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Water-saving tech, veg gardens grow hope in Myanmar's Dry Zone

PAKOKKU — Myo Myint fondly remembers when his one-acre farm regularly produced 100 baskets of rice. But as rainfall became erratic in this arid region, he started growing betel leaves, a less thirsty cash crop.

This summer, the 50-year-old is considering leaving fallow his land in Myanmar's central “Dry Zone” because when the stream behind his house dries up in March, the cost of irrigation outstrips the income from any crop.

A 2016 drought followed by heavy rains already battered his farm.

“Water is becoming more scarce every year. I want to keep growing the crops but there's not much I can do without water,” he said, sitting beneath the ground floor of his stilt house.

His village of Myay Ni Twin, in Pakokku township, is around two hours' drive from Bagan, Myanmar's top tourist destination known for its ancient Buddhist temples.

“When I was growing up, the stream didn't go dry. Now there's less rain, and it's very hard to plant things,” he said.

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Thein Htay, 49, with his 17-feet by 24-feet greenhouse at the back of his home in in Shwe Bon Thar village, Myingyan Township, part of the Dry Zone. He uses drip irrigation to grow mustard leaves, kailan, lettuce, eggplants and carrots. PHOTO: THOMSON REUTERS FOUNDATION / THIN LEI WIN

UPDJC committees conclude discussions

THE Union Peace Dialogue Joint Committee (UPDJC) successfully concluded discussion meetings on politics, society, economics, security, land rights and environmental issues held at Nay Pyi Taw's National Reconciliation and Peace Centre, which lasted

from 8 to 10 March. Working committees from government organisations, ethnic armed groups, and political parties attended. Secretarial meetings for the UPDJC were held before each discussion meeting.

Afterwards, the various dis-

cussion meetings for each working committee were held in their designated places with the working committee for political affairs with U Khin Zaw Oo, Dr. Lian Mhone Sar Kaung and Sai Kyaw Nyunt leading the discussions.

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Union Government announces official Thingyan public holidays

The official Thingyan holidays for this year have been reduced from 10 days to five (13 April to 17 April) because of “hindrances to office work, banking services in relation to other countries and delays in transportation and commodity flows,” the government said in a news release yesterday. The complete announcement is on Page 3.

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Pyidaungsu Hluttaw

2nd Pyidaungsu Hluttaw 4th regular session holds 13th day meeting

AT the 13th day meeting of 2nd Pyidaungsu Hluttaw 4th Regular Session held at 10 am yesterday, Mahn Win Khaing Than, Speaker of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, announced that the State goodwill visit of Myanmar delegation led by President U Htin Kyaw at the invitation of King of Cambodia from 3 February 2017 to 6 February 2017 has been put on record by the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw.

Afterward, U Thein Tun of Kyaunggon constituency discussed findings and a conclusion report (revised) of the combining committee on bills concerning projects included in the Annexe 2 of a bill on the national planning for the 2017-2018 financial year.

U Thein Tun said, "Combining committee on the bills and combining committee on the public account discussed that altogether 44 factories under No. 1 Heavy Industries, No. 2 Heavy Industries and No. 3 heavy in-



U Thein Tun. PHOTO: MNA

dustries, the Ministry of Industry & petro-chemicals transportation and distribution branches of Myanma Petrochemical Enterprise, the Ministry of Electric Power and Energy would be suspended currently. Currently-suspended projects are not those being implemented just on these days. When the State-owned finances



Daw Khin Hnin Thit. PHOTO: MNA

invested in respective fiscal years were re-scrutinised, the amounts were found to have been very great in volume. Provided that they are suspended or abolished, we should take notice that there will be wastages of people's finances. Being national multi-development projects, we should study and assess as to which

kinds of potential consequences these projects will meet. And, the public should be informed transparently which kinds of projects will be substituted for the development of the country. So, the above-said 44 factories should be divided into two categories—those to be suspended completely and those to be supervised by the government."

Over the discussion made by U Thein Tun, Hluttaw representatives took part in the discussion.

Afterward, Mahn Win Khaing Than, Speaker of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, announced that putting the motion, clarification made by members of respective Union Organisations and getting the approval of the Hluttaw concerning approval, refusal and reduced allowance concerning the projects included in Annexe 2 of bill on the project will be carried out.

Then, Dr Khin Si Thu of Loikaw constituency spoke in

support of the matter sent by the President concerning conservation work for the long-term sustainability of Inlay Lake in Shan State by using Ks 400 million from the special fund allotted under the 2016 Union Budget Law.

Daw Khin Hnin Thit of Padaung constituency spoke in support concerning the matter of establishing diplomatic relations between Myanmar and 7 countries.

Speaker of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw announced that Hluttaw approved the matter of establishing diplomatic ties with Guinea Republic, Republic of Malta, Republic of Ecuador, Republic of Seychelles, Republic of Liberia, Republic of Marshall Islands and the Holy See (Vatican City State).

Then the Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw announced the 14th Meeting would be held on March 13.—*Myanmar News Agency*



Defence Services C-in-C Senior General Min Aung Hlaing visits Angkor Wat Temple in Siem Reap. PHOTO: MNA

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing returns

DEFENCE Services Commander-in-Chief Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and party accompanied by the Royal Cambodian Armed Forces Deputy Commander-in-Chief visited Angkor Wat Temple and Bayon Temple in Siem Reap at 8:15 am local time yesterday.

In the afternoon, the Senior General and party also went on a tour of the Cultural Village,

one of the famous places in Siem Reap.

Afterwards, Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and party left Siem Reap in Cambodia for Nay Pyi Taw at 5:30 pm local standard time. The Senior General and party were welcomed back by Deputy Commander-in-Chief (army) Vice Senior General Soe Win

and wife Daw Than Than Nwe, high-ranking officers of the office of the Commander-in-Chief, the Commander of the Nay Pyi Taw Command and Cambodian Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Sok Chea, deputy chief of the Embassy of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam in Yangon Mr. Nguyen Thanh Vinh and officials at the airport.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Thura U Shwe Mann receives dean of the European Court of Auditors

CHAIRMAN of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw's Legal Affairs and Special Cases Assessment Commission Thura U Shwe Mann received a delegation led by H.E. Mr. Baron Karel Pinxten, dean

of the European Court of Auditors "Audit Group III" at 10:30 am yesterday in the meeting hall of Hluttaw building in Nay Pyi Taw.

During the meeting, they

exchanged views on measures taken by the Commission for the Assessment of Legal Affairs and Special Issues and assistance to be provided by the EU.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Dr Myo Thein Gyi oversees entrance exams in Nay Pyi Taw

UNION Minister for Education Dr Myo Thein Gyi visited BEHS 3 in Pinyinmana, Nay Pyi Taw and oversaw students taking the third day of university entrance exams. The third day's subject was mathematics.

Over 90 per cent of stu-

dents registered in exam centres in each township of Uttarathiri, Zeyathiri, Pobbathiri, Tatkon, Dekkhinathiri, Zabuthiri, Pinyinmana, Lewe turned up for the third day of entrance exams.—*Myanmar News Agency*

29th ASEAN–Australian Forum held

THE 29th ASEAN-Australia Forum was held in Nay Pyi Taw on 9-10 March 2017. The Forum was co-chaired U Myint Thu, Director General, ASEAN Affairs Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, and H.E Mr. Gary Quinlan, Deputy Secretary of the Department of Foreign Affairs and trade of Australia. Representatives from all ASEAN Member States, Australia and the ASEAN Secretariat attended the Forum.

At the Forum, participants discussed the developments in the region and the need to have closer collaboration in addressing the shared challenges. Both ASEAN and Australia stressed the importance of ASEAN centrality in the regional architecture.

The Forum further discussed ways to enhance ASEAN-Australia cooperation through the East Asia Summit (EAS), ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), Expanded ASEAN Maritime Forum (EAMF), and the ASEAN Defense Ministers Meeting Plus mechanism (ADMM-Plus). They also ex-

pressed their willingness to work closely together to counter terrorism and violent extremism in the region, including through the implementation of the renewed ASEAN–Australia Joint Declaration for Cooperation to Combat International Terrorism and the renewed ASEAN-Australia Meeting on Transnational Crime Consultations with Australia. The Forum also reflected in the success of the ASEAN-Australia-New Zealand Free Trade Agreement (AANZFTA) in boosting economic ties between ASEAN and Australia and fostering closer economic integration within ASEAN.

The Forum reviewed the implementation of the ASEAN-Australia Plan of Action (2015-2019) to implement the ASEAN-Australia Strategic Partnership, which was adopted at the ASEAN-Australia Commemoratives Summit held in Nay Pyi Taw in 2014.

The Forum also deliberated on the preparations for the ASEAN Australia Special Summit to be held in Australia in March 2018.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Union Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Announcement 31/2017
10th March, 2017

1. The Union Government has issued Announcement No. 29/2016 on 30th May 2016 announcing the Gazetted holidays for Governmental Offices and public holidays under the Section 25 of the Negotiable Instruments Act in the 2017 Calendar Year.

2. It has been found that the 10-day New Year Festival holidays for civil service personnel has caused hindrances to office work, and banking services in relations with other countries and delays in transportation and commodity flows due to the long holidays.

3. Therefore, instead of the 10-day holidays, which start one day before the Akyo Day of the Maha Thingyan New Year Festival, a five-day holidays starting from the Akyo Day of the Maha Thingyan New Year Festival to the New Year Day has been designated, and the remaining five days from the 10-day holidays have been added to the Thadingyut Holidays, the Tazaungdine Holidays and International New Year days. For the 2017 Calendar year, the Gazetted holidays for the Governmental Offices and Public Holidays according to the Section 25 of the Negotiable Instruments Act, have been amended as follows.

Sr	Day	Date	Number of Days
1.	Independence Day	4-1-2017	1
2.	Union Day	12-2-2017	1
3.	Peasants' Day	2-3-2017	1
4.	Full Moon Day of Tabaung	12-3-2017	1
5.	Armed Forces Day	27-3-2017	1
6.	Myanmar New Year Holidays (Pre-Thingyan day, Commencing day to Prime day, End of Thingyan, New Year Day)	13-4-2017 17-4-2017	5
7.	May Day	1-5-2017	1
8.	Full Moon Day of Kason	10/5/2017	1
9.	Full Moon Day of Waso	8-7-2017	1
10.	Martyr's Day	19-7-2017	1
11.	Thadingyut Holidays End of Buddhist Lent (Pre-full moon, Full Moon & Post-Full Moon)	4-10-2017 to 6-10-2017	3
12.	Tazaungdine holidays Pre-Full Moon Day & Full Moon Day of Tazaungmone	2-11-2017 to 3-11-2017	2
13.	National Day	13-11-2017	1
14.	Kayin New Year Day	18-12-2017	1
15.	Christmas Day	25/12/2017	1
16.	International New Year Holidays	30-12-2017 to 31-12-2017	2
17.	Eid ul-Adha Day	X	1
18.	Deepavali	X	1

4. Notification 29/2016 issued by the Union Government dated on 30-5-2016 has been cancelled and replaced by this Notification.
 Note: 1. Eid ul-Adha Day and Deepavali Day will be separately announced on the days they will fall on.

2. The 3 Bank Holidays will be announced by the respective organizations.

By order,
 Zaw Than Thin
 Secretary
 Union Government
(Unofficial Translation)

IDPs who fled Laukkai receive assistance

THE Department of Relief and Resettlement and donors provided assistance yesterday to internally displaced persons who fled from the battle in Laukkai yesterday at Mansu shan in Lashio, Shan State.

Shan State Deputy Commissioner U Myint Than handed over to the abstainers 88 bag of rice, 121 viss of cooking oil, 729 tinned fish, and Ks3,335,400.

