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THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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YCDC polls: President, First Lady cast their votes

President U Win Myin (Right), First Lady Daw Cho Cho (Middle) and their daughter (Left) cast their votes in the Yangon City Development Committee elections at the No. 3 Constituency, Kyarkwatthit Ward, Tamway Township in Yangon yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

PRESIDENT U Win Myint, First Lady Daw Cho Cho, and family members cast their votes in the Yangon City Development Committee elections at the No. 3 Constituency, Kyarkwatthit Ward, Tamway Township. Voting was held in constituencies across Yangon yesterday.

Member of the Yangon City Development Committee Election Commission U Khin Maung Kyaw, Tamway Township Development Affairs Commission Chairman U Myint Thein, and officials accompanied the President and his family. — MNA ■ *Translated by Kyaw Zin Lin)*

Rakhine Govt opens 24-hr power supply in Sanae, Kyaukpyu Tsp

A 24-hour power supply service was inaugurated by the Rakhine Government yesterday in Sanae, Kyaukpyu Township, Rakhine State.

At the ceremony, Rakhine Chief Minister U Nyi Pu stressed the need to develop the region by making the best use of completed infrastructure, such as electricity and roads, in the State.

The Chief Minister said he took pride in the government's achievements in its three years in office, adding that out of 17 townships, 16 townships have got access to electricity.

"Plans are under way to supply power to the remaining township, Manaung, using solar energy," said the Chief Minister.

U Nyi Pu also asked the local people to use the opportunity to promote investment in agriculture, tourism, trade, and industry, in cooperation with the Rakhine government.

He said he was delighted that the local people had obtained access to electricity, which many people wish for, and expressed his hope that education, health, and economic sectors in Rakhine would improve thanks to the infrastructure.

The round-the-clock facility was inaugurated yesterday by U Nyi Pu, Rakhine State Cabinet member U Aung Kyaw Zan, and U Win Myint.

After the ceremony, the Chief Minister and his entourage met the residents of Latpan Village in Maei, Taunggup Township. At the meeting, the Chief Minister promised to help the people to overcome their daily challenges. He also listened to their concerns and looked into their requirements at the meeting.

Thereafter, the Chief Minister presented K800,000 for purchase of a computer set and a printer for the Latpan Village Basic Education School, and K1.5 million for building a box culvert in the village. — Myo Thu Tun ■ *(Translated by Kyaw Zin Lin)*

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Eternal Peace Pagoda's religious objects displayed at Shwedagon for public obeisance

Buddha images to be kept for public obeisance and the religious objects to be fixed atop the Eternal Peace Pagoda in Dakkhina Thiri Township were conveyed to Yangon yesterday as part of conveyance to regions and states for public obeisance.

Members of the Sangha recited Parittas and sprinkled scented water over the the images and religious objects at the pagoda yesterday morning before conveyed to Yangon.

The images and religious objects were conveyed to Yangon along the Yangon-Mandalay Highway and they were welcomed by the congregation led by the Chairman of the Yangon Region Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee and Members of the Sangha from townships in Yangon Region. At the temporary venue near the toll gate at the entrance to Yangon, the Members of the Sangha made a consecration for the images and religious objects. Afterwards, they were conveyed to the Shwedagon Pagoda flanked by traditional ceremonial teams.

At the Shwedagon Pagoda, the images and religious objects were consecrated by the Members of the Sangha. The Buddha Images carved from marble stones and golden religious objects will be displayed at the Shwedagon Pagoda for the public obeisance from 1st to 18 April before conveying to 11 regions and states.—MNA *(Translated by Kyaw Zin Lin)*

Religious objects to be fixed atop Eternal Peace Pagoda are brought by Members of the Sangha. **PHOTO: MNA**

YCDC elections: Officials begin compiling results

THE authorities began compiling the results for the Yangon City Development Committee elections yesterday evening.

A total of 271 candidates took part in the elections held at 33 townships in the municipal area of Yangon, with 27 candidates contesting for seats on the Yangon City Development Committee, 99 contesting for the post of chairman of the Development Affairs Committee in the respective townships, 74 vying for a single seat on the township Development Affairs Committee, and 72 contesting for two seats on the township Development Affairs Committee.

There are over 3.4 million eligible voters in the 33 townships.

"I cast my vote for those whom I believe to be working in the interest of the people. I want to urge the winners to upgrade the roads and drainage system, because we need to work a lot to change Yangon City," said Ma Phyu Phyu Tun, a voter from Mayangon Township.

"I believe that I cast my vote for the right person for the right place. This election has been more transparent than previous elections. I want to request the YCDC to clean backyard lanes and remove barriers on pavements," said U Hmat Gyi from Ward-7 of Kyauktada Township.

Officials at polling stations began counting votes after 4 p.m. yesterday.— Min Thit and Zaw Gyi

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Lin)

An eligible voter casts his vote for YCDC elections in Tamway constituency. **PHOTO: NAY ZAW YE PE**

Union Minister U Thaung Tun attends Nepal Investment Summit 2019

Union Minister U Thaung Tun meeting with Prime Minister of Nepal Mr. K.P. Sharma Oli during his stay in Nepal. **PHOTO: IFER**

Myanmar Delegation led by U Thaung Tun, Union Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations and Chairman of the Myanmar Investment Commission, attended the Nepal Investment Summit 2019 held in Kathmandu, Nepal, on 29-30 March 2019. The Summit was jointly organized by the Nepal Investment Board, the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Supplies and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The Summit was attended by over 1300 participants, including the Vice Presidents of the World Bank , the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and foreign delegates. Representatives from 40 countries were represented at the Summit.

Prime Minister of Nepal Mr. K.P.Sharma Oli, Finance Minister Dr. Yuba Raj Khatiwada of Nepal and Union Minister U Thaung Tun were among the speakers at the inaugural session. In his address, the Prime Minister of Nepal emphasized the importance of political stability and protecting investment in attracting investment. The Union Minister underscored the importance of food security and the need for investment in agro-based industries in countries such as Nepal and Myanmar.

While in Nepal, the Union Minister paid a courtesy call on President of Nepal H.E. Mrs. Bidya Devi Bhandari at the Presidential Residence and discussed the promotion of bilateral relations. The Union Minister also met with Prime Minister of Nepal Mr. K.P. Sharma Oli, Minister for Foreign Affairs Mr. Pradeep Kumar Gyawali, Finance Minister Dr. Yuba Raj Khatiwada, Minister for Energy, Water Resource and Irrigation Mr. Barshaman Pun Ananta and Minister for Physical Infrastructure and Transport Mr. Raghubir Mahaseth on separate occasions and discussed mutually beneficial matters that included tourism activities and promotion of connectivity including air connectivity among the regional countries and cooperation in investment sector. On the sidelines of the Summit, the Union Minister also attended the meeting of Myanmar and Nepal entrepreneurs who took part in the Summit. He emphasized the need for promoting closer cooperation in bilateral trade and investment sectors.

The Union Minister also met with the local media. Fifteen MoUs were inked and seventeen investment applications were received by the Nepalese side during the course of the Investment Summit. The Myanmar Licensed Contractors Association also signed an MoU on cooperation with the Federation of Contractors' Associations of Nepal.

The Myanmar delegation arrived Yangon on 31 March 2019.— MNA

> Today, our country is still in poverty with necessities in every sector; which is why we need to carry on our struggle and work hard in all sectors. In the international arena, we are facing pressure, criticisms and misunderstandings. The challenges and difficulties our country and our people are facing today are many. Although every issue cannot be solved easily, we will have to make utmost efforts to solve these issues according to each priority sector.
>
> (Excerpt from the speech by President U Win Myint at the ceremony to take oath of office at Pyidaungsu Hluttaw on 30th March, 2018)

> As I continue to state, corruption is the major obstacle for the rule of law and needs to be addressed. Addressing corruption is essential to delivering good governance. It relies on the "tone from the top" and each of you here today must consider yourselves responsible for setting the appropriate tone in a clear and forceful manner and remove opportunities for corruption. Government organizations not only need to cooperate with the Anti-Corruption Commission but also implement E-government functions with great effort. Cleaning up corruption is not a program but a culture. It is a culture that needs collective effort by the government and the public for sustainable development of the country.
>
> (Excerpt from the speech by State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi at the Conference on Justice Sector Coordinating for Rule of Law in Nay Pyi Taw on 7th March, 2018)

Tatmadaw True News Team warns about fake news posted by AA

THE Tatmadaw True News Team issued a statement yesterday warning about fake news posted by AA on social media and websites.

According to the statement, following attacks on four police outposts at Ngamyinbaw, Kyaungtaung, Goappi, and Khahtila on 4 January, the AA group continued to target police stations, planted mines on the Yangon-Sittway Union Road, sent bullets in envelopes, and issued death threats to heads of police stations, administrators of wards and villagers, and killed them in attempts to harm the administrative machinery and the rule of law. It has been found that local people are being subjected to intimidation by AA, according to the statement. The AA group is taking advantage of this to carry out attacks on security forces by taking position in wards and villages, according to the statement.

Besides, after the clash with security forces, AA members have been disguising themselves as civilians and spread fake news, and forcing villagers to spread fake and fabricated information and post it on social media and websites to create misunderstanding among people, according to the statement.

Touching upon fake information being spread on social media, the statement cited a live broadcast on Facebook by a woman who identified herself as a writer and provided fake information about the killing of the head of the Teinnyo Police Station in MraukU Township at 7.30 p.m. on 23 March. Upon investigation, the authorities found that the woman, Nwe Tharki, had made the live broadcast to intentionally create a misunderstanding between the Tatmadaw and the people, according to the statement.

It was found that while the woman was from Rakhine, she was not residing in the state, but in Lashio, according to the statement. She could not be located and a case has been lodged against her at the local police station in accordance with the law.

Separately, the Head of Aukthakan Village has refuted information that two women were killed during firing by Tatmadaw forces on 29 March at the Teinnyo-Aukthakan Village incident. His clarification on the fake information was released on 29 and 30 March, according to the statement.

The statement from the Tatmadaw True News Team urged local people not to believe the fake news, information, and propaganda spread by the AA after intimidating people, and to inform the authorities and security forces about their actions in a timely manner. — MNA

(Translated by Kyaw Zin)

Rakhine State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu opens 24-hour power supply service in Sanae, Kyaukpyu Township in Rakhine State yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA (NEWS ON PAGE-1)**

MoI delegation visits PRC to observe motion picture

The delegation led by Union Minister Dr. Pe Myint (2nd from left) is seen off by officials from Embassy of China yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

A DELEGATION led by Union Minister for Information Dr. Pe Myint left for Beijing, the People's Republic of China, yesterday evening to pay a study visit on motion picture.

