Students’ Union Office signifies 1960s movement

The Office of the Yangon University Students’ Union was opened yesterday evening at Theikpan Hall with wall portraits of former chairmen of the Union Ko Aung San (Bogyoke Aung San) and Ko Ba Hein.

At the opening ceremony held amidst fluttering historical red flags portraying the fighting yellow peacock, on the Khu ddauung Flag, Union Education Minister quoted State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi as saying, “Look forward and advance towards the nation’s and your better future!” Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein a veteran of the 88 student movement hailed the office as a sign of the nation on a path of reform.

“The students’ movement broke out while I was a university student” he said. “It is a movement that is a part of the long struggle for democracy and reforms in Myanmar. We took to the streets for the reemergence of a gathering point for students’ at the place where the Students Union once stood. From that stage, we steered the movement into a political activity calling for the national democratization and the adoption of the multiparty democracy system. Now we are on the path to democracy.

“I bow to all the student leaders for their struggles under the Khu ddauung Flag for all of us to gather at this place,” he said.

“The students’ union currently has 50 members at Yangon University, where 3,000 students are enrolled. “For many years we had been striving for the office. For certain reasons we were not lucky in the past,” said Students’ Union Chairwoman Ma Ei Swe Myat. “Now we have the office where members can do their job in a peace of mind.”

Rector of the university promised the students’ union would enjoy autonomy and independence of action. Plans are being made to rebuild the Students’ Union, which was destroyed amid student protests in 1982.—Myanmar News Agency
Myanmar Central Bank releases principles for banks

Myanmar Central Bank-MCB released on 7 July the main principles to be followed by banks in connection with the capital sufficiency, the specification of the types of rights, the problem of huge debts, financial liquidity, banking system stability, financial stability and the legal affairs.

The principles were released following the discussions held by Myanmar Central Bank, local banks and foreign banks at MCB, Nay Pyi Taw on 4 July.

Further details are available through the website of Central Bank: www.cbm.gov.mm.—Myanmar News Agency

Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye looks into local needs

UNION Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Win Myat Aye who was in Rakhine State paid homage to Maha Muni Pagoda in Kyauktaw and offered donations yesterday, according to a report of Myanmar News Agency.

The Union Minister also offered waso robes and cash donations to Tain Nyo village monastery and Nuyan village monastery in MraukU, Khaung Laung Ywar Thit village monastery in Minbya, Thayat Tapin village monastery in Kyauktaw and Dhamma Yarma monastery in Sat Yon Su ward in Sittway.

When the Union Minister visited Apaukwa village and Thayat Tapin village in Kyauktaw Township, he met local residents and explained the Union Government’s efforts to solve difficulties of local people, provide cooperation and assistance for people.

The Union Minister fulfilled the immediate needs of the people during the meeting, providing life jackets worth Ks 2 million for rescue members from 4 townships in MraukU, Ks 2 million to rebuild Thayat Tapin high school’s yard, Ks 500,000 for Thayat Tapin monastery and two machine boats worth Ks 4.4 million for Thayat Tapin and Apaukwa village-tracts for search and rescue operations during natural disasters.

Later, the Union Minister and party visited relief camp for ethnic people in Sittway and provided Ks 7.2 million for supplying powers and for other needs. Then, the Union Minister presented clothes to the women and toys and foods to the children.—Myanmar News Agency

Terrorists attack the security forces at Tinmay Village, Buthidaung Township

The government security forces were attacked with small arms and mines by armed terrorists at Tinmay Village, Buthidaung Township. The security forces returned fire and caught two dead bodies, one man alive and another man who disturbed and deterred the activities of security forces.

It is learnt that while the security forces were patrolling near Tinmay Village Tract, Buthidaung Township, they were shot 20 rounds of bullet by small arms from inside the house of Phwayaut Islam and Zarbe who interfered were caught. As the security forces cleared the house, burnt BA94-1 no., 2 cartridge cases, BA94- blank bullet 6 no., handmade gun-1 no., remote mine-1 no., things for IED were seized. Moreover, Bangladesh Tarka 1000 note-1 no., and some other denominations, Symphony phone-1 no., and small other things were also found in his fanny bag. The seized BA-94 was known as the gun which had been brought by terrorists in the 2016, October 9 Kyikainpyin attack.—Myanmar News Agency

Ten suspects arrested in Maungtaw Township, Rakhine

TEN suspects were arrested at Norokla village in Maungtaw Township, Rakhine State, on 8 July.

Security forces acting on information conducted a search in the village and arrested eight suspects including Shah Arlanz who has links with a terrorist group. They also arrested Mamet Eimu a suspect in the murder of 100-household head of Khaungtaga village and Yaya Khan (currently a resident of Saudi Arabia) who was staying in Norokla village illegally on 24 June.—Myanmar News Agency

Ms Yanghee Lee arrives in Yangon

MS. YANGHEE LEE, Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar, and party arrived at Yangon by air yesterday for her sixth trip to Myanmar.

They were welcomed at the airport by officials of the Foreign Affairs Ministry and other organizations.

During her visit she will visit Lashio in Shan State (North), and KyaukPhyu, Sittway in Rakhine State.

A press conference on the trip will be held in Yangon, it is learnt.—Myanmar News Agency
Come hell or high water!

We need zeal and perseverance to realize our goal. Once in a boat race in Pathein, rowers stopped paddling and lifted their oars when they achieved a slight lead over their competitors’ boat. We, the Myanmar people, to often give up before reaching their goal. We can say this is the Myanmar spirit under enslavement. I warn all of you against this spirit. Come hell or high water; you must never give up.

(Excerpt from the last address Bogyoke Aung San delivered from the City Hall in front of Maha Bandoola Park in Yangon on 13 July 1947)

Martyrs’ Day Commemoration Committee meets at Mausoleum

Organizers of the 70th Anniversary of Martyrs’ Day Commemoration met at the administrative office of Martyrs’ Mausoleum yesterday, according to a Myanmar News Agency report.

Commemoration patron Vice President U Myint Swe attended the meeting and delivered a speech explaining that the event would reflect on the legacy of Bogyoke Aung San and his colleagues who sacrificed their lives for the country and encourage people to consider the sacrifice of so many lives in pursuit of independence.

The Vice President said the event will also help people remember the role of Myanmar’s national leaders so they will never forget the contributions they made and inspire patriotism in future generations.

The organizing committee is comprised of 16 members. There is also a working committee of 26 members. The first meeting of the group was held in Nay Pyi Taw on 16 June. While visiting the Bogyoke Residence Museum and the Old Secretariat Building the committee formed eight sub-committees, took 22 decisions and established 10 points of action.

Other members of the organizing committee present yesterday included Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture Thura U Aung Ko, Chief Minister of Yangon Region Government U Phyo Min Thein and Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Major General Aung Soe.—Myanmar News Agency

Discussion to create 100 Myanmar classic books series

The Union Minister for Information, writers and booksellers discussed a proposal to select and disseminate 100 Myanmar classic books in Sarpay Beikman on merchant street in Yangon yesterday, according to a report of Myanmar News Agency.

Union Minister for Information Dr. Pe Myint, himself a well-known Myanmar book author, said the ministry has printed and distributed Myanmar’s most important literature for many years. It will publish 100 Myanmar books series like Harvard University that published Harvard Classics series.

Union Minister Dr. Pe Myint also urged writers who attended the event to discuss the 100 Myanmar books series.

Afterwards, Dr. Khin Aye, also known as Mg Khin Min Da Nu Phyu and a number of writers discussed matters relating to distribute 100 Myanmar book series, and the Union Minister added some advices. — Myanmn News Agency

Some roads close on Arzani Day

SOME Yangon roads will close on 18-19 July as a security measure during the 70th Arzani Day (Martyrs’ Day) commemoration.

The holiday will be memorialized by high level officials and relatives of the late national independence leader Bogyoke Aung San and other fallen leaders.

