State Counsellor views parade celebrating India’s 69th Republic Day

STATE Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi attended the celebration of the 69th Republic Day of India in New Delhi yesterday, observing a parade, stunt performances and cultural displays along with other ASEAN leaders.

Leaders of South-East Asian countries were hosted as special guests by Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi to participate in the celebrations.

The celebrations included marching bands, floats and traditional cultural performances from Indian states, performers on motorbikes, aerial displays and military weaponry. Leaders from Viet Nam, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Brunei, Malaysia, Laos, Thailand, Cambodia and Indonesia were invited by Prime Minister Modi to enjoy the 90-minute parade.

India shares a 1,643km-long border with Myanmar and is involved in building a tri-lateral highway linking Myanmar and Thailand to the north-eastern part of India that will serve as a gateway to the rest of South-East Asia.

President U Htin Kyaw arrives back from Singapore

PRESIDENT U Htin Kyaw returned from Singapore and arrived in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday after receiving medical check-ups in Singapore.

He left for Singapore on 23 January accompanied by Union Minister Dr. Myint Htwe.

The President was welcomed at Nay Pyi Taw International Airport by Union Minister for the Office of the State Counsellor U Kyaw Tint Swe, Chairman of Nay Pyi Taw Council Dr. Myo Aung and Deputy Minister for the Office of the President U Min Thu and officials.—MNA
Rural electrification, meter boxes discussed by Pyithu Hluttaw

Mi Mi Phyo

THE electrification effort and the meter boxes that will measure usage were among the issues discussed by the 2nd Pyithu Hluttaw 7th regular session seventh day meeting held yesterday in Pyithu Hluttaw meeting hall, Nay Pyi Taw.

The questions on the electricity sector were answered by Ministry of Electricity and Energy Deputy Minister Dr. Tun Naing.

Replying to a question raised by Daw Aye Aye Mu (a) Daw Sharmie of Kalay constituency on plans to install sufficient numbers of meter boxes for household use, Deputy Minister Dr. Tun Naing said depending upon the usage amount, three-types of digital meter boxes were being planned for purchase and installed for household use in place of a single meter box previously used so that a huge number of meter reading personnel are not required. Tenders were called for in a transparent and fair manner in fiscal year 2017-2018, arrangements are being made to fulfill the meter box requirement. On the question of plans to review and install Ever brand household digital electricity meters asked by U Naing Naing Win of Tamu constituency, Deputy Minister Dr. Tun Naing said tenders had been called for in a transparent and fair manner in fiscal year 2017-2018 to purchase three types of digital meters for rural, small and big town usage.

Among the meters submitted in the tender, one which has good technology and quality and can be acquired at a fair price will be bought and, starting in the coming fiscal year, arrangements are being made for the price of the household meters to be reviewed and reduced.

Next, Daw Cho Cho of Ottwin constituency asked if there was a plan to provide electricity to villages on the banks of the Sittaung River in Ottwin Township, to which Deputy Minister Dr. Tun Naing said the six villages of Aung Thar, Kan Thar, Thaungtan, Thaunggu, Kyetlesit and Chaungklyo on the banks of the Sittaung River in Ottwin Township are more than 5 miles away from the 11 KV power line, and therefore not included in the initial stage of the national electrification plan (NEP).

By the second stage of the NEP project, electricity will be provided to these six villages via Zaypyuthaung and Thayetwai villages. Some villages are in places where road communication is not good and it is difficult to transport the concrete poles, power lines and transformers needed.

In response to a question by U Oo Tun Win of Kyauktaw constituency on plans to provide electricity to the Panen Ne area, the Deputy Minister said the Depty Minister U Kyaw Lin said the construction contract for the 54-mile 7-furlong Hlinethaya-Dalla-Twantay-Kawhmu-Kungyangon-Dedaye section, and the 17-mile and 5-furlong Twantay-Kawhmu-Kungyangon section, totaling 41 miles and 4 furlongs.

Of the 54-mile and 7-furlong section that Zaykabar Company is constructing under the BOT system, the 13-mile and 3-furlong Kawhmu-Kungyangon-Dedaye section has yet to be completed. The Ministry of Construction has not permitted the collection of road tolls for that section. For the remaining 13-mile and 3-furlong section, asphalt-concrete is being laid on the 5-mile, 3-furlong and 24-feet-wide Kawhmu-Kungyangon section.

Four, seven bridges are being widened and an additional layer of asphalt is being laid on the 8-milelong and 18-feet-wide Kungyangon-Daye section. The company is being instructed to complete these tasks by the end of May, before the rains. If the company is unable to complete the work in the stipulated time, action will be taken against them, potentially resulting in the termination of the work. The Ministry of Construction will ensure that the company builds the road to the satisfaction of the representatives and the people of Kawhmu, Kungyangon and Dedaye, explained the deputy minister.

Questions raised by U Okka Min of the Tanintharya Region constituency (8) and U Myo Win of Mon State constituency (8) were also answered by U Kyaw Lin.

Next, a bill on industrial design copyright was discussed by U Soe Thein @ U Maung Soe of the Tanintharya Region constituency (10) and Dr. Pyae Phyo of the Ayeyawady Region constituency (7).

Later, a bill on trade mark copyright was discussed by Dr. Khan Win Thaung of Kachin State constituency (11), Naw Chris Tun @ Dr. Arr Kar Moe of Kayin State constituency (7), Dr. Pyae Phyo of the Ayeyawady Region constituency (7) and U Soe Thein @ U Maung Soe of the Tanintharya Region constituency (10).

The eighth-day meeting of the seventh regular session of the second Amyotha Hluttaw meeting is scheduled to be held on 29 January.
State Counsellor attends 25th ASEAN-India Commemorative Summit

STATE Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi attended the 25th ASEAN-India Commemorative Summit in New Delhi on 25 January together with leaders of ASEAN.

“There still exists ample room for deepening the existing cooperation between ASEAN and India and further strengthening ASEAN-India Strategic Partnership in the future,” said Daw Aung San Suu Kyi at the plenary session of the summit.

“The peoples of ASEAN member States and the people of India have close traditional ties and share cultural affinities that go back to historic times. The civilizations of ASEAN and India have been enriched by cross cultural exchanges over the decades,” she said.

“I would like to claim that my own country, Myanmar, has the strongest cultural and historical linkages with India. The struggle to free ourselves from colonial rule established solid ties between us. Our geographical location makes Myanmar India’s important gateway to the East serving as the land bridge between India and ASEAN,” she added.

“Reflecting upon the 25th anniversary of ASEAN-India relations, Myanmar values the tangible developments and sustained progress in multi-sectoral cooperation and strategic partnership between ASEAN and India over the past two and a half decades,” said the State Counsellor.

“We are delighted with India’s Act East Policy and growing willingness to intensify its engagements with ASEAN. This important foreign policy of India, coupled with ASEAN’s outward looking policy, has further strengthened the existing relations and cooperation between India and ASEAN,” said the State Counsellor.

“Indonesia is the 8th largest trading partner of ASEAN and its trade is amounted to 2.6% of the ASEAN’s total trade. “We are therefore confident that the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) will open up greater market opportunities for the ASEAN Member States and India in the near future,” said the State Counsellor.