The delegation also comprised of Director-General of the Information and Public Relations Department U Ye Naing and Director of the Motion Picture Promotion Division U Thein Naing.

They were seen off at the Yangon International Airport by officials of the Ministry of Information and the Embassy of the People's Republic of China in Yangon.—MNA

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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.

Thandwe District Association holds annual meeting, pays respect to elders

Patrons and members from the Thandwe District Association pay respect to the 46 elders aged over 75 years in Yangon yesterday. **PHOTO : HLA MOE**

THANDWE District Association (Yangon) held an annual meeting in conjunction with a ceremony to pay homage to elders and to honour outstanding students of the members of the association at the Thukhitayama Monastery in Sanchaung, Yangon.

The ceremony began with an opening speech by Patron of the Thandwe District Association (Yangon) U Soe Myint (Writer Annawa Soe Moe) and greetings by chairman U Mya Maung.

Afterwards, Vice Chairman U Htin Kyaw Lin reported on the Scholarship Scrutinizing Committee's report followed by presentation of certificates of honour to the donors. Next, the annual meeting for the association was held and working committee's report and annual balance sheets were reported and approved by the patron of the association.

Then, awarding ceremony was held and on behalf of member of Patron of the association Daw Kyan (Thanime Daiwe), member of the patron U Hla Kyaw Aung explained about "U Tun Hla Aung Scholarship Award" and officials of the association presented awards to the 10 outstanding students who got distinctions in the matriculations examination. During the awarding ceremony, five distinction winner Maung Tun Naing Win expressed words of thanks on behalf of the outstanding students.

Next, a ceremony for paying homage to the elders was held and members of the association paid respects to 46 elders aged over 75 years. The Thandwe District Association of Yangon was founded by the people from Thandwe, Taunggup and Gwa townships in Thandwe District in 1945. There are over 2,400 members of the association which has given a helping hands to needy people from Rakhine State.—Yi Yi Myint , ■ *(Translated by Kyaw Zin Lin)*

New Myaungmya Bridge opens

THE new Myaungmya Bridge, constructed to ensure smooth and swift flow of goods and to allow locals to travel conveniently, will be opened today. Work on the bridge, across the Ywe River in Myaungmya district, Ayeyawady Region, began on May 1, 2017, just before an older bridge collapsed.

The new bridge is situated on the Labutta-Myaungmya-Einme-Kyaung Kone-Kyonpyaw Road. It was built at a cost of K25.2 billion, with the endeavour of more than 350 labourers, and 50 engineers from Construction Group-1, Bridge Department, under the Ministry of Construction, said U My Win, Director (Civil), Bridge Department's Construction team No. 1.

The main body of the bridge is of steel truss deck-type and its two approach roads were constructed using P.C. composite girders. The bridge is 830 meters long and 34 feet wide, including the 270-meter-long approach roads on either side.

The new bridge is located 46 feet away from the old suspension bridge. After the old bridge collapsed, locals faced transportation difficulties and so, the government has been providing free Z Craft transport to locals. The Ayeyawady Region is upgrading the Labutta, Wakhema, Shwelaung, and Kyaungkon suspension bridges into reinforced concrete ones to improve their load-bearing capacity. The authorities have also started construction work on a bridge over the Pathein River.—Pwint Thitsar ■ *(Translated by Hay Mar)*

Bus plunges down hill in Bago Yoma, 16 dead

Rescue team carrying send injured passengers to the local hospital.
PHOTO : PHYO KO LIN (NYAUNG WINE)

A bus plunged down 200 feet gorge in Bago Yoma hills, Ottwin Township, Bago Region, after the driver reportedly lost control, leaving 16 passengers dead, and 16 others injured.

The mishap occurred about 7.30 p.m. at milepost 71/7 on the Mayan bridge Ottwin Pauk Khaung road, near Kyat Shar village in Ottwin Township. The bus was heading to Paukkhaung Town from Ottwin Town with 40 passengers on board, when the driver, identified as Toe Maung, also known as Aung Thura, 34, lost control.

The bus hit a signal beside the road and then plunged down a hill. Sixteen passengers died on the spot, while 16 more were seriously injured and rushed to the Ottwin General Hospital, said police. "The accident happened in the evening. Most of the people died in the accident. We were trying to retrieve the bodies till now. The injured were sent to Ottwin and Taungoo general hospitals. I think, around 25 passengers are undergoing medical treatment at the hospitals. The bus conductors died, while the driver was injured. He was arrested by the Ottwin police," said Sayadaw U Tay Zaw from the Yin Khon Than Shin social association. The driver has been booked for reckless driving under Sections 304(A)/338/337 of the Penal Code.—Phyo Ko Lin (Nyaung Wine) ■ *(Translated by Hay Mar)*

Myanmar, Korea ink MoU on solar power

AS part of the National Electrification Project, the Mandalay Technology Company, the Republic of Korea-based ELT Co. Ltd, and MTES Company (Myanmar) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for Renewable Energy Development in Myanmar on Tuesday at the Sedona Hotel in Yangon.

The MoU is aimed at generating renewable energy in Mon State, and Ayeyawady, Magway, Mandalay, and Taninthayi regions.

U Win Khaing Moe, Director-General, Department of Research and Innovation, Ministry of Education, said about 45-50 per cent of Myanmar's total population has access to electricity.

Myanmar has set a target of electrifying 100 per cent households by 2030. According to the National Electricity Master Plan, the country's electricity deficiency is expected to reach 4,531 megawatts by 2020 and 14,542 megawatts by 2030. In the 2017-2018 fiscal year, Myanmar produced 3,221 MW of electricity from hydro power, 1,967 MW from natural gas, 120 MW from coal, and 101 MW from diesel.

However, only 40 per cent of the target was produced from hydro power in the summer.

Renewable energy projects utilizing bio-mass and hydropower are also being implemented to electrify rural areas, which do not have access to the national grid.

U Zaw Naing, the Managing Director of Mandalay Technology Company, U Aung Lay Nwe, incharge of NLD Education Network, and Dr. Khin Maung Lwin, BOD member of Green Economy Green Growth presented their remarks at the MoU signing ceremony. Afterwards, U Zaw Naing, U Okkar, the Managing Director of MTES (Myanmar), and Mr. Yan Hee Won, the Chairman of ELT Co. Ltd, signed the MoU for Renewable Energy Development in Myanmar.—Aung Thura ■ *(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)*

The Memorandum of Understanig signing ceremony of ELT (Korea) and Mandalay Technology and MTES being conducted in Yangon on 26 March 2019. **PHOTO : AUNG THURA**

PHOTO : MAUNG CHIT OO (PANTANAW)

India-Myanmar border trade hit $ 85.8 million

BORDER trade between Myanmar and India as of 15 March, in this fiscal, reached US$ 85.8 million, an increase in value by $34.77 million over this time last year, according to statistics provided by the Ministry of Commerce.

During the same period last year, India-Myanmar bilateral trade was $51.051 million in total. Myanmar's exports to the Republic of India are greater than its imports.

The two countires use the Tamu and Reed border trade camps to deliver good commercially.

During the period, the bilateral trade value through the Tamu gate totaled $40.9 million, whereas the Reed station handled goods amount to $44.92 million.

From 1 October through 16 March this year, the trade value from all borders reached $4.5 billion, including by $293 million from this time last year.

A wide variety of goods, covering human hair, medicines, oil cakes, electorinc devices, motorbikes, cotton yarn, non-alloy steel, areca nuts, ginger, saffron, turmeric, bay leaves and other herbal plants, fruits and vegetables are marketable at borders.—Zwe ■ *(Translated by Hay Mar)*

An official presents compensation to a farmer for summer sesame damage. **PHOTO : KO NAY (KYAUKPADAUNG)**

Farmers in Kyaukpadaung compensated for damage to summer sesame

THE authorities handed out K8.89 million as compensation to farmers from 10 village-tracts in Kyaukpadaung Township, Mandalay Region, whose sesame crops were damaged by torrential rains in June last year. Among the seven townships where rain had damaged crops, Kyaukpadaung had fared the worst.

The regional Hluttaw representative, the township's deputy administrators, and officials handed over the monetary assistance, allotted from the national private fund, to village-tract administrators at a ceremony on 31 March at the Kyaukpadaung Township's General Administration Department.

The village-tract administrators will distribute the monetary assistance to farmers whose summer sesame crops were damaged by rains.

The rate of compensation has been fixed at K50,000 per acre.

Last year, heavy rains damaged about 1,778 acres of summer paddy in 10 village-tracts — Magyidaing, Kaing, Min Kaung Myauk, Min Kaung Taung, Magyigone, Thayauktaw, Nyaung Toe, Mone Kan, Thae Bonma, and Zaygone — in Kyaukpadaung Township. The authorities concerned had asked the local community to compile a list so monetary assistance could be provided to farmers.

The ceremony for disbursing monetary assistance was attended by Kyaukpadaung Township Constituency 1 Hluttaw representative U Aye Khine, Township General Administration Department deputy administrator U Sai Aung Myat, Myanmar Agricultural Development Bank manager U Win Htay Oo, Nyaung U District Agricultural Department officer Daw Khin Than Myint, and Township Agricultural Department officer Daw Khin Moe Kyi and her staff.— Ko Nay (Kyaukpadaung) ■ *(Translated by Hay Mar)*

Govt critic Caputova elected Slovakia's first female president

BRATISLAVA (Slovakia) — Vocal government critic and anti-corruption activist Zuzana Caputova will become Slovakia's first female president after provisional results showed her winning Saturday's run-off election.

Environmental lawyer Caputova got 58.40 percent of the ballot while EU energy commissioner Maros Sefcovic garnered 41.59, the Slovak Statistics Office said. Official results are due Sunday at noon.

"Let us look for what connects us. Let us promote cooperation above personal interests," Caputova said after her victory.The 45-year-old added that the outcome was a sign that "you can win without attacking your opponents." "I believe this trend will also be confirmed in the elections to the European Parliament and the Slovak parliamentary elections next year." Sefcovic, the 52-year-old ruling party candidate, called Caputova to congratulate her and planned to also send flowers.

"The first female president of Slovakia deserves a bouquet," he told reporters. Prime Minister Peter Pellegrini, who belongs to the governing Smer-SD party, said he expected "constructive cooperation". Outgoing President Andrej Kiska told reporters that "Slovakia is in a moral crisis and needs a president like Zuzana Caputova."

Caputova, who has no experience in political office and ran on a slogan of "Stand up to evil". **PHOTO: AFP**

"Many countries probably envy us for we have chosen a president who symbolises values like decency."