Road closures will include Shwegondine Road between the junction U Wizar Road and Link Street and Arzani Road from Shwegondine Road up to the eastern archway of the Shwedagon Pagoda and the Oak-blay-ka street and Kyaukse Dhammayon street will close from 6 p.m. on 18 July until 6 p.m. 19 July.

Invited guests will enter the Martyrs’ Mausoleum venue through Gate 2 at the northern archway of Shwedagon and depart from Gate 3 on Shwegondine Road.

The mausoleum will open to the public on Arzani Day from noon to 5 p.m. Visitors to the Martyrs’ Mausoleum are strictly prohibited from taking together with them various kinds of garlands, flower bundles, flower baskets, handbags, cameras, cell phones, vinyl, bottles, boxes or wooden, iron or plastic flagpoles, or any object that is harmful to the security.

Every year, the whole nation mourns the death of Bogyoke Aung San and seven other leaders of the pre-independence interim government, and one bodyguard — Thakin Mya, U Ba Cho, U Abdul Razak, U Ba Win, Mahto Ba Khaing, Sao San Tun, U Ohn Maung and Yeaw Ko Htwe — all of whom were assassinated on that day in 1947. — Myanmar News Agency
Thirty-four kinds of aquatic products granted duty free for export

THIRTY-FOUR kinds of aquatic products have been granted duty-free status to be exported to America by the Ministry of Commerce, according to a report in the Myawady Daily.

Fish and shrimp are the most exported among aquatic products. The merchants need to be careful of the product quality, need to mention the proportion of ingredients in the packing, and need to affix visible logos on the packaging. The ministry does not allow indirect export to US. There will be no duty exemption of products manufactured inside Myanmar and exported to US. The American market is the biggest market in the world.

Therefore, exported products will be checked by US inspection teams to allow the products to enter the US Merchants who export the aquatic products to the US. need to take care of the product quality and packaging.

This year, there are 13 companies which have been rejected because their products do not meet the prescribed standards. Therefore, some local merchants have suffered and are being helped to manufacture their products to meet the international standards. —GNLM

Razing of Mandalay Mingalar market begins

MANDALAY Mingalar market, which was destroyed in a fire on 22 March 2016, is in the process of being demolished, starting from the first week of July, according to a report in the Myawady Daily yesterday.

To ensure safety and completion of the project within the prescribed period, members of the Mandalay City Development of Committee, the heads of the building and warehouse department and engineers inspected the work area on 5 July.

The tender applications were invited in a transparent manner. The winner of the competitive bidding offered Ks52 million to demolish the Mandalay Mingalar market building. The building has to be leveled within five months starting from the date of the signing the contract. If the company does not finish the project within the prescribed period, a fine of Ks50,000 per day will be levied.

Authorities have provided temporary space for shop-owners to sell their wares at Mahar Nwe Sin playground, at the corner of 35th and 71st streets, Mahar Aung Myay Township. Upon completion of the demolition, the new market will be built to international standards and shop owners will be able to go back their shops. —GNLM

Program offers free coconut product manufacturing course

COCONUT industry officials will offer a free course on coconut product manufacturing this month in Yangon, according to yesterday’s report of Myawady Daily.

The course, which will be offered by the Myanmar Coconut Growers and Exporters Group and the Myanmar Fruits, Flower and Vegetable Products and Exporters Association, will be held on 16-19 July at Building No. 1, Room No. 2, on Thanthuama Road at Zezawa Housing-2 in Ward-15 near Myintha Market in South Okkalapa Township.

The course will teach how to create coconut-based products including shampoo, lotion, make-up, lip stick, facial form and balm by using coconut virgin oil and other natural fruit bases.

The course will also teach coconut cultivation techniques and market related information.

Enthusiasts may dial 09 799708709, 09 24015507 and 01 218567 of the group to confirm their participation.—GNLM

Twenty-seven new piers planned in Thilawa SEZ by 2020

CONSTRUCTION of 27 piers in Thilawa Special Economic Zone (SEZ) will begin this year for completion by 2020, according to a report in yesterday’s Myawady Daily newspaper.

Some piers are used for general cargo while others are designated for specific goods. Five piers are expected to be completed by 2018.

Six new piers were established in 1997, and in 2010 four more piers were opened for loading and unloading petroleum.

Thilawa Port can accommodate ships with 20,000 deadweight tonnes, overall length of 200 meters and a nine-meter draft. Yangon ports can accommodate ships with 15,000 deadweight tonnes, 167-meter length overall and a nine-meter draft. —208

Write for us

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Due to limitation of space we are only able to publish “Letter to the Editor” that do not exceed 500 words. Should you submit a text longer than 500 words please be aware that your letter will be edited.

Tonic food and ointment produced from coconut. PHOTO: MYA-AYER.COM
Max Energy and Shell Brands International AG to open Shell Branded retail outlets

MAXENERGY Company Limited and Shell Brands International AG have entered into agreement to establish Shell retail fuel stations in Myanmar, according to a Myawady Daily newspaper report yesterday. Shell International Eastern Trading Company will supply the fuel and monitor product quality.

“I am proud that we have entered into this agreement with Shell, the largest fuel retailer in the world,” said Zaw Zaw, Chairman, Max Myanmar Holding Co Ltd. “This will benefit Myanmar by raising the quality and standard of fuels and by providing an unrivalled customer service and experience for people.”

The fuel stations will sell fuels, lubricants and convenience products.

Shell is the world’s largest single branded fuel retailer with 43,000 outlets around 80 countries, serving 30 million customers every day. —200

Peas exports declined sharply this year

PEAS exports in the past three months declined by US$230 million in value compared to last year during the same period, according to Commerce Ministry statistics. Peas exports from 1 April to 30 June was an estimated $397 million in value compared to $634 million during the same period last year.

Myanmar’s pea export is heavily dependent on Indian demand, which accounted for 70 percent of peas exports. Myanmar also ships peas to China, Vietnam and European Union countries. A total of 1.43 million tons of various peas were exported during last FY2016-2017, according to the Commerce Ministry. The peas are primarily cultivated in Sagaing and Magwe regions. Myanmar exported agricultural goods worth an estimated $840 million between 1 April and 30 June. —The Commerce Ministry

Trade deficit hit US$1.4 billion in past three months

MYANMAR’S trade deficit reached US$1.4 billion in the past three months, according to the Commerce Ministry.

External trade from 1 April to 30 June this was an estimated $7.7 billion. Exports were worth $3.2 billion and imports were $4.6 billion.

Myanmar’s export market includes extractives including minerals, natural gas, agriculture and fisheries products. Agriculture plays a vital role in the export sector but agricultural exports declined compared to last year during the same period. Myanmar’s main imports include capital goods, raw industrial goods and consumer goods.

The government has an official policy of reducing the trade deficit by screening luxury import items except essential goods. However, so far this fiscal year, the deficit has grown, with a larger deficit than last year and deficit of about $1 billion. There were trade deficits of US$91.9 million in FY 2012-2013, US$2,555 million in FY 2013-2014, US$4,912 million in FY 2014-2015, US$5,407 million in FY 2015-2016 and over US$5.5 billion in FY 2016-2017 respectively, according to the statistics released by the Central Statistical Organization (CSO). —Ko Khant

Japanese car prices rise due to high demand

CONCERNS about car import restrictions have increased car auction prices, according to Myawady Daily report yesterday. Low horsepower Japanese cars like the Wish, the Fit and the Honda Insight are in the most demand, according to the report. These models used to sell at US$6,246 and currently they sell for US$8,341. —200

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Indonesian state firms lure foreign funds with share in future revenue

JAKARTA — Indonesian state firms are courting foreign pension funds by offering a share in future revenue from toll roads, power stations and other infrastructure projects, as part of a presidential drive to secure $10 billion in additional inflows.

