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The 'Super Blue Blood Moon' and lunar eclipse

THE moon put on a rare cosmic show yesterday. It was the first time in many years a blue moon has synced up with a supermoon and a total lunar eclipse.

The triple cosmic whammy all fell on the same night yesterday for the first time since March 31, 1866. The phenomena could be seen in Myanmar at moonrise last night.

A blue moon is the second full moon in a calendar month. A super moon is when the moon is unusually close to Earth, making it bigger and brighter, and a blood moon is the moment during an eclipse when the moon appears red.

The rare treat was best visible from Australia, Asia and parts of Russia. It was not visible from western Europe, Africa or South America—GNLM ■



The super blue blood moon is seen during a lunar eclipse in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

A full moon seen behind the Uppatasanti Pagoda before the lunar eclipse in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: AUNG SHINE OO**

CBM has no plan to revise interest rates

THE Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) has no plans to reduce the current interest rates on bank deposits, loans and government treasury bonds, said U Soe Min, Deputy Governor of CBM, at the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw yesterday.

He made the remark in his

answer to a query by MP Dr. Thet Thet Khaing about whether the interest rate of the government treasury bonds is rising due to a rate set by the Central Bank of Myanmar.

U Soe Min said businesses have the opportunity to negotiate with banks to reduce interest

rates for borrowings under 13 per cent.

Deputy Governor U Soe Min said that a budget deficiency in the Union Government was funded by selling treasury bonds to the Central Bank of Myanmar, and that weakened the social policy to control the inflation rate.

He said the interest rate set by the Government and by the Central Bank for the Treasury Bill and Treasury Bond Auction are different.

He said the interest rate for the Government Treasury Bond for the 2016-2017 Financial Year was 7 per cent for 3 months, 8.4

per cent for 6 months, and 8.8 per cent for one year.

The Central Bank's aim for the fiscal policy is to stabilise the domestic market and the inflation rate. He said the interest rate is important for a stable fiscal policy.

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'BANK OF THE YEAR IN MYANMAR 2017'

Awarded by Financial Times (The Banker)

CBM has no plan to revise interest rates

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Currently, Myanmar's inflation rate has stabilised at 4.47pc. That's down from 6.8pc in 2016-17 and 10pc in 2015-16. According to forecasts made by the ASEAN+3 Macroeconomic Research Office (AMRO), inflation in 2018-19 could rise to 5.5pc.

At the yesterday meeting, the Speaker of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw announced that the Hluttaw has approved new appointments for minister level positions in various regions. Dr. Saw Nyo Win is appointed as the Bago Region Minister for Natural Resources, Forestry and Environmental Conservation, Daw Nyunt Nyunt Htay is appointed as the Bago Region Min-

ister for Development Affairs and Social Welfare, and U Tin Maung Win is appointed as the Ayeyawady Region Minister for Agriculture, Livestock, Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation.

Next, U Steven from Kengtung Constituency read the Bill for amending the Drugs and Psychotropic Drugs Law sent back from the President's Office. Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than announced for MPs interested in discussing the Bill to sign their names in a list.

Next, the Speaker sought approval for the Myanmar Hluttaw Bill that has two separate views from the two Hluttaws. —Myanmar News Agency ■



Pyidaungsu Hluttaw being convened in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA



Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Win Myint shakes hands with US Ambassador. PHOTO: MNA

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Win Myint receives US Ambassador to Myanmar

PYITHU Hluttaw Speaker U Win Myint received the US Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Scot Marciel at the Hluttaw building of the Pyithu Hluttaw in Nay Pyi Taw, yesterday afternoon.

During the meeting, they discussed cooperation between

Myanmar and the United States, as well as the law-making affairs of the Hluttaw.

Deputy Speaker U T Khun Myat and other responsible officials from the Pyithu Hluttaw attended the meeting. —Myanmar News Agency ■

NLD members led by Kawlin Pyithu Hluttaw representative visit NRPC

NATIONAL League for Democracy (NLD) members, led by the Pyithu Hluttaw representative of Kawlin, visited the National Reconciliation and Peace Centre (NRPC) in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

They observed the implementation of the peace process by the centre.

During the visit, officials from the department explained that the government aimed to implement the peace process through three branches: judicial, legislative and executive bodies.

A Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement is the centre's main aim and negotiations are underway to sign the agreement with armed ethnic races, as the current peace process is of paramount importance in the country.

Pyithu Hluttaw representative U Myo Zaw Aung explained

about the trip.

Later, they watched a video on the implementation of the peace process by the NRPC.

Next, they asked questions and received responses from the concerned officials. —Myanmar News Agency ■



National League for Democracy members visit the National Reconciliation and Peace Centre (NRPC) and observe the implementation of the peace process by the centre in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

Union Minister for Information attends conference on film industry

UNION Minister for Information Dr. Pe Myint attended the conference on development of the Myanmar Motion Picture Association at 1 p.m. yesterday at the meeting hall of Ministry's office in Nay Pyi Taw.

The Patron of the Myanmar Motion Picture Association U Aung Lwin, Chairman of Myanmar Motion Picture Association U Zin Wine, Consultant of Forever Group Co., Ltd U Thein Tun Aung and Director-General of

Information and Public Relations Department U Ye Naing discussed matters relating to the difficulties, challenges and development of Myanmar Motion Picture Association.

In attendance at the con-

ference were the Deputy Minister for Information U Aung Hla Tun, Permanent Secretary, Directors-General, Managing Director, Officials, Patrons, Chairman, Vice Chairman and Secretaries of the Myanmar

Motion Picture Association, Advisors and officials from Forever Group Co. Union Minister for Information Dr. Pe Myint made reviews of the discussions and concluded the meeting. —Myanmar News Agency ■