Justice for all

Political novice Caputova, who ran on a slogan of "Stand up to evil" had earlier called the last few weeks "extremely challenging" and "an intense journey". No stranger to tough battles, Caputova won a 2016 award for successfully blocking a planned landfill in her hometown of Pezinok. More recently, she took to the streets of the central European country of 5.4 million along with tens of thousands of other anti-government protesters after investigative journalist Jan Kuciak was gunned down alongside his fiancee in February 2018.

He had been preparing to publish a story on alleged ties between Slovak politicians and the Italian mafia.The killings forced then prime minister Robert Fico to resign but he remains leader of the populist-left Smer-SD and is a close ally of the current premier.Five people have been charged, including a millionaire businessman with alleged Smer-SD ties who is suspected of ordering the murders.The European Parliament has urged Slovakia to look into "any possible political links to the crimes."MEPs voiced "concern about the allegations of corruption, conflicts of interest, impunity and revolving doors in Slovakia's circles of power."Speaking to AFP on the campaign trail, Caputova said she would "initiate systematic changes that would deprive prosecutors and the police of political influence." —AFP ■

Flash floods kill at least 35 in Afghanistan: officials

KABUL (Afghanistan) — Flash floods caused by heavy rains have killed at least 35 people in Afghanistan, washing away houses and cutting off access to remote villages across parts of the country, officials said Saturday.

Heavy flooding that started early Friday killed at least 12 people in the northern province of Faryab and 10 people in the western province of Herat, said Hashmat Bahaduri, a spokesman for Afghanistan's National Disaster Management Authority (ANDMA).

Eight people were killed in Badghis province in the west and five in Balkh province in the north, Bahaduri told AFP, adding that more than 3,000 houses had been destroyed.

In Herat, 10 districts and some parts of Herat city were impacted, said Jailani Farhad, spokesman for the province's governor.

"Hundreds of houses have been destroyed and thousands displaced," he said.

Mir Gulabuddin Miri, director of the Afghan Red Crescent in Herat, said access to some areas had been cut off, preventing teams from reaching affected people.

"The destruction is huge. Over 12 areas in the province have been badly hit, people have lost their houses. We've only been able to provide them with some food and blankets so far," he said. Aid workers in the northern provinces of Faryab and Balkh have also been struggling to deliver humanitarian assistance to affected families.

In this photograph taken on 29 March 2019, an Afghan man helps a girl as she wades along a street affected by flash floods in Herat province. Flash floods caused by heavy rains have killed at least 35 people in Afghanistan, washing away houses and cutting off access to remote villages across parts of the country, officials said on 30 March.
PHOTO: AFP

"We have dispatched our food and non-food assistance for the affected families, but the scale of the disaster is massive. We need more humanitarian assistance," an ANDMA spokesman in northern Afghanistan told AFP.—AFP

Supporters, opponents of Venezuela's government rally amid blackouts

CARACAS (Venezuela) —Venezuelan security forces fired tear gas Saturday to disperse demonstrators in Caracas outraged by massive power outages that have kept much of the country in darkness since early March.

AFP journalists on the scene said the security forces blocked opposition protesters from concentrating at certain points in the western side of the capital city. The latest power outage hit just after 7 pm (2310 GMT) Friday, affecting Caracas and at least 20 of the oil producing country's 23 states. The blackouts have hit Venezuela hard—worsening the already-dire economic and living conditions in a country that is witnessing a political showdown between the head of the country's leftist government, Nicolas Maduro, and opposition leader Juan Guaido.

The United States and more than 50 other countries recognize Guaido as interim president. Russia, along with China, back Maduro.The blackouts that began on 7 March have affected the water service, transportation, and telephone and internet services across the country. The most recent blackout halted activities between Monday and Thursday.

"Our lights go out at every moment, we don't have internet service ... the water service has been terrible for more than a year, and with these blackouts things have gotten a lot worse," said a protester at a Caracas demo who did not want to give her name. She was in a crowd with her neighbors protesting by banging pots."I refuse to leave Venezuela, because I am certain that there is so much here to fight for," said another marcher who identified herself only as Andrea. "We are going to stay in the street fighting."She said that while Caracas outages were bad, in many states they are much worse, making it impossible for millions to use refrigerators.

Maduro has blamed the previous outages on sabotage, but experts have said infrastructure crumbling from years of neglect is a likelier culprit than outside interference. —AFP ■

Thai demonstrators protest alleged cheating in election

BANGKOK (Thailand)—Thai demonstrators on Sunday protested against alleged cheating in the junta-ruled kingdom's first election since a 2014 coup, a week after the controversial poll sowed confusion over the ballot results.

A military-backed party and its main rival led by a self-exiled billionaire have both claimed the right to lead the government as inconsistent tallies released by the Election Commission have raised suspicion among voters.

The junta-aligned Phalang Pracharat party clinched the popular vote but its rival Pheu Thai—linked to former premier Thaksin Shinawatra—has formed a coalition claiming a majority of seats in the lower house.Full results will be ratified by 9 May but anger has mounted as the wait continues, prompting demonstrations at two Bangkok landmarks.

A small but spirited group gathered near the tourist hotspot Erawan Shrine holding a banner that read "Cheating Election" and "People Want to Vote".

A Thai anti-junta protester displays a placard during a demonstration in Bangkok on Sunday. **PHOTO: AFP**

It featured the face of 2014 coup leader Prayut Chan-O-Cha, who is standing as the prime ministerial candidate for Phalang Pracharat.

"It is the Pheu Thai party which won the election," organiser and activist Anurak Jeantawanich said.

Demonstrators were collecting signatures for a petition to demand the dismissal of Election Commission members, who have conceded some errors in tabulation but stand by the latest figures.—AFP ■

'Edtech' boom transforms how Indian kids learn

MUMBAI (India)—From a multi-billion-dollar education startup to wired-up mannequins, technology is helping to revolutionise the way Indian schoolchildren are learning—provided their parents can afford it.

A host of online platforms are taking advantage of a surge in smartphone ownership to engage millions of youngsters with interactive games and animated video lessons.India's education system suffers from a lack of investment, and the apps aid students who want extra tuition away from overcrowded classrooms and crumbling schools.

Major foreign investors are ploughing funds into India's growing "edtech" industry as they seek to capitalise on the world's largest school-age population who face fierce competition for university places."I have been using Byju's since last year and my performance has really improved. I understand mathematical concepts much better now," says 16-year-old Akshat Mugad referring to a Facebook-backed, Indian education app.Byju's has become one of the world's largest online learning sites since it was founded in Bangalore in 2011 and is currently embarking on an ambitious overseas expansion.It is just one of dozens of startups betting that kids are eager to learn differently from rote memorisation techniques that are used across much of Asia.Edtech platforms are also taking off in other Asian countries, notably China and Taiwan."We wanted to make education fun," said Manish Dhooper, the founder of New Delhi-based Planet Spark, which uses "gamified" teaching methods.

Byju's has become one of the world's largest online learning sites since it was founded in Bangalore in 2011. **PHOTO: AFP**

Interactive

Garima Dhir enrolled her six-year-old boy into a Planet Spark programme to study maths and English because she wanted him to get used to using technology at a young age. "With interactive classes, my son is picking concepts without any stress and enjoying the process without fear of failure," she told AFP.Robomate, Toppr, Simplilearn, Meritnation and Edureka are others in the market.India has an estimated 270 million children aged between five and 17. Its online education sector is projected to be worth $2 billion to Asia's third-largest economy by 2021, according to research published by accounting group KPMG two years ago.With revenues heading for $200 million, Byju's says it has around 32 million users in India using its e-tutorials that feature animations, live classes and educational games to match India's school curriculum. It has raised more than $1 billion in funding since the beginning of last year, including from Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg, valuing the firm at around $5.4 billion."We want to be the largest education company in the world," founder Byju Raveendran, 39, whose stake in Byju's is now thought to be worth almost $2 billion, told AFP.

'Ask Alexa'

Analysts say technology has the power to transform education in India but note that at the moment it is largely the domain of middle-class families.A year-long subscription to Byju's can cost upwards of $150 for example, a small fortune for the majority of Indians. At a state-run school in Mumbai teacher Pooja Prashant Sankhe is using technology in a rather different way to change how her pupils engage with lessons.The 45-year-old hides an Amazon Echo device in a shop window mannequin. When AFP visited children aged 11 approached and asked questions such as, "Alexa, how many states are there in India?"—AFP ■

Nepali, foreign companies sign 15 deals in investment summit

KATHMANDU —Nepali and foreign companies signed a total of 15 investment deals and Memorandum of Understandings during the Nepal investment summit held on Friday and Saturday in Nepal's capital Kathmandu, authorities said.

The Himalayan country also received 17 applications for other 10 projects showcased during the two-day event, according to Investment Board Nepal (IBN).

The participating investors included China, India, the United States, South Korea, Britain, among others, as well as multilateral donor agencies such as International Finance Corporation of the World Bank Group which signed separate investment and cooperation agreements during the summit.

The applications received for the projects during the summit were related to transport, hydropower, hospital, airport, convention center and agriculture infrastructure, according to IBN.

"Investors interested in these projects look serious as they have already paid fees to the IBN for further negotiation," IBN's Chief Executive Officer Maha Prasad Adhikari said during the concluding ceremony.

Nepali officials said they were encouraged by the presence of the investors and active participation during the summit."Prime Minister and I held more than 30 sideline bilateral meetings with the investors and delegates from different agencies. These meetings were extremely useful to carry forward our investment agenda," Nepali Finance Minister Yubaraj Khatiwada said in his concluding remark.According to IBN, more than 1,300 participants including over 735 foreign delegates from more than 300 companies participated in the summit, which the Nepali officials described as overwhelming.

During the event, Nepali officials vowed to deepen ongoing policy and legal reforms to make the country more investment-friendly. The last investment summit was held in March 2017 in Kathmandu when the Himalayan country received the pledged investment of 13.52 billion U.S. dollars. — Xinhua ■

Walking towards our objectives with collective strength

SINCE taking up office on 31 March 2016, the civilian government has now served its third year in office. While the popularly elected administration could not fully fulfill the wants and needs of the entire country within three years, it has fulfilled the most dire needs of the people, to the best of its abilities.

The civilian government has vowed to complete the peace process, an integral component to Myanmar, before it's term is over. They have placed special emphasis on the dangers of illegal narcotic drugs which plague our daily lives. They are acting on reports from the public with serious actions.

> The civilian government also faces numerous challenges and difficulties in trying to fulfill the needs of the people in a short amount of time. Yet the government will persevere through these hardships with collective strength.