The state budget is not enough to fund President Joko Widodo’s ambitious plan to expand infrastructure in South-east Asia’s biggest economy, a sprawling archipelago where the costs of moving goods around are among Asia’s highest.

Widodo told Reuters this week that he had instructed ministers to market the country aggressively to investors, capitalizing on Standard & Poor’s May 19 upgrade of its credit rating to investment grade.

Indonesia is hoping to attract the likes of Canada Pension Plan, Japan’s Government Pension Investment Fund (GPIF) and other institutional investors, Thomas Lembong, chairman of Indonesia’s investment coordinating board, told Reuters.

“We can’t just sit back and wait for people to come because competition to attract capital flows is ferocious,” Lembong said. “Everything from toll roads to power plants to airports should be securitized to capital markets.”

Indonesian Finance Minister Sri Mulyani Indrawati told Reuters ahead of the G20 summit in Hamburg on Thursday that the government plans to securitize projects that are “already active and revenue-generating”.

That way, pension funds will not be involved in “the nitty-gritty of the new project or a project already being built so they can see the risk in a much better way,” she said.

Under a securitization model, a company typically issues a trust-like investment structure that is backed by future revenue from a project or an asset, with investors earning a certain rate of return.

Indonesia’s biggest toll road operator, PT Jasa Marga Tbk (JSMR.JK), has begun working on this new investment structure on this new investment structure and its returns are not much higher than those offered by other fixed-income assets.

The lack of liquidity in the domestic market may also deter foreign investors, Varian said. “Foreign demand would be very limited since there is no liquidity.”

Varian added, however, that liquidity may be boosted over time partly because domestic pension funds and insurance firms are required to have a certain portion of investments in government bonds or infrastructure-linked securities.

— Reuters

Fire breaks out at Bangladeshi garment factory, no casualties

DHAKA — A devastating fire that broke out Saturday night at an eight-storey ready-made garment factory building in Savar on the outskirts of Bangladesh capital Dhaka was brought under control early Sunday; there were no casualties.

Fire Service Official Shafiqul Islam told journalists that the fire broke out on the first floor of the factory and gutted the first and second floor by that time they arrived at the scene.

There were no casualties, he said, adding no one was trapped inside the building. “About half an hour before the fire started, the factory was closed for the day at about 8.30 pm (local time) on Saturday. So there was no one inside the building.”

Officials also said the country was lucky enough to avoid a big fire accident this time as the firefighters reached there timely.

The blaze at the building of Mediar Apparels Ltd started around 9.15 pm (local time), Fire Service Control Room official Mahmudul Haque told Xinhua.

He said the fire that originated at the store room on the first floor of the building engulfed the whole floor swiftly.—Xinhua

Indian police arrest suspect in lynching of teenager

NEW DELHI — The prime suspect in the lynching of a teenager Junaid Khan last month has been arrested by police in the western Indian state of Maharashtra, officials said Sunday.

The accused was arrested by railway police personnel in Dhule district of on Saturday evening.

“A team was sent to Dhule following a tip-off that the accused was hiding there. The police arrested the accused and he would be produced before a court tomorrow,” a senior official of government railway police (GRP), Kamaldeep Goyal said.

“The accused was nabbed from Sakri in Dhule district. During interrogation, the accused confessed of having killed Junaid Khan.”

Officials, however, are not disclosing the identity of the accused.

The police earlier arrested five persons including a Delhi government employee in connection with the killing of teenager on a moving train in the northern state of Har- yana.

The victim along with his brothers was returning home from Delhi when a mob attacked them.

Khan was stabbed to death while his brothers were injured by the mob.—Xinhua
Trump keeps it friendly with Xi at G20 on North Korea threat

HAMBURG — US President Donald Trump took a conciliatory tone on Saturday at a meeting with Chinese President Xi Jinping where the leaders agreed to keep working on two pressing issues: the nuclear threat posed by North Korea and bilateral trade irritants.

Trump campaigned in last year’s presidential election on cracking down on China for its trade practices, but he softened his rhetoric after taking office, saying he wanted to work with China on the nuclear issue.

When the two leaders first met in April at Trump’s Florida resort, they appeared to hit it off. Trump called Xi a “good man” as he urged him to use Beijing’s economic clout to force North Korea to curb its nuclear weapons programme.

Lately, Trump has expressed some impatience on China’s role in North Korea — particularly after Pyongyang launched an intercontinental ballistic missile that some experts believe could have the range to reach Alaska, and parts of the US West Coast.

His administration made new arms sales to Taiwan, imposed sanctions on two Chinese citizens and a shipping company and put China on a global human trafficking list. It also accused a Chinese bank of laundering money for Pyongyang.

The White House is also debating trade actions against Beijing, including tariffs on its steel exports and a few days before the G20 talks, Trump complained that trade between China and North Korea had grown.

But he showed none of that impatience on Saturday, when the leaders met at the invitation of Xi at the tail end of the G20 in Germany:

“It’s an honour to have you as a friend,” Trump told Xi, telling him he appreciated actions he had already taken on North Korea.

“As far as North Korea is concerned, we will have, eventually, success. It may take longer than I’d like. It may take longer than you’d like. But there will be success in the end one way or the other,” Trump said.

Speaking to reporters later on Air Force One, US Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin said the Trump-Xi meeting lasted over an hour-and-a-half, and they had “substantive discussions” about how to deal with North Korea together.

“In regards to China, we had very direct discussions about North Korea. We had very direct discussions about military and security cooperation,” Mnuchin said.

“I think that President Trump made very clear to President Xi that he is focussed on this issue, and wants to move forward and make progress. And I think President Xi gave a very interesting perspective from their standpoint,” he added.

—Reuters

China’s online catering to continue fast growth in 2017

BEIJING — China’s online catering sector is continuing to expand quickly as more than 300 million meals are expected to be ordered online this year, according to a recent industry forecast.

“The country’s take-out business will account for more than 10 per cent of the catering industry’s total retail revenue by 2020,” said Jiang Junxian, head of the China Cuisine Association.

In 2016, a total of 256 million meals were ordered online, up 22.5 per cent from 2015, he revealed at an industry conference on online catering.

The market size of China’s take-out business exceeded 160 billion yuan (about 23.49 billion US dollars) in 2016, up 33 per cent year on year, Jiang said.

Besides regular meals, the Chinese are increasingly interested in other types of online catering services such as late-night snacks and afternoon tea.

Last year, transaction volumes for these two types of services jumped more than three-fold on Ele.me, one of the country’s largest online catering platforms, much higher than the growth in lunch and dinner orders.

The thriving online business has also brought vitality to the country’s traditional catering sector.

For Jintaawan, a chain restaurant famous for Peking duck and Chinese cuisine in Beijing, take-out business is now contributing a daily revenue of nearly 800,000 yuan, or 40 per cent of its total turnover.

Facing the brisk growth of the online catering sector, Jiang said food safety was always of top priority, which required close cooperation between caterers and delivery providers.

He also called for more smart technology and fine arrangements for delivery service to ensure healthy and sustained development in the sector.

—Xinhua

Search for missing continues in flood-hit southwestern Japan

FUKUOKA — The search continued Sunday for those missing in Japan’s southwestern region devastated by floods and landslides, while the weather agency forecast more heavy rain in parts of the affected areas.

About 250 people were still stranded in the two prefectures and some 1,700 people remained evacuated to shelters.

The Japan Meteorological Agency said parts of southwestern Japan may see more heavy rain Sunday as a seasonal rain front lingered near the region.

—Kyodo News

Ground Self-Defence Force personnel continue searching for missing people in the village of Toho, Fukuoka Prefecture, on 9 July, 2017, as around 50 remained unaccounted for in Fukuoka and Oita prefectures, where disasters triggered by torrential rain since 5 July have claimed 18 lives.

PHOTO: KYODO NEWS
Let us stop the brain drain!