Myanmar Tatmadaw's No. 10 battlefield medical battalion

and the township health department provided health care services, drinking water and meal boxes to 266 members of labour families who arrived in Mansu-shan monastery from different places.

The department of social welfare and resettlement in Lashio district and donors arranged 5 vehicles for family members to return to their hometowns. —Myanmar News Agency



President U Htin Kyaw presents offertories to Sayadaw Dr Bhaddanta Kumarabhivamsa. PHOTO: MNA

President offers “Soon” to Sayadaws and religious title recipient monks for 2017

THE President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Htin Kyaw attended a ceremony to offer “soon” to the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Sayadaws, Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovidia Sayadaws and religious title recipient Sayadaws for the 2017 at the Sasana Beikman on the precincts of the Uppatasanti Pagoda in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

Also present were members of the Sangha led by Chairman of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee and Mandalay Bhamo Monastery Sayadaw Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhammajotika Dr Bhaddanta Kumarabhivamsa, Vice President U Myint Swe and wife Daw Khin Thet Htay, Vice President U Henry Van Thio, Speaker of the Pyithu Hluttaw U Win Myint and wife Daw Cho Cho, wife of Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Daw Nant Kyin Kyi, Chief Justice of the Union U Tun Tun Oo, Chairman of the Constitutional Tribunal of the Union U Myo Nyunt and wife Daw Htay Yee, Chairman of the Union Election Commission U Hla Thein and wife Daw Aye Thidar, Deputy

Commander-in-Chief of the Defence Services Vice Senior-General Soe Win, Deputy Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw U Aye Tha Aung and wife, Union Ministers, the Union Attorney-General, the Union Auditor-General, the Chairman of Union Civil Service Board, the Chairman of Nay Pyi Taw Council, the Governor of the Central Bank of Myanmar, the Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command, Nay Pyi Taw Council members and their wives, departmental heads, officials and invited guests.

First, the congregation led by President U Htin Kyaw received the 9 precepts delivered by the Chairman of the SSMNC Bhamo Sayadaw and the members of the Sangha recited the parittas. The President then donated the offertories to the Chairman of the SSMNC Bhamo Sayadaw.

Afterwards, Vice President U Myint Swe and wife, Vice President U Henry Van Thio, the Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker and wife, wife of Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker, the Chief justice of the Union, the Chairman of the Constitutional Tribunal of the Union and wife, the Chairman of the

Union Election Commission and wife, the Defence Services Deputy Commander-in-Chief, the Deputy Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw and wife, Union Ministers, the Union Attorney-General, the Union Auditor-General, the Chairman of UCSB, the Chairman of Nay Pyi Taw Council, the Governor of the CBM, the Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command, Deputy Ministers, the Members of Nay Pyi Taw Council and their wives and the departmental heads offered alms to the members of the Sangha.

Similarly, Daw Khin Thet Htay, wife of the vice president, Daw Cho Cho, wife of the Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker and wife of the Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Daw Nant Kyin Kyi donated offertories to the nuns. The congregation respectfully listened to a sermon delivered by the SSMNC Presiding Sayadaw and patron of Myominkyaung Pahtamapyan Sarthintaik in Thanlyin Township Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Sandimabhivamsa and shared merits gained.

Then, the President and party offered “soon” (mid-day meal) to members of the Sangha. —Myanmar News Agency

UPDJC's working committees conclude . . .

>> FROM PAGE 1

The working committee on economic issues discussed term-papers submitted by Pa'O, Kayin, Chin States and Bago and Taninthayi Regions. Reports from the discussion will be submitted to the Joint Committee's Secretary Group.

The working committee discussing security issues was led by Major General Soe Naing Oo, U

Myo Win and U Tar Hla Pe and talked about two major headings and other subheadings on the security sector. The committee discussed appointing of topics for the headings and subheadings and procedures for the coming committee meetings. The working committee discussing land rights and environmental issues was led by U Aung Soe, Kun Myint Htun and U Myint Soe. Reports from

discussions among the committee concerning four term papers submitted from Pa'O, Kayin, Bago and Taninthayi that are to be submitted to the UPDJC's Secretary Group.

With the findings and reports from the various working committees submitted to the UPDJC, the Joint Committee announced they will hold their conference on 11 March. —Thura Zaw, Phyto Thant

LOCAL Business

Energy generation reaches record high in five years

THE country's energy generation and consumption this fiscal year reached a record high in the past five years, according to the Ministry of Electric Power and Energy.

To fill the power requirement of the country, the ministry generated more than 17 billion units of power, including over 9.7 billion units from hydropower projects and over 8 billion units from heat over the past 11 months of this FY.

According to the ministry's official figures, the MoEE produced over 10 billion units in 2012-2013 FY. It increased to over 12 billion units in 2013-2014 FY, 14 billion units in

2014-2015 FY and over 15 billion units in 2015-2016 FY.

When compared with last FY, the ministry's power generation increased by almost 2 billion units this FY.

According to the ministry's prediction, the country's power consumption will reach to more than 19.50 billion units next fiscal year. The energy consumption across the nation is estimated to hit between 3,300 and 3,500 megawatts during this summer.

The Ministry of Electric Power and Energy is putting forth continues efforts to fill the country's growing electricity demands.—*Win Win*

KBZ sponsors Bloomberg Investment Myanmar

IN their endeavour to provide an international standard of banking services to the citizens of Myanmar, Kanbawza Bank Ltd. has partnered with a myriad of international associations and businesses and is now hosting the Bloomberg Investment Myanmar event at the Sedona Hotel in Yangon as a platinum sponsor. The event took place on 9 March with international delegates, international and local business people and experts in attendance discussing the country's investment and business prospective.

Kanbawza Bank Ltd. Directors Daw Nang Lang Kham and Daw Nang Kham Nong welcomed honoured guests to the private breakfast.

"For our country to develop as quickly as possible, we need to keep that in mind we are striving for development for the future generations while working towards it," Daw Nang Lang Kham said in her welcom-

ing speech.

U Nyo Myint, Senior Managing Director of KBZ Bank, opened discussions with the heading "A Final Frontier Opens Up – Is This Finally the Real Deal?" He talked on business perspectives in Myanmar and KBZ Bank's working in the country's financial sector as well as expanding business across ASEAN and in America as well.

The event was broadcast on the respected economic television channel Bloomberg under the heading "Bloomberg Invest Myanmar". In attendance were the British Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Andrew Patrick and other officials from various embassies, Chairman of Bangkok Bank Mr. Chatsiri Sophonpanich, local and foreign business leaders, representatives and economists, all discussing the country's investment potential and economic prospective.—*Thura Lwin*



KBZ Director Daw Nang Lang Kham giving her welcoming speech at Bloomberg Investment Myanmar in Sedona Hotel, Yangon.

PHOTO: THURA LWIN



The country exported \$10.231 billion worth of products this fiscal year, through sea routes. PHOTO: PHOE KHWAH

Import value up by \$165 million since April

THE total value of imports during this fiscal year hit US\$15.024 billion, an increase of nearly \$165 million compared with the same period last year, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

The country bought \$6.160 billion worth of capital goods, \$5.309 billion worth of industrial raw materials and \$3.554 billion worth of personal goods mainly from its neighbours.

From 1 April of last year to 24 February of this year, the government sector bought capital goods, raw materials and personal goods

that amounted to over \$849.830 million from international trade partners, while the private sector imported \$14.174 billion worth of products.

The import value over the same 11 months of last financial year totalled \$14.858 billion, including \$2.406 billion from the government sector and \$12.452 billion from the private sector, with the country importing \$7.578 billion worth of capital goods, \$4.300 billion worth of industrial raw materials and \$2.980 billion worth of personal goods.

Myanmar normally imports luxury products, personal goods, construction materials, agricultural machinery, raw materials, household goods, foodstuff and electronic devices predominately from neighbouring countries. According to the ministry's statistics, the country exported \$10.231 billion worth of products this fiscal year, including minerals, fish products, animal products and agriculture products through sea routes and border trade camps, an increase of more than \$470 million compared with last FY.—*Shwe Khine*

4th Japanese-style flea market on 12 March

THE fourth Japanese-style flea market is set to take place on 12 March in the People's Park near Pyay Road entrance in Yangon on a grand scale, according to the Myanmar-Japan Socio-Economic Development Association.

Members of the Myanmar-Japan Socio-economic Development Association (SEDA),

seafarers in Japan, Japanese organisations and Myanmar companies will sell a wide range of Japanese products for less than Ks100,000 in over 90 booths.

Clothing, high-tech electronics, cosmetics, household utensils, kitchen wares and consumer goods will be displayed for sale at the market.

Organised by the Myanmar-Japan SEDA, the third occurrence of the flea market was held at People's Square in Yangon on the Union Day, which fell on 12 February.

The association plans to organise Japanese-style flea markets in the country on a monthly basis, its spokesperson said.—200

Exports by government sector drops by \$1.2 billion

MYANMAR government exported US\$3.332 billion worth of products over the first 330 days of this fiscal year, according to the Commerce Ministry.

When compared to the first 11 months of last financial year, the export value declined by \$1.2 billion during this FY. The government sector exported minerals, industrial finished goods and other products worth \$4.936 billion to foreign trade partners in FY2015-2016.

During 2016-2017 FY, the sector sent \$386 million worth of minerals, \$3.398 million worth of forestry products, \$0.043 million worth of agriculture products, \$2.669 billion worth of industrial finished goods and others worth of 273 million to foreign importers.

The government of Myanmar is putting forth concerted efforts to improve the country's economy by encouraging private entrepreneurs.

The export value from the private sector rose by over \$1.5 billion

compared with the similar period of last FY. According to the figures released by the ministry, the private exporters sold \$6.898 billion worth of goods including animals and fishery products between 1 April and 24 February.

Currently, Myanmar continues to trade with Asian countries, ASEAN member states, island nations, Middle East countries and some European and African states, and other western countries mainly through by sea.—*Khine Khant*

Performances in One-Year Period

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw marks milestone in implementing People's Voice, People's Will, People's Expectation

Thun Wathan

SECTION 11, Paragraph (a) of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar states, "The three branches of the sovereign power namely legislative power, executive power and judicial power are separated, to the extent possible and exert reciprocal control, check and balance among them."

Hluttaw is a deliberative assembly with the authority to make laws. Hluttaw, practicing the legislative power, focuses on making laws that will bring about peace, law enforcement and national reconciliation for emergence of a federal democracy country in which the entire people enjoy prosperity.

Transparency

The regular meetings of the Second Hluttaw commenced on 1 February 2016 and the representatives elected by the people on behalf of the people discussed matters on whether there is a transparency and accountability in the executive and judicial branches; whether there is a check and balance system in spending allotted budget; and making laws that will benefit the people.

They also raised questions and made proposals regarding policies and procedures of executive and judiciary branches of the State. The respective hluttaws have been alive and kicking with active discussions among representatives and officials as Union level responsible officials were invited to Hluttaw to make clarifications.

Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Mahn Win Kaing Than in his speech said that the first regular session of the second Pyidaungsu Hluttaw commenced on 8 February 2016; and that in accord with the Section 12, paragraph (a) of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Law, the sessions of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, Pyithu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw were convened and the fourth regularly session could be held. He also said that Hluttaws are platforms of the people or a post erected specially for people to air their grievances.

In a year, Pyidaungsu Hluttaw elected the president and the vice-presidents; agreed the appointments of chairman and members of the Constitutional Tribunal, and chairman and members of the Union Election Commission; formed 22 Union ministries; agreed the appointments of the Attorney General of the Union and the Auditor General of the Union; formed Hluttaw committees; formed Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Legal Affairs and Special Cases Assessment Commission; and formed Myanmar Parliamentary Union.

20 Laws

The Second Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, in a year, enacted new laws, amended and revoked the old ones totaling 20 laws which will benefit much to the country.