We can see that there has been moderate success in combating corruption, the scourge of national development and good governance. The civilian government has raised the overall stipends of pensioners to accommodate their later years in life. And the government's initiatives for clean urban planning and smooth public transportation has garnered favorable results.

The civilian government has strived to fulfill the needs for roads and transport, clean drinking water, sufficient electricity, education, and healthcare, within a relatively short period of time. They have begun reforming the education sector this year, and are upgrading public health care annually.

Electrification is important for national development and elevating the living standards of people. With the construction of major transmission lines, electric power stations and sub stations, we have learnt that 50 per cent of the public will receive electricity by the end of this year. Further, the electricfication and transportation projects are being given priority to border areas and highlands.

So far, we have seen upgrades among the 144 major roads in Myanmar, including 367 miles and 2 furlongs into concrete roads, 336 miles and 3 furlongs into tar roads, and 1,322 miles and 6 furlongs into nylon tar roads. In addition, over 26,313 miles of road have been paved and maintained.

The civilian government has constructed over 500 bridges exceeding 180 feet, and is striving towards providing all-weather roads for 80 per cent of all villages, and 90 per cent of rural residents by 2030.

The civilian government also faces numerous challenges and difficulties in trying to fulfill the needs of the people in a short amount of time. Yet the government will persevere through these hardships with collective strength. But every citizen needs to be aware of their responsibilities and fulfill them, as well.

We believe that the civilian government, which has received the majority of public support, will be able to push through on its path, while amending its shortcomings, to succeed in establishing the democratic federal Union we all desire.

■■■

Printing and Publishing Department working on a momentous task

By Khin Yadanar

THERE is no easy way out for the new generation to have access to the most renown first Myanmar novel namely "Maung Yin Maung and Ma Me Ma" by James Hla Kyaw despite its legendary success of the past in the country.

Reflecting Myanma chronicle, culture and status, the Myanmar literature stands tall with dignity and grandeur stage by stage throughout the eras in the country. Especially, the Myanmar classical literature instills the youth with historical information, things to abide and avoid, and also inspired with patriotism and perfect citizenry.

The Printing and Publishing Department, under the Ministry of Information, has been performing the tasks of printing works of literary development for the public especially for the youth with 100 Myanmar classic book series.

In the first step forward, the 100 Myanmar classic book series was launched with the Myanmar long novels such as that of "Maung Yin Maung an Ma Me Ma" by James Hla Kyaw and that of "Love story of veggie seller Maung Hmaing and Ma Aye Khin" by Wun Sayai U Gyee, during the tenure of new government.

The Printing and Publishing Department in line with the given and embedded name is carrying out the printing and publishing task. The department has been performing the tasks of printing works of literature development, the State Gazettes, text books for basic education schools which are commissioned by the Ministry of Education, works commissioned by governmental departments and private enterprises, and ballots commissioned by Union Election Commission.

Sarpay Beikman or world of books

The tasks for the Myanmar literature development have been undertaken consistently by the Sarpay Beikman. Established since 1948, the organization is functioning well for the development of literature, enhancing the writing dignity, the Myanmar National Literature Awards are presented every year.

They are for the best works published in the previous year in each category as determined by a selection committee from Sarpay Beikman ("Palace of Literature"), a division of the Ministry of Information that is concerned with promoting books in Myanmar and other national languages.

Sarpay Beikman also gives the Sarpay Beikman Manuscript Awards for unpublished works that are submitted in manuscript. In recent years the genres covered by Sarpay Beikman Manuscript and National Literary Awards have been gradually extended and the number of awards increased. The mission included the eye opening of the public, the social development and progress, all based on the human resources development.

Launching of the 100 Myanmar classic book series

In the volume one, the long Myanmar classic novels were printed, and the second volume rolled out with the novels of the "Shwe Pyi Soe" by U Latt; the "Yadanarbon" by Shwe U Daung; and the "Htar Wa Ra Myittar" (Eternal Love) also known as "BA Maung Ba Lwin" by BA Maung Ba Than.

Depicting in the third volume consisted of the "Nay Yee Yee" by Saya P. Monin; the "Ta Nann Pyaw Yin Twe Daw" by U Latt; and the "Hmar Daw Bon" by Thakin Kodaw Hmaing.

The three volumes successfully hit the stand on 3 December 2018.

Publishing the hundred Myanmar classic series is aimed at providing opportunities to our next generation to get easy access to the influential books.

Selection and Awarding literatures

In 2016, the Sarpay Beikman had selected all (13) genres and bestowed (26) awards. Out of (292) manuscripts, the selections had been made in three stages by (28) literary experts and professionals, attaching the awards with cash of Myanmar kyat 700,000 for first prize; Myanmar kyat 500,000 for second prize; and Myanmar kyat 300,000 for third prize.

> ... The Printing and Publishing Department is moving ahead to compile and present historical data and information, with pride and honor, for the benefit of the people and future generations ...

Except political genre and English language genre, the year 2017 had selected (11) categories and awarded (25) prizes by (28) experts, who have the term of two-year. The cash awards were tagged with Myanmar kyat 10, 00,000; MMK 700,000; and MMK 500,000 for the first, second and third prizes.

On behalf of the Ministry of Information, the Sarpay Beikman has constituted (77) members National Literature Award Selection Committee since 2016, which saw the resignation of (12) experts, and the remaining (65) professionals continued the selection tasks.

A total of (966) books rolled out in 2016, and that they were divided into (16) categories for scrutiny, and (10) genres were bestowed with awards, in conjunction with three recipients of the Lifetime Achievement for National Literary Award. The cash awards attached were Myanmar kyat 25, 00, 000 for lifetime achievement; MMK 15, 00,000 for National Literature Award.

In 2017, the Sarpay Beikman constituted the National Literature Award Selection Committee with (65) professionals, and later (2) members resigned from the body, leaving (63) members for the selection tasks.

The award on poems had been streamlined by considering both the normal poem and the modern poem, and confirmed for awarding one genre of poem. Moreover, award on essay and award on reference literature have been created and bestowed, and therefore, (18) genres have been confirmed for the new list.

In 2017, total of (891) books have been serialized into (18) categories and that (11) genres were awarded, with three recipients of lifetime achievement of literature. Price tag for lifetime achievement was Myanmar kyat five million for lifetime achievement, and Myanmar kyat 25, 00,000 for national literature award.

Rejuvenation of Myanma Encyclopedia

Volume 1 of the Myanmar Encyclopedia was published in 1954, more than 60 years ago. It took 24 more years, until 1977, to complete the publication of all 15 volumes.

Recently in 2017, a new updated version of the encyclopedia is underway to be published, thanks to the joint efforts of Sarpay Beikman (Literature House), the Ministry of Information, the Tun Foundation, experts and professional writers, translators and editors. The volume one is already set to print for the esteemed readers and that the Printing and Publishing Department has the great privilege and honor in this job.

Cooperation and coordination is underway among the experts such as Sarpay Beikman Editorial Team, professionals and computer personnel of Tun Foundation to complete the task in time.

On 26 August 2017, a commemoration ceremony on the 70 th Anniversary of the establishment of Sarpay Beikman was successfully held and a commemorative book was launched.

Enlightening the public

The Shwe Thway Journal with the target audience of pre-primary students and primary students has been issued every Saturdays, and that special issues were released in 2016; eve of Golden Anniversary special issue in 2018, and Golden Anniversary issue, marking achievement of milestones for future generation.

The weekly issue of Thuta Padetha Journal is primarily meant and focus on the youth , and that the translation pieces were compiled and printed once a month, adding with the special issue in 2017 in commemoration of 70 Anniversary of Sarpay Beikman.

The translation books namely "Leadership Secrets" by Hillary Clinton; "Important of being active citizen"; "Path to the stars"; and the "Asian Youth" have been printed and distributed by the Sarpay Beikman.

At the same time, in collaboration with the philanthropic team named "Shanti", the translation competitions have been conducted and that the first prize winning translation was being printed. Moreover, the book entitled "Friends Around the World" has been printed and distributed to the libraries of Information and Public Relations Department across the country.

Over the years, more books numbering about (100) different types were being printed and distributed such as the People's Guide; Sarpay Beikman manuscripts; Pakokku Award winning books; and introducing new writers to the literature worlds of Myanmar.

Public Library of Sarpay Beikman

The public library of Sarpay Beikman was established in 1950, and all sorts of books suitable to all different ages are being provided for the motley assortment of readers. The library is perfectly fit for the ordinary readers as well as the researchers.

Currently, the library is providing services to readers including normal readers, researchers, and freelance. Moreover, there is reference library, the modern library, and the children library for the advantages of the kids in engaging reading, storytelling competition, and assorted debates of contests.

New pathway for literature

The Sarpay Beikman is moving ahead with the instruction of the Ministry of Information in lending hand for the development of literature circle in organizing events that of the paper reading session, the book bazaar, and the seminar on literature.

During 2019, the round table discussions are held at the Head Office of the Printing and Publishing Department involving the persons that won the national literature awards with a view in turning a new chapter as literature festival. It is resulted with the valuable advantage of assessment and evaluation in the literature circle how and why the books were being awarded with the national literature titles.

During 2016-2017 period, the paper reading sessions on political matters, on contemporary history, on translation experiences, with added momentum of book bazaar events in the seasons of summer, winter and monsoon periods.

For the convenience of the book lovers, and to boost the culture of book bazaar events, the open space in between Anawrahta Road and Maha Bandoola Road in Botahtaung Township has been designated as Book Avenue and allocated book stalls in cooperation with the Myanmar Publishers and Distributors Association.

The book stalls temporarily closed down only during monsoon season, and the book bazaar is buzzing and swinging in all the other seasons offering the book lovers and book worms to easily pick up the books that they really wanted for at a single venue.

Publications of Sarpay Beikman

Sarpay Beikman Book Center

The spacious Sarpay Beikman Book Center is selling all sorts of books printed from (14) government publishing houses and (697) private book publishers. For easy access of all books by the enthusiastic readers and the general public, more improvement and reforms are being carried by the ministry during the incumbent.

The Sarpay Beikman Book Club has been established (58) years ago, and that during the time of the new government more members enrolled themselves due to better reform with (676) members in Yangon and (365) members from various townships.

SEE PAGE-10

Printing and Publishing Department working on a momentous task

FROM PAGE-9

Printing of school textbooks at the Photolitho Printing Press in Yangon.

Printing materials from government as well as schools

Annually, the Printing and Publishing Department has been undertaking all the tasks of printing being entrusted by the Ministry of Education such as that of basic education school text books with quality assurances in time.

