

■ NATIONAL

President U Htin Kyaw presents titles, donates dry rations to Sayadaws

► PAGE 3



■ NATIONAL

Performances in one-year period of Amyotha Hluttaw and Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture

► PAGES 5+6 +11+12



Vol. III, No. 331, 1st Waning of Taboung 1378 ME

www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

Monday, 13 March 2017

CEREMONY HELD TO CONFER RELIGIOUS TITLES ON 165 SAYADAWS, NINE NUNS, EIGHT MEN AND 21 WOMEN

A ceremony to confer religious titles on Sayadaws, nuns and persons was held yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw in conjunction with a Maha Mangala Ceremony to donate rice to the Venerable Sayadaws.

A total of 165 Sayadaws, nine nuns, eight men and 21 women were conferred the titles at the ceremony which was held at Thathana Beikman Building in the compound of the Uppatasanti Pagoda in Nay Pyi Taw.

At the ceremony, President U Htin Kyaw presented the Abhidhaja Maharahttaguru tiles to Sayadaw Bhaddanta Sobhita of Kainggon Pali Tekkatho Monastery in Khayan, Yangon Region, and Sayadaw Bhaddanta Janninda of Paukmyaing Monastery in Lewe.

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi presented the Abhidhaja Maharahttaguru tiles to Sayadaw Bhaddanta Nanninda of Hsinpyugyun Monastery in Chauk, Sayadaw Bhaddanta Oabatha of Atulakari Hsinmin Monastery in Chanmyathazi Township, Mandalay Region, and Dr Nanninsara, Chancellor of the Sitagu International Buddhist Universities.

SEE PAGE 3 >>



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi pays respect to a Sayadaw after donating offertories to the Sayadaw. PHOTO: AUNG SHINE OO

Tatmadaw clarifies “Thiri Mingalar Mahasasana Beikman” issue

TATMADAW True News Information Team has released the news concerning with Thiri Mingalar Mahasasana Beikman in Insein, Yangon Region. Ceremony of offering donation money and stake driving for the building of Thiri Mingalar Mahasasana Beikman to be

constructed and donated by the Tatmadaw families and other donors in the precinct of Abaya Laba Muni Buddha Image existed on Mindhamma Hill of Insein Township, Yangon Region was held in the morning of 9 March, 2017. The news about the event had already been issued through

Myawaddy television and Myawaddy newspaper.

That news was also covered in March 10 issue of the Seven Day Daily with headline title “Stake driving ceremony for Mahasasana Beikman of Ma Ba Tha Sayadaw donated by the group led by Senior Gen-

eral” which is quite different from true story. It is expressed that on account of the request made by President Sayadaw of the Region Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee, stressing the need for a Sasana Beikman in the northern district of Yangon Region, Tatmadaw (Army, Na-

vy, Air Force) families sponsored in collecting the donation money for the building of Sasana Beikman. The building was intended for all Sanghas to be used for holding religious examinations and proliferation of the Buddhist religion.—Myanmar News Agency



သဒ္ဓါထက်သန် မြန်မာအားမာန် ကမ္ဘောဇဘဏ်

11 Foreigners arrested for illegal logging in Manwanegyí



Eleven arrested foreigners seen in front of the vehicles in Manwanegyí area. PHOTO: MNA

ELEVEN citizens from a neighbouring country were captured as Tatmataw columns were conducting area clearance operations in the Manwanegyí area, Bamaw district, in Kachin State.

The Tatmataw proceeded to an area northwest of Manmaw Village on March 11 after being informed that Myanmar natural resources were being illegally taken, where they arrested three Kawwaiyu, Yuchang and Lek-

yarshin, all non-citizens. Seized from the site were 58 vehicles used for carrying logs, four ten-wheeled trucks, one crane and one backhoe. A total of 64 machines and vehicles were confiscated.

The Tatmataw continued its clearance operations around the area and seized another group of foreigners: Keinshanphan, luuppo, lonwankyain, Hlohanyi, Sheekyan, Puyinwai and Cha-

nyulone. Seized were 20 vehicles, 14 ten-wheeled trucks and one backhoe. A total of 35 machines and vehicles were confiscated.

The 11 foreigners and 99 machinery vehicles were transferred to the police station in Manwanegyí area, where a legal process was put into action, according to the office of Commander in Chief of Defence Service.—*Myanmar News Agency*

BFM donates nutritious food to needy to honour Women's Week Myanmar

TO welcome Women's Week Myanmar, the KBZ's Brighter Future Myanmar Foundation donated nutritious food

to monasteries, homes for the aged, nunneries, philanthropic homes, orphanages, hospitals, aged peoples and children

nationwide on 11 March.