The Second Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, in a year, enacted new laws, amended and revoked the old ones totaling 20 laws which will benefit much to the country.

On 6 April 2016, the State Counsellor Law was enacted to be able to build a federal union with flourishing democracy in the Republic of the Union of Myanmar. This law is also aiming at creating market oriented economic system enabling the entire citizens to enjoy peace and prosperity.

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw repealed "the Law Safeguarding the State from the Danger of Subversive Elements" on 26 May 2016 and the "Emergency Provisions Act" on 4 October 2016. It also enacted Peaceful Assembly and Peaceful Procession Law which grants rights of the people to assemble and process enshrined in the constitution on the same day.

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President U Htin Kyaw (Centre), Vice President U Myint Swe (Left) and Vice President U Henry Van Thio are seen at the oath taking ceremony at the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw. PHOTO: MNA



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi is seen together with Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than and dignitaries at 37th General Assembly of the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly at Pyidaungsu Hluttaw. PHOTO: MNA



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi strikes a gong at an ASEAN event at Pyidaungsu Hluttaw. PHOTO: MNA

PERFORMANCES IN ONE-YEAR PERIOD

People's Voice, Hluttaw's Voice, People's Will, Hluttaw's Will

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Myanmar Investment Law was also enacted on 18 October 2016 to promote investment in the interest of the people and to create job opportunities thereby enhancing human capacity and to gain technical know-how for industrial development and to emerge international business and investment. On 2 December 2016, the Third Amending Law of the Ward and Village Tract Administration Law was approved by the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw. Moreover, Union Budget Law 43/2016 for 2016-2017 fiscal year and the Older Person Law (44/2016) were also approved.

Discussions on Bills

The Speaker of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw revealed that National Planning Bill for 2017-2018 which will be approved in the respective fiscal years and to be approved by the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw proposed by the Union government and Union Budget Law, and Tax Bill were under discussion.

Induction Programme

Induction Programme of Hluttaw was launched in February 2016 in the Hluttaw complex in Nay Pyi Taw. This is for the representatives to widen their knowledge. The programme helps consolidate building democracy in the country and assist in shaping functions of the Hluttaw in post-election period.

Hluttaw representatives could discuss matters on how to build and promote their leadership roles in the respective committees and how to implement the objectives of a committee in Hluttaw procedures to meet success. This means that in a year they could focus on Hluttaw affairs that could be beneficial to the nation and its people.

Speakers of the respective Hluttaws including elected representatives, Tatmadaw representatives, invited former parliamentarians of world countries and the existing representatives, Resident Representatives of UNDP and officials, and officials of IPU and the House of Commons totaling 465 persons participated in the programme.

According to Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than, the programme could inject some fresh ideas into the minds of the representatives as a preparatory measure for

the time when they are tasked with tough duties of capacity building and coordination and cooperation. The programme also enhanced their ability of making legislation, conducting representation and watching. By studying the comments made at home and abroad they would understand the leadership role. The programme also highlighted opportunities and challenges faced by women representatives and thus all the representatives came to know how to support them to become brilliant ones.

ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly

Myanmar hosted, from 29 September to 3 October 2016, the 37th General Assembly of the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly organized by the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw. Its theme entitled "Vibrant AIPA for a progressive ASEAN Community".

Organizing such a meeting successfully shows that Myanmar has dedicated herself into fulfilling obligation as a member country and it is also a proof that Myanmar won trust of member countries. Moreover, further cooperation could be made among members and as a result appropriate achievements can be made in ASEAN region. The meeting produced good advices of member countries leading to making right decisions and realizing such decisions into reality.

There left to discuss 28 laws during the remaining four-year period of the Second Pyidaungsu Hluttaw. These laws are designed to bring about prosperity of the people.

At the meeting, six committees held separate sessions and made 26 important decisions concerning political, economic, social and women's affairs for the regional countries. This can be called a historic milestone.

Making Important Decision

During the one year period of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw since its commencement, it could serve the interests of the nation



Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than accepts chairmanship of the 37th General Assembly of the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly. PHOTO: MNA

and the people such as debating matters on signing of 15 international treaties and agreements.

With the aim of fighting against terrorist acts in the western part of Myanmar, trans-border crimes and organized crimes and illegal drug trade, Myanmar intends to join "BIMSTEC" Convention as well as to be a party to ASEAN Convention on Prevention against trafficking in person of women and children. To establish tourism industry among Greater Mekong Region, Myanmar is preparing to sign agreement on it. These are the decisions made by the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw.

Make approvals

Hluttaw representatives debated on such 11 topics as promoting economy of the State and uplifting the socio-economic life of the people; rehabilitating victims of natural disaster; imbursement more loans to farmers; promoting the agriculture sector; supplying more powers; ensuring smooth transportation; upgrading fire extinguishers and search and rescue systems; and eradicating poverty. They supported the proposals and Pyidaungsu Hluttaw approved them.

International Democracy Day

International Democracy Day for the year 2016 was held in Hluttaw complex in Nay Pyi Taw on 15 September under the theme "Democracy 2030". At the ceremony

papers that will help assist marching towards the goal of a federal state in which all citizens are enjoying prosperity.

Plans for the good of the nation

Works done by the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw in a year can be seen as measures for sustainable development of the nation including promoting human rights.

"In line with the motto 'People's Voice, Hluttaw's Voice, People's Will, Hluttaw's Will, People's Expectation, Hluttaw's Implementation.', Hluttaw representatives are always observing the real life of the people and their desires as they are elected by the people to represent them. They are never losing sight of serving the interests of the people." said Mahn Win Khaing Than, the speaker.

28 Laws under debate

There left to discuss 28 laws during the remaining four-year period of the Second Pyidaungsu Hluttaw. These laws are designed to bring about prosperity of the people.

The laws include various topics such as systematic spending of budget allotted for projects across the country; ensuring systematic taxation; protecting of people's rights and guaranteeing their security; matters on foreigners; dams and reservoirs for farmers; worksite safety and health for workers; smooth transportation for the convenience of people; and matters relating to companies for smooth flowing of foreign investments.



Myanmar traditional performers entertain audiences with dance and song at the ceremony to mark International Democracy Day in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA

Water-saving tech, veg gardens grow hope in Myanmar’s Dry Zone

>> FROM PAGE 1

Myanmar recently emerged from decades of military dictatorship only to face a bigger existential threat.

The Southeast Asian nation of 50 million people is the world’s second most vulnerable country to climate change, according to the Global Climate Risk Index from research group Germanwatch. Studies have shown the onset of the monsoon is becoming more variable, increasing the risk of drought.

The Dry Zone, an area comprising 58 townships in Mandalay, Magwe and Sagaing, is home to around 10 million people, who mostly rely on rain-fed agriculture. It suffers from year-round water shortages.

A recent assessment by the Myanmar Climate Change Alliance (MCCA), an initiative funded by the European Union and United Nations, predicted a temperature increase of up to 3 degrees Celsius and a shorter monsoon in Pakokku by 2050.

Farmers like Myo Myint — already struggling to

make ends meet - will bear the brunt of those changes.

His village has a well, but pumping water costs too much, he said. So he was intrigued by the prototypes of soil moisture sensors in the hands of Tayzar Lin, a product designer with Proximity Designs, a Myanmar-based social enterprise that develops affordable products for farmers.

“I’ve been curious since I saw something similar on Facebook,” said the farmer, as Tayzar Lin plunged into the soil a boxy contraption with a dial at the top and an alloy-tipped brass rod at the bottom. The hand on the dial moved to green, showing the soil still held water. Red means dry, and blue means too much water.

Myo Myint dreams of watering only when needed, instead of every two days as he now does, to save the precious resource.

WASTED WATER

Agriculture - including livestock, fisheries and forestry - contributes nearly 40 per cent of Myanmar’s GDP and employs around half its workforce, according to

Andrew Kirkwood, director of the Livelihoods and Food Security Trust Fund (LIFT), a poverty reduction fund supported by 12 governments.

“Agriculture is extremely important to Myanmar’s economy and future growth,” he said.

A 2013 study funded by LIFT identified the Dry Zone as Myanmar’s most water-stressed region and one of its most food-insecure areas. Inexpensive water sensors made abroad are already available, but their instructions are in English and they are not widely used, nor calibrated by soil type.

Proximity Designs’ sensor works with loam and clay, and its staff will train farmers to use it properly, the firm said.

The device - expected to retail at an affordable price of around Ks30,000 (\$22) - is now being tested in three Dry Zone townships, said Proximity’s user research manager Louisa-Jane Richards. A study of growers of flowers, vegetables and betel - a mild stimulant that is chewed - found they were over-irrigating by around 30

per cent, she said.

Cutting that to 15 per cent could save a farmer with 0.5 acres (0.2 hectares) around 170 gallons of water a season.

HOME GARDENS

Families in the Dry Zone are also getting help to grow nutritious food in gardens using drip irrigation and hydroponics. Non-profit Terre des Hommes (TdH) Italy has set these up in 45 villages with funding from LIFT.

Shwe Bon Thar, a dusty village in Myingyan township, shares a pond with five other villages. But when its water disappears in the dry season, locals must rely on acidic well water and fresh vegetables become pricey.

Maung Maung, 46, now makes Ks1,000 a day selling mint from the hydroponic garden behind his house, a 3-metre by 2-metre plot of vivid green surrounded by sandy soil. The gravity-fed system irrigates leafy vegetables in discarded water bottles while leftover water collected at the bottom is recycled.

Maung Maung, who

uses about 5 gallons of water a day, also grows mustard leaves, morning glory and lettuce, which go into the family meal.

“We used to eat vegetables only when we could afford it, about three times a week. Now we eat fresh, pesticide-free vegetables every day,” he said.

The extra income from selling his surplus produce will help in the coming dry months. Like many villagers, his main crop is pigeon pea, whose price has plummeted this year.

SYSTEM-WIDE SHIFT

Beyond immediate food and water needs, the Dry Zone is also experiencing dramatic shifts.

In many villages, most farmers are in their forties and fifties, as young people have left. Maung Maung’s three adult children work at factories in Mandalay, Myanmar’s second-biggest city.

Pasquale Capizzi, MCCA’s chief technical advisor, said Myanmar needed to tackle both immediate natural disasters and the more gradual impacts of climate change.

“Response ... must involve society as a whole”, encompassing local and national government, businesses, communities and civil society, he said.

“You must adapt with different crops, different agricultural techniques, different mechanisation and productivity improvement - but in some areas you may have to be prepared to learn another trade,” he said.

Climate change will intensify risks such as cyclones, floods and droughts, he added, but will also have “silent effects” on soil salinity, health and yields.

People’s efforts to adapt, said Capizzi, must be supported to reinforce “the innate resilience of communities not to accept fate, but to bounce back and improve”.

(Reporting By Thin Lei Win, editing by Megan Rowling; Please credit the Thomson Reuters Foundation, the charitable arm of Thomson Reuters, that covers humanitarian news, climate change, resilience, women’s rights, trafficking and property rights. Visit <http://news.trust.org/>)

CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE
MV SINAR KAPUAS VOY. NO (-)
Consignees of cargo carried on MV SINAR KAPUAS VOY. NO (-) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 12.3.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MIPL 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 TAURUS INT’L SHIPPING LTD
Phone No: 2301928

CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE
MV RATANA THIDA VOY. NO ()
Consignees of cargo carried on MV RATANA THIDA VOY. NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 11.3.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.
Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claim’s Day 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

CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE
MV YANTRA BHUM VOY. NO ()
Consignees of cargo carried on MV YANTRA BHUM VOY. NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 11.3.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.
Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claim’s Day 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

CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE
MV CAPE FLORES VOY. NO ()
Consignees of cargo carried on MV CAPE FLORES VOY. NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 11.3.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.
Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm 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 NEW GOLDEN SEA LINES
Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE
MV BANI BHUM VOY. NO ()
Consignees of cargo carried on MV BANI BHUM VOY. NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 11.3.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.
Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claim’s Day 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 NEW GOLDEN SEA LINES
Phone No: 2301185

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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.
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Opinion

Write for us

We appreciate your feedback and contributions. If you have any comments or would like to submit editorials, analyses or reports please email ce@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com with your name and title.