The statistics showed that 2016-2017 academic year have been filled with school book printing order memo forms with (19.232) million; that the 2017-2018 academic year with (17.109) million memo forms; that the 2018-2019 academic year with (35.025) million memo forms.

With regards to the official record books, the printing tasks included such as that of the official development records of Rakhine State during one year period; that of the first report to the public in connection with the advice on Rakhine State; that of the Record on Union Peace Conference—21st Century Panglong (First); that of the Record on Union Peace Conference—21st Century Panglong (Second); that of the Record on the Process of Democracy Transition of Myanmar; that of the Record for the People on the first (100) days of the government; that of the Record for the People on the first year implementation; that of the Record for the People on the second year implementation; that of the Record on all round development of the youth; that of the Record on the Central Tasks on National Reconciliation and Peace Center; that of the Record on the signing of NCA; and that of all other tasks being assigned to print on.

The tasks also include the timely printing of ballots for by-elections in 2017 and by-election of 2018 for the whole country being entrusted by the Union Election Commission.

Future Encyclopedia and classic series of books

The compilation and reviving of Myanma Encyclopedia is an enormous task to be implemented on long term and sustainable basis which include the Myanmar alphabet such as (KA); and (KHA); and then (GA) moving stage by stage until last alphabet (AR). The volume (One) of Myanma Encyclopedia is now in the finishing touch stage, and that the first volume would be delivered into the hands of the esteemed readers in neat, tidy and presentable form without hitches and glitches.

The Ministry of Information is carrying out to publish 100 Myanmar Book Series in order to promote Myanmar Literature. The first three volumes have already published and about 1000 books have been sold out so far.

Determined for the development of literature sector

In today's modern atmosphere, the general public has difficulties in finding time to read each book individually, and therefore, the new government has innovated and expanded paper reading sessions and literature seminars across the country with a view to impart knowledge, information and share taste in literature. It is also on the agenda in organizing paper reading sessions and seminars in the context of contemporary literature.

Plans for the upcoming year

On weekly, monthly and yearly basis, the Printing and Publishing Department has been undertaking the onerous tasks in printing quality products on time such as that of orders entrusted by the government departments and the private sectors, that of the official records on state ceremonies; that of the ballots for the multi-party democracy general elections; that of the ballots to elect members of Yangon City Development Committee (YCDC); that of printing tasks entrusted by the Ministry of Education on basic education school text books through the order forms of (40) millions for the 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 educational year; and that of the determination in catering printing services for the state and the people.

Blue plaque building

The Yangon Heritage Trust has added a symbolic blue plaque to its seventh city landmark on the century-old, still-working Central Press on Thein Phyu Road. It was Yangon Central Jail last (130) years ago, transformed into printing establishment by the government.

The building, which has been in continuous use since 1912, officially joined six other historically significant edifices in Yangon in sporting the heritage markers in August 2015. Although the blue plaque does not afford buildings legal protection, it does signify their importance and tell their stories to the public in Myanmar.

Once the silent and deserted legendary building locked up with dozen of padlocks on the Theinbyu Road has become the oasis of literature standing tall in grandeur dazzling with noises with that of book lovers; that of literature discussions; and that of book bazaars.

In conclusion, the writer of this article would like to submit the message to the esteemed readers that the Printing and Publishing Department is moving ahead to compile and present historical data and information, with pride and honor, for the benefit of the people and future generations. It is a venue where the glory of Myanmar literature would be shining in the days ahead with momentous future tasks at the prestigious establishment.

Translated by UMT (Ahlon)

World News

Israel reopens Gaza crossings closed for days after rocket strike: official

Israeli troop firing a tear gas cannister at Gazan protesters during border demonstrations on 30 March 2019 near kibbutz Nahal Oz. **PHOTO: AFP**

JERUSALEM—Israel reopened its crossings with the Gaza Strip on Sunday after having kept them closed for nearly a week following a rare long-distance rocket strike from the Palestinian enclave, an official said.

The Erez crossing for people and the Kerem Shalom crossing for goods reopened Sunday morning, a spokeswoman for COGAT, the defence ministry unit that oversees the crossings, told AFP. They were closed on Monday after the rocket fire that wounded seven Israelis and led to Israeli retaliatory strikes.

The reopening comes after tens of thousands of Palestinians protested along the Gaza border with Israel on Saturday, to mark the one-year anniversary since demonstrations and clashes erupted there.Four Palestinians were killed on Saturday during protests and clashes, but unrest was limited and fears of mass bloodshed were averted after Egyptian-led negotiations.

Five rockets were launched from the Gaza Strip at Israel overnight, leading Israeli tanks to fire on Hamas military posts. No casualties were reported from either the rockets or tank fire.Hamas officials say an understanding was reached that would see Israel ease its crippling blockade of Gaza in exchange for the protests remaining calm. Israel, which has fought three wars with Hamas since 2008, has not commented on the claims of an agreement.—AFP ■

N. Korea calls Madrid embassy raid a 'grave terrorist attack'

SEOUL (South Korea)—North Korea on Sunday described the February raid on its embassy in Madrid by a dissident group as a "grave terrorist attack" and urged an investigation into the perpetrators.

A group of armed men burst into Pyongyang's Spanish embassy last month and roughed up employees before fleeing with documents and computers.

The incident came just days before a high-stakes nuclear summit in Hanoi between North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and US President Donald Trump that ultimately failed to reach an accord.

In its first official comment on the raid, North Korea suggested the possible involvement of the US Federal Bureau of Investigation and called on Spanish authorities to bring the "terrorists and their wire-pullers to justice".

"A grave terrorist attack occurred on 22 February, where an armed group assaulted the DPRK Embassy in Spain," a spokesman for the foreign ministry said in a statement carried by the official KCNA news agency, using the acronym for the North's official name.

A group of armed men burst into Pyongyang's Spanish embassy last month and roughed up employees before fleeing with documents and computers. **PHOTO: AFP**

"We are following the rumours of all hues now in the air that FBI of the United States and the small fry of anti-DPRK 'body' were involved in the terror incident," it added."We expect that the authorities concerned in Spain... carry out an investigation into the incident to the last in a responsible manner."An investigation into the raid is already underway in Madrid.

On Wednesday, a Spanish court named Mexican national Adrian Hong Chang as leader of the group who contacted "the FBI in New York five days after the assault" with information related to the incident in the embassy. — AFP ■

White House 2020 spouses eye new title: First Gentleman

Bruce Mann, seen here with his wife US Senator Elizabeth Warren, would become the first-ever first gentleman of the United States if his wife wins the presidency in 2020. **PHOTO: AFP**

WASHINGTON (United States)—From Martha Washington to Melania Trump, the role of US first lady is as old as the republic itself.

But if one of half a dozen Democrat hopefuls get their way in 2020, the nation could soon have a first gentleman—potentially even the husband of America's first gay president—move into the White House.The presidential spouse has always been a woman, and while her duties have never been officially codified, she is expected to function as the mansion's hostess, overseeing its social and ceremonial events.

But the longstanding tradition and expectations of that ornamental and highly visible role, may soon be upended.Four years ago it was Bill Clinton who was widely expected to become first gentleman once Hillary Clinton did away with Republican Donald Trump, but history intervened.

Now, women senators Kamala Harris, Elizabeth Warren, Kirsten Gillibrand and Amy Klobuchar, along with congresswoman Tulsi Gabbard, are competing to unseat Trump and become the nation's first female commander in chief.Their husbands have largely shunned the spotlight, all too aware of the unwritten campaign rule: "Don't overshadow your spouse."Some have taken the stage with their candidate better halves more than others, and social media has been the venue for a few to shine.One candidate spouse in particular, Chasten Buttigieg, has been gaining positive attention, and is already leading the 2020 spouse primary. He is the 29-year-old husband of South Bend, Indiana's millennial Mayor Pete Buttigieg, and their same-sex marriage would make White House history.

Buttigieg remains a long shot for the nomination, but Chasten's joyous and seemingly unscripted Twitter feed, which combines awe for his accomplished husband with well-placed humor, has a growing following.Chasten, a middle school teacher who met Buttigieg through an online dating app, radiates charm as he uses self-deprecating humor and candor when ruminating on life as a candidate's spouse. — AFP ■

NEWS IN BRIEF

Comic leads as Ukraine votes for president

KIEV(Ukraine)—A comedian whose political experience is limited to playing the president on TV is likely to top the first round of voting as Ukrainians go to the polls Sunday.Actor Volodymyr Zelensky's bid started as a long shot but he has leapfrogged establishment politicians amid public frustration over corruption and stagnating living standards. The 41-year-old star of the political comedy "Servant of the People," which returned for its third season this week, is polling above 25 percent, well ahead of his nearest rivals. If Zelensky wins the presidency he will lead a country of 45 million people that in recent years has known war, loss of territory and uprisings, and remains one of the poorest nations in Europe.—AFP ■

Turks vote in test for Erdogan as recession hits home

ISTANBUL (Turkey)—President Recep Tayyip Erdogan heads into local elections Sunday fighting for what he says is Turkey's survival, with his party risking defeat in the capital amid an economic slowdown.Erdogan and his Justice and Development Party (AKP) have won every vote since the party first came to power in 2002 but this time, analysts say the party could lose Ankara and even Istanbul. It is the first municipal poll since Turks approved constitutional reforms in 2017 to create an executive presidency that gave Erdogan wider powers, and follows general elections last year.—AFP ■

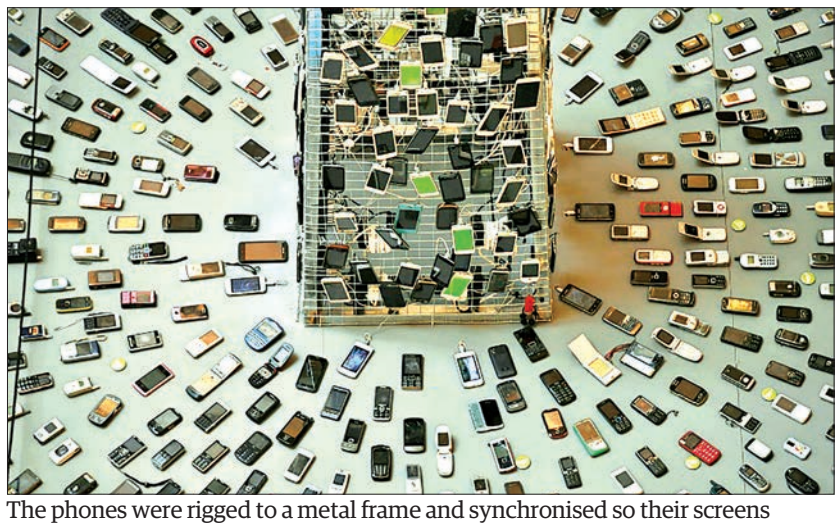
Gun control, climate: a new US generation takes to the barricades

NEW YORK (United States)—In the United States, David Hogg is a leading campaigner for gun control, while in Europe, Greta Thunberg fights to defend the climate.They may only be teenagers, but both have drawn worldwide followings for their clear messages and fierce commitment —symbols of a generation of surprising militancy. Hogg, who is 18, is a leader of the March for Our Lives movement, launched by students from his high school in Parkland, Florida, where a heavily armed gunman massacred 17 people on 14 February 2018.—AFP ■

Cell phone 'Tower of Babel' highlights China e-waste problem

BEIJING (China)—A Chinese artist on Saturday unveiled a sculpture made of discarded mobile phones and shaped like a cell tower in a bid to highlight the problem of electronic waste. The phones were rigged to a metal frame and synchronised so their screens would flash in various colours. "The inspiration of my tower comes from the Tower of Babel in the Bible," artist Shen Bolun told AFP, referring to the origin story explaining why people speak different languages. Displayed in a busy shopping mall in Beijing, the sculpture attracted scores of curious bystanders who stopped to take photos of the exhibit.