Khin Maung Oo

The affair of migrant workers is one of the problems our country is urgently solving these days. To put it simply, under the current situation it cannot be dealt with effectively until now, though it has been a controversy since a long time ago. On considering the problem carefully, it must be said to be a tremendous drain of our human resources. At such a time when all countries of the world are vying to reach developed-country status, we will reach our destination promptly if we could add intellect, skills and technical knowledge to our labor force. Now our country is marching towards a Federal Democratic Union, thus the problem of loss of human labor and brain drain needs to be solved by treating this as a national problem with a view to improving our national economy.

Very recently, a massive influx of migrant Myanmar laborers working in Thailand returned to our home country. They left Thailand in response to the new labor law which had been enacted recently in Thailand. In total about 35,000 or so returned. Meanwhile, it has been found that young skilled workers from Thailand are being employed by a big enterprise in Myanmar. They came to work in Myanmar because they were paid more than the amount of remuneration they got in Thailand. Another reason may be because they possess better skills than Myanmar youths. Myanmar youths are working at tiresome and low-paid hard labor sites, whereas alien workers are working in highly skilled jobs. Looking at the current situation objectively, our youths must better themselves out of an indomitable spirit. As it is, compared to that of foreign countries, the status of education of our country has lagged behind to an alarming extent. Plus, shortage of employment opportunities in the country and lack of skilled laborers and very low wages led to the exodus of youths as laborers to countries such as Thailand and Malaysia.

If we want sustainable development not only for earning more family income but also for nation building and economic development of our country, strengthening human resources is of great importance, and it is necessary for us to formulate long-term plans for producing highly skilled and experienced human resources.

The challenges and difficulties we are currently facing have been attributed to a variety of reasons experienced during several decades. It is therefore very important that the Union Government promptly spends time and energy to draw up short-term, medium-term and long-term plans after looking at this problem holistically. As for a developing country, poverty, low education standards, unemployment and problems of migrant workers are not strange. But, the problem of brain drain must be dealt with great care, with a view to prioritizing sustainable economic development and capacity building.

To sum it up, we must try our best to create more job opportunities in the country in many ways. Moreover, we must focus our attention to foster the development of SMEs and at the same time encourage foreign investments to come into our country.

In this way our youths will acquire the necessary skills and experience to get better paying jobs in Myanmar. This would indeed be a step in the right direction.

Who is more trustworthy?

Khin Maung Myint

This question is incomplete. What I want to ask is: “Who is more honest, the positive sounding person or the negative sounding person?” Most of you may answer that the positive sounding persons are. I partially agree with you, because I’m of the opinion that, as not every positive sounding persons are positive minded nor honest, so also, all negative sounding persons are negative minded nor dishonest.

Before proceeding any farther, I should state my concepts of the terms “positive sounding” and “positive minded” and also the “negative sounding” and “negative minded”. A person may not be positive minded though he speaks only positive words, and a person who speaks negative words is not always a negative minded person. The first person may not be telling the truth or he is just flattering or sweet-talking to please others, especially his superiors to get favours. While the second person’s words may sound negative, they could be the truths and not flatteries like the first one’s, but he risked being labelled as a negative person and earn the wrath of his superiors. His honesty, sincerity and loyalty didn’t permit him to tell lies just to please others. In fact the second type of person is more honest and loyal than the first one and thus more trustworthy. Here, I don’t mean every positive speaker is liar and every negative speakers are honest.

Thus, what I want to suggest is, don’t be hasty to label someone a positive person or a negative person by judging on their words. People in high positions should be able to assess and evaluate their subordinates correctly so as not to mistake a person, either to be a positive or a negative person. Here, based on my experiences in the different services during my career days, I had learned a good lesson that being outspoken could also be misunderstood as negativity. I had served in the administrative fields for most of the time and I deemed it my duty to feed the true situations to my superiors. However, as an outspoken person I would sometimes argue vehemently to let them know the true situations, but was mistaken by most of my superiors as a negative person, before they understood me well enough.

At this juncture, please allow me to cite one incident where I was misunderstood and accused of being a negative person. At that time, as part of the self-sufficiency programmes, we had to grow sunflowers. That task was assigned to me. As I hailed from Myayno (now Pyin Oo Lwin), I was somewhat familiar with this particular plant, as they were grown extensively there and my late mother used to grow them in our backyard. I knew that type of soil they like and could thrive on. From my experience, I knew that the plot of land available to me was not suitable for growing any seasonal crops or vegetables.

Although I knew that for fact, I didn’t say anything to my superior straight away. I went to the the Township Agricultural Department and requested their help to conduct soil tests and asked for professional advice. The results showed that the soil was very acidic and not at all suitable for any seasonal crops, including sunflower.

When I reported the infeasibility of growing sunflower and suggested that we shouldn’t attempt it, my superior said it was a policy handed down from high up and we must do it. I tried to talk him out of it without any success and I was even likened to “a warrior who had no more arrows left before going to war”. That remark was just short of accusing me of being a negative person. Being a person who didn’t want to give up easily, I told him sarcastically that I’ll do as told and added that we would at least be able to harvest flowers to be used as offerings to God. He was not at all pleased and told me that I was a negative person and said it was an order; I couldn’t help, by complied.

Sunflowers usually grow to average heights of at least six feet or more depending on the type of soil. With all the labours and fertilizers invested into the project it was a total failure. My sunflower plants were no taller than two feet and although tiny buds appeared in due course of time, they didn’t blossom as they withered away before flowering.

Then only my superior was convinced and being a good leader admitted his mistakes and apologized for misunderstanding me.

This was not the only time I was misunderstood as being a negative person. I had been told many a times, straight to my face or behind my back, that I was a negative person.
Who is more trustworthy?

One of my superior told me that he knew I always spoke the truth, but although I may be speaking the truth some superiors may not like it and advised me not to argue with the superiors. With all due respect to him, I disagree with him. Because if there is no one to point out the pros and cons and tell the truth, the superiors could make wrong decisions.

Thus I strongly believed that every sweet-talkers or those who echo their master’s voice are not honest or loyal and though they may seem to be positive persons, in fact they are not. This conclusion may be a bit abstract and unacceptable to some, but I have sound reasons to back it up.

During the days of our Kings, most of the ministers and the palace staffs always told the Kings only good things they wanted to hear and avoided telling them the bad news and always complemented everything the Kings did or said, though they may not really meant them. Even when addressing the Kings they used long salutatory phrases that were just nonsensical and flatteries. When the King asked about the situations of the country, they would answer, “Your Almightly, due to the grace of your glory, the country is peaceful and there is abundance of rice and water and the country is prosperous and the people are happy and satisfied”, while the people were poor and suffering and the dacies were rampant in the remote corners of the country.

In reality those were words of flatteries and were far from the truths, but none dared to say otherwise. Such people got the favours of the Kings. On the other hand the ones who told the truths had to bear the brunt of the wraths of the Kings, as in the case of a minister by the name of Ananda Thuriya, who was imprisoned for telling the truths. Here my analysis is: most of the Kings and for that matter even some persons holding high offices, thought those who sweet-talked to them and begged to please them were positive minded and the ones who told the truth was a negative minded persons.

Today, those traits still exist among some of our bureaucrats and I would like to suggest that it’s high time to get rid of these insatiable mentalities or mindsets. They should be able identify the fakes from the genuinely positive persons so as to avoid being flattered. They should know that those who tell the truths instead of flatteries are the honest ones who can be relied upon.

In conclusion, I would like to analyze briefly, the word “criticism”. Most thought that criticism is finding faults and thus is a negative attitude. In fact criticism is double faceted; it can either be positive or negative. Pointing out the mistakes or faults or short comings of others so that they can correct in time and avoid committing them again is positive criticism, where as, blaming or condemning others whether they are right or wrong is negative criticism. Thus critical persons are not always negative persons. People holding high offices should be able to differentiate between a positive criticism and a negative criticism and between positive and negative persons correctly.