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.

Never let it be like throwing water on the sand!

Khin Maung Oo

GENERALLY speaking, we all are born to our parents, but accurately speaking, born to our community, to our society and to our nation. To make it clear, here, we think we need to give the life of our national leader, Bogyoke Aung San as an example. We all know that he was born to U Hpar and Daw Su, on Saturday 13 February 1915. He strived for his life, for his future in the early phase of his life. But he devoted his life to the Independence struggle, since the time he became a university student, till his last days. So, we can say that Bogyoke Aung San was born to our country. Likewise, we have many well-known figures in the political, military, literary, academic, and various other sectors. They also spent the early parts of their lives for success and for their survival. We benefitted from their efforts in many ways. Some made tremendous efforts for the country in the

very beginning, but their beliefs, wrong views and changing minds led them to the wrong paths and eventually got what they deserved, our disrespect.

Today, we have prominent high-ranking leaders in the administrative, military and national ethnic sectors. Undeniably, they entered their respective societies with original pure minds, intentions and pure efforts. According to human nature, they as well can change their minds. As said by State Counselor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, we all need to be broad-minded. Just seeing the present brief benefits is a narrow-minded outlook. We had to live under the colonial rule for over a century. Out of sheer desire to liberate ourselves from being slaves of the colonial rulers, our fore fathers, in fact the whole populace including national ethnic races sacrificed their lives for our country's freedom and sovereignty. In this

way, we gained the Independence which we aspired to, after losing many lives. Sorrowfully enough, since then till now, many parts of the country have become conflict areas full of strife and instability. At the time when most children in urban areas have been savoring the fruits of Independence, displaced children are running for their lives, absolutely not for food. They were brought to this state by mistrusts and misunderstandings among the leaders. Hence, they have no alternative but to clear up these misunderstanding, so that they can reach an agreement for furthering the peace process.

Armed conflicts are taking place not only in Myanmar, but across the world. These problems cannot be solved by the use of arms. All are urgently needed to come to the negotiation tables to move the peace process towards a successful outcome. So long as nationwide peace

cannot be achieved, our country will not develop its economy. As for the country, it will still lag behind much more than others. Our children's future will be gloomy days ad infinitum. We all enjoyed young and youthful days. Today's leaders in the political, administrative and national ethnic sectors underwent bitter experiences. We deeply acknowledge this and we simultaneously want our youths to acknowledge their endeavors. All the State leaders, military and national ethnic leaders, as well as, the youths who are leaders-to-be, need to be broad-minded in the interest of the younger generations to come.

Are we willing and ready to abandon our stubbornness. Are we ready to discard our narrow-mindedness and our short-term visions? Failing that, our past and present efforts for the future will be like throwing water on the sand.

New initiative to use big data to advance social good

Eden Estopace

THE big data capabilities of mobile operators will be put to good use to address humanitarian crises, including epidemics and natural disasters.

Sixteen of the world's biggest operators, which collectively account for over two billion connections across more than 100 countries, have signed up to support GSMA's Big Data for Social Good initiative launched at the Mobile World Congress held recently in Barcelona, Spain.

The 16 operators were Bharti Airtel, Deutsche Telekom, Hutchison, KDDI, KT Corporation, Millicom, MTS, NTT DOCOMO, INC., Orange, SK Telecom, Telefónica, Telenor, Telia, Turkcell, Vodafone, and Zain.

"A year ago, the mobile industry became the first sector as a

whole to commit to the UN Sustainable Development Goals and, as outlined in our Mobile Industry Impact Report published in September, we are already affecting all 17 Goals to varying degrees," said Mats Granryd, Director General, GSMA. "We are now focused on amplifying and accelerating our industry's impact in achieving the SDGs, and the initiative will contribute greatly to addressing some of the biggest challenges facing humanity: epidemics and natural disasters."

GSMA said that according to a study published by The Royal Society, 15 million people die and millions more become seriously ill each year as a result of infectious diseases, which are spread through human contact as well as other sources, such as mosquitoes.

It's also estimated that 1.8 billion people were affected by a disaster in the last decade and

economic losses due to disaster amounted to \$1.5 trillion from 2003 to 2013.

Through the Big Data for Social Good, mobile operators will provide key insights based on anonymized meta-data generated by their networks to support the response in these critical situations. For instance, by monitoring the flow of people to and from impacted areas, public health organizations can more effectively respond to prevent epidemics, slow the spread of disease and better target relief efforts. With access to mobile network insights, humanitarian agencies can more accurately aid evacuation, response and recovery efforts.

Trials of Big Data for Social Good, focusing on epidemics, will start from June 2017 in Bangladesh, Brazil, India, Myanmar, and Thailand. Operators involved in the pilot project include Bharti Airtel in India, Telefónica in Brazil, and Telenor in Bangla-

desh, Myanmar, and Thailand.

The multi-operator pilot is set to develop common capabilities to monitor, alert, predict and manage the spread of diseases that, if unaddressed, could create epidemics. The trials will enrich this information with third-party data sources such as hospital intakes, death counts, and weather data, among others, to provide meaningful insights that local and international government and humanitarian agencies can use to make decisions on when, where and how to deploy resources.

The GSMA expects to publish the results of these trials at Mobile World Congress in February 2018.

The United Nations Foundation is a supporting partner of the project and will provide coordination and integration with the broader ecosystem, including organizations such as Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data (GPSDD) and the

Digital Impact Alliance (DIAL).

Kathy Calvin, President and CEO of the UN Foundation, said data holds enormous possibilities to advance social good and should be used better with innovation and in partnership to save lives, empower more women, and ensure more inclusive digital societies.

"Big Data for Social Good will build on examples from across the globe, of operators large and small, in developed and developing economies, investing in big data to improve society across a number of areas," added Granryd. "It also complements the experience and insights gained through GSMA programs such as Disaster Response, mHealth, Connected Living and others, with an emphasis on delivering accelerated, demonstrable impact that can be extended further to address other areas of global concern."—<http://www.enterpriseinnovation.net>

Literary talk for students at University of Dental Medicine in Yangon

WITH a view to improving the personality of students and paying respect to their professions, a literary talk was held at the University of Dental Medicine in

Yangon yesterday morning.

At the talk entitled “Personal and Professional Development (PPD)”, writers Tharawun (Pyay) and Maung Thar Cho (Jack —

Kungyangon) gave talks to the attendees. The literary talk was attended by the rector and faculty members, house surgeons, students and staff.—GNLM

Japan provides nearly USD 4.2 million for Peace Process in Myanmar

ON 9 March 2017, Mr. Tateshi HIGUCHI, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, and Mr. Nicholas George, Director a.i., UNOPS Myanmar, signed the Exchanged of Notes in Yangon to grant 487 million Japanese yen (approximately 4.2 million US dollars) for “the Project for Supporting National Reconciliation and Peace building Process”.

This grant through UNOPS supports to promote reconciliation and peace process between the Government and Ethnic Armed Organizations, to process between the Government and Ethnic Armed Organizations, to contribute to the stabilization and sustainable development in Myanmar.

In the morning in Tokyo between Mr. Sihzo ABE, Prime Minister of Japan and Daw Aung

San Suu Kyi, State Counsellor in November 2016, Mr. Abe pledged to support national reconciliation and peace process, which is the top priority of the incumbent Myanmar government. The grant is a part of the plan to provide assistance totally 40 billion Japanese Yen for the next 5 years by Japan to Myanmar for the development in ethnic areas for the next 5 years.—GNLM

Union Minister warns gem industry of environmental damage

THE Union Minister for Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation U Ohn Win warned gem extractors about prioritising economic benefits over environmental concerns when mining for precious stones.

“The gem entrepreneurs should extract the nationally owned gem resources in limited quantities to be able to give heritage to the next generation and make adjustments to harmoniously balance the socio economy for local people in mining areas with profits from the gem extractions,” said Union Minister U Ohn Win, Chairman of Myanmar Gems and Jewellery Emporium Organizing Central Committee.

“The gem producers need to follow basic principles such as avoiding environmental impact by conserving the damaged environment caused by gem extraction and produce benefits for all,” said the Union Minister at the meeting for Myanmar Gems and Jewellery Emporium Organising Central Committee held yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw. The Minister urged gem entrepreneurs to sell the finished products made by technology as a priority over selling raw gems, to improve finished products in the domestic market and to penetrate the international market by producing high-quality finished products.

During the meeting, members of gem industries-related commit-

tees presented plans for the gem exhibition to be held in March 2017, displaying, selling in Myanmar Kyats, setting the prices, security, transportation and information releases.

The gem exhibition will be open from March 19 to 24 at the Mani Yadana Jade Hall in Nay Pyi Taw and sell at Myanmar Kyats.

The gem exhibition will be held with the aim of supplying raw stones to finished product producers, boosting the finished products industry, creating job opportunities, controlling illegal gem trading and supporting finance generation for the gem extractors and national gem traders.—Myanmar News Agency

Price of land near new Thanlwin Bridge rise tenfold

LAND prices near the Thanlwin Bridge project in Chaungzon, Mon State have increased tenfold during the past few years, ever since it was learnt that a bridge would be built across the Thanlwin River, linking the island of Belu Kyun with mainland Myanmar for the first time, residents said.

“The price of land has risen quickly to a very high level within two or three years,” said Ko San Maung, a real estate agent residing in Mawlamyine Township, adding that the majority of buyers are from other regions and states.

Entrepreneurs are eyeing locations near the project area to purchase land in order to implement hotel projects, deep sea port projects, resort projects and filling stations. Those businesspersons continue to buy land in downtown Chaungzon, Daye Vil-



PHOTO: MYITMAKHA NEWS AGENCY

lage and other parts of the town.

Depending on location, land prices in Chaungzon Township were between Ks1 million and Ks3 million per acre before the bridge project began in 2014.

Currently, the price for an acre of farmland near the approach road to the bridge under

construction has reached a high of Ks100 million.

Ko Win Ko, a resident, said that he has no plans to sell his property but is monitoring the market condition as the property may be priced too high after the project is completed.—Myitmakha News Agency

MYANMAR GAZETTE

Heads of service organization transferred and confirmed

1. The President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has transferred the following persons as head of organizations shown against each from the date they assume charge of their duties.

Name	Appointment
(a) U Nyi Nyi San Rector Central Institute of Civil Service (Lower Myanmar) Union Civil Service Board	Rector Central Institute of Civil Service (Upper Myanmar) Union Civil Service Board
(b) U Aung Tin Soe Rector Central Institute of Civil Service (Upper Myanmar) Union Civil Service Board	Rector Central Institute of Civil Service (Lower Myanmar) Union Civil Service Board

2. The President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has confirmed the appointment of U Htin Kyaw, Inspector-General (Director-General) of the Office of Anti-Corruption Commission, on the expiry of one-year probationary period.

Crime NEWS

Official from Buthidaung killed

MAHMOUD Sawlaim, an official from Kadi Village in Ahtetkwyemaw, Buthidaung, was attacked by a group of six wielding knives and rods and killed on March 9 in the evening.