"I originally thought environmental protection is waste sorting, but I didn't realise cellphones could be recycled and used again," said primary school student Li Jiaxing, who was viewing the artwork with his mother. "After seeing this tower, I decided to donate my old cellphone here to make use of its remaining value." China's waste from computers, mobile phones, and other electronics will reach 15.4 million tonnes by 2020, said environmental group Greenpeace, which organised the display.As a leading manufacturer and consumer of electronic goods, China was a logical place to launch an e-waste recycling and reduction campaign, the group said. Old electronic devices containlarge amounts of metal that have economic value, said Greenpeace project manager Jiang Zhuoshan. —AFP ■



The phones were rigged to a metal frame and synchronised so their screens would flash in various colours. **PHOTO: AFP**

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR
MINISTRY OF ELECTRICITY AND ENERGY
NATIONAL ELECTRIFICATION PROJECT
SPECIFIC PROCUREMENT NOTICE

Date : 1nd April, 2019
Invitation for Bids
IDA, Credit No : 5727-MM
Contract Title : Installation of Distribution Lines and Transformers for Adaptation Villages in Sagaing, Shan(South), Kayah, Bago(East), Bago (West), Nay Pyi Taw, Ayeyarwaddy and Yangon for National Electrification Project

Reference No: MOEE-NEP/C1-W12A/19

1. The Republic of the Union of Myanmar has received financing from the World Bank towards the cost of the National Electrification Project, and intends to apply part of the proceeds towards payments under the contract for Installation of Distribution Lines and Transformers **MOEE-NEP/C1-W12A/19 for Adaptation Villages in Sagaing, Shan (South), Kayah, Bago (East), Bago (West), Nay Pyi Taw, Ayeyarwaddy and Yangon.**

2. The Ministry of Electricity and Energy now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders **for Installation of Distribution Lines and Transformers MOEE-NEP/C1-W12A/19 for Adaptation Villages in Sagaing, Shan(South), Kayah, Bago (East), Bago (West), Nay Pyi Taw, Ayeyarwaddy and Yangon** in the following locations.

The number and identification of lots comprising this installation bidding **MOEE-NEP/C1-W12A/19** process for Adaptation Villages in Sagaing, Shan (South), Kayah, Bago (East), Bago (West), Nay Pyi Taw, Ayeyarwaddy and Yangon is:

Lot 1: Sagaing & Monywa District (Sagaing Region) - 61 villages
Lot 2: Yinmabin & Shwebo District (Sagaing Region) - 49 villages
Lot 3: Taunggyi/Loilen/Langkho District (Shan(South) Region) & Loikaw District (Kayah Region)- 37 villages
Lot 4: Bago & Taungoo District (Bago(East) Region) / Dak Khi Na & Oke Tha Ra District (Nay Pyi Taw Region) - 80 villages
Lot 5: Pyay & Tharyarwaddy District (Bago (West) Region) - 129 villages
Lot 6: Pathein/ Hinthada/ Myaung Mya & Maubin District (Ayeyarwaddy Region) - 41 villages
Lot 7: Eastern/ Southern & Northern District (Yangon Region) - 33 villages

3. Bidding will be conducted through the National Competitive Bidding procedures as specified in the World Bank's Guidelines: Procurement of Goods, Works and Non-Consulting Services under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits & Grants by World Bank Borrowers ("Procurement Guidelines"), and is open to all eligible bidders as defined in the Procurement Guidelines. In addition, please refer to paragraphs 1.6 and 1.7 setting forth the World Bank's policy on conflict of interest.

4. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from Project Management Office (National Electrification Project), Project Manager and nep.pmomoep@gmail.com] and inspect the bidding documents during office hours [09:30 to 16:00 hours] at the address given below.

5. A complete set of bidding documents in English may be obtained free of charge by interested eligible bidders upon the submission of a written application to the address below. The Bidding Documents will be issued through email only.

6. Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before **30th April, 2019 (10:00 A.M)** - Myanmar Time. Electronic bidding will not be permitted. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be publicly opened in the presence of the bidders' designated representatives and anyone who choose to attend at the address below.

7. All bids must be accompanied by "Bid-Security"

8. The address (es) referred to above is (are):

Attention: **Project Manager**
Project Management Office (National Electrification Project)
Office Building No.27, Ministry of Electricity and Energy
City: **Nay Pyi Taw**
Country: **The Republic of the Union of Myanmar**
Telephone: **+95 67 3431175**
Facsimile number: **+95 67 3431176**
Electronic mail address: **nep.pmomoep@gmail.com**

Bangladesh arrests owners of blaze-hit Dhaka tower

DHAKA (Bangladesh) — Police in Bangladesh said Sunday they had arrested the owners of an office tower in Dhaka that caught fire earlier this week, killing 26 people and renewing the country's debate over lax safety standards.

The latest deadly blaze to hit Bangladesh's congested capital tore through the 22-storey FR Tower on Thursday, leaving some of the hundreds trapped inside screaming for help as horrified onlookers massed outside.Police said they had detained two men, S.M.H.I. Faruque and Tasvir Ul Islam—who is district leader of the opposition Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) – in the capital, after filing charges against them for criminal negligence.

"We arrested Faruque just after midnight. He is the 45 percent owner of the building. He also owns the land on which the building was constructed," deputy commissioner Mashiur Rahman told AFP.

Senior police official Shahjahan Saju told AFP that Islam, who contested the parliamentary election in December and lost, was arrested at 11pm (1700 GMT) Saturday over allegations he owns part of the FR building—which authorities have said was extended illegally and lacked adequate fire safety measures. Police said they were also looking for the owner of the construction firm which built the tower in the 1990s. Some of those stuck inside the burning building, in the upmarket Banani commercial district, made it to safety by sliding down cables on the side of the building, but others took their chances and jumped in a bid to escape the smoke and heat. Six people leaped to their deaths.

Firefighters backed by military specialists—some in helicopters—tackled the flames, lowering ropes to help people escape, while rescuers on long ladders smashed through windows.

The arrests came as a senior minister called the fire an act of murder amid growing public clamour for better building safety standards.

"Definitely this is murder. It is not an accident... Nobody will escape the law," housing and public works minister Rezaul Karim told reporters on Friday.Authorities have ordered an investigation into safety measures at the tower. Fire officials said the blaze-hit building lacked fire exits and sprinklers, while access to its emergency staircase was padlocked. The city's housing authority later said five upper floors in the building were illegally added without official permission. —AFP ■

Authorities have said the FR Tower, the site of the blazing inferno Thursday, had been extended illegally and lacked adequate fire safety measures. **PHOTO: AFP**

Global landmarks go dark for Earth Hour environmental campaign

NEW YORK (United States)—New York's Empire State Building, Egypt's pyramids, London's Big Ben and Rio's Christ the Redeemer statue were among the world's most renowned monuments plunged into darkness for an hour Saturday as part of a global campaign to raise awareness about climate change and its impact on the planet's vanishing plant and animal life.

The 13th edition of Earth Hour, organized by green group WWF, saw millions of people across 180 countries turn off their lights at 8:30 pm to highlight energy use and the need for conservation.

The event comes after some of the most dire warnings yet on the state of Earth's natural habitat and species."We are the first generation to know we are destroying the world. And we could be the last that can do anything about it," WWF said. "We have the solutions. We just need our voices to be heard."

WWF-Australia CEO Dermot O'Gorman told AFP that "Earth hour still is the world's largest grassroots movement for people to take action on climate change.""It's about individuals taking personal action but joining with hundreds of millions of people around the world to show that not only do we need urgent action on climate change but we need to be protecting our planet," he added.Dozens of companies around the world said they would take part in this year's campaign, which also saw Singapore's skyline go dark and Hong Kong turn off the lights along Victoria Harbour.

In New York, the riverfront United Nations headquarters turned black, as did the Brandenburg Gate in Berlin and Saint Peter's Basilica in the Vatican. Other global landmarks that flicked the switch included Sydney's Opera House, the Eiffel Tower and Arc de Triomphe in Paris, Dubai's Burj Khalifa—the world's tallest skyscraper—the Acropolis in Athens, Shanghai Tower and the Kremlin building in Moscow. WWF's own "Living Planet" report in October said 60 percent of all animals with a backbone —fish, birds, amphibians, reptiles and mammals— had been wiped out by human activity since 1970.

A couple look on in New York as lights at the United Nations headquarters and the Empire State Building are turned off during the global Earth Hour. **PHOTO:AFP**

In Cali, Colombia, people lit candles to form a "60+" sign as part of the Earth Hour events.Another study said a recent decline in bugs that fly, crawl, burrow and skitter across still water —fueled by deforestation, urbanization and the rise of commercial farming —was part of an unfolding mass extinction event, only the sixth in the last half-billion years. Last year, Earth Hour was observed in more than 7,000 towns and cities in 187 countries, according to the organizers.— AFP ■

How Europe is faring on renewable energy targets

PARIS (France)— The European Union's use of renewable energy—such as hydropower, wind and solar —reached 17.5 percent in 2017, keeping it on track for a target of 20 percent by 2020. Each member state has its own renewable energy goal, based on its situation and potential, ranging from 10 to 49 percent.While 11 countries in the bloc have already surpassed their targets, others are lagging behind, according to EU statistics authority Eurostat. With the target for 2030 at 32 percent, Eurostat says: "While the EU as a whole is on course to meet its 2020 targets, some member states will need to make additional efforts to meet their obligations."