“We are grateful to India for its unwavering support for ASEAN Connectivity initiative through its US$ 1 billion Line of Credit to enhance sea, air, land and digital connectivity,” said Daw Aung San Suu Kyi.

She also stressed the importance of connectivity to promote trade and people to people links, saying that Myanmar has placed the highest emphasis on infrastructure projects related to connectivity.

“The State Counsellor also welcomed the extension of the India-Myanmar-Thailand Trilateral Highway to link up with Laos, Cambodia and Viet Nam.

“In this regard, we thank India and Thailand for their contributions towards the improvement or upgrading of roads in Myanmar, which will become part of the Trilateral Highway linking India and ASEAN,” said Daw Aung San Suu Kyi.

“Their cooperation and friendship are identified as the driving force for the development and prosperity of the region. We look forward to the adoption of the proposed “Delhi Declaration” which will serve as a milestone document to intensify the ASEAN-India Strategic Partnership for Peace, Progress and shared Prosperity in the years ahead,” said the State Counsellor.

“I recall with great pleasure the recent fruitful visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to Myanmar in September 2017 which broadened the areas of mutually beneficial cooperation and further enhanced closer relations and friendship between our two countries and peoples,” said Daw Aung San Suu Kyi.

We have initiated a number of major infrastructure projects which can link India to Southeast Asia.

“We are therefore confident that transport infrastructure projects such as India-Myanmar-Thai Trilateral Highway Project, Kaladan Multi-modal Transit Transport Project connecting North Western regions of Myanmar and North Eastern regions of India will serve as India’s major gateway to Southeast Asia,” said Daw Aung San Suu Kyi.

“We have initiated a number of major infrastructure projects which can link India to Southeast Asia.”

State Counsellor views parade celebrating India’s 69th Republic Day

FROM PAGE 1
Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, who studied and lived in India, is among nine ASEAN leaders who arrived Thursday for the ASEAN-India Commemorative Summit and to attend the annual 69th Republic Day parade as chief guests.

The constitution of India came into effect on 26 January, 1950, following its independence from British colonialists in 1947.

In the evening, State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi attended an “At Home” meeting between India and other ASEAN countries held at the Mughal Garden in the Presidential House.

Following the meeting, the State Counsellor met with families of Myanmar diplomats stationed in India at the residence of the Myanmar Ambassador in New Delhi. U Moe Kyaw Aung, the Myanmar Ambassador to India, then hosted a dinner in honour of State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi—Myanmar News Agency.
Agro products export up by $170 million this FY

MYANMAR’S export earnings from its agricultural sector from 1 April 2017 to 19 January 2018 this fiscal year (FY) was US$2.4 billion, up by $170 million compared with last FY.

Rice forms a major part of Myanmar’s agro exports. More than 2.6 million tonnes of rice, worth $700, were shipped abroad, as of the first week of January, in the current FY. The export volume of rice this FY increased by 1.3 million tonnes compared with last FY.

Similarly, the export of pulses, another key product, reached some 10 million tonnes, with an estimated value of Kyats 400 million. Despite an increase of 25,000 tonnes in the volume of pulses exports, earnings are down by $400 million, according to the commerce ministry.

This was a result of the changes in India’s import policy. Natural gas and agricultural products individually made up 25 per cent of the exports, while cut-make-pack garments accounted for 16 per cent; minerals for eight per cent; fisheries for five per cent; and forest, animal and other products for 21 per cent.

As of 19 January in the current FY, the export income reached $1.1 billion, registering an increase of $1.87 billion against last FY. —Htet Myat

Over 7,000 hives kept in Bago Region

MORE than 7,000 hives were farmed by the Bago Region Apiculture Enterprise and private beekeeping enterprises in the Bago Region, according to a report in the City News yesterday.

Myanmar’s honey is trying to penetrate the European Union market.

The Bago Region Apiculture Enterprise has 600 hives, while there are some 66 private beekeepers farming 7,110 hives.

The beekeeping enterprises are mostly found in the Mandalay, Sagaing and Magway regions and the Shan State.

China is the main buyer, while South Korea, Japan, Vietnam and Thailand also buy Myanmar’s honey.

Workers gathering and scooping unhusked rice into sacks at their farm in Ayeyawaddy Region. PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR

Over 9,700 shares of TMH traded on YSX

TMH Telecom Public Co., Ltd, debuted on the Yangon Stock Exchange (YSX) yesterday, trading some 9,788 shares, worth Kyats 3.41 billion, according to the YSX.

The base price of TMH is Kyats 3,000, which is much lower than those of the four other listed companies.

A unit of TMH shares fetched some Kyats 3,200 at closing time.

Shares of five listed companies — First Myanmar Investment (FMI), Myanmar Thilawa SEZ Holdings (MTSH), Myanmar Citizens Bank (MCB), First Private Bank (FPB) and TMH — are currently being traded on the YSX.

The stock trading volumes of the five listed companies were 2,106, including 421 shares of FMI, 11,069 shares of MTSH, 21,368, including 421 shares of MCB, 50 shares of FPB, and 9,788 shares of TMH.

The estimated trading values were Kyats 70.9 billion. The YSX approved the listing of TMH Telecom Public Co., Ltd, on 1 December 2017 after scrutinising the submitted application documents and a deliberate listing examination, in accordance with Section 41 (c) of the Securities Exchange Law and Sections 7 and 8 of the Securities Listing Business Regulations.

TMH is offering technology services, fixed and mobile network engineering services as well as BTS and fiber installation and maintenance, among other services.

The share prices yesterday were Kyats 12,500 for FMI, Kyats 9,500 for MTSH, Kyats 7,700 for MCB, Kyats 3,500 for FPB and Kyats 3,200 for TMH at closing time.

— Mon Mon
Price of garlic from Shan State unstable in domestic market

The prices of garlic produced in Shan State are unstable in the domestic market, according to wholesalers.

U Saw Maung, a wholesaler from Pyay Township of the Bago Region, said, “Garlic mainly enters the Pyay market from Shan State and China’s Kyukote (Panghseng). From the third week of this month, the market saw a decline in the flow of garlic from China. Kyukote garlic prices gradually increased because of the shortage in the market. However, the prices of garlic produced in Shan State, which borders China, Laos and Thailand, are steadily declining in the market,” he added.

Based on their size, quality and species, the prices of garlic vary from Ks2,100 to Ks2,800 per viss (3.6 pounds) in the wholesale market.

Garlic is a commonly bought kitchen crop and a popular ingredient in cooking due to its strong smell and delicious taste. The crop is also used to make traditional medicines. Garlic is mostly cultivated in Shan State and the Salin, Pwintphyu, Yananyang and Pakokku towns in Magway Region.

Myanmar mainly exports garlic to its neighbour Thailand through the Kengtung and Taunggyi border trade camps.

In the last few years, Thailand has imported garlic not only from Loilin District but also from Taunggyi District.—GNLM

Individual trade from Myanmar-China borders hits nearly Ks1.7 billion

INDIVIDUAL trade through the Myanmar-China cross-border points, as of 12 January, reached some Ks1.7 billion, according to the official statistics from the commerce ministry.