On the evening before the attack at 8 in the evening, Mahmoud Sawlaim received a call from a local resident, Mahmoud Inus, requesting Sawlaim to come help his wife who was being harassed by other villagers. Sawlaim together with Abula Shain left for Mahmoud Inus' house in Kadi village and when they took too long to get back, Sawlaim's father, Maung Furmya followed their trail. When he arrived near Mahmoud Inus's home he witnessed Sawlaim being attacked by

Mahmoud Inus, Abula Shain, Adu Raman (also known as) Bawdilla, Dwela (also known as) Adulla, Abudahe and Karla with weapons each. Sawlaim's father began shouting for help whereupon the six assailants fled into the Dhani forest near Kadi village.

Mahmoud Sawlaim was found dead having suffered cuts to his temples and forehead, a pierce wound to the jaw, swelling of his right eye, slash wounds on his neck and chest and most of his teeth knocked out.

Sawlaim's father has reported the six assailants' attack on his son to Nyaungchaung police station and the case will be handled according to the law.—Myanmar News Agency

Fire breaks out in Maungdaw

A house caught fire after midnight on Wednesday in Sin Taung village in Maungdaw. The house was owned by Norulamein, who lives in another house in Sin Taung village. No one was living in the

house at the time. Damage caused by the fire amounted to Ks 30,000.

Police are still investigating the cause of the fire to be able to take action in accordance with the law.—Myanmar News Agency

RSO member detained in Maungdaw

A member of the Rohingya Solidarity Organisation (RSO) terrorist group who got involved in the Kyeekanpyin attacks was detained in Sinthaypyin (west) village in Maungdaw.

A nine-inch folding knife and a mobile phone containing a Bangladeshi SIM card were seized from Maung Soe, alias Shaungshu Ahlaung, on Balishaeywarlai Street in Sinthaypyin (west) village.

Upon interrogation, Maung Soe was found to be a member of Aqu Mul Mujahidin insurgent group, which is related to the RSO terrorist group which involved in the Kyeekanpyin attacks on 9 October in 2016.



PHOTO: STATE COUNSELLOR'S OFFICE OF THE INFORMATION COMMITTEE

Action has been taken against the detainee in accordance with the law.—Myanmar News Agency

South Korean court throws president out of office, two dead in protest

SEOUL — South Korea's Constitutional Court removed President Park Geun-hye from office on Friday over a graft scandal involving the country's conglomerates at a time of rising tensions with North Korea and China.

The ruling sparked protests from hundreds of her supporters, two of whom were killed in clashes with police outside the court.

Park becomes South Korea's first democratically elected leader to be forced from office, capping months of paralysis and turmoil over a corruption scandal that also landed the head of the Samsung conglomerate in jail.

A snap presidential election will be held within 60 days.

She did not appear in court and a spokesman said she would not be making any comment nor would she leave the presidential Blue House residence on Friday.

"For now, Park is not leaving the Blue House today," Blue House spokesman Kim Dong Jo told Reuters. Park was stripped of her powers after parliament voted to impeach her but has remained in the president's official compound.

The court's acting chief judge, Lee Jung-mi, said Park had violated the con-



Protesters supporting South Korean President Park Geun-hye scuffle with riot policemen near the Constitutional Court in Seoul, South Korea, on 10 March 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

stitution and law "throughout her term", and despite the objections of parliament and the media, she had concealed the truth and cracked down on critics.

Park has steadfastly denied any wrongdoing.

The ruling to uphold parliament's 9 December vote to impeach her marks a dramatic fall from grace of South Korea's first woman

president and daughter of Cold War military dictator Park Chung-hee, both of whose parents were assassinated. Park, 65, no longer has immunity as president, and could now face criminal charges over bribery, extortion and abuse of power in connection with allegations of conspiring with her friend, Choi Soon-sil.

Prime Minister Hwang

Kyo-ahn was appointed acting president and will remain in that post until the election. He called on Park's supporters and opponents to put their differences aside to prevent deeper division.

"It is time to accept, and close the conflict and confrontation we have suffered," Hwang said in a televised speech.

A liberal presidential

candidate, Moon Jae-in, is leading in opinion polls to succeed Park, with 32 per cent in one released on Friday. Hwang, who has not said whether he will seek the presidency, leads among conservatives, none of whom has more than single-digit poll ratings.

"Given Park's spectacular demise and disarray among conservatives, the

presidential contest in May is the liberals' to lose," said Yonsei University professor John Delury.

Relations with China and the United States could dominate the coming presidential campaign, after South Korea this month deployed the US THAAD missile defence system in response to North Korea's stepped up missile and nuclear tests.

Beijing has vigorously protested against the deployment, fearing its radar could see into its missile deployments. China has curbed travel to South Korea and targeted Korean companies operating in the mainland, prompting retaliatory measures from Seoul.

The Seoul market's benchmark KOSPI index and the rose after the ruling.

The prospect of a new president in the first half of this year instead of prolonged uncertainty will buoy domestic demand as well as the markets, said Trinh Nguyen, senior economist at Natixis in Hong Kong.

"The hope is that this will allow the country to have a new leader that can address long-standing challenges such as labour market reforms and escalated geopolitical tensions," he said.—Reuters

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Toyota, Suzuki chiefs talk business with Modi

NEW DELHI — Toyota Motor Corp. President Akio Toyoda and Suzuki Motor Corp. Chairman Osamu Suzuki met Thursday with Prime Minister Narendra Modi for talks on their business operations in India, local media reported.

After the meeting, the prime minister's office

said in a statement that the two Japanese companies' auto production "will promote Make in India, and contribute to employment generation," according to the reports.

The visit came after Toyota and Suzuki last month signed a memorandum of understanding about a possible business

partnership in areas such as environmental, safety and information technologies.

"The partnership is expected to bring together Toyota's global leadership in technology and manufacturing, with Suzuki's strength in manufacture of small cars, especially in India. It is expected to enable

India to use new technological developments," the statement said.

According to Japan External Trade Organisation statistics, Suzuki's India unit commanded the largest share of 46.5 per cent in the Indian auto market in 2015. The Toyota group also saw its cars sell well.—Kyodo News

Indonesia to send mission to China to promote tourism

JAKARTA — Indonesia would send a mission to Shanghai to join China's upcoming largest Business to Business (B to B) Meetings, Incentives, Convention and Exhibition (MICE) event from 21 to 23 March to tap potential Chinese visitors, a senior official at Indonesian Tourism Ministry said Friday.

"We hope that through the Incentive Tourism and Convention Meeting (IT&CM) event in Shanghai, our MICE sector can be better promoted, not only to Chinese visitors but also to other nations across the world," Tourism Depu-

ty Minister for International Marketing I Gde Pitana said.

The tourism event of IT&CM was held annually since 2007. Some 640 exhibitors and 440 buyers from 56 countries and regions took part in the event last year.

Pitana said that Indonesian delegation would consist of 10 tourism-related operators, including state-run airlines of Garuda Indonesia.

Besides showcasing the nation's best MICE accommodations, Indonesian cultural performances and diverse of coffees

from various regions across the country would also be showed in the event.

Indonesia's MICE tourism sector is well-accommodated in the nation's capital of Jakarta, Bali, Yogyakarta, Bandung, Surabaya, Medan and Lombok.

Citing the data released by International Congress & Convention Association (ICCA), Pitana said that a visitor in MICE tourism sector may generate significant earnings to the host areas as they spent seven times higher than regular visitor.

He added that through the upcoming IT&CM

event, Indonesia aims to receive more visitors from China, the largest market to Indonesian tourism industry.

Indonesia welcomed 1.74 million Chinese visitors last year, or 21.27 per cent higher than a year earlier. That figure made Chinese visitors topped the rank of foreign visitors in Indonesia throughout last year.

Indonesia has set target to welcome 15 million foreign visitors this year in which 2.43 million of them were expected to be contributed by Chinese visitors.—Xinhua

PERFORMANCES IN ONE-YEAR PERIOD

Progress made by Kayin State Government in one-year period of new government

Yamanya



Zwekabin Mountain in Kayin State. PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR



DKBA, KNU, KNU/KNLA in Kayin State have signed ceasefire agreements of State Level, putting the Kayin State on the right track to development. PHOTO: MNA



Kayin State Chief Minister Daw Nan Khin Htwe Myint. PHOTO: MNA



Officials warmly welcome IDPs from the Thai-Myanmar border. PHOTO: MNA

KAYIN State with an area of 11730.85 square miles is situated in the southeast of Myanmar. It shares border with Shan State and Kayah State to the north, Thailand to the east, Mon State and Taninthayi Region to the south and Bago Region and Mon State to the west.

Kayin State is constituted with four districts, seven townships, 11 towns, 84 wards, 376 village-tracts and 2097 villages. With a population of over 1.5 million, it is home to Kayin, Mon, Bamar and Pa-O national races.

Peace process

DKBA, KNU, KNU/KNLA-PC are all the national race armed groups in Kayin State that have signed ceasefire agreements of state level and nationwide ceasefire agreement-NCA with the government and are now on the right track of the internal peace process.

Since taking office on 31 March 2016, the Kayin State Government led by Daw Nan Khin Htwe Myint has been making all-out efforts in cooperation with national race armed groups who had already signed peace agreements to ensure peace and stability in the state, and as a result, they have been able to build mutual friendship and trust with the armed groups.

The Kayin State Government provided funds and other necessities for the national race armed groups who had returned to legal fold to ensure that the latter fully engage in agriculture and livestock breeding as livelihoods. In the meantime, it has granted permits to companies of national race organizations in implementing regional development undertakings, thereby resulting job opportunities for ethnic peace groups.

As peace and stability prevailed in the region, the Kayin State Government has established Laykekaw, a new satellite town, in Myawady Township with a view to accommodating those who were returning from refugee camps in Thailand and those who fled to the other country

due to armed conflicts and returned home, and has been involving in development activities there.

As part of the activities, it had accepted 65 refugees out of those living in refugee camps in Thailand after coordinating with the Thai Government and the UNHCR, and resettled them at the respective regions they preferred and then provided them with necessary assistance for improvement of their socio-economic status.

Since the Kayin State Government was able to further strengthen friendly relations with ethnic armed groups through coordination and bring about peace in the region, National Level Political Dialogue for Ethnic Groups (Kayin) was successfully held in Hpa-an from 18 to 20 January 2017 with 600 representatives in accordance with terms and conditions of the NCA.

As peace and stability prevailed in the region, the Kayin State Government has established Laykekaw, a new satellite town, in Myawady Township.

Perspectives and opinions of the whole Kayin people on political, economic, social affairs, land and national resources as well as environmental conservation collected from National Level Political Dialogue for Ethnic Groups (Kayin) will be presented to the Union Peace Conference-21st Century Panglong.

Transportation

In order to ensure smooth commodities flow in the border area of Myawady, Kayin State the construction of No. 2 Myanmar-Thai Friendship Bridge was started from the month of August 2015 near Yay-

pu village in Myawady township and the facility is expected to be completed in the month of March 2017. Upon the completion of the friendship bridge on the east-west economic corridor linking Myanmar-Thailand-Laos-Viet Nam, it will contribute a lot to better transportation and economic development of both Kayin State and the country.

The bridge project has inevitably something to do with the land grasp which is to be carried out in the national interest. To address the problem, the Kayin State Government formed the coordination committee for compensating the land to ensure that local people who suffered receive a compensatory payment for 146.95 acres of land and buildings demolished. A total of K 350 million was given already as compensation to local people.

Apart from that, the 45.45 Km long section of Myawady-Kawka-reik Asian Highway was able to be opened in the month of August 2015 and the Kawka-reik-Eindu section is being upgraded into a facility of international level. In the 2016-2017 fiscal year, the 11.6 Km long Eindu-Zarthabyin road was tarred and the project is now near completion.

In the time of the new Kayin State Government, the 500 feet long Anankwin Bridge on Thanphyu-zayat-Phayarthonsu Road was formally opened on 11-10-2016 with the attendance of the Chief Minister of Kayin State Government.