Employees of more than 450 branches of the KBZ Bank located in Yangon, Aungpan, Danupyu, Einme, Kawthoung, Kyaikkatt, Kyangin, Kyaukme, Kengtung, Lashio, Dimawso, Maddaya, Maubin, Meikhtila, Magway, Mogok, Moegaung, Muse, Myanaung, Myingyan, Nangsan, Nawngkhio, Patheingyi, Patheingyi, Tachilek, Taunggyi, Thanlyin and Thibaw travelled to monasteries, nunneries and philanthropic organisations which are in need of assistance and donated food.—*Thura Lwin-Eco*



KBZ's Brighter Future Myanmar Foundation donates nutritious food to nuns. PHOTO: THURA LWIN-ECO

Myanmar- China border trade declines because of outbreak of armed conflicts in Laukkai

MYANMAR- CHINA border trade has declined on account of the outbreak of armed conflicts in Laukkai. Nevertheless Chinshwehaw border trade camp is not closed yet despite the armed conflicts between Tatmadaw and National Democratic Alliance Army (NDAA), according to the Ministry of Commerce.

"Currently, the trading through chinshwehaw border trade camp has not been stopped. But, the border trade has slightly declined. But in the case of Muse, the border trade was stopped,"

said an official from the Ministry of Commerce.

The outbreak of fighting in northern Shan State on 20 November 2016 has caused the closure of the 105 Mile border trade zone in Muse.

The local people from Laukkai are running away to China from the conflict zone in which armed conflicts occurred between Tatmadaw and NDAA on 6 March, 2017.

Myanmar border trade camps with Chin are Muse, Loi-gyai, Chinshwehaw and Kan-

piketi border trade camps.

Between 1 April and 17 February in 2016-2017 fiscal year, the trade value of the Chinshwehaw border trade camp reached over US\$ 503 million with US\$ 454.806 million from the export sector while US\$ 48.466 million from the import sector.

The trade values in fiscal year 2015-2016 between 1 April and 2 February were over US\$ 302 million with US\$ 155.071 million from the export sector while over US\$ 47 million from the import sector.—*Min Min*

Two guns regain from gun-grabbers in Maungtaw

TWO BA94 guns among three grabbed by the five suspected from local police officers of Aung Zan police outpost in Aung Zu Ward, Maungtaw Township had been regained yesterday.

A combination of officials from ward administration office and a group of people's militia cleared along the route that the grabbers took and found two unloaded BA94 guns at Wailar Taung creek near mile

post 47.

The interrogation revealed that, two of the suspects were from a village of neighboring country near mile post 43 at Myanmar- Bangladesh border line and the other three are living at Myoma monastery of Maung Taw, it is learnt.

Police guards are in hot pursuit of the gun grabbers and the Bangladesh border has been informed about the case.—*Myanmar News Agency*

A suspect detained in Maungtaw Township

A suspect has been detained at Area No.3, Ward 2 of Taungpyo Latwa'i sub-township in Maung Taw Township at about 9 am yesterday.

While carrying out an area clearance operation near Ward 2 of Taungpyo Latwa'i sub-township, security forces arrested the suspect, Mamad Zubei from Dergyi Zarr Village and investigated him for further information.

According to the investigation, he went to Bangladesh illegally in the previous month and studied in the fifth standard in an Arabic school in Kutubar Laung refugee camp. He could manage to pass the border illegally through a drain tube near Ward 2 of the village illegally to visit his parents at Dergyi Zarr Village of Myanmar. The sus-

pect has been detained in Taungpyo Latwa'i police office to hand over to Immigration department—*Myanmar News Agency*



Mamad Zubei is being investigated for passing border illegally. PHOTO: MNA

More people buying fire insurance

More people in Bago district are buying fire insurance premiums this summer. Currently, about three people are buying fire insurance premiums per day, according to Bago region Myanmar Insurance (MI).

The local people from Bago district are buying more fire insurance because this summer is predicted to be hotter than previous summers. Currently, MI is conducting awareness training regarding fire insurance in the township.

As a result, there were 1,216 people who bought premiums in eight townships in Bago district in the 2015-2016 fiscal year, while 136 people bought fire insurance in January and 162 people

in February.

"Many people will buy fire insurance premiums this summer. There are over 100 people having bought the premium during these one or two months. The premium buyers have to buy at least one year coverage. Houses worth more than Ks 500 lakh need an appraisal report by MI. And appraisals depend upon the situations of the neighbouring houses and apartments," said Daw Than Win, an officer in charge of MI.

According to expert forecaster Dr. Tun Lwin, this summer temperature will be between 40 °C and 43°C in the arid zone and 40 °C in the lower regions.—*Myitmakha News Agency*

Viewpoint tower to be built in Haka

A viewpoint tower will be built in the town of Haka, Chin State, to be able to enjoy the panoramic views of the whole town, said U Zoe Bwe, Hluttaw representative for Haka town constituency 1.

Chin traditional musical instruments and customs will be on display in the tower for visitors wishing to observe the culture of the Chin ethnic people. Benches and sport facilities will be avail-

able on the viewpoint tower.

Co-ordination is being made with the organizations concerned to conserve the environment, preserve wildlife and to make Haka an attractive tourist destination.