Using individual trading cards (ITCs), border traders imported some Ks1.7 billion worth of domestically produced goods in the last 10 months of this financial year, including Ks38 million from the Muse border gate, Ks70 million from the Lwejel gate, Ks64 million from the Chinshwehaw point and nearly Ks1.6 billion from the Kanpaitkee trade station. However, no import trade was carried out through the Kengtung border this fiscal year (FY).

During the same period, commodities with an estimated value of more than Ks185 million were sent to the neighbour through the Kanpaitkee and Kengtung borders.

Individual trade through the 12 border entry points between last April and the second week of this month exceeded Ks34 billion, including Ks30.7 billion in imports and Ks3.3 billion in exports.

Among the border trade camps, the value of trade through the Myawady border gate was the highest at Ks23.7 billion.

The commerce ministry has issued 146 cards to border traders in the current FY. The ministry introduced ITCs for border traders from late 2012 to promote individual trade transactions with neighbouring countries. Currently, there are some 1,404 ITC holders at the cross-borders.—Shwe Khine
Vice President U Henry Van Thio visits pearl farm, and Salon ethnics in Taninthayi Region

VICE President U Henry Van Thio, who is also chairman of the Central Committee for Development of the National Tourism Industry, visited the pearl farm on Pale Island, Bokpyin Township, Taninthayi Region and rural development work being conducted in Makyone Galet Village, Kawthoung Township yesterday. Vice President U Henry Van Thio, together with Taninthayi Region Chief Minister Dr. Lei Lei Maw, Deputy Ministers Rear Admiral Myint Nwe and U Kyaw Myo and other officials arrived at the pearl farm on Pale Island yesterday morning by express boat. They were welcomed by Myanma Pearl Enterprise Managing Director U Min Min Oo, who explained the history of pearl farming in Myanmar and various aspects of pearl production and sales.

The Vice President commented that pearl production is a work that provides foreign exchange for the country and urged those involved to work hard.

“There is a need to find new places to produce pearls and to expand pearl production. Other works damage the natural environment and are not permitted near a pearl production place. Pearl production preserves the natural environment”, said the Vice President.

The Vice President then inspected the pearl farm and viewed the Lampi Island marine national park.

The Vice President then went to Kawthoung Township, Bo Cho Island, Makyone Galet Saloon Village and attended the opening of a boarding house for the Saloon that was donated and constructed by the Tint Tint Myan Company Limited.

The Vice President met with ethnic Salon nationals and locals in the meeting hall of the boarding house and explained the country’s efforts for balanced development of all ethnic nationals.

U Nyo Aye, the director of the Hotels and Tourism, Taninthayi Region, reported to the Vice President the status of travel companies in Taninthayi Region, the development status of hotels and guest houses, numbers of visitors and income, places to visit in Dawei, Myeik and Kawthoung districts, village-based travel works and future work for development of the travel sector.

The Vice President pointed out that Taninthayi Region has a long coastline with more than 800 islands and has many below-and-above-water natural resources and views that are of interest for the world's tourists.

“When the travel businesses develop, it will create a lot of job opportunities for locals, and the government is putting an emphasis on regional development”, the Vice President said.

The Vice President and Chief Minister then presented clothes and food to the Salon people and were entertained with Salon ethnic national’s traditional dances.

The Vice President then went to Khayin Gwa Island and inspected the works conducted for development of their travel industry. — Myanmar News Agency

Union Minister Dr. Pe Myint inspects preparations for Myeik Children’s Literature Festival

UNION Minister for Information Dr. Pe Myint yesterday inspected preparation work for the Children’s Literature Festival in Myeik that will be held on 27 and 28 January.

The Union Minister arrived at Myeik Basic Education High School No. 1, where the Children’s Literature Festival will be held, and inspected the preparations for the opening ceremony, booths, charity food and entertainment.

Earlier in the day, the Union Minister handed over 50 Set Top Box television receivers donated by Myanmar Radio and Television (MRTV) for the Taninthayi Region government, which were accepted by Region Minister for Social Affairs and Development U Ho Pin and Kayin Ethnic Affairs Minister U Saw Lu Kar.

In the afternoon, the Union Minister and party visited the MRTV Retransmission Station in Dawei District, Thayetchaung Township, Pedet Village, where fire breaks are urgently needed to improve the fire safety of the Retransmission Station. — Myanmar News Agency

Married couple found murdered in Hwategon Village

A husband and wife were found dead by villagers near the couple’s home in Hwategon Village, Aungyadana Village-tract, Natalin Township, Thayawady District, Bago Region, on Friday early morning, according to the police.

A 28-year-old man sustained serious injuries in a mine blast that occurred in a field located some six miles from the south of Hsahmaw Village in Mogaung Township, Kachin State.

U Than Soe, a resident of Ward-4, Hsahmaw Village, was grazing cattle in a field on Thursday evening when the explosion occurred, injuring his right leg.

He is currently receiving surgical treatment at the nearest hospital. Following the explosion, Major Myo Min Than, a member of Myanmar Armed Forces, provided financial support to the victim for his treatment.

Four other civilians were also hurt in mine explosions near Tanai Township, Myitkyina District, Kachin State, on 19 and 20 January. — EPN
Environmental Conservation committee meets

Vice President U Myint Swe spoke before a meeting of the Central Committee for National Level Environmental Conservation and Climate Change yesterday, saying the country’s natural resources need to be managed more effectively with well-planned residential housing, better waste disposal, and responsible land usage.

U Myint Swe’s comments came at the fifth coordination meeting of the National Level Environmental Conservation and Climate Change Central Committee held at the meeting hall of the Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation Ministry in Nay Pyi Taw.

As the population increases, natural resources are over-extracted, waste is improperly disposed, emissions from factories increases, water, land and air become polluted, the natural environment is degraded and climate change problems are encountered. These are major challenges to sustainable development and severely hinder efforts to reduce poverty, the Vice President said.

To overcome these challenges, natural resources need to be maintained and managed systematically and effectively to ensure sustained usage.

In addition to increasing regional cooperation through systematic coordination and cooperation with relevant departments and organisations, management of land usage, allocation of residential housing, and systematic waste disposal need to be conducted in accordance to the present time and system, he said.

As local and foreign investments are being invited for the economic development of Myanmar, the matter of environmental conservation and climate change needs to be coordinated and conducted up to international norms and standards, and the committees need to coordinate with relevant ministries, investors, non-government organisations and civil service societies, the Vice President said.

This is the fifth central committee coordination meeting. In the past meetings, there were 64 decisions made out of which 44 were completed, while 20 are still under implementation.

According to reports submitted, the Ministry of Information was seen to have increased the knowledge of environmental conservation and climate change.

The Ministry of Education is known to be conducting university-level specialised subjects on environmental conservation and climate change as well as including these subjects in the basic level education curriculum.