Invitation to young writers for Sunday section

The Global New Light of Myanmar is accepting submissions of poetry, opinion, articles, essays and short stories from young people for its weekly Sunday Next Generation Platform. Interested candidates can send their works to The Global New Light of Myanmar at No. 150, Nga Htat Kyee Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon or by email to dso@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com with the following information:

1. Sector you wish to be included in (poetry, opinion, etc.).
2. Real name and (if different) your penname.
3. Your level of education.
4. Name of your School/College/University.
5. A written note of declaration that the submitted piece is your original work and has not been submitted to any other news or magazine publishing houses.
6. A color photo of the submitter.
7. Copy of your NRC card.
8. Contact information (email address, mobile number, etc.)

Editorial Department, The Global New Light of Myanmar news office
Japan, Sweden PMs agree to fight terrorism after Stockholm attack

STOCKHOLM — The Japanese and Swedish leaders agreed Sunday to work together to fight terrorism following a deadly attack in the country’s capital in April.

“We firmly denounce the despicable act of terror,” Prime Minister Shinzo Abe told reporters after meeting with his Swedish counterpart Stefan Lofven in Stockholm.

Abe also said the two agreed that North Korea’s missile development poses “a serious challenge” to the international community and the two countries should deepen security ties as they celebrate the 150th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations next year.

Abe’s visit to Sweden is part of a roughly weeklong European tour that took him to Germany to attend a Group of 20 summit. Abe is the second Japanese prime minister to visit Sweden, according to the Japanese government.

A truck drove into people outside a department store in the center of Stockholm on 7 April, killing five and injuring more than a dozen. —Kyodo News ■

Silence over whether Grenfell Tower materials passed safety test

LONDON — The cladding system used on London’s Grenfell Tower would only have met British regulatory standards if the two main materials had passed a key safety test together, according to a Reuters analysis of the building code and data on the materials.

Three weeks after the 14 June fire, neither the two companies involved in the cladding on the Grenfell Tower nor the local authority which enforces the building codes have addressed questions from Reuters about whether that test was ever conducted and its outcome.

The test is required to show whether both materials when used together were sufficiently resistant to combustion. Without proof that it had been carried out, the cladding system would not have met building regulations.

The cladding work carried about by Rydon Group Ltd, the main contractor on the 2014-2016 refurbishment of the building, and its subcontractor Harley Facades involved attaching insulation boards to the tower’s concrete facade and covering them with aluminum composite panels.

France’s Saint Gobain said the insulation used was its branded polyisocyanurate (PIR) called Celotex R500.

The aluminum panels, which had a polyethylene plastic core were called Reynobond PE, and made by New York-based Arconic Inc, previously known as Alcoa Inc.

If all the elements of the insulation system had achieved a separate and demanding government standard called “limited combustibility”, in separate tests, then a combined test would not have been necessary, according to the building regulations. But Reynobond PE and Celotex did not meet the combustibility test by themselves, according to safety experts and product specifications published by the manufacturers.

This meant that the two materials combined would need to pass another test known as the BS 8414 test, according to the building regulations. This involves setting a fire under a three-storey mock-up of the proposed wall construction.

Both standards, set out in the guidelines to the building code, aim to prevent a fire spreading quickly from inside and up the exterior walls, something that happened at Grenfell Tower.

In a 29 June email, a spokesperson for Rydon Group Ltd says it “met all building regulations” but did not say if the BS 8414 test stipulated in the building codes had been conducted.

The building control department of the local Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea council (RBKC), which is responsible for checking that the building and plans are consistent with regulations, declined to say if it had checked the tests had been carried out.

Police think the cladding system at Grenfell Tower may have contributed to the rapid spread of last month’s fatal fire. They have said they are investigating possible criminal behavior and the role of all the companies involved in the building.

The Department for Communities and Local Government, the government department which is responsible for setting the regulations enforced by building control, has said the cladding system used at Grenfell did not comply with the building rules it oversees. It has not said why and declined to answer detailed questions on its legal reasoning.

The test used to assess combined materials must be commissioned from a government approved independent testing agency. Reuters was unable to determine which, if any lab was used. —Reuters ■

Four hurt on third day of Pamplona bull-run festival

PAMPLONA, (Spain) — Four people were hurt, but none gored, on Sunday on the third day of the week-long San Fermin festival in northern Spain in which bulls chase red-scarved runners through the streets of Pamplona.

The run, which on Sunday included bulls from the Puerto de San Lorenzo ranch, was quick at just 2 minutes and 22 seconds, with the herd led by a bull named “Huracan”. —Reuters ■

UK-US trade deal wouldn’t be enough to make up for leaving the EU

LONDON — A post-Brexit trade deal with the United States would not be enough on its own to make up for leaving the European Union, British justice minister David Lidington said on Sunday. US President Donald Trump on Saturday met with British Prime Minister Theresa May and said he hoped the United States can quickly seal a bilateral trade deal. “It wouldn’t be enough on its own, no,” Lidington told the BBC’s Andrew Marr Show. —Reuters ■

Truck transporting 2.7 tons of elephant tusks stopped in central Vietnam

HANOI – Police and market control forces of Viet Nam’s central Thanh Hoa found a truck transporting over 2.7 tons of elephant tusks without proper documents, the provincial authorities said on Sunday. After being stopped by the forces in Thanh Hoa on Saturday, the truck driver from the central highlands of Dak Lak confessed that he was hired to transport the elephant tusks from southern Dong Nai province to Hanoi capital city. Thanh Hoa police are investigating the elephant tusk case, the biggest of its kind in the province. In April and May, Vietnamese customs officers detected several cases of smuggling elephant tusks, rhino horns and pangolin scales worth nearly 450,000 US dollars from Africa to Ho Chi Minh City. —Xinhua ■
US-Russian ceasefire takes effect in southwest Syria

BEIRUT — A US-Russian brokered ceasefire deal for southwestern Syria took effect at noon (0900 GMT) on Sunday, the latest international attempt at peacemaking in the six-year war.

The United States, Russia and Jordan reached a ceasefire and “de-escalation agreement” this week with the aim of paving the way for a broader, more robust truce.

The announcement came after a meeting between US President Donald Trump and Russian President Vladimir Putin at the G20 summit of major economies in Germany.

Several ceasefires have crumbled since the onset of the conflict and it was not clear how much the combatants — Syrian government forces and the main rebels in the southwest — were committed to this latest effort. With the help of Russian air power and Iranian-backed militias, Syrian President Bashar al-Assad’s government has put rebels on the back foot over the last year.

The wide array of mostly Sunni rebels include jihadist factions and other groups supported by Turkey, the United States and Gulf monarchies.

Earlier talks between the US and Russia about a “de-escalation zone” in southwest Syria covered Deraa province on the border with Jordan and Quneitra, which borders the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights.

A senior State Department official involved in the talks said further discussions would be necessary to decide crucial aspects of the agreement, including who will monitor its enforcement.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said the deal includes “securing humanitarian access and setting up contacts between the opposition in the region and a monitoring centre that is being established in Jordan’s capital.”

The multi-sided Syrian conflict, which grew out of popular protests against Assad’s rule in 2011, has killed hundreds of thousands of people and created the world’s worst refugee crisis.

— Reuters

200 militants killed as clash for control of Nawa district continues in South Afghanistan

LASHKARGAH (Afghanistan) — Up to 200 militants have been killed in the past week as government forces crackdown on Taliban in areas of Nawa district, the southern Helmand province, Nawa district police chief Nafas Khan said Sunday.

The government forces backed by helicopter gunships have been targeting Taliban positions over the past week and so far up to 200 armed insurgents including several group commanders have been killed, the official said, adding that the security forces would spare no efforts to restore stability in the troubled district.

Khan, however, avoided commenting on possible casualties of security forces.

Meanwhile, Taliban militants who are in control of Nawa district over the past year, according to the outfit’s spokesman Zabihullah Majahid, have foiled security forces design to recapture the isolated district.