Furthermore, the Thehtama-naung Phayargyi roundabout and Mebaung roundabout in Hpa-an, the capital of the state, were demolished and traffic lights had been installed instead so that the people could move about in accord with the traffic rules and regulations, while the two miles and six furlongs long road section from Shweyinhmyaw Pagoda to Mebaung junction was upgraded into a tarred facility as part of projects on upgrading of downtown roads.

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PERFORMANCES IN ONE-YEAR PERIOD

>> FROM PAGE 11

Availability of drinking water

The Kayin State has to encounter with a shortage of drinking water on a yearly basis, and the Kayin State Government thus managed to sink artesian wells in eight different places and constructed a small dam near Tharmanya village. The small dam was able to accommodate 20 million gallons of water, that could be used for drinking purpose and fire prevention measures.

In order to transform the Kayin State into mechanized farming from manual farming, a total of K 90 million fund was allocated to upgrade 500 acres of farmland in Kawthankhar village, Kawthinshu village and Khayar Atwin village in Hpa-an township with the use of modern farm equipment. A farm equipment shop was opened in Htilon village, Hlaingbwe township, where one combine harvester, 17 powered tillers and ten motorcycles were sold for K 64.250 million on hire purchase to local farmers.

Education sector

In the education sector, altogether 153 basic education schools in Kayin State have been upgraded and opened in the 2016-2017 fiscal year with a total of 538 more teachers appointed.

Health sector

With a view to ensuring development of health sector in Kayin State the Anankwin Station Hospital was opened in the 2016-2017 fiscal year while steps being taken for opening of the 16-bed Phalantaung Station Hospital in Sonhsimyaing region and Phalantaung village in Myawady district. Meanwhile, more six new rural health care centers and 20 sub-rural health care centres were opened to be able to fully engage in health care activities in the region.

Sports sector

To be able to keep pace with sports activities of other regions, Kayin State competed with 23 sports events out of 28 in Inter-Region and State sports competitions in the 2016-2017 fiscal year, securing championship trophy in football, championship trophy in traditional boxing (novice), championship trophy in tradition boxing (C-level) and breaking the record timing 11.22 sec in a 100-meter race (men). In the competitions, participants from Kayin State secured 18 gold, 19 silver and 19 bronze.

Electric Power sector

The 55.5-mile long Mawlamyine-Myawady 230 KV transmission line that will supply electricity to the resi-

dents in Myawady and Kawkareik Townships through the National Grid is under construction and the project is completed by 30 per cent. Construction of a sub-power station in Thinngan Nyinaung, Myawady Township and 17.31-mile long Myawady-Kawkareik transmission line is 80 per cent and 38 per cent complete respectively. Construction of a 66/11 KV (10) MVA sub-power station in Kawkareik Township is finished by 98 per cent.

The sub-power facilities in Hlaingbwe, Myaingyingu and Leiktho Townships, Hpa-an-Hlaingbwe transmission line and 24-mile long Tounggoo-Leiktho transmission line had been 100 percent completed. The 10/2 MVA transformers in Hpa-an were upgraded to 10/24 MVA sub-power station in an attempt to provide the locals in Hpa-an and Hlaingbwe Townships with sufficient electricity. The 23.5-mile long Thandaung-Bawgali transmission line and a sub-power station in Bawgali were constructed using loan from Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and the electricity was distributed to the locals commencing 2 February 2017.

Construction of 0.1 mile long 33 KV transmission line, 142-mile long 11 KV transmission line, 39-mile long 400 voltage transmission line and installation of 165 transformers were carried out in Hpa-an, Hlaingbwe, Thandaunggyi, Kawkareik and Kya-in-Seikkyi Townships in 2016-2017 FY by spending the Kayin State government fund.

Six new rural health care centers and 20 sub-rural health care centres were opened to be able to fully engage in health care activities in the region.

Implementation of staff housings

The staff housing projects were developed in Kayin State for the civil servants in 2016-2017 FY. So far, the Kayin State government has built 264 staff accommodations in Hpa-an, 72 apartments in Kawkareik, 24 rooms in Myawady, 12 flats each in Thandaunggyi and Papun totaling 384 rooms for the governmental employees.

Construction of river bank retaining walls

Construction of the 150-ft long Gawli creek retaining wall and the 690-ft long retaining wall along Thanlwin River near



Efforts being made to supply adequate electricity to Kayin State. PHOTO: MNA

Khetauk-Mohhkkti motor road are being implemented in Kayin State with the use of K 30.50 million allotted fund. In an effort to implement peace process and regional development tasks, the Kayin State government is cooperating with the state high court and state Hluttaw in a balanced manner.

General

Committee to scrutinize land ownership and supervisory committee on land leasing were formed to grant land leasing for the residents in Hpa-an. Peace-making process is one of the guarantees that made during election campaign in the one-year period of the Kayin State government.

Regarding peace process, Kayin State Chief Minister Daw Nan Khin Htwe Myint said that National-level Political Dialogue for Ethnic Groups (Kayin) was held in Hpa-an on 18-23 January and the participants discussed the basic principles of the democracy and federal system in a frank and open manner. Electricity is sine qua non for the general public and the Kayin State government put emphasis on fulfilling people's demand for power as second prioritized basis. The 49 percent of the people in Kayin State has access to electricity and the regional government is making utmost efforts to increase electricity generation, she added.

As to road transportation, the state chief minister said that construction of 2nd Myanmar-Thailand Friendship Bridge

in Kayin State was once suspended as a result of disputes over farmland compensation and the issue was settled in the time of new government and the bridge is expected to open to traffic by this March. She highlighted that Kayin State government significantly achieved successes in many areas during one-year period due to its close collaboration with the state-level Hluttaws and departmental organizations.

Concerning the sports sector, the Kayin State football team emerged champion in the Region/State football tournament in time of our new government. Moreover, Kayin State sports contingent won gold medals in not only Sepak Takraw contest but also traditional Lethwei competition, she added.

With regard to education and health sectors that play an important role in developing a country, the 224 schools were constructed in Kayin State this year and the state government managed to open rural health centers and station hospitals to offer better healthcare system to the needy people and arrangements have been made to open a drug rehabilitation center for youths in Hpa-an, Kayin State and to ensure free medical treatment for them at the hospitals, he said.

The Kayin State government has been selling agricultural equipments, combine harvesters, tractors and qualified seeds that play a pivotal role in engaging in agricultural sector to the farmers from seven townships in the state on 2-year hire purchase.



Kayin State Chief Minister Daw Nan Khin Htwe Myint and officials attend opening ceremony of Anankwin Bridge in Kayin State. PHOTO: MNA



Kayin State Chief Minister Daw Nan Khin Htwe Myint and officials observe paving of Eindu-Zarthabyin road. Photo: MNA



Winnie Madikizela Mandela, ex-wife of former South African president Nelson Mandela, attends the inauguration ceremony of South African President Jacob Zuma at the Union Buildings in Pretoria, South Africa, in 2014. PHOTO: REUTERS

Winnie Mandela 'absolutely fine' in hospital: spokesman

PRETORIA — South African anti-apartheid veteran Winnie Madikizela-Mandela, ex-wife of the late president Nelson Mandela, is "absolutely fine" after being admitted to hospital for observation, her spokesman

said on Friday.

Doctors decided on Wednesday to keep the 80-year-old former first lady in hospital after she underwent a routine checkup.

"I was with her and she's absolutely fine,"

spokesman Victor Dlamini told television broadcaster eNCA.

Madikizela-Mandela spent several weeks in hospital last year for back surgery.

During her ex-hus-

band's 27-year incarceration for his fight against apartheid, Madikizela-Mandela campaigned for his release and for the rights of black South Africans, undergoing detention, banishment and arrest.—Reuters

Volkswagen, Tata Motors confirm to explore cooperation

MUMBAI — Volkswagen and Tata Motors said on Friday they had signed a memorandum of understanding to explore a strategic partnership in India, confirming a Reuters story from Thursday. The two carmakers said they hoped to jointly develop vehicle components and also possibly vehicle concepts for the Indian subcontinent and overseas markets.

Volkswagen said its Skoda unit would lead the project. "The first step will address topics such as the application of specific market knowledge as well as local development expertise. In the long term, the Volkswagen Group is looking to further expand its product portfolio in the fast-growing emerging markets," it said.—Reuters



Men walk inside a Tata Motors showroom on the outskirts of Agartala, Tripura, in 2012. PHOTO: REUTERS

Japan to allow home-sharing services nationwide

TOKYO — The Cabinet on Friday endorsed a bill to allow property owners across Japan to offer vacant homes or rooms to tourists for up to 180 days per year by simply notifying municipalities, amid a shortage of hotels and inns to accommodate the surge in foreign travelers to Japan. The legislation, which the government hopes to see enacted during the current parliamentary session, aims to stave off complaints from neighbours about noise and other guest-related issues by placing so-called minpaku lodging operators under the supervision of municipal governments.

Japan changed regu-

lations last April to allow individuals to provide holiday accommodation after obtaining permission. But in principle, such accommodation is not permitted in residential areas, with many hosts offering it without authorization.

The new law would allow hosts to rent out their homes or rooms in areas designated as exclusively residential. But concerns remain about the potential negative impact on the living environment in such areas and on the business of hotels and inns, which are not permitted to operate in such areas in principle. Besides requiring hosts to notify municipalities of their

intent to offer home-sharing services, the new law would require them to clearly mark their buildings with signs, keep records of lodgers and clean the facilities periodically. The law would also call for hosts to respond to complaints from local residents and take measures to contain the noise guests may cause. In areas where it is feared living conditions could deteriorate once home-sharing services are permitted, municipalities would be allowed to shorten the 180-day maximum annual operating period. Intermediaries connecting tourists and hosts, such as online marketplace Airbnb,

would be required to register with the Japan Tourism Agency. Operators violating the regulations could be ordered to suspend or terminate their businesses and may face prison terms of up to six months or fine of up to 1 million yen (\$8,700) if they do not abide by such orders.

"By providing a variety of lodging services, we hope that foreign tourists in Japan can enjoy better comfort and convenience," Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga told a press conference, adding that creating regulations will help promote the wider use of home-sharing services.—Kyodo News

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST (CONSULTING SERVICES- INDIVIDUAL CONSULTANT)

[COUNTRY] **The Republic of the Union of Myanmar**
[NAME OF PROJECT] **Myanmar Flood and Landslides Emergency Recovery Project**
Loan No.: **5889 - MM**
Assignment Title: **International Environmental and Social Safeguard specialist**
Reference No.: **C4-IST-IC05**

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar has applied for financing from the World Bank toward the cost of the Myanmar Flood and Landslides Emergency Recovery Project and intends to apply part of the proceeds for consulting services. The consulting services ("the Services") include :

- ensuring adequate integration of environmental and social safeguards consideration into the project;
- providing technical oversight, guidance and quality control for the preparation of needed environmental and social safeguards instruments for sub-projects;
- Assisting the CIUs in the preparation of relevant Terms of Reference and in the assessment of preparatory works conducted on the project road sections
- Liaising closely with the CIUs in the design and implementation of safeguard related technical assistance and studies
- Assessing the capacities for safeguards screening, implementation, and supervision/monitoring of relevant staff in the implementing agencies;
- Supporting the design, preparation, and implementation of the Safeguard Training Program for the Project
- Providing technical inputs and quality assurance on the safeguards implementation reports
- Advise the CIUs on stakeholder and community engagement,
- Promote a culture of proactive environmental and social considerations and sustainability in the road sector

This is a part time position. The Environmental and Social Safeguards Specialist is expected to provide his/her services during a period of 3 years (extendable) as follows: 50% of the time during the first 6 months of the contract (3 months of first 6 months), then 25 % of the time (1 week per month). The position is renewable annually based on performance and mutual agreement.