Pressure often turns into counterproductive: Deputy Information Minister U Aung Hla Tun

ASKED to comment on the situation that led to Mr. Bill Richardson’s dropping out of the Advisory Board to the Committee for Implementations of the Recommendations on Rakhine State, Deputy Information Minister U Aung Hla Tun said: “I’m so sorry that he brought up a hidden agenda that was beyond the mandate of the Board he belonged to. Actually, as far as I understand the President is the only person who has the power to deal with an ongoing court case. For other people, it could be tantamount to demonstrating outright contempt of court.”

“Nobody should use this case for their personal advantages such as popularity or publicity.”

“I’d like to request all not to apply any pressure on the government in connection with this case because pressure can be counterproductive at times.” — Myanmar News Agency

Anti-corruption strategy to be formulated by April

THE Myanmar Anti-Corruption Commission will formulate an anti-corruption strategy within four months, according to a report in the Myawady Daily yesterday.

“We have drawn up the action plan for 2018 and will speed up our anti-corruption strategy within four months,” said U Aung Kyi, chairman of the commission. The strategy will be adopted by April and will be put into practice on a national scale in 2019, he added. It will be formulated with input from ministers, civil society, mediapersons and other stakeholders.

The anti-corruption law took effect in September 2013, and the anti-corruption commission was first formed in 2014 with 15 members. The anti-corruption commission was reformed on 23 November 2017 with 12 members. The commission received 762 complaints within two months.

Some 121 complaints were about the governments, 56 about the election of ward and village administrators and 489 against judges. —GNLM
Frugality of National Revenue and Sectors of Government Department

By Thun Phyo Naing [Kamyangya]

The incumbent government elected by the people people and held together with delegations from the New Mon State Party (NMSP) and the Democratic Karen Independence Army. As said by the State Counsellor, it is the photograph which reflects the new spirit of great honour for the entire nation. The document photo was taken after a series of meetings between the State Counsellor, the Chairperson of the National Peace and Reconciliation Commission and the delegation led by Nai Hmaw Mon, Chairman of NMSP and the delegation led by Aye Khan Sar, Chairman of LDU at the NHRC in Nay Pyi Taw.

This has been carried out not only for our sake but for the sake of future generations. This showed the value of the historic documentary photo. To put it more accurately, this photo shows that NMSP and LDU have made a firm determination to sign the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement [NCA] plays an important role in the regional economic cooperation projects such as ASEAN Economic Community-ACMECS and One Belt One Road (OBOR). Had Myanmar managed to play her role effectively, our country would have gained many opportunities for success in the regional cooperation of economic projects. Failing that, those promising opportunities would have slipped away. This process is the one which shows the doctrine “development based on peace.”

The State Counsellor said, “This has been carried out not only for our sake but for the sake of future generations. This showed the value of the historic documentary photo. To put it more accurately, this photo shows that NMSP and LDU have made a firm determination to sign the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement [NCA]. In other words, the photo shows that development based on peace will be brought about soon.”

The Global New Light of Myanmar
27 January 2018

Taw. 2015-16 Union Budget Law (Amendment Law), 2016, Additional Budget Al- loments Law of the Union, 2016, Union Budget Law 2017 and Ad-

A new initiative for the change of financial year en- tity. Designation of the period from 1st October to 30th Sep- tember of the new fiscal year is underway. Union budget for six-month period in the mean- time, that is, from 1st April to 30th September of 2018 prior to the change into the new fiscal year and the Union Budget Law, 2018 (Draft) are being put forward to be discussed. Only in July and August it will be dis- cussed again for the new financial year when it will commence to be introduced.

Financial commission meet- ing held, policies laid down
On January 10, 2018, just prior to putting forth the Union Budget Law (Draft) in the Union Parliament, the Financial commission held a pre-hearing to discuss the policies related to the State Budget Law. President U Tin Oo instructed the commission members to discuss the policies in the pre-hearing so that the commission members might take a new perspective and policies laid down after that. As for the finances related to the State Budget Law, the commission is planning to attend the budget workshops for the creation of the new financial year policies.

Frustration of National Revenue and Sectors of Government Department

Four Objectives of the 71th Anniversary Union Day

1. To develop the Union
2. To make the people reach peace success with an ally of unity of ethnic people
3. To build a Federal Democratic Union through the Union
4. To boost the economy of the Union by encouraging small and medium enterprises

By Alister Doyle

OSLO, Jan 25 (Reuters) - Billions of bits of plastic waste are entangled in corals and sickening reefs from Thailand to Aus- tralia's Great Barrier Reef, scientists said on Thursday. The trash is another pressure on corals, already suffering from over-fishing, rising temperatures causing climate change and other pollution. In the Asia-Pacific region a total of 11.1 billion plastic items - including shopping bags, fishing nets, even slippers and tea- bag - have been ensnared on reefs, the scientists wrote in the journal Science. They projected the numbers would rise by 48 percent by 2025 as marine pollution gets steadily worse.

Don’t let this statistic become the会同 story about disease about 20 times, to 8 percent for corals in contact with plastics from ocean waste was none.

Trash may damage the tiny coral animals that build reefs, making them more vulnerable to illness. And bits of plastic may act as rafts for harmful microbes in the oceans.

Scientists were shocked to find plastic even in remote reefs. "You could be diving and you think someone's taping your shoulder but it's just a bottle knocking against you, or a plastic trash bag stuck on your tank," said lead author Joost Lamb of Cornell University told Reuters. "It's really nasty." She said. "Corals are animals like us and have really thin tissues that can be cut and wounded, especially so in small and medium enterprises.

To m

The scientists, from the United States, Australia, Thailand, Myanmar, Cambodia and Indonesia, surveyed 138 reefs from 2011-14 in the Asia-Pacific region. "At least 275 million people worldwide live near reefs, which provide food, coastline protection and tourism," the scientists wrote. "The presence of plastics seemed to especially aggravate some common珊瑚 reef diseases and threats such as coral bleaching. "If the MYANMAR

Coral reefs get sick from plastic waste - study

President U Tin Oo delivers the speech at the meeting of the Finance Commission 1/2018 at the Presidential Palace.

To sum up, the national budgets granted from the national revenues must be for the sake of the people. Moreover, with the changing political systems and times departments are responsi- ble to tragically spend the national budget attentions and so as not to meet worst outcomes. Spending budgets, Blather are constant- ly to monitor, transferring cases found, Event, even judicial sector for taking legal actions for in accord with the existing rules and laws in order that responsible persons will learn to effectively spend the national revenues and the entire national populace can enjoy rights they deserve, to the full.

(Translated by Khin Min Oo)

Khin Maung Oo

To sum it up, the national

Together, the National Reconciliation and Peace Center and the

To develop the Union Spirit

To develop the Union Spirit

For a story about "let’s give up on coral," said Ted Butterfield, "Overfishing is the biggest threat." He said nations from Belize to the Philippines to Indonesia to Kenya to coral reefs, "reporting by Alister Doyle; Editing by Raisia Kasembwski [n]

The plastic increases the likelihood of disease about 20 times, to 89 percent for corals in contact with plastics from ocean waste was none.

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Dagon University’s students visit Pyidaungsu Hluttaw

A group of students, who are studying International Relations at the Dagon University, visited Pyidaungsu Hluttaw yesterday.