Majahid claimed that nine security personnel had been killed over the period and the government forces offensive to recapture Nawa district has been repulsed.

Nawa, Marja, Sangin and a few more districts of the poppy growing Helmand province with Lashkargah as its capital have been the scene of fierce fighting over the past few years.

— Xinhua

Egyptian police kill 16 gunmen in raids targeting militants

CAIRO — Egyptian police officers have shot dead 16 gunmen in two shootouts, the country’s Interior Ministry said on Saturday, adding that most of those killed were fugitive militants linked to recent attacks on security forces in Northern Sinai.

Egypt faces an Islamist insurgency led by the Islamic State group in the restive Sinai Peninsula, where hundreds of soldiers and policemen have been killed since 2013.

At least two policemen were killed and nine wounded when their armoured vehicle was hit by an explosion in the Sinai on Saturday, Egypt’s state news agency MENA said.

Saturday’s attack came a day after at least 23 soldiers were killed when suicide car bombs tore through two military checkpoints in the region in an attack claimed by the Islamic State. It was one of the bloodiest assaults on security forces in years.

The Interior Ministry said that gunmen had opened fire on police as they approached a desert area, where they were targeting soldiers and officers. The attackers returned fire, killing 14 militants, five of whom have been identified so far.

The camp was used by a “subject (recruits) to military training programmes on the use of various types of firearms and manufacturing explosive devices...” the ministry said in a statement.

In a separate statement the ministry also said its forces killed two men described as “fugitive terrorists” in an exchange of gunfire in the city of Giza.

The men, who were inside an apartment, opened fire on security forces as soon as the officers approached to arrest them, it said. The ministry said the pair were members of a newly emerged militant group called Hasm, which claimed responsibility for the killing of a homeland security officer outside his home in Qahibiyah, a province just north of Cairo, while on his way to prayers on Friday.

Hasm has claimed several attacks around Cairo targeting judges and policemen since last year.

Other militant groups such as Hasm, which the government says are linked to the Muslim Brotherhood, are active in Cairo and other cities where they have targeted security forces, judges and pro-government figures.

The Brotherhood was outlawed in 2013 after the military ousted one of its leaders, Mohamed Mursi, from the presidency following mass protests. It maintains that it is a peaceful organisation. Islamic State has also intensified attacks on security forces and Coptic Christian civilians in the mainland in recent months, killing about 100 Copts since December.

— Reuters

TRADEMARK CAUTION

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Chilli Brand

Reg. No. 4520/2017

In respect of Class 5: Pharmaceuticals, medical and veterinary preparations; sanitary preparations for medical purposes; dietetic food and substances adapted for medical or veterinary use, food for babies; dietary supplements for humans and animals; plasters, materials for dressings; material for stopping teeth, dental wax; disinfectants; preparations for destroying vermin; fungicides, herbicides; all included in Class 5.

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Daw May Thwe Hlaing, LL.B., LL.M., (H.G.P.)
For Astrabon (S) Pte Ltd
Tilleke & Gibbins Myanmar Ltd. No. 1608, 16th Floor, Sakura Tower, 339 Bogyoke Aung San Road, Kyauktada Township, Yangon, Myanmar.
Email address: myanmar@tilleke.com

Dated: 10th July 2017.
Australian PM to inaugurate French work in lucrative DCNS submarines deal

SYDNEY — Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull is due on Sunday to inaugurate at a French shipyard work on a new fleet of submarines that will form the centrepiece of Australia’s defence strategy for decades to come.

Australia selected French naval contractor DCNS in April 2016 to build its fleet of 12 submarines, ahead of other offers from Japan and Germany, sealing one of the world’s most lucrative defence contracts.

At a joint press briefing with French President Emmanuel Macron in Paris, Turnbull said he would open the project office at the DCNS Cherbourg shipyard.

“This is the largest and most ambitious military project in Australia’s history,” Turnbull told reporters at the Elysée Palace in Paris on Saturday. Macron said France would do everything necessary to meet the requirements of the contract, the Sydney Morning Herald reported. DCNS was left reeling after details from Australia’s Secret Intelligence Service about its ability to protect sensitive data.

Australia’s new fleet of submarines is the centrepiece of its defence strategy unveiled in February 2016, which called for an increase in military spending of nearly A$30 billion over the next 20 years to protect strategic and trade interests in the Asia-Pacific region.

The first submarines are expected to enter service in the early 2030s, with the remainder commissioned by 2050. Construction will be done primarily in the southern Australian city of Adelaide.

Turnbull, whose visit to France came after a G20 summit in Hamburg, also suggested a free trade agreement could be struck between the Australia and the European Union (EU) by the end of 2019.

“That is a realistic but ambitious objective,” he said.

Australia and the EU agreed in November 2015 to start the process towards a comprehensive trade pact.

Two-way trade between Australia and the EU was AU$95.6 billion in 2015-16, making it Australia’s second largest trading partner as well as its largest source of foreign investment.

A removal of trade barriers would be a boon to Australian exporters, including its growing services sector which did business with Europe to the value of A$10.4 billion in 2015-16.—Reuters

Western Canada wildfires prompt state of emergency, evacuations

KAMLOOPS, (BRITISH COLUMBIA) — Some 180 wildfires raged over a massive section of Western Canada’s British Columbia on Saturday, prompting the evacuation of 3,000 households and the province’s first state of emergency in 14 years.

The blazes were scattered across hundreds of kilometers of the interior portion of the province, burning through bone-dry forests used for logging and rolling grasslands that are home to ranches. High temperatures and winds complicated firefighting efforts.

“The weather situation is not favourable,” said John Rustad, provincial minister in charge of firefighting operations. “There is very aggressive fire behavior that makes it very difficult to directly attack.”

The spate of wildfires began on Friday, when 138 new fires were reported, most of them sparked by lightning in dry electrical storms.

No injuries or deaths were reported. Provincial officials said they did not know how much damage had been caused, though evacuees said they had lost cherished belongings in the fires.

Chalky red fire retardant dust was splashed on some vehicles that passed through areas that were sprayed with the substance from “water bomber” planes used to fight the fire.—Reuters

Invitation to Bid

TRADEMARK CAUTION

Erb Erber Aktiengesellschaft, a company registered under the laws of Austria, which is located at Industriestrasse 21, 3130 Herzogenburg, Austria, is the sole owner of the following trademarks:

- MYCOFIX
- BIOMIN

In respect of Class 31: Foodstuffs for animals, additives for animal food, mineral feed for animals, mineral additives for foodstuffs for animals, preservatives for foodstuffs for animals, feed grains, feed powder.

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Daw May Thae Hlai Na, LL.B., LL.M., (H.G.P.)
For Erber Aktiengesellschaft
Tilleke & Gibbins Myanmar Ltd.
No. 1608, 16th Floor, Sakura Tower, 339 Bogoyoke Aung San Road, Kyauktada Township, Yangon, Myanmar.
Email address: myanmar@tilleke.com

Dated: 10th July 2017.

Invitation to Bid

MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS
MYANMA RAILWAYS
INVITATION TO OPEN TENDER

1. Open Tender is invited for supply of the following items in Euro:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sr No</th>
<th>Tender No</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>12(T)14/MR</td>
<td>Spare Parts for Locomotive (14) Items</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Closing Date & Time: 10.8.2017

2. Tender documents are available at our office starting from 10.7.2017 during office hours and for further detail please contact: Deputy General Manager Supply Department, Myanmar Railways, Corner of 516 Street and Merchant Street, Botataung, Yangon. Phone 95-1-291985, 291994

Invitation to Bid

Tender Notice for the Supply of Pharmaceutical Drugs, Consumables and Adverse Events Following Immunization (AEFI) Kits

Tenders are invited for provision of Pharmaceutical Drugs and Consumables for World Health Organization’s Emergency Relief Response in Myanmar.