The Ministry of Construction (MOC) and Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation (MOALI) now invite eligible individual consultant ("Consultants") to indicate their interest in providing the Services. Interested individual consultants should provide information demonstrating that they have the required qualifications and relevant experience to perform the Services (e.g. consultant's profile, description of similar assignments, experience in similar conditions, etc.). The minimum qualifications and experience requirements are:

- Must have Master's degree in environmental engineering, environmental management, natural resources management, environmental and social sciences or related field relevant to environmental and social management in the context of the Project.
- Minimum 10 years of international experience in environmental and social due diligence in development projects, preferably in South East Asia. Working experience with the environmental and social safeguards of International Financing Institutions (IFIs) or comparable bilateral financiers. Experience with the World Bank safeguards policies or IFC Performance Standards is a plus.
- Understanding of environmental and social aspects of road and infrastructure rehabilitation.
- Ability to undertake physically demanding travel to the Project sites in remote areas of Myanmar.
- Familiarity with government and foreign aid project operations
- Excellent communication skills, including speaking and writing in English
- Willingness to train local staff on day-to-day basis
- Good working knowledge of computer programs such as word, excel etc.

The attention of interested individual consultant is drawn to paragraph 1.9 of the World Bank's Guidelines: Selection and Employment of Consultants [under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits & Grants] by World Bank Borrowers (Consultant Guidelines), setting forth the World Bank's policy on conflict of interest.

An individual consultant will be selected in accordance with the Individual Consultant Selection method set out in the Consultant Guidelines.

Further information can be obtained at the address below during office hours **[09:30 to 16:00 hours' local time]**.

Expressions of interest must be delivered in a written form to the address below (in person, or by mail, or by fax, or by e-mail) by **7th April 2017 (16:00 hours local time)**.

Attn: **For Detailed information please contact:**
Daw Tin Moe Myint, Director, U KyawSwaAung (Director)
Department of Rural Development Department of Rural Development
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Gere delights Israeli fans at premier of Israel-US movie

LOS ANGELES — Hollywood actor Richard Gere delighted fans after walking the red carpet in Jerusalem for the Israeli premiere of his new film “Norman: The Moderate Rise and Tragic Fall Of A New York Fixer”.

The “Pretty Woman” star plays Norman Oppenheimer, a veteran “fixer” in New York’s Jewish community who runs into trouble when he tries to win over a visiting Israeli politician, played by Israeli actor Lior Ashkenazi.

In the film, screened at Jerusalem’s Cinematheque on Wednesday, Gere’s character’s life changes when he buys an expensive pair of shoes for an Israeli dignitary who eventually becomes prime minister.

Critics have said the storyline is reminiscent of the connection between former Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert, and a New York-based businessman alleged to have given him cash envelopes. Olmert is currently serving jail time for corruption.

Israeli-American writer-director Joseph Cedar said he felt

compelled to explore the life of a “fixer” — someone who thrives on connecting with people and getting in with the right crowd — from his own personal life experience.

“It took him (Gere) some time to feel comfortable with a different body language, a story line that I don’t think he’s ever had to bring to the screen, and gradually he felt more and more comfortable until he really became this character,” Cedar told reporters at a news conference on Thursday.

Gere said he was not getting involved in the politics of the region and the challenge for him was portraying an unusual personality.

“I am not interested in politics, I am interested in human beings. The people that I am meeting are also people who are primarily involved with relationships and bridging the problems between human beings... I am coming from a country that is in deep anxiety and chaos right now,” the American actor and humanitarian activist said.—Reuters

Noble, sympathetic Kong reimaged for ‘Kong: Skull Island’

LOS ANGELES — King Kong is back again — not climbing the Empire State Building clutching a distressed damsel in his colossal clutches, but as the mighty protector of a remote island in the 1970s.

“Kong: Skull Island” opens in movie theaters worldwide this week as the 8th installment of the screen classic. It depicts a group of explorers and Vietnam-era soldiers on a secret mission to an unexplored Pacific Ocean island that turns out to be the home of Kong and other man-eating creatures.

The new movie, starring British actor Tom Hiddleston as a renegade adventurer and Oscar-winner Brie Larson as an anti-war photographer, is a far cry from the original 1933 version.

But Hiddleston says the story retains its enduring appeal.

“He (Kong) represents the power of nature and its capacity to inspire wonder and terror that’s both somehow noble and majestic, but also it can be destructive and scary,” Hiddleston told Reuters Television.

In the new film, Hiddleston said “there’s something very sympathetic about him.”

“Kong is often always minding his own business doing his own thing until the balance of his life is interrupted by mankind.



Cast member Samuel L. Jackson. PHOTO: REUTERS

And it’s as if he’s a metaphor for the way human beings disturb the balance of nature,” the actor said.

Director Jordan Vogt-Roberts said he felt the pressure of reimagining the King Kong story “every second of the day.”

“You’re playing with an icon of cinema and you’re playing with pop culture,” he said.

“There’s been so many retellings of the story. So to break away from that, to not tell the beauty and the beast story, to not tell the same Kong story that we’ve seen over and over again and to do something new with it - that’s an incredible amount of freedom and yet it’s a very scary thing,” he added.

Special effects bring Kong to life not just as an anatomically correct ape but “a capital-M movie monster who stands on two feet (and) carries himself with a nobility like a god,” said Vogt-Roberts.—Reuters

War comes to Westeros as ‘Game of Thrones’ unveils July return



Nikolaj Coster-Waldau (L), Maisie Williams, Emilia Clarke, Sophie Turner and Kit Harington of HBO’s “Game of Thrones” pose backstage with their award for Outstanding Drama Series at the 68th Primetime Emmy Awards in Los Angeles, California US, on 18 September 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

LOS ANGELES — The premiere date of HBO’s medieval fantasy series “Game of Thrones” was announced with fiery fanfare on Thursday, as a block of ice was melted live online to reveal the 16 July start of the new season.

More than 100,000 people watched the hour-long Facebook Live stream of a block of ice being melted slowly by blasts of fire. It was interrupted by a few technical difficulties when the stream cut to black.

The highly anticipated seventh season of “Game of Thrones,” taglined “The Great

War is Here,” has been moved to summer from its usual spring air date this year as filming of the show was delayed to capture scenes of winter for the show’s fictional realm of Westeros.

Emmy-winning “Game of Thrones,” based on George R.R. Martin’s “A Song of Ice and Fire” books, follows the epic fantasy of a multi-generational struggle for control of the Iron Throne seat of the Seven Kingdoms.

A teaser trailer released by HBO on Thursday shows the crests of the warring families crumbling to ash, with voices of

key characters heard speaking phrases from past seasons in a timeline of events that have led to the battle. At the very end, the voice of resurrected Night Watch leader Jon Snow says, “The same thing coming for all of us. There’s only one war that matters. The great war. And it is here.”

“Game of Thrones” is the most-watched show on Time Warner Inc’s premium cable network HBO, averaging around 25 million viewers for its sixth season. The saga will conclude with its eighth season next year.—Reuters

Trump-Clinton election campaign to get HBO miniseries treatment

LOS ANGELES — Cable channel HBO said on Thursday it is planning a dramatized TV miniseries about the extraordinary 2016 US presidential, one of the first of several such projects being discussed in Hollywood.

No casting, title or broadcast date was announced for the HBO project, which comes from the same team that produced the award-winning “Game Change” film about the 2008 election that starred Julianne Moore as then Republican vice-presidential contender Sarah Palin.

The 2016 election campaign that saw Republican Donald Trump triumph over Democrat Hillary Clinton last November was one of the most dramatic in living memory.

It is also the subject of a TV



Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton. PHOTO: REUTERS

miniseries treatment being developed by “Zero Dark Thirty” movie screenwriter Mark Boal, the Hollywood Reporter said in February.

A third miniseries project, looking at the behind-the-scenes drama of Trump’s campaign, is also making the rounds in Hollywood, entertainment website Deadline reported last month.

The announcement by HBO, a unit of Time Warner, appeared to mark the first of the various ideas to win a commitment from a major broadcaster.

HBO said its series would be based on an upcoming book by political journalists Mark Halperin and John Heilemann about the campaign. Jay Roach, who directed Emmy-winner “Game Change” will return to direct, and Tom Hanks is one of the executive producers.

Len Amato, president of HBO Films, said in a statement that the project “promises to vividly capture the most unique and impactful event in modern American politics.”—Reuters

Turkey hopes discounts, fuel subsidies can reverse 30 per cent tourism plunge

BERLIN — Turkey expressed hopes on Friday for a revival of its tourism industry after security concerns caused a 30 per cent drop in foreign visitors and revenues last year.

“We are seeing some very positive signals. That gives us hope,” Turkish Culture and Tourism Minister Nabi Avci said at ITB Berlin, the world’s biggest tourism fair, on Thursday.

The number of foreign visitors to Turkey fell to 25.4 million in 2016, the lowest in nine years, after a spate of bombings and a failed coup discouraged tourists.

Bookings from Germany, the source of around 15 per cent of Turkey’s tourists, are also suffering as security worries are exacerbated by rising tensions over Turkish political rallies in Germany and the detention of a Turkish-German journalist in Istanbul.

Foreign Minister Mev-

lut Cavusoglu unexpectedly stopped by ITB on Wednesday and lobbied for German tourists to return.

“There is no reason for our German friends to be afraid to come to Turkey. Turkey is as safe as Germany,” he said.

Hotels in Turkey on average filled only 53 per cent of rooms last year, and many have slashed prices.

Palm World Resort & Spa, a 620-bed hotel near the seaside town of Side, is offering rooms at a discount of 35-40 per cent, after a 50 per cent price cut last year, owner Mehmet Surucuoglu told Reuters at ITB.

So far, though, only 25 per cent of its rooms have been booked for the summer season.

“It is better to have some people coming at lower prices than to have an empty hotel,” said Surucuoglu, who relies on Germany for 90 per cent of



Tourists enter the Byzantine-era monument of Hagia Sophia as they pass by an armoured police vehicle in the Old City of Istanbul, Turkey, on 13 July 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

his guests.

The government is trying to prop up the travel sector — which contributes about \$30 billion to the economy in a usual year — by expanding fuel subsidies for airlines and

helping hotels obtain loans, Avci, the tourism minister, said.

Fuel subsidies of \$6,000 per flight carrying up to 200 passengers are now available for scheduled flights as well as char-

ter carriers, and the number of eligible airports has been increased to 14 from five, he said.

Still, Thomas Cook’s Condor has cut capacity to Turkey by 10 per cent this summer, after a 30 per cent

drop in passenger numbers last year, Chief Executive Ralf Teckentrup told Reuters at ITB.

Kayihan Suer, sales manager at Peninsula Tours, said his company had managed to keep occupancy rates over 80 per cent in eight of its 12 hotels by bringing in guests from many different countries, making it less reliant on any one market.

“We’ve been doing business for 35 years, we’ve made mistakes and learned our lessons. Now we have over 20 different nationalities in our hotels,” he said, adding that there was strong interest from Romanian and Bulgarian tour operators.

Murat Sak, who manages the Venosa hotel near Bodrum, said the proportion of Turkish guests had risen since last year and was now at 40 per cent, helped along by discounts for early bookings.—Reuters

TV may take biggest toll on school readiness for poor kids

NEW YORK — Doctors often tell parents of young children to limit television time because it can interfere with learning and language development. Now, a US study suggests TV’s impact on school readiness might be worse for poor kids than for more affluent children.

Researchers examined test results for 807 kids between 5 and 6 years old assessed at the start of kindergarten for basic skills like counting, letter recognition and sorting blocks by pattern and shape. They also looked at parent surveys about how much time each day kids spent watching traditional television

sets or other screens.

