jewish art collector Hans Hess during the Nazi era, but has been on display at the Wilhelm-Hack Museum in Ludwigshafen since 1979. Hess’s heir agreed to allow the painting to stay on display at the museum after various donors, including the German federal and state governments and the Ernst von Siemens Foundation, raised money to compensate her, the German government said on Friday.

The agreement was made in accordance with the so-called Washington Declaration of 1998 that covers restitution of art confiscated by the Nazis before and during World War Two.

Culture state secretary Monika Gruettner described the purchase as “a great example of a public museum living up to its responsibilities for dealing with Nazi looted art.”

Gruettner said the agreement was made possible by the generosity of the heir of the painting’s original owner, and the extraordinary help of public and private donors.

The painting’s title refers to the Greek myth about a contest between the three most beautiful goddesses of Olympus — Aphrodite, Hera and Athena — vying for the prize of a golden apple addressed “To the Fairest.” — Reuters

Frozen treats and sprinklers keep Bangkok zoo animals cool

BANGKOK — Malayan sun bears have been enjoying popsicles and cold yogurt in a Thailand zoo that has been feeding its animals frozen treats and spraying them down with water to keep them cool in the summer heat.

With temperatures soaring to highs of 42 Cel- sius (107.6 Fahrenheit), keepers at Dusit Zoo have been working to prevent animals becoming distressed, hosing down elephants and feeding chimpanzees sweet, cold treats made from fruits and syrup.

“They can be stressed out (if the weather is too hot),” said zookeeper Sompong Sawaihat.

“They will walk around shaking their heads. Each day, we have different kinds of popsicles made by nutritionists, which will help cool them down.” — Reuters
Coutinho inspires Liverpool to derby victory over Everton

NEW YORK — Tiger Woods will miss next week’s US Masters due to his troublesome back and has no timetable for his return to competitive golf, the former world number one said on Friday.

It will be only the third time Woods has missed the year’s first major since he first competed at Augusta National in 1995. The four-times champion did not play at the Masters in 2014 or 2016 and tied for 17th in 2015. “I did about everything I could to play, but my back rehabilitation didn’t allow me the time to get tournament ready,” Woods said in a statement on his website. “I have no timetable for my return, but I will continue my diligent effort to recover, and want to get back out there as soon as possible.”

The 14-times major winner said he would still be at Augusta National’s clubhouse on Tuesday for the annual Champions Dinner ahead of the 6-9 April Masters. Woods returned to the PGA Tour in January after a 17-month absence following back surgery but has not played a tournament since he pulled out of a European Tour event in Dubai because of a back spasm in early February. He missed the cut at the Farmers Insurance Open after shooting rounds of 76 and 72 and shot an opening-round 77 a week later in Dubai. Now 41, Woods has not won a major title since he clinched the 14th of his career at the 2008 US Open and his form has slumped dramatically as he has battled injury in recent years.

This year’s Masters marks the 20th anniversary of Woods winning the first of his four Green Jackets at Augusta National. He also won the title in 2001, 2002 and 2005.

Tottenham given extension over Wembley move

LONDON — Tottenham Hotspur have been given an extension until 30 April to decide whether they will play their home fixtures at Wembley Stadium next season, the Premier League club said on Friday.

Tottenham’s current stadium is to be demolished at the end of the season as a new one is being constructed but chairman Daniel Levy said on Thursday the club might stay at White Hart Lane for longer than expected.

Spurs have reached agreement with Wembley National Stadium Limited (WNSL) for an extension.

“We shall be carefully monitoring the progress of the construction programme and public sector infrastructure delivery,” the club said on their website (www.tottenhamhotspur.com).

“Our intention remains to spend next season at the national stadium before returning to our new stadium in Tottenham for the 2019/20 season.”

Tottenham have received approval from Brent Council to play 27 games at Wembley next season.

Woods says will miss Masters, no timetable for return

MIAMI — Rafa Nadal rolled by unseeded Italian Fabio Fognini 6-1, 7-5 on Friday to reach his fifth Miami Open final and a potential rematch of the Australian Open deciding with Roger Federer.

The fifth-seeded Spaniard, with a display of powerful serving and opportunistic returns, did not face a break point against Fognini and put his opponent’s serve under pressure throughout the 90-minute match. Nadal raced through the first set in 26 minutes, losing only four points on serve while Fognini made 14 unforced errors.

The Italian came to life in the second set, including a stretch where he erased five break points during his first two service games. But at 5-5, just when it looked as if Fognini might force a decisive third set, he double faulted and Nadal got his break before sealing the match four points later.

Nadal, who has never won the Miami title, will face the winner of Friday’s second semi-final between twice champion Federer, the fourth seed, and the 12th-seeded Australian Nick Kyrgios. Federer made a stunning return from a six-month injury layoff to win the Australian Open in January, and also beat Nadal in the last 16 at Indian Wells en route to winning a record-tying fifth title there.

Nadal powers past Fognini into Miami Open final

MADRID — The Spanish Football Federation (RFEF) made a decision to extend the contract of the head coach of the national team, Luis Enrique. The contract will now run until June 2019, according to the RFEF.

The RFEF also announced that the team will travel to the US for a friendly match against Mexico on 23 May before the World Cup in Russia.

Coutinho inspires Liverpool to derby victory over Everton

LONDON — Philippe Coutinho inspired Liverpool to a comfortable 3-1 home win over Everton in the 228th Merseyside derby on Saturday to move provisionally up to third in the Premier League.

Sadio Mane exploited poor Everton defending in the eighth minute to net his 13th goal of the season, playing a one-two with Roberto Firmino and holding off two opponents before firing low past Joel Robles.

Everton’s Matthew Pennington marked his first appearance of the season with an equaliser in the 23rd minute, prodding home after Dejan Lovren’s clearance, but was caught out less than three minutes later when Coutinho tore past Idrissa Gueye, cut in past the defender and slammed the ball into the far corner.

Divock Origi added a third shortly after replacing the injured Mane with a thumping strike from outside the area after being played in by the outstanding Coutinho to take Liverpool up to 59 points. Everton remained in seventh on 50. — Reuters