The delegation comprising of 268 students including faculty members of the university was welcomed by Deputy Director-General and officials of the Office of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw. The officials conducted the students around the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw. —Myanmar News Agency

Two mountaineers set off climbing Mt. Phon Kan Razi

TWO experienced mountaineers from the Hiking and Mountaineering Association in Meikhtila Township, Mandalay Region, started climbing Mt. Phon Kan Razi in Kachin State’s Putao on 25 January.

Ko Naing Min Shein, secretary of the association, and Dr Myat Min set off to climb the snowcapped mountain, which has an altitude of 11,920ft and is situated northwest of Putao. Both climbers hope that young people in Meikhtila will take an interest in hiking and mountaineering and also appreciate the beauty that nature has to offer.

“At the summit of the mountain they will raise two flags; the flag of the Kan Let Myar education and health volunteer group and the flag of the mountaineering association. They are bringing the flag of the volunteer group because the climbers were sponsored and supported by the volunteer group in the past. I think the whole expedition will last nine or ten days,” said U Aung Kyaying, executive committee member of the volunteer group.

In 2017, members of the Meikhtila Hiking and Mountaineering Association reached the summits of five mountains in Mandalay Region and Shan State. In Mandalay Region, they climbed Mt. Elephant at an altitude of 6280ft in Thazi Township in July, Mt. Popa at an altitude of 4981ft in August and Mt. Pyat Kha Shwe at an altitude of 3700ft in Ku Me in September.

In Shan State, they climbed Mt. Myinmahti at an altitude of 5800ft in Kalaw in September and Mt. Ashay Myin Anauk Myin at an altitude of 7800ft in Ywangan in December.

—Bo Bo (Mahaing)

Myanmar to host 2018 Asian Road and Para Cycling Championship

MYANMAR will host 2018 Asian Road and Para Cycling Championship for the first time in the capital Nay Pyi Taw.

The Ministry of Health and Sports and the Myanmar Cycling Federation will jointly organize the tournament from 8 to 12 February. A coordination meeting on hosting the Asian Road and Para Cycling Championship took place at the meeting room of the Sports and Physical Education Department under the Ministry of Health and Sports this morning. Vice President of Myanmar Cycling Federation U Myat Thu explained matters relating to successfully hosting the competition, attracting public attention and broadcasting the event live on television. Officials from respective ministries reported the tasks to be executed by their ministries and the difficulties they may encounter.—Myanmar Digital News

Over 780,000 foreign day-trippers visited Myanmar from Thai border this FY

MYANMAR hosted some 789,732 foreign day-trippers, who visited the country through the Tachilek cross-border gate between last April and 25 January of this year, according to the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism. During this period, the day-trippers toured Talaw Market, Mahamayatmuni Pagoda, Shwedagon Pagoda, ethnic villages and Chinese temples, while 13,237 foreigners took the Mongphyat-Kengtung trip.

More than 6,000 visitors entered Myanmar by air this fiscal year (FY). As of last November, the number of foreign travellers with visas increased by 8 per cent, compared with last FY.

In the third week of this month, more than 160 visitors arrived in Tachilek for a one-day trip.

The Myanmar government is trying to promote the tourism sector by exploring new destinations in the states and regions. The tourism authorities are also prioritising the development of cross-border trips.

Sustained efforts are being made to boost international tourist arrivals to Myanmar’s natural islands, in collaboration with those in the tourism field, said a spokesperson of the Hotels and Tourism Ministry.

Myanmar has several natural resources and countless attractions. Besides its cultural sites, the Megui Archipelago, which is part of the Taninthayi Region and is in the Andaman Sea, is gaining popularity among luxury travellers in the international market.—GNLM
Turkey says 14 killed, 130 wounded in operation in Syria’s Afrin

ANKARA — Turkey’s health minister said on Friday that 14 Turkish soldiers and Free Syrian Army (FSA) rebels were killed and another 130 people were wounded following Turkey’s incursion into Syria’s Afrin region.

Speaking to reporters after visiting wounded soldiers in hospitals, Ahmet Demircan said three Turkish soldiers and 11 fighters from Turkey-backed FSA factions have been killed so far in clashes in northern Syria. He said 130 people had been brought to Turkish hospitals and that 82 of them had been released after receiving treatment. None of the wounded were in critical condition, he said, adding that additional medical personnel were sent to the area.

On Saturday, Turkey launched an offensive against the Kurdish YPG militia, which it views as a security threat, in Syria’s Afrin, opening a new front in the multi-sided Syrian civil war and further straining ties with its NATO ally Washington.

Dozens of combatants and more than two dozen civilians have been killed so far in the offensive, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, a Britain-based war monitor, has said.

The Turkish military said in a statement on Friday it had killed at least 343 militants in northern Syria since the operation started.

The Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) however, a YPG-dominated umbrella group backed by the United States in the fight against Islamic State, has previously said that Turkey was exaggerating the number of the dead. — Reuters

US panel deals blow to Philip Morris tobacco device

The recommendation is not binding and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration could still allow Philip Morris to make such a claim, but some analysts think the agency might ask for additional data first.

“It’s a process,” said Bonnie Herzog, an analyst at Wells Fargo. The FDA will likely approve the request eventually, she said, “but timing is tough to predict.”

Philip Morris, which has spent more than $3 billion to develop products that can counter the decline in traditional cigarette sales, was encouraged by some of the committee members’ comments that iQOS may have risk-reduction potential.

“We are confident in our ability to address the valid questions raised by the Committee with the FDA as the review process for our application continues,” Corey Henry, a Philip Morris spokesman, said in a statement.

FDA Commissioner Scott Gottlieb recently proposed a broad tobacco policy shift that would reduce nicotine in cigarettes to “non-addictive” levels while increasing development of lower-risk alternatives for those unable to quit.

iQOS is a sleek, penlike device that heats tobacco but does not ignite it – an approach Philip Morris says produces far lower levels of carcinogens than regular cigarettes. It is used by nearly 4 million people in 30 markets outside the United States but needs FDA authorization to be marketed in America.

Last month, a Reuters investigation described irregularities in the clinical trials that supported Philip Morris’ iQOS application to the FDA.

The company’s shares fell 2.8 percent to close at $107.49 on Thursday, after falling as much as 6.8 percent.

Matthew Myers, president of the Campaign for Tobacco Free Kids, said panelists “identified that serious questions remain” about the company’s application. He said it could amend the application and the panel’s recommendation does not rule out an ultimate approval.

The panel said Philip Morris had not proven that iQOS reduced harm compared with cigarettes. It did conclude that the product exposes users to lower levels of harmful chemicals but said the company had not shown that lowering exposure to those chemicals is reasonably likely to translate into a measurable reduction in disease or death.

Philip Morris needs to show both in order to claim in its marketing materials that the product reduces a user’s exposure to harmful chemicals.

Some panelists were concerned that not all the harmful or potentially harmful chemicals in iQOS were lower than in cigarettes. Philip Morris presented data showing an overall exposure reduction of about 95 percent.