The European Union's use of renewable energy—such as hydropower, wind and solar—reached 17.5 per cent in 2017. **PHOTO: AFP**

Sweden: champion of Europe

Europe's renewable energy leaders are Nordic countries: Sweden, Finland and Denmark. Since 2012 more than half of the total energy consumed in Sweden has come from renewable sources, according to the International Energy Agency. This is due in large part to hydroelectric power, which provides more than 40 percent of the country's electricity output. Swedes heat themselves mainly with biofuels. Denmark—a small, flat country long dependent on energy imports —now gets 43 percent of its electricity from wind power after investment starting in the late 1970s when it began phasing out coal plants.

The Netherlands: lagging behind

Luxembourg and the Netherlands are the EU countries with the lowest consumption of renewables, reaching 6.4 percent and 6.6 percent respectively. Despite its investment in offshore wind farms, the Netherlands is the furthest from reaching its targets. Yet, with a part of the country lying below sea level, it is particularly vulnerable to the consequences of climate change.—AFP ■

Smog chokes coal-dependent Poland with no end in sight

RYBNIK (Poland)—Puffs of yellowish grey-and-black smoke billowing out of household chimneys create a blanket of smog choking the southern Polish mining town of Rybnik, one of the most polluted places in the European Union. Although it's early spring, the weather is wintry and Ewa Kempny is still shovelling coal into an antiquated stove to heat her home.

"What do you want us to use for heat here? Coal is the cheapest fuel," says the forty-something mother to the two unexpected visitors in her cellar. "It would be far too expensive to hook up natural gas or to connect to the town's central heating network."

Municipal police charged with sniffing out residents illegally burning highly-polluting rubbish like plastic, rubber or wood-plastic composites have turned up on her doorstep following an anonymous tip-off about the odd colour of smoke emerging from her chimney. "Whether rich or poor, people burn MDF boards, Tetra packs or plastic bottles," explains Katarzyna Klosok, as she checks the ashes in Kempny's stove and the bills for the coal she has bought. —AFP ■

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V TUG;SURVA WIRA-28BG;SURYA NAWA-29

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V TUG;SURVA WIRA-28BG;SURYA NAWA-29 VOY. NO. (-) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 30-03-2019 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T-4 where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claim's Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S WILHELMSEN SHIP SERVICES PTE LTD.

Phone No: 2301928

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V NESHAT VOY. NO. (SCY1054)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V NESHAT VOY. NO. (SCY1054) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 01-04-2019 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claim's Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S LAND AND SEA SHIPPING LINE

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V XETHA BHUM VOY. NO. (1117W)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V XETHA BHUM VOY. NO. (1117W) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 1-04-2019 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P/M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claim's Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S REGIONAL CONTAINER LINES

Phone No: 2301185

Myanmar outbound tourism rising year-on-year

By Nyein Nyein

MYANMAR'S outbound tourism has continued to thrive year over year, according to overseas tour agencies.

Some Myanmar holidaymakers are going for self-planned trips, while some are opting for guided overseas trips offered by tour agencies.

According to tour operators, Myanmar people are mostly travelling to Bangkok, Hong Kong, Singapore, Thailand, Bodh Gaya, India, Nepal, China, Viet Nam, Malaysia, Jordan, South Korea, the US, and Europe.

"The most popular destinations are Bangkok, Singapore, Bodh Gaya, India, and Nepal. Some people are also vacationing in South Korea, China, and Hong Kong. Most people are visiting countries which grant visa-exemptions to tourists carrying normal passports. Some are opting for countries that have easy visa requirements. Western countries, especially in Europe and the US, have become popular destinations for Myanmar travelers," said U Thet Lwin Toe, the chair of the Myanmar Tourism Entrepreneurs Association.

Myanmar travelers prefer holidaying in visa-free countries, said overseas tour operators.

"Visa-free countries are popular among travelers. Some overseas tour agencies are organizing monthly trips to Viet Nam," said an agent with ET (Eastward Travel) Tour.

Some agents are reportedly facing difficulties as customers are even choosing against countries offering visa-exemptions.

"Visa exemptions are offered by countries such as Japan, South Korea, Macau, and Hong Kong. But, travelers still need to apply for visas in order to visit those destinations. Some travelers do not want to bother applying for visas and are choosing to go to visa-free countries only," said an agent with Beautiful Memories Travels and Tours.

We also don't have many options when it comes to choice of flights, she added.

"A small number of airlines are operating from Myanmar. There are only two or three flights to Europe. Similarly, there are two flights to Korea," she said.

According to data from the

Myanmar travelers in Japan. **PHOTO:**

Pilgrims to Gaya seen at Yangon International Airport. **PHOTO :SUPPLIED**

Myanmar travelers in Korea. **PHOTO: SUPPLIED**

Secretariat Launches New Cultural Wing, Commissions

THE Secretariat recently announced the launch of its cultural wing in partnership with culture entrepreneur Ivan Pun's initiative TS1. Located in the southern wing of The Secretariat, TS1 will bring in the works of both local and international artists to the heart of Yangon, creating an interactive space aimed at families, students and the general public.

TS1 will lead the overall artistic vision and direction and will be soon appoint a Director of the project with specific responsibilities of overseeing the operations and exhibitions. The team will also work closely with the Cultural team at The Secretariat to ensure alignment in the programme and content curation.

The Secretariat is currently undergoing an ambitious restoration and will gradually be opening its premises in phases to the public. When fully restored, the iconic building aims to become an epicenter of culture and a new public space where people will gather in the heart of downtown.

With its rich heritage and important place in Myanmar history, the Secretariat is well placed to start a new chapter and conversation in Myanmar modern history, culture and art. While it continues to memorialize Myanmar's past, the Secretariat also aims to give locals, artists and participants a chance to create their own stories and heritage for the next generation.

Supplied

Hotels and Tourism Department under the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism, Myanmar had 2,712 tour companies as on December, 2018, of which 553 held outbound tour licences. The department does not have details of outbound travelers, but efforts are on to collaborate with other departments to compile data.

"We cannot provide data for outbound tourism. Frankly, companies do not provide actual numbers of outbound travelers. The Ministry of Labour, Immigration, and Population (MOLIP) might have the figures. We are planning to link with them," said U Tint Zaw Myint, the Deputy Director of the Directorate of Hotels and Tourism.

"The MOLIP does not have close links or contact with us. According to data provided by members of the Myanmar Tourism Entrepreneurs Association, there are around 500,000 outbound travelers every year," said U Thet Lwin Toe.

"The number of travelers headed to Bodh Gaya annually does not reach 100,000. Data from outbound tour agencies shows around 50,000-60,000 travelers go to Bodh Gaya every year," he added.

"Moreover, the related departments are strict about issuing licences to outbound tour agencies as, in their view, those businesses contribute to an outflow of revenue," said U Thet Lwin Toe.

"It is hard for outbound tour agents to obtain a licence. It seems, the department is not very supportive of outbound tourism. The government no longer contributes to Myanmar Tourism Entrepreneurs Associations. Outbound tourism can help travelers gain knowledge and find new opportunities," he said.

"At present, outbound tourism is booming in Myanmar. Tourist arrivals are also growing year over year. Tourist arrivals stood at 3.44 million in 2017 and 3.55 million in 2018. The arrival rate increased by 3.15 per cent in 2018 compared with 2017," said Vice President U Henry Van Thio, who is also the chair of the National Tourism Development Central Committee, at a meeting held in Hotel Max, Nay Pyi Taw, on 26 February.

"Myanmar has adopted a Look East policy, granting visa exemptions to tourists from Japan, South Korea, Hong Kong, and Macau, to attract more Asian travelers and boost the tourism industry. Travelers from China and India, holding normal passports, can also get visa-on-arrival at Yangon, Mandalay, and Nay Pyi Taw international airports," he said.

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

■■■

TS1 as Programming Partner

The new cultural wing will fulfill a much-needed unmet need in Yangon and in the country. Having greater exposure to culture and arts has proven to benefit many communities, as arts and culture is known to promote well being and enhance the quality of life for individuals and societies. Children and students will also greatly benefit from arts and culture, through the ability to develop critical skills through improved learning, creating thinking and overall cognitive acceleration.

"We are incredibly excited to welcome TS1 to the Secretariat project. TS1 and The Secretariat share a common vision in wanting to make arts and culture more accessible and fun to everyone. As our country develops economically, arts and culture needs to develop alongside so that we cultivate a well-rounded and enlightened community," said Dr Maung Maung Thein, Chairman of the Secretariat Conservation Trust.

Ivan Pun, founder of PUN + PROJECTS and TS1, is excited about the potential that the permanent space at The Secretariat offers. "The Secretariat holds such an important place in the history of Myanmar. Currently, the public learns about Martyrs' day on one specific day of the year. With a wide spectrum of content, experiences and evets at our disposal, we wanted to make this a public space that is accessible to everyone to learn about our country's rich cultural offerings, from the past, present and future. In many ways, Myanmar's story has just begun, and we wanted the Secretariat to be the starting point at which it begins. We are thrilled to have our new home at The Secretariat. We look forward to using this space as a powerful vehicle to unleash Myanmar's creative spirit," Pun said. —GNLM

Useful Information

JAPANESE CUISINE

AJISHIN

No.192, Kabar Aye Pagoda Road, Myanmar Plaza, 4th Floor, Yankin Township, Yangon, Myanmar. *Ph; 09-970890390*, Time- 10:00 to 23:00 (Open Daily)

ANAIMO

No. 300, Mahabandula Park Street, Kyauktada Township, Yangon. *Ph; 01-378022.*Time- 11:30-14;00/ 17;30-22;00
(Saturday only evening and Sunday off)

BIKKURA SUSHI & SASHIMI JAPANESE RESTAURANT

No. 16, Natmauk Road, Tamwe Township, Yangon.*Ph:09-799566917, 09-36714873.* 10:30-22;30 (Open Daily)

BUSHIDO

No. 75/ AB Boyar Nyunt Street, Dagon Township, Yangon.*Ph:09-260031197/ 09- 420231330.* 10:00-22:00 (Sunday Off)

CHO JAPANESE DINNING & BAR

Level (1), Garden Wing, Beside Lobby Lounge.(Inside Sedona Hotel), Yangon *Ph:09-258322223/ 09-261322223.* Lunch 11:30-14:30/ Tea Time 14:30-18:00/
Dinner 18:00-23:00(Open Daily)

DINNING FUKUROU

No. 37, Kabar Pagoda Road, Inside of Inya Lake Hotel, Yangon. *Ph:09-260031197 09-420231330.*11:00-22:00 (Open Daily)