For kids at the highest income levels, there wasn’t any connection between the amount of TV children watched and how well they did on the tests. More television time was tied to just a modest drop in test results for students from average income households — about \$74,000 a year for a family of four.

Children at or near the poverty line, about \$21,200 a year for a family of four, had a pronounced drop in test scores when they watched a lot of TV each day.

“Watching too much TV — here more than 2

hours per day — was negatively associated with the development of mathematical abilities and executive function — skills engaged in the pursuit of goals, including inhibition, attention, working memory, and cognitive flexibility,” said lead study author Andrew Ribner, a psychology and education researcher at New York University.

“We find some evidence that the negative association of television viewing with math ability is at least partially through executive function, which others have shown is strongly related to math ability throughout the academic life span,” Ribner

added by email.

Last year, the American Academy of Pediatrics recommended that preschoolers watch no more than an hour of TV a day; down from two hours in 2001 guidelines.

Parents should watch with kids and show them only “high quality” programming like Sesame Workshop and PBS, the AAP recommends.

It’s possible that some of the differences in how much television time influences school readiness for rich versus poor kids in the study might be explained by the type of content children watch, Ribner said.—Reuters

Colossus probably depicting Ramses II found in Egypt

CAIRO — Archaeologists from Egypt and Germany have found a massive eight-metre statue submerged in ground water in a Cairo slum that they say probably depicts revered Pharaoh Ramses II, who ruled Egypt more than 3,000 years ago.

The discovery, hailed by the Antiquities Ministry as one of the most important ever, was made near the ruins of Ramses II’s temple in the ancient city of Heliopolis, located in the eastern part of modern-day Cairo.

“Last Tuesday they called me to announce the big discovery of a colossus of a king, most probably Ramses II, made out of quartzite,” Antiquities Minister Khaled al-Anani told Reuters on Thursday at the site of the statue’s unveiling.

The most powerful and celebrated ruler of ancient Egypt, the pharaoh also known as Ramses the Great was the third of the Nineteenth Dynasty of Egypt and ruled from 1279 to 1213 BCE.

He led several military expeditions and expanded the Egyptian Empire to stretch from Syria in the east to Nubia in the south. His successors called him the “Great Ancestor”.

“We found the bust of the statue and the lower part of the head and now

we removed the head and we found the crown and the right ear and a fragment of the right eye,” Anani said.

On Thursday, archaeologists, officials, local residents, and members of the news media looked on as a massive forklift pulled the statue’s head out of the water.

The joint Egyptian-German expedition also found the upper part of a life-sized limestone statue of Pharaoh Seti II, Ramses II’s grandson, that is 80 centimetres long.

The sun temple in Heliopolis was founded by Ramses II, lending weight to the likelihood the statue is of him, archaeologists say.

It was one of the largest temples in Egypt, almost double the size of Luxor’s Karnak, but was destroyed in Greco-Roman times. Many of its obelisks were moved to Alexandria or to Europe and stones from the site were looted and used for building as Cairo developed.

Experts will now attempt to extract the remaining pieces of both statues before restoring them. If they are successful and the colossus is proven to depict Ramses II, it will be moved to the entrance of the Grand Egyptian Museum, set to open in 2018.—Reuters

mitv Myanmar International Programme Schedule

(11-3-2017 07:00am ~ 12-3-2017 07:00am) MST

07:03	Am	News
07:26	Am	Great Shwedagon-Historic And Mysterious Places
07:54	Am	Black Gold (P - II)
08:03	Am	News
08:26	Am	Pakhan Traditional Nat Festival In Ku Ni Village (Part-3)
08:45	Am	Attractions around Hopong Hill Station
09:03	Am	News
09:27	Am	Gold: King Of All Metals
10:03	Am	News
10:26	Am	NexGen: Next Generation (DJ Tyrah T)
10:36	Am	School For the Blind (Kye Myin Dine)

(11:00 Am ~ 03:00 Pm)- Friday Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)
(03:00 Pm ~ 07:00 Pm) - Today Repeat(07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)

Prime Time

07:03	Pm	New
07:26	Pm	To The Land Of Countless Temples - Bagan Trip (Ep-2)
07:49	Pm	Today Myanmar: Waste to Energy
08:03	Pm	New
08:26	Pm	Myanmar National Poet And Literary Icon; Prolific Writer of Poems & Prose - Min Thu Wun (Ep-1) In Memory of Him & His Childhood
08:51	Pm	Myanmar Masterclass: 3D

(09:00 Pm ~ 11:00 Pm)-Today Repeat (09:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)
(11:00 Pm ~ 03:00 Am)- Friday Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)
(03:00 Am ~ 07:00 Am) -Today Repeat(07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)

(For Detailed Schedule – www.myanmaritv.com/schedule)

United earn draw at Rostov, Lyon beat Roma 4-2

ZURICH — Europa League favourites Manchester United secured a 1-1 draw on a threadbare pitch at Rostov, while Olympique Lyonnais beat AS Roma 4-2 helped by a fine individual goal from Nabil Fekir in their last 16, first leg ties on Thursday.

Racing Genk won 5-2 at Gent in an all-Belgian clash and German rivals Schalke 04 and Borussia Moenchengladbach drew 1-1 in a meeting of former UEFA Cup winners.

United's Henrikh Mkhitaryan gave the Premier League team a 35th minute lead in Russia, turning the ball in from close range after some nifty footwork by Zlatan Ibrahimovic.

But Rostov, who beat Bayern Munich on the same ground in November on their way to a third-place finish in their Champions League group, levelled eight minutes after the restart.

Alexander Bukharov volleyed past Sergio Romero for a superbly-taken goal after chesting down a long ball over the United defence from Timofei Kalachev.

Both sides struggled on a divot-strewn surface that had been heavily criticised by United



Rostov's Aleksandr Bukharov celebrates scoring their first goal during their Europa League Round of 16 First Leg at Olimp-2 Stadium, Rostov-on-Don, Russia, on 9 March 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

manager Jose Mourinho and dust was getting into the players's towards the end of the game.

"It was impossible to play better, impossible to play a passing game," said Mourinho.

"I remember as a kid some matches like this in Portugal - non-league and amateur pitches. To see my players coping with it and the humility to fight for

every ball is a good feeling for me."

Mohamed Salah and Federico Fazio gave Roma a 2-1 half-time lead at Lyon but the hosts hit back in style after the break.

Lyon, who had taken an eighth-minute lead thanks to Mouctar Diakhaby, levelled two minutes after the break through Corentin Tolisso helped by Al-

exandre Lacazette's clever reverse pass.

Fekir put the hosts ahead in the 74th, three minutes after coming on, when he skipped past three defenders in the penalty area, moved the ball to his left foot and curled a shot past Roma's Brazilian goalkeeper Alisson.

Lacazette completed the

scoring with an emphatic volley in added time.

Gladbach's Jonas Hofmann gave them a 15th minute lead at Schalke, latching on to a sublime through ball by Lars Stindl to beat Ralf Faehrmann from close range, before Guido Burgstaller replied 10 minutes later for the Royal Blues.

Mbwana Samatta led the charge for Genk, scoring two of their five goals at Gent. Jeremy Perbet missed a penalty for the hosts at 4-2 down before they had Anderson Esiti sent off late on.

Olympiakos Piraeus's ex-Argentina midfielder Esteban Cambiasso gave them a first-half lead over Besiktas but Vincent Aboubakar replied to earn the Turkish side a 1-1 draw in Athens.

Claudio Beauvue's 90th minute goal gave Celta Vigo a 2-1 win at home to Russia's Krasnodar, FC Copenhagen's Andreas Cornelius headed in on the hour to secure a 2-1 home victory against former European champions Ajax Amsterdam and Anderlecht won 1-0 at APOEL Nicosia with a first-half goal from Nicolae Stanciu.—Reuters

Hart believes he is 'surplus to requirements' at Man City

TURIN, (Italy) — Joe Hart is not expecting a return to the Premier League after his loan spell at Torino with the England goalkeeper believing he is "surplus to requirements" at parent club Manchester City.

Hart, who joined the Italian side on a season-long loan after realising he would not be first choice under new City boss Pep Guardiola, feels it is far more important to play for a club that wants him to be their goalkeeper.

"I'd say I'm pretty much surplus to requirements at my parent club at the moment and I don't see that changing," the 29-year-old told the BBC. "I love the Premier League... I know it really well but I wouldn't say it was top of my wish list." Guardiola signed Claudio Bravo from Barcelona at the start of the season with Willy Caballero already on the books. Hart said he respected the manager's decision to replace him.

"He didn't do it to ruin my life, he did it because he thought that was what was right for him to win as a manager," Hart added. "To get results he needed to have a team he felt comfortable with and a team he wanted.—Reuters

US must allow access if it bids for 2026 soccer World Cup: FIFA

LONDON — The United States would have to grant entry to players, officials and fans from any country that qualified if it won the right to host the 2026 World Cup finals, soccer body FIFA said on Thursday.

Responding to a question about President Donald Trump's order banning citizens from six Muslim-majority nations from traveling to the United States, FIFA boss Gianni Infantino said any nation bidding for the tournament would have clear rules.

"We are now in the process of defining the bid requirements," he said.

"In the world there are certainly many countries with travel bans, visa requirements and so on and so forth.

"What is obvious is that when it comes to the World Cup, like the Olympic Games ... any team, including the supporters



The World Cup Trophy is seen during the preliminary draw for the 2018 FIFA World Cup at Konstantin Palace in St. Petersburg, Russia on 25 July 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

and officials of that team who have qualified, need to have access to the country. Otherwise there is no World Cup."

CONCACAF, the governing body for soccer in North and Central America

and the Caribbean, is mulling a three-way joint bid for the 2026 World Cup between the United States, Mexico and Canada.

FIFA has ruled out a bid from Europe or Asia, leaving the CONCACAF region as frontrunner for a tournament set to expand to 48 nations from 32.

The United States last hosted the World Cup in 1994 and Mexico in 1986.

Los Angeles is also bidding against Paris for the 2024 Summer Olympics with a vote on that due in September.

Victor Montagliani, the CONCACAF president, said last month that a wall planned by Trump along the US-Mexico border would not present an obstacle to co-hosting the event.

Regional soccer officials have, however, been tight-lipped about the executive order.

The head of European soc-

cer body UEFA warned last month that restrictions could damage any US bid.

"It will be part of the evaluation, and I am sure it will not help the United States to get the World Cup," UEFA president Aleksander Ceferin told the *New York Times*.

"If players cannot come because of political decisions, or populist decisions, then the World Cup cannot be played there."

Iran, one of the six countries named, have played in three World Cups including the 2014 finals in Brazil while Syria beat China last October in a qualifier.

"The requirements will be clear. Then each country can make up their decision whether they want to bid or not," said Infantino. "It's nothing to do with the US or not the US, it's a general sporting criteria."—Reuters

PSG players confronted by angry fans at airport

PARIS — Police have launched an investigation after Paris St Germain's players were confronted by angry supporters upon their return to the French capital on Wednesday following their 6-1 Champions League defeat in Barcelona, the Ligue 1 club has said.

The French champions went

into the Round of 16 second leg tie with a 4-0 advantage from the first leg but the Spanish champions scored three goals in the last seven minutes to stage an incredible comeback and win 6-5 on aggregate. Upon their return to Paris, the club alleges the travelling party were verbally abused

and several vehicles damaged at Bourget Airport, while club staff, players and their families had to be escorted from the scene.

"On Wednesday night... the Paris St Germain players were confronted and threatened by several individuals at Bourget Airport," PSG said on its website

(www.psg.fr/en). The club added that the crowd was "physically threatening the players and their families". "A police investigation is underway to establish exactly what happened... The Club strongly condemns the actions and behaviour of the individuals in question."—Reuters