“The negative recommendations did not come as a surprise,” said Gregory Conley, president of the American Vaping Association. He said the panelists “disconnected themselves from the facts in favor of ideology.” — Reuters
As cold blast hits, China’s utilities warn of heating, power cuts

BEIJING — Four of China’s top utilities have told the government some regions will face heating and electricity shortages due to tightening supplies of coal ahead of the Lunar New Year, the latest sign the nation’s winter heating crisis may deepen.

China’s State Power Investment Corp (SPIC), China Datang Corp, China Huadian Corp and China Huaneng Group and China Huadian Corp asked the government in a letter to boost supplies of coal and tame a wild price rally. The letter, reviewed by Reuters and dated 22 January, was sent to the National Development & Reform Commission (NDRC). A source familiar with the letter confirmed its authenticity. NDRC and the four companies did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

“One of the challenges we face is ensuring adequate coal supplies,” said one of the utilities. The government is also expected to meet coal suppliers this week to discuss the issue.

Some utilities are reluctant to buy coal and are waiting for coal miners to cut prices, said Cheng Gong, analyst at China Nation Coal Association. “But rail prices rose as much as 10 percent while the weather is getting worse, so it costs more to buy coal now.”

Thermal coal futures have jumped nearly 10 percent this year, extending a months-long rally, as utilities have scrambled for supplies this week to deal with soaring demand because of a cold snap that has swept across the north.— Reuters

Shell buying spree cranks up race for clean energy

LONDON — Royal Dutch Shell has spent over $400 million on a range of acquisitions in recent weeks, from solar power to electric car charging points, cranking up its drive to expand beyond its oil and gas business and reduce its carbon footprint.

The scale of the buying spree puts comparison to the Anglo-Dutch company’s $25 billion annual spending budget. But its first forays into the solar and retail power sectors for many years shows a growing urgency to develop cleaner energy businesses. The investments are not limited to renewables such as biofuels, solar and wind. Shell, as well as rivals such as BP ExxonMobil and Chevron, are betting on rising demand for gas, the least polluting fossil fuel, to power the expected surge in electric vehicles in the coming decades.

To that end, Shell agreed in December to acquire independent British power provider First Utility for around $280 million, according to several sources close to the deal. The value of the acquisition had not been previously disclosed. Shell declined to comment.

With First Utility, the company hopes to find an outlet for its gas supplies via the retail power market, betting on rising demand as drivers charge electric vehicles at home. Earlier this month, the company ventured back into solar after a 12-year hiatus when buying a 43.86 per cent stake in Silicon Ranch Corporation for $217 million.

In the last three months of 2017, Shell also invested in two projects to develop charging stations for electric vehicles across Europe’s highways. It has also signed agreements to buy solar power in Britain and develop renewables power grids in Asia and Africa.

According to analysts at Bernstein, Big Oil has invested over $3 billion on renewables acquisitions over the past five years, most of which went towards solar.

“Green” merger and acquisition (M&A) activity today averages 13 per cent of total energy M&A activity, they said.

“However greater scale is needed for the majors to effectively operate and leverage their trading skills in this market, necessitating more M&A,” they said in a note. Other companies have also made investments. BP got back into solar power with a $200 million investment in solar generator Lightsource last year, six years after exiting the sector with a large write-down.

Total bought battery maker Stief for $1 billion in 2016.— Reuters

One man dies, 9 made ill by pufferfish poison in Cambodia

PHNOM PENH — A Cambodian fisherman died and nine others were treated at hospital after eating a variety of pufferfish containing a deadly neurotoxin, the government said Thursday. In a statement, the Ministry of Health said a 36-year-old fisherman died on Monday after eating a 6-kilogram pufferfish that he had caught at sea. Nine other people who ate the fish were also treated at two hospitals. All 10 lived in Koh Sdach village in coastal Koh Kong province, more than 200 kilometers west of Phnom Penh. According to the ministry, 10 kinds of pufferfish can be found in Cambodian waters and three are poisonous. The symptoms of pufferfish poisoning include numbness and tingling around the mouth, salivation, nausea and vomiting within 20 minutes to two hours after eating. The symptoms may progress to paralysis, loss of consciousness and respiratory failure, and can lead to death.— Kyodo News

The Myanmar Companies Law (2017) Draft Model Constitution for Private Companies

Pursuant to the Myanmar Companies Law 2017, the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA) has released a draft model constitution for private companies limited by shares for public consultation and feedback. The draft model constitution is available on www.dica.gov.mm.

Interested parties are requested to provide comments to DICA by 28th February 2018. Please send submission by email or fax to:

- Email: Dica@ntmail.net.cmm and Lawreform.dica.mm@gmail.com
- Fax: (95) 01 658135

Directorate of Investment and Company Administration.

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Fire in South Korea kills at least 37 people, raises concern about public safety

SEOUL — A fire at a hospital in southeast South Korea killed at least 37 people and injured dozens of others, raising concern about public safety, local media reports said Friday, citing police and firefighting authorities.

The death toll from the fire, which gutted Sejong Hospital in the Miryang city, some 390 km southeast of the capital Seoul, surged to 39 as of 1:10 pm local time (0410 GMT), chief of the Miryang firefighting authorities told a press briefing. It was later revised down to 37 as some deaths were counted twice.

Eighteen people were in a serious condition, while 113 others suffered minor injury. The firefighting authorities said the number of deaths could rise as 10 people sustained life-threatening injuries.

According to local media reports, police estimated the death toll at 41.

No sprinkler was installed inside the hospital, the firefighting authorities said while explaining about the high figure of deaths.

Witnesses told the police that the fire erupted at about 7:32 am local time from the dressing room of nurses, next to an emergency room in the first floor. The police launched an official investigation into the cause of the fire.

Most of the deaths came from patients in the first-floor emergency room and the second-floor rooms who were of old age or difficult to move. They died of smoke inhalation, not burn, after being moved to nearby hospitals.

The major blaze was put out about two hours later, preventing the fire from spreading further.

The hospital, which was reported to have accommodated about 100 patients, treated patients with cerebrovascular disease and stroke. All of the 94 patients at a nursing home, annexed to the hospital, evacuated safely right after the fire broke out.

The hospital fire raised concern about public safety standards of South Korea, in which a fire in December killed 29 people. Most of the victims to the December fire came from a public sauna in the second floor of the sports center building.

The government under President Moon Jae-in sought to allocate budget to an increased number of firefighters and police officers to better secure public safety.

The main opposition Liberty Korea Party strongly opposed the expanded budget for the firefighters and the police, citing worry about the waste of budget for more bureaucrats.

President Moon convened an emergency meeting with his senior secretaries, ordering officials to make best efforts at minimizing the number of casualty. Moon expressed deep regrets over the deaths, instructing officials to draw up measures to prevent fire from breaking out.

Myanmar Port Authority
“Notice of High Tide”

Exceptionally high spring from 20.0 feet to 20.7 feet high above the chart datum are expected to occur in Yangon River during the period of January 31st to February 3rd, 2018.

Please be noted that it is not serious level of tide because the highest tide level have reached up to 22 feet above the chart datum in year 2014 and 2015, and this notice is normally issued whenever high tide of Yangon River is expected to reach over 20 feet high above the chart datum to inform the high tide to the public living near river foreshore area of Yangon City.