Interested parties/companies meeting the eligibility requirements below can contact, Tel: 95 1 534300, 534307, 53862–1, 532747–6 from 10 July 2017 to 21 July 2017 (Working hours: 8:30 to 17:00) for collection of the tender documents at World Health Organization, No. 403 (A1), Shwe Taung Kyar Street, Bahan Township, 11201, Yangon. Tenders should be sent and deposited into the Tender Box at above mentioned Address on or before [Date & time].

The Bidding Documents comprise the following:

a. Invitation to Bid
b. Instruction to Bidders
c. Bidding Form
d. Schedule of Requirement
e. General Conditions for Goods
f. Special Conditions for Contract

Eligibility Requirements

To be eligible for consideration of its tender, a tenderer should meet the following requirement: The Bidder shall provide documentary evidence to establish to the Purchaser’s satisfaction that the Bidder has the financial and technical capability necessary to perform the Contract, meets the qualification criteria specified in the Bid Data Sheet, and has a successful performance history.
Air India break-up an option as Modi pushes for quick sale

NEW DELHI— India is considering selling state-owned Air India in parts to make it attractive to potential buyers, as it reviews options to divest the loss-making flagship carrier, several government officials familiar with the situation said.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s cabinet gave the go-ahead last month for the government to try to sell the airline, after successive governments spent billions of dollars in recent years to keep the airline going.

Air India — founded in the 1930s and known to generations of Indians for its Maharajah mascot — is saddled with a debt burden of $8.5 billion and a bloated cost structure. The government has injected $3.6 billion since 2012 to bail out the airline.

Once the nation’s largest carrier, its market share in the booming domestic market has slumped to 13 per cent as private carriers such as IndiGo and Jet Airways have grown.

Previous attempts to offload the airline have been unsuccessful. If Modi can pull this off, it will buttress his credentials as a reformer brave enough to wade into some of the country’s most intractable problems.

His office has set a deadline of early next year to get the sale process underway, the officials said, declining to be named as they were not authorized to speak publicly about the plans.

The timeline is ambitious and the process fraught, with opinion divided on the best way forward: should the government retain a stake or exit completely, and should it risk being left with the unprofitable pieces while buyers pick off the better businesses, officials said.

Already, a labour union that represents 2,500 of the airline’s 40,000 employees has opposed the idea of a sale even though it is ideologically aligned to Modi’s Bharatiya Janata Party.

Officials who have to make it happen are grappling with the sheer scale of the exercise. Air India has six subsidiaries — three of which are loss-making — with assets worth about $4.6 billion. It has an estimated $1.24 billion worth of real estate, including two hotels, where ownership is split among various government entities.

No one has properly valued the company’s various businesses and assets before, two officials with direct knowledge of the process said. Earlier this month, about $30 million worth of art, including paintings by artist M. F. Husain, went missing from its Mumbai offices, chairman Ashwani Lohani said.

“The exercise is complex and there is no easy way out,” said Jitendra Bhargava, operational head of Air India in 1997-2010. “At this juncture, selling even part of Air India is far from certain.”

Lohani declined to comment on the sale process. The prime minister’s office and the civil aviation ministry also declined to comment.

—Reuters 📰
Actor Shia LaBeouf arrested in Georgia on disorderly conduct charge

LOS ANGELES — Actor Shia LaBeouf was arrested in Georgia on charges of disorderly conduct and public intoxication early on Saturday after he became unruly in downtown Savannah, police said.

LaBeouf, best known for his role as Sam Witwicky in the " Transformers" action movie franchise, was in the bustling City Market neighbourhood before dawn when he approached a bystander and a police officer and asked for a cigarette, Savannah police said in a statement.

"When LaBeouf wasn't given a cigarette, he became disorderly, using profanities and vulgar language in front of the women and children present," the statement said.

He became aggressive toward the officer when asked to leave, police said, and when the officer tried to arrest LaBeouf he ran into a hotel lobby.

Eventually he was arrested on charges of disorderly conduct, public drunkenness and obstruction, and booked into the Chatham County Jail, authorities said.

He was released a few hours later, the Chatham County Sheriff's Office said. A spokeswoman for LaBeouf, 31, did not return a call or email seeking comment.

LaBeouf was in Savannah to act in independent movie "The Peanut Butter Falcon," according to trade publication Variety.

This is the latest in a series of arrests for LaBeouf.

—Reuters

Los Angeles Times

Salman joins ‘Judwaa 2’ cast to shoot his cameo

MUMBAI — Salman Khan is once again all set to send fans into frenzy with his stylish cameo in "Judwaa 2".

The superstar has joined actors Varun Dhawan, Taapsee Pannu, Jacqueline Fernandez and director David Dhawan to shoot his brief appearance on the film.

This week, Taapsee confirmed that they wrapped up shooting major portions for "Judwaa 2" and were looking forward to shoot with Salman, who had played double role opposite Karisma Kapoor and Rambha in the original film.

In the second installment, Varun is reprising Salman’s role and will be seen playing Prem/Raja.

Salman took to Twitter to share a photograph featuring him along with David, Varun, Taapsee and Jacqueline, which he captioned, “Judwaa2”.

Varun also posted a group photo, writing, “Judwaa2 just got bigger. Shot with my childhood hero @beingasalmankhan. I’ve grown old but he’s definitely the same. Can’t wait SEPT 29th.”

While, Taapsee wrote on Instagram, “And it happened! Done with my talkie portion for #Judwaa2 #SuperTeam.”

Jacqueline shared a video and wrote, “A picture may say a thousand words but I wouldn’t be able to upload enough to describe today! Around my favourite people who’ve been with me and supported me in my Bollywood journey since day 1.

"(at)taapsee thanks for being an awesome co-star to work with!! @beingasalmankhan thanks for making our film so much more special today!!! Will always cherish these #judwaa2 memories.—PTI

—PTI

Actor Shia LaBeouf arrested in Georgia on disorderly conduct charge

LONDON — Irish rock group U2 kicked off the European leg of “The Joshua Tree” tour on Saturday by returning to the album that tackled their love-hate relationship with America and propelled them to superstardom when it was released 30 years ago.

The band, led by 57-year-old singer Bono, is playing the entire record to 2.4 million fans on their 2017 tour, including hits “With or Without You” and “I Still Haven’t Found What I’m Looking For”.

But they started the London show with early songs “Sunday Bloody Sunday”, “New Year’s Day”, “Bad”, and the Martin Luther King Jr-inspired “Pride (In the Name of Love)”, which Bono dedicated to the “Rainbow people of London” who took part in the annual Pride LGBT march in the city earlier on Saturday.

“The Joshua Tree” was played in sequence against a backdrop of video of US landscapes such as Death Valley, and Americans standing in front of the Stars and the Stripes, shot by Dutch photographer Anton Corbijn who created the imagery on the original record.

The group’s best-selling album was released in 1987 when Ronald Reagan was US President and his ideological soul mate Margaret Thatcher was in power in Britain.

The tracks “Bullet the Blue Sky” and “Mothers of the Disappeared” were inspired by trips Bono made to Nicaragua and El Salvador, where he saw the impact of US foreign policy, while “Red Hill Mining Town” was about the impact of the socially divisive miners’ strike in Britain in the 1990s.

Lead guitarist The Edge said in an interview with Rolling Stone in January that politically “things have kind of come full circle”.

“It just felt like, ‘Wow, these songs have a new meaning and a new resonance today that they didn’t have three years ago, four years ago’,” he told the magazine.

Bono largely let the music speak for itself on Saturday, although a character called “Trump” was called a liar by the “good guy cowboy” in a Western movie-style clip.

“The Joshua Tree”, which sold more than 25 million copies, marked the pinnacle of the band’s success critically or commercially, and the band reinvented themselves in the 1990s by incorporating electronic and alternative rock into their sound.

Seven of their later songs, including “Ultraviolet” and “One”, were played as an encore, before Bono invited support act Noel Gallagher back on stage to sing “Don’t Look Back in Anger”, a song he wrote for his band Oasis.