EDOZUSHI

A-1, Star City, Kyaik Khauk Pagoda Road, Thanlyin Township, Yangon.*Ph:056-23150-53/ 056- 23313-318(Ext-1183)/ 09-2560-75020.*11:00-21:00(Open Daily)

(3) YAKINIKU FUKAGAWA

A-1, Star City, Kyaik Khauk Pagoda Road, Thanlyin Township, Yangon.*Ph: 056-23150-53/ 056- 23313-318(Ext-1183)/ 09-2560-75020,*11:00-21:00(Open Daily)

FUJINOBO

(Cherry Hill Hotel) No. 520/4 A, Kabar Aye Pagoda Road, Shwe Gone Daing, Bahan Township, Yangon.*Ph: 09-450067052,* 06:00-09:30/ 11:30-14:00/ 17:00-22:30 (Open Daily)

FURUSATO

No. 137, West Shwe Gone Daing, Bahan Township, Yangon.*Ph: 01-556265/ 09-73081914.* 11:00-14:00/ 17:00-22:00(Open Daily)

GEKKO

535, Merchant Street, Kyauktada Township, 4th Quarter, Yangon.*Ph: 01-386986,* 09:00-23:00(Open Daily)

HIMARI MYANMAR

Pearl Condo, Block D, Ground Floor, Units-G-10, Kabar Aye Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon,*Ph: 09-775330494.* 11:30-14:00/ 14:00-22:00(Open Daily)

HOKKAIDO JAPANESE RESTAURANT

No. 24/ 26, Kabar Aye Pagoda Road, Golden Hill Tower(A), Bahan Township, Yangon.*Ph: 09-250537315.* 11:00-14:00/ 17:00-21:30 (Open Daily)

HOT POT KING and Hot pot and BBQ Buffet Restaurant

No - 26/27, Thitsar Road and Corner of Wai Za Yan Dar Road, South Okkalapa, Yangon.*Tel - 09 777777 008, 09 09 777777 009, 09 777777 883.*

Hot Pot City 8 Miles

No(33), Kyaik Wine Pagoda Road (7.34 km) 095 Yangon,*Ph:09 797 799111,*11:00-22:00(Open Daily)

101 Hot Pot & Sushi

No.141, West Shwegondaing Road,Bahan T/s. near Yuzana Hotel. (1.78 km), 11201 Yangon.

Get Directions

Highlights info row image, *Ph: 09 777 799101.* 4:00 PM to 10:00 PM

Little Sheep Hot Pot Myanmar

14/14B Kanbawza Street Golden Valley (1) Bahan Township (1.71 km),Yangon.
Ph: 09443399701, 09443399702, 11:00-23:00

HOTEL

BELMOND GOVERNOR'S RESIDENCE

No. 35, Taw Win Road, Dagon Township, Yangon. *Ph: 01-229860 01-229861.*

CHATRIUM

No. 40, Natmauk Road, Tamwe Township, Yangon. *Ph: 01-544500/ 01-544244.*

CHERRY HILLS HOTEL

No. 520/4 A, Kabar Aye Pagoda Road, Shwe-gon Daing, Bahan Township, Yangon.
Ph:01-559722.

HOTLE 51

No. 154/ 156, 51st. Upper Pazundaung Township, Yangon. *Ph: 01-200823/ 09-429918554.*

HOTEL KAN KAW

No.93(A), Hnin Si Gone Road, Ahlone Township, Yangon.
Ph: 01-228566/ 01-2301700/ 01-1221731.

HOTLE SIDNEY

No. 8L/Mindhama Road, Between Kyaik Wine Pagoda Road and Parami Road, Mayangone Township.
Ph: 01-655770/ 01-9669600-02.

INYA LAKE HOTEL

No.37, Kabar Aye Pagoda Road, Yangon.*Ph: 01-9662866/ 01-9662857-9.*

LOTTEE HOTLES AND SERVICED APARTMENTS YANGON

No.82, Sin Phyu Shin Avenue, Pyay Road, 6 mile, Hlaing Township. *Ph: 01-9351000.*

MERCURE HOTEL

No.17, Kabar Aye Pagoda Road, Yankin Township, Yangon. *Ph: 01- 650933.*

NOVOTEL YANGON MAX

No.459, Pyay Road, Kamayut Township, Yangon. *Ph: 01-2305858.*

PAN PACIFIC YANGON

No. Corner of Bogyoke Aung San Road and Shwedagon Pagoda Road, Yangon,
Ph:01-9253810.

PARK ROYAL

No.33, Alan Pya Phaya Road, Dagon Township, Yangon, *Ph: 01-250388.*

PULLMAN YANGON CENTREPOINT

No.65, Corner of Sule Pagoda Road and Merchant Street.*Ph: 01-382687.*

ROSE GARDEN HOTEL

No.171, Upper Pasodan Road, Yangon.
Ph: 01-371992/09263440500.

SAVOY HOTEL

No.129, Corner of Dhammazedi Road and Inya Road, Yangon.
Ph: 01-526289/ 01-526298/ 01-526305.

SEDONA HOTEL

No. 1, Kabar Aye Pagoda Road, Yankin Township, Yangon. *Ph: 01-8605377.*

SULE SHANGRI-LA

No. 223, Sule Pagoda Road, Kyauktada Township, Yangon. *Ph: 01-242828.*

SUMMIT PARTVIEW HOTEL

No. 350, Ahlone Road, Dagon Township, Yangon. *Ph: 01-211888/ 01-211966.*

SUPER HOTEL

No. 51/ D, Kabar Aye Pagoda Road, 10th Quarter, Mayangone Township, Yangon.
Ph:09-797109000/ 01-658210/ 01-658220.

Aung La N Sang beats Hasegawa,retains ONE World Middleweight title

MYANMAR sports icon and two-division ONE World Champion Aung La N Sang successfully retained his middleweight title by beating Japanese warrior Ken Hasegawa yesterday in a bout titled 'ONE Championship: A New Era'at the Ryogoku Kokugikan in Tokyo, Japan.

Aung La made a near-flawless victory, relying on his boxing skills to defend his middleweight world title, while the Japanese warrior leaned on his judo skills to try and dethrone the Myanmar hero in his promotional debut.

Aung La N Sang stopped Ken Hasegawa with a brutal TKO (technical knockout). The end came at 4:41 minutes in the second round of the fight.

This was their second fight. In their first meeting in June, 2018, Aung La had won with a fifth-round knockout.

Both fighters dug deep yesterday to treat the crowd to a power-packed rematch.

The first meaningful offense came from Aung La in the later part of the first round. He delivered a powerful punch, but Hasegawa wasn't deterred.

Late in the second round, Hasegawa finally went after a takedown to try and keep Aung La's striking at bay.

But with 30 seconds left, Aung La N Sang landed a massive right hand, and Hasegawa immediately fell to the canvas. Aung La moved in and finished the match with just a few punches, successfully retaining his title. —Lynn Thit (Tgi) ■

Myanmar's Aung La N Sang (right) declared as the winner after beating Japan's Ken Hasegawa in 'ONE Championship: A New Era' fight yesterday at Ryogoku Kokugikan in Tokyo, Japan. **PHOTO:ONE CHAMPIONSHIP**

Tun Tun Min (Left) lands a punch on Muay Thai Fighter during the Lethwei Nation Fight at the Theinphyu Lethwei Stadium in Yangon yesterday. **PHOTO : ZIN LIN TUN (DANU PHYU)**

Myanmar lethwei fighter Tun Tun Min beats former Muay Thai Champion

FORMER Myanmar lethwei champion Tun Tun Min beat Thailand's Htani Liit, a former Muay Thai champion, in a Myanmar-Thailand traditional Lethwei Challenge Fight titled Lethwei Nation Fight yesterday at the Theinphyu Lethwei Stadium in Yangon.

Tun Tun Min, who had been suffering from a knee problem and had taken a long break last year, delivered brilliant continuous punches in the head to the Thai fighter.

Tun Tun Min dominated the first round with the use of elbows and well-timed kicks. The Thai fighter was floored twice in the first round, but he managed to avoid getting knocked out.

In the second round, both fighters put up a calculated fight.

In a thrilling third round, Tun Tun Min upped his challenge with continuous punches and knee attacks, but Thailand's fighter stood firm.

Tun Tun Min once again dominated the fourth round, with some miscalculations from the Thai fighter. Finally, Tun Tun Min knocked Htani Liit out with continuous punches, leaving him with a bloody face on the floor.—Lynn Thit (Tgi) ■

Garcia admits blunder in tense WGC loss to Kuchar

James Harden's 50-point triple-double propelled the Houston Rockets to a 119-108 victory over Sacramento that eliminated the Kings from NBA playoff contention. **PHOTO : AFP**

WASHINGTON (United States) — Sergio Garcia blundered with a hasty stroke Saturday to lose a hole in falling to Matt Kuchar at the WGC Match Play Championship, then asked his US rival to surrender a hole.

The odd situation came in Kuchar's 2-up victory over Spain's Garcia in a quarter-final match at Austin (Texas) Country Club.

Garcia missed a seven-foot par putt at the par-3 seventh hole, his ball an inch from the cup, set for Kuchar to concede and halve the hole.

But an irked Garcia followed his shot by quickly brushing the ball and it lipped out, all of it before Kuchar could concede the putt and as a result, Garcia lost the hole.

That led to tense moments for the remainder of the match, notably an exchange between the two on the 10th hole which Kuchar later said was the two getting "on the same page."

"I said, 'Sergio, I didn't say anything. I'm not sure how this works out,'" Kuchar said. "I didn't want that to be an issue... Sergio said totally his mistake. He knew he made a mistake."

But when Kuchar added, "I didn't want that to be how a hole was won or lost," Garcia replied, "Well, you can concede a hole."

"I thought about it and said I don't like that idea, either," Kuchar said.

Garcia, who was disqualified from the Saudi Arabia International in February after damaging several greens in frustration, admitted his blunder after the match, which he took to the 18th hole before being eliminated.

"I screwed it up. It's as simple as that," Garcia said. "I missed my putt and I kind of tapped it with the back of my putter before he said anything.

"It's a loss of hole. I understand that. The only issue was that Kooch was like, 'I don't want to take the hole. I don't want to do this like this.'

"So I was like, 'OK, it's fine. What do you want to do? Because there are many options that you can do if you don't want to take the hole, even though I've already lost that hole.'

"But obviously he didn't like any of the options that were there," Garcia said. "It's fine. At the end of the day, I'm the one that made the mistake."—AFP ■