PHILIPPINES — The Philippines is bracing for a possible three-month-long emergency in areas around an erupting volcano, which has already displaced more than 81,000 and led to overcrowded temporary shelters, the disaster agency said on Friday.

Mount Mayon in central Albay province remained at alert level 4, a notch below the highest level, as it continued to spew lava, ash and other superheated material, volcanologists said.

“We’re gearing up for three months” of emergency, said Romina Marasigan, spokeswoman of the country’s disaster agency, citing similar situations during previous eruptions of the 2,462-metre (8,077-foot) volcano.

Displaced families may need to stay in evacuation centres for that long, she said.

Food and other supplies remain adequate but concerns are growing over health and hygiene conditions at all the temporary shelters away from the danger zone.

Respiratory illnesses are possible because of the series of ash falls, she said.

“We remain on red alert,” Marasigan told a media briefing, adding that 69,672 evacuees were housed in schools while nearly 12,000 took shelter in tents or went to relatives in more secure locations.

Health workers are giving free check-ups and medicine to elderly women and children in evacuation centres grappling with a sanitation shortage.

“The province is doing everything to close the gaps for these toilet facilities,” said Nestor Santiagos, assistant secretary at the health ministry.

The number of cancelled flights has risen to 97, the disaster agency said.—Reuters

Philippines prepares for three-month-long volcano emergency
Oprah says she’s not running for president but fans are undeterred

Media mogul Oprah Winfrey apparently ended her brief flirtation with a run for the US presidency in 2020, telling InStyle magazine in an interview published on Thursday that she was not interested.

But the leader of a political action committee supporting Winfrey said it would still try to persuade her to run and continue seeking to recruit 1 million supporters.

Winfrey, 63, stole the show at the Golden Globes awards ceremony earlier this month with a speech against sexual harassment and assault. It sparked an online campaign to lure her into running against Republican US President Donald Trump in the next election cycle.

“It’s not something that interests me,” Winfrey told InStyle. “... I met with someone the other day who said that they would help me with a campaign. That’s not for me.”

Winfrey, long associated with Democratic Party causes and fundraising, could not be reached for immediate comment.

Winfrey’s friends had backed the idea with her long-time partner in business and life, Stedman Graham, telling the Los Angeles Times “she would absolutely do it” if there was sufficient public support. Confidante Gayle King said on “CBS This Morning” that Winfrey was “intrigued” by the idea.

After the Golden Globes, Democratic political consultant Cormac Flynn said he began receiving calls from associates who immediately persuaded him to support a Winfrey run, and he formed the National Committee to Draft Oprah Winfrey for President of the United States 2020.

The committee would continue despite the InStyle interview, Flynn said, noting that other politicians have decided to run after initially declining.

“The purpose of our committee is to convince Oprah to reconsider,” said Flynn, whose independent expenditure committee, or Super PAC, consists of two unpaid staff and two consulting firms that are donating their time.

“She’s an exceptional leader and would be a tremendous president,” Flynn said.

Known by millions on first-name basis, Winfrey first rose to fame as the host of a television talk show, using it to build a media empire that spans magazine publishing, movie and television production, cable TV and satellite radio. Born into poverty, she is now one of the world’s wealthiest women and been nominated for two Academy Awards.

Trump relished the idea of a celebrity-versus-celebrity campaign, telling reporters earlier this month he did not think Winfrey would run but believed he would win that matchup.

“I’ll beat Oprah,” Trump said. “Oprah would be a lot of fun.” —Reuters

2018 Grammys: Will hip-hop finally even the score?

NEW YORK — several near misses and heaps of outrage, this could finally be hip-hop and R&B’s year at the Grammy Awards on Sunday where rappers Jay-Z and Kendrick Lamar dominate nominations for the top prizes on the biggest night in music.

Rap is now officially the biggest music genre in the United States after surpassing rock in 2017, but the odds are historically stacked against a hip-hop artist winning album of the year at the Grammys. “Hip-hop and black music in general has really had its finger on the pulse of the American temperament for the last few years,” Ross Scarano, vice president of content at Billboard magazine, told Reuters.

“There is a sense that maybe this year some of the wrongs will be righted. I think people are looking to Kendrick and to Jay to do that,” Scarano said. In the 60-year history of the most prestigious honors in music, only two hip-hop albums have ever won album of the year, Lauryn Hill’s “The Miseducation of Lauryn Hill” in 1999 and Outkast’s “Speakerboxx/The Love Below” in 2004. Lamar, 30, whose fusion of jazz, poetry and blues with social themes and love songs has made him one of the most innovative rappers of his generation, missed out in 2016 with his critically acclaimed album “To Pimp a Butterfly.” This year, he is back with album of the year nominee “Damn.” and record of the year entry “Humble.” A year ago, British pop star Adele’s “25” swept aside Beyoncé’s influential “Lemonade,” a win that stunned even Adele. This year, Jay-Z, 44, was nominated for album of the year for “4:44,” in which he examines the infidelity that was so scathingly detailed by his wife Beyoncé in “Lemonade.”

Scarano said the fact of Jay-Z “getting down on his knees, so to speak, and baring his soul really resonate in a year where we’ve seen a lot of men taken to task for really objectionable behavior.” Jay-Z goes into Sunday’s ceremony in New York with a leading eight nominations followed by Lamar (7), Bruno Mars (6) and Childish Gambino, the alter ego of actor Donald Glover, with 5. Ed Sheeran was snubbed in the album, song and record of the year categories despite his romantic pop album “Divide” being the biggest seller of 2017. That omission leaves only New Zealand-born singer-songwriter Lorde’s album “Melodrama” and the Latin global hit single “Despacito” to mount a serious challenge in the top races.—Reuters

Actor Casey Affleck withdraws as 2018 Oscar presenter

LOS ANGELES — Oscar-winning Casey Affleck, who has been accused of sexual harassment by female crew members on an earlier film, has withdrawn as a presenter at the 2018 Academy Awards, a spokeswoman for the organization said on Thursday.

Affleck, 42, who won the best actor Oscar last year for his performance in the family drama “Manchester by the Sea,” was expected to present this year’s best actress award in keeping with Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences tradition. “We appreciate the decision to keep the focus on the show and on the great work of this year,” the academy spokeswoman said.

A publicist for Affleck, Mara Busbaum, confirmed that Affleck would not be attending this year’s ceremony, which is scheduled for March 4 at the Dolby Theatre in Los Angeles, but declined further comment. Affleck, the younger brother of actor and director Ben Affleck, topped challenges from Demzel Washington and Ryan Gosling to win the 2017 award.—Reuters
Colossus of ancient Egyptian King Ramses moved to new home, carefully

CAIRO — Egypt moved an 83-tonne, 3,200-year-old statue of King Ramses II to the atrium of Cairo’s new Grand Egyptian Museum on Thursday in a complex operation undertaken by army engineers and specialist contractors.

The ancient colossus was taken on its 400-metre (437.45-yard) journey inside a cage mounted on a truck and suspended like a pendulum from a steel beam to help offset any jolts from the ground during transport.