Authorities are having hotels built in Haka to accommodate visitors. Currently, preparatory measures are being taken to build the viewpoint tower in Haka.—*200*

CEREMONY HELD TO CONFER RELIGIOUS TITLES ON 165 SAYADAWS, NINE NUNS, EIGHT MEN AND 21 WOMEN



President U Htin Kyaw pays respect to a title recipient Sayadaw after donating offertories to the Sayadaw. PHOTO: AUNG SHINE OO



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi presents a religious title to Sayadaw Dr Bhaddanta Nannisara, Chancellor of the Sitagu International Buddhist Universities. PHOTO: AUNG SHINE OO



Vice President U Myint Swe presents the religious title to Sayadaw Bhaddanta Labavata of Athokayon Monastery in Meikhtila. PHOTO: MNA



Vice-President U Henry Van Thio donates offertories to a Sayadaw. PHOTO: MNA



Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Win Myint donates offertories to a Sayadaw. PHOTO: MNA

>> FROM PAGE 1

Vice-President U Myint Swe, Vice-President U Henry Van Thio, U Win Myint, Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw, U Htun Htun Oo, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the Union, Senior-General Min Aung Hlaing, Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services, Vice-Senior General Soe Win, Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services, Union ministers, Union Attorney-General, Union Auditor-General, Chairman of the Union Civil Service Selection Board, Chairman of the Nay Pyi Taw Council and deputy ministers also attended the ceremony and presented the titles to the Sayadaws, nuns and persons.—MNA



U Htun Htun Oo, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the Union, presents the religious title to a Sayadaw. PHOTO: MNA



Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing presents offertories to a Sayadaw. PHOTO: MNA

POOLSIDE BBQ

Cozy outdoor dining experience

Escape the city in the centre of a lush garden, and savour al fresco dining including grilled specialties. The Poolside Barbeque offers a romantic setting for dining, with its sparkling blue waters, and breathtaking views of Inya lake, making this special outdoor dining experience is revealing soon . .



LOTTE
HOTELS & RESORTS
YANGON

GRAND OPENING 2017, SEPTEMBER



LOCAL Business

Myanmar earns over \$1.6 billion from CMP garment exports



The permitted investment by Myanmar Investment Commission mostly flows into the garment sector.

PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE

THE total value of cutting, making and packaging (CMP) garment exports reached over US\$1.6 billion during this fiscal year, an increase of almost one billion when compared to the same period of last FY, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

Over the past 11 months of this FY, Myanmar earned a total of \$1.649 billion from the garment sector. Last fiscal year, the country earned only \$694 million from its

CMP garment exports.

The permitted investments by Myanmar Investment Commission (MIC) in this fiscal year mostly flowed into the garment manufacturing sector. The ministry predicts that the CMP garment industry in Myanmar is expected to earn about \$1.855 billion in the ongoing financial year 2016-2017.

Myanmar's CMP garment industry includes the manufacturing of shoes, garment and bags. The

country exports its CMP products mainly to Japan, followed by some European countries, South Korea, the U.S and China. According to the government data, roughly 65 per cent of the total investment companies in the sector are from China. The CMP system has been practiced over the last 20 years in Myanmar, with authorities planning to export garments through the Free on Board (FOB) system in the future.—*Shwe Khine*

Import of capital goods continues to decline

THE import value of capital goods between Myanmar and foreign countries hit over US\$6 billion this financial year, but it is less than the same period of last FY by over \$1.4 billion, according to the Commerce Ministry.

From April of last year to February of this year, the government sector imported only \$620 million worth of capital goods while the private sector bought investment goods amounted to more than \$5.5 billion.

When compared to that of

FY2015-2016, the imports by the government sector declined by \$1.496 billion while the value of capital goods import from the private sector also decreased by over \$304 million. Last fiscal year, the country bought capital goods worth \$7.578 billion, including nearly \$2 billion from the government sector and \$5.590 billion from the private importers.

Myanmar also imports raw materials, industrial-finished products and personal goods while exports farm and animal products,

fishery and forest products as well as minerals.

The total value of external trade over the first 11 months of this FY reached more than \$25 billion, including \$15.024 billion from the import sector, and \$10.231 billion from the export sector, with the trade deficit totaling nearly \$4.8 billion.

The Ministry plans to reduce some imported items such as luxury goods, except for essentials, with the aim of decreasing the country's trade deficit.—*Swe Nyein*

Export of rice, broken rice up by 24,000 tonnes this FY

MYANMAR exported over one million tonnes of rice and broken rice to foreign trading partners over the first 11 months of this FY, an increase of 24,000 tonnes compared to that of last FY, reported the Commerce Ministry.

Between April and February of this FY, the country sent 1.428 million tonnes of rice and broken rice to partner buyers. Last FY, a total of 1.403 million tonnes of rice and broken rice were exported.

Myanmar continues to export rice to over 50 countries including Asian countries, EU member states and some African nations, with 70 per cent of rice going predominantly to neighbouring China, the most populous country in the globe. The country conducts rice trading with China mainly through border gates.

Some foreign countries have offered to import Myanmar rice under a government-to-govern-

ment trade deal.

The commerce ministry is putting forth continuous efforts to develop multiple export markets for domestic rice, seeking ways to penetrate international market in cooperation with local rice traders.

The country earned more than US\$2.5 billion from the export of marketable farm products as of 24 February of this FY, according to the statistics of the ministry.—*Khine Khant*