The track became an anthem for Manchester after 22 people were killed by a suicide bomber in the city in May, and Gallagher also dedicated it to the victims of further attacks and a devastating tower block fire in London in June.

U2, Gallagher and thousands of fans united in singing the anthem, ending a show that proved the enduring relevance and appeal of 1980s and 1990s rock music.

“The Joshua Tree” tour plays seven other European cities before returning to the United States in September.—Reuters

—Reuters

London evening standard
Aztec golden wolf sacrifice yields rich trove in Mexico City

MEXICO CITY — A sacrificial wolf elaborately adorned with some of the finest Aztec gold ever found and buried more than five centuries ago has come to light in the heart of downtown Mexico City, once home to the Aztec empire’s holiest shrines.

The quality and number of golden ornaments is highly unusual and includes 22 complete pieces — such as symbol-laden pendants, nose ring and a chest as symbol-laden pendants, 22 complete pieces — such as symbol-laden pendants, nose ring and a chest plate — all made from thin sheets of the precious metal. Lead archaeologist Leonardo Lopez told Reuters.

Held in a stone box, the cache was discovered in April near the capital city’s bustling main square, the Zocalo, behind the colonial-era Roman Catholic cathedral and off the steps of what was once the most important Aztec ceremonial temple, now known as the Templo Mayor.

“These are, without a doubt, the largest and most refined pieces of gold discovered so far,” said Lopez, referring to the 205 offerings discovered over nearly four decades of excavations around the site, 16 of which have contained some gold.

Not long after the roughly eight-month-old wolf was killed, it was likely dressed with golden ornaments as well as a belt of shells from the Atlantic Ocean, then carefully placed in a stone box by Aztec priests above a layer of flint knives, according to Lopez. The west-facing wolf represented Huitzilopochtli, the Aztec war god and solar deity. Wolves were believed to help guide fallen warriors across a dangerous river in the netherworld. The Templo Mayor would have been as high as a 15-storey building before it was razed along with the rest of the Aztec capital Teotihuacan after the 1521 Spanish conquest of Mexico.

Measuring about 12-1/2 cm thick, and tastes mild, the trove was also filled with other layers of once-living offerings from the air, land and sea, all infused with spiritual meaning for the Aztecs.

KUMAMOTO (Japan) — When you have finished your meal, you can eat your chopsticks.

A group in Kumamoto Prefecture promoting the wider use of “tatami” has developed “edible chopsticks” with the flavour of rush grass, a material used in the making of traditional Japanese mats, in cooperation with a confectionery maker.

“Why it is necessary to create edible chopsticks,“ wrote Marushige Inc. based in Hekinan, Aichi Prefecture, in central Japan, is that they are baked slowly at a low temperature, making its texture similar to hardtack. Even if soaked in a soup, it hardly becomes soft.

Tatami-flavoured "edible chopsticks" to go on sale

Kumamoto IGSA and TATAMI Conference plans to begin selling the product later this month over the internet.

“We hope this will lead to a revival of tatami culture and the expansion of demand for rush grass produced in the prefecture” in southwestern Japan, said an official at the conference in charge of the product.

Each baked confectionery chopstick, made by Marushige Inc. based in Hekinan, Aichi Prefecture, in central Japan, is made from wheat and eggs is baked slowly at a low temperature, making its texture similar to hardtack. Even if soaked in a soup, it hardly becomes soft.

After being mixed with rush grass powder, dough made from wheat and eggs is baked slowly at a low temperature, making its texture similar to hardtack. Even if soaked in a soup, it hardly becomes soft.

— Kyodo News
Opening ceremony of MFF Grassroots Football Festival 2017 held in Mandalay

Thiha Ko Ko (Mdy)

UNDER the supervision of Myanmar football federation, opening ceremony of MFF Grassroots Football Festival 2017 was held at Mandalay Thiri Stadium in Mandalay yesterday.

The football festival is aiming for children from government and private primary and middle schools in Mandalay aged from 6-10 years old with interest in football playing.

During the ceremony, the children entered the stadium systematically and placed in together with FIFA anthem.

Officials led by Manadalay Mayor Dr. Ye Lin and MFF’S deputy administrative director, U Ko Ko attended the ceremony and delivered the speeches respectively.

After that, officials cut the ribbon to open the ceremony and the children showed up their ability along with football coaches.

Children from primary and middle schools train with their coaches at the Mandalar Thiri Stadium in Mandalay. PHOTO: THIHA KO KO

Federer subdues old-school Zverev to reach last 16

LONDON — It was never likely that tennis’s grand old master Roger Federer would be taken by surprise when serve-volleyer Mischa Zverev came at him with a blast from Wimbledon’s past.

Zverev was billed as an intriguing conundrum for Federer and a potential third-round banana skin with his old-school style harking back to a bygone era of the grasscourt game.

Yet, unfortunately for the German, the seven times champion has a flair for such puzzles and, after a testing opening set, swept home 7-6(3), 6-4, 6-4 in Saturday’s Centre Court clash.

That saw Federer safely into the second week at the All England Club for the 15th time and gave him a few days to recover from a head cold that has been bothering him before he takes on Bulgaria’s Grigor Dimitrov in the last 16 on Monday.

“I had more problems with my cold than my opponents,” he said after a third successive match without dropping a set.

Perhaps the only positive for Zverev was that it was not as bad as the first time he played Federer on grass four years ago when he lost without winning a game.

The result on Saturday, however, never really looked in doubt for Federer, who is seeking a record eighth Wimbledon title by using the German as a target and relentlessly picking him off.

Federer hit 61 winners to Zverev’s 20, while the German won only 55 per cent of points at the net, usually a prime position of strength.

With Federer seeking to become the oldest player to win Wimbledon in the professional era, this was the sort of stress-free workout he would have enjoyed.

He did, however, have a minor wobble in the first set that sent it to a tiebreak.

Having broken for a 3-1 lead, Federer failed to pick a volley off his shoelaces to hand Zverev a break point that the German took when the Swiss shanked a forehand.

Any frustration Federer may have felt was channelled in a clinical tiebreak, which he won without dropping a point on his serve.

From then on it was easy going for Federer, who did not face a break point in the remainder of the encounter.

He broke for a 2-1 lead in the second set with a clinical forehand put-away and again at the same point in the third, when 27th-seeded Zverev double faulted. Having not been pushed to his brilliant best, Federer at least finished with a flourish, wrapping up the match after an hour and 49 minutes with his 13th ace.

Thirteenth seed Dimitrov, now aged 26, may provide a stern challenge, although he is another player who has never beaten Federer in five previous efforts.—Reuters

Switzerland’s Roger Federer celebrates winning the third round match against Germany’s Mischa Zverev at Wimbledon, in London, Britain, on 8 July 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

Fixture drawing ceremony for 29th SEA Games held in Malaysia

Ye Yint Shine

THE fixture drawing ceremony for 29th SEA Games was held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia yesterday.

During the ceremony, fixtures for Sepak takraw/Chinlone, Volleyball, table tennis, Cricket, basketball, badminton, waterpolo, equestrian and futsal have been drawn to SEA Games member countries.

In volleyball men’s competition, Myanmar included in Group (A) together with Malaysia, Cambodia and Thailand and in volleyball women’s competition, Myanmar in Group (A) along with Thailand and Indonesia.

In table tennis men’s competition, Myanmar has been placed in Group (A) together with Singapore, Malaysia, the Philippines and Laos and in table tennis women’s competition, Myanmar in Group (B) along with Thailand, Malaysia and the Philippines.

In sepak takraw competition, Myanmar is included in Group (B) for both men and women’s events and falls together with Vietnam, Laos, Malaysia, Indonesia, the Philippines and Brunei respectively.

The SEA Games is going to be held from 19 to 30 August and Myanmar will take part in the competition of 29 sports altogether.