The road surfaces were treated with special materials to ensure they could adequately bear Ramses’s huge weight. The transfer operation cost 13.6 million Egyptian pounds ($770,000).

Speaking at a ceremony to mark the move, former antiquities minister Zahi Hawass underlined the importance of the museum project to Egypt’s tourism sector, which has been damaged in recent years by political violence.

“It will tell people that Egypt is safe and you can come and visit us because we need the tourism for the preservation of the Egyptian antiquities.”

At its new location the statue will be the first thing visitors see as they enter the museum, part of which will open later this year ahead of its expected official launch in 2022. The colossus was unearthed at the Mit Rahina archaeological site in 1820 by the Italian adventurer Giovanni Caviglia. Thursday’s move was the fourth it has seen over its several millennia of existence.

It was first moved from the quarry where it was made to Mit Rahina before being shifted in 1955 to Ramses Square in Cairo. Increasing pollution and congestion at the square prompted its next move in 2006 to safekeeping in a storage area where it was kept of public view until now.

Egypt’s tourism sector is one of the country’s main sources of foreign currency but it has struggled since a 2011 uprising that led to years of violent instability including a spate of Islamist militant attacks.

The sector saw an improvement in 2017, with revenues jumping 123.5 percent year-on-year to $7.6 billion and the number of tourists visiting rising 54 percent to 8.3 million.

The number of visitors in 2017, however, was still well below the 14.7 million who came in 2010 before the uprising. — Reuters

The Statue of King Ramses II is seen on the way to the Grand Egyptian Museum in Cairo, Egypt on 25 January 2018. PHOTO: REUTERS

The Global New Light of Myanmar

27 January 2018

Theatrical sales outpace streaming buys at quieter Sundance

PARK CITY — After years of frenzied bidding wars driven by digital giants like Amazon and Netflix, a more subdued market greeted buyers at the Sundance Film Festival this week, with more traditional theatrical distributors snacking the buzziest films.

The most active buyers at the 10-day Park City, Utah, film festival, regarded as the premiere hunting ground for awards-worthy independent fare, were companies committed to bringing films to theaters.

So far, there are no reported price tags as high as the $12.5 million Netflix paid for “Mudbound” or the $12 million Amazon shelled out for “The Big Sick” in 2017. Both films scored Oscar nominations this week.

“People are being more careful because they are looking for a certain kind of movie meant for them and they are also buying all year round,” said David Linde, chief executive officer of Participant Media, which with Magnolia Pictures bought theatrical rights to the CNN Films documentary “HBG,” about Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg.

A golden idea? Museum offered 18-karat toilet to Trump

NEW YORK — New York’s Guggenheim Museum offered to lend an 18-karat gold toilet to President Donald Trump after the White House asked to borrow a painting by Vincent Van Gogh, the Washington Post reported on Thursday. The museum’s chief curator offered to loan the toilet, which had been used by tens of thousands of visitors, in a 15 September email to a Trump administration official, the newspaper reported. A Guggenheim spokeswoman declined immediate comment on the Washington Post report and White House officials did not immediately respond to a request for comment. It was not clear how the White House responded to the Guggenheim curator’s offer.

The piece, by Italian artist Maurizio Cattelan, is an 18-karat gold, fully functioning toilet. It is called “America.” It was put on display in 2016 in a single-stall bathroom at the Guggenheim, where it was used in private luxury by more than 100,000 people, according to a Guggenheim blog post. The museum said the object, which was on display for a year, “skevers social complacency” and the extravagancies of the wealthy. Trump, a real estate developer turned reality television star, campaigned for president as a savvy businessman with the commercial sense to succeed in the White House. His exact personal wealth is unknown. The offer came in response to a White House request to borrow the painting “Landscape with Snow” by 19th-century Dutch painter Vincent Van Gogh, for installation at the president and first lady’s private living quarters, the Washington Post reported. The request for the painting was declined. Guggenheim chief curator Nancy Spector had previously written about the toilet in a 2017 blog post, in which she took swipes at the president. She wrote that the “Trump reference” inherent in the gold toilet resonated with people “during the sculpture’s time at the Guggenheim.” — Reuters

Maurizio Cattelan’s “America,” a fully functional solid gold toilet is seen at The Guggenheim Museum in New York City, US on 30 August 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS
Traditional Lethwei club launched in Maungtaw

Lethwei or Burmese bare-knuckle boxing is a full contact combat sport from Myanmar that uses stand-up striking along with various clinching techniques. Lethwei is considered to be one of the most aggressive and brutal martial arts in the world, because the fighters fight bare-knuckle with only the use of tape and gauze on their hands. The use of fists, elbows, knees, feet but more surprisingly, the head makes it a very unusual martial art.—KyawZin Lin

Best coach, player of the month to be featured in MPT MNL 2018

The marking system will be supervised by the Board of Referees, head coaches and responsible officials from the Myanmar Football Federation.

Alves sent off by referee

PARIS — Paris St Germain defender Dani Alves was banned for three games after reacting angrily at a referee’s decision during a Ligue 1 game.

The French League’s disciplinary commission also added a suspended one-match ban to the initial suspension.

Babos, Mladenovic win Australian Open women’s doubles

MELBOURNE — Hungarian Timea Babos and France’s Kristina Mladenovic defeated Russian duo Ekaterina Makarova and Elena Vesnina 6-4 6-3 to win the women’s doubles title at the Australian Open on Friday.

Babos and Mladenovic claimed their first grand slam title as a partnership, denying the Olympic champion Russians a sweep of grand slam doubles crowns at Rod Laver Arena.

The win was Mladenovic’s second major women’s doubles title after she won the 2016 French Open crown with compatriot Caroline Garcia.

The Russians pushed hard to prise break points from Mladenovic as she served out the match but the French-Hungarian duo held firm to close out the match in one hour and 20 minutes.—Reuters

Southampton striker Carrillo eager to spark club’s attack

LONDON — Southampton’s new striker Guido Carrillo says he has the qualities required to rejuvenate the club’s misfiring attack as they bid to climb out of the Premier League’s relegation zone in the second half of the season.

Southampton, who are 18th in the table on 22 points, a point from safety, signed the Argentine from French club AS Monaco on Thursday for a reported club record fee of about 19 million pounds ($26.94 million). The south coast club have struggled up front with 24 goals in as many league games and Charlie Austin, their top scorer with six goals, is out injured while fellow forwards Manolo Gabbiadini and Shane Long have contributed four goals between them. “I’m an attacking player that can lead the line and bring others into play,” the 26-year-old Carrillo told the club’s website (southampton.fc.com). “I like to be active in and around the box to put away chances.” The powerful forward spent 2-1/2 years at Monaco, helping them win the French title and reach the Champions League semi-finals last season. He worked with Southampton boss Mauricio Pellegrino during their time at Argentina’s Estudiantes in 2015. “I am someone that will give my all, try my hardest and do whatever is asked of me by the manager,” Carrillo added. “I will show what I am about, I think we have good players and I think we can improve things.”

Southampton are winless in their last 11 league games, losing five times in that period.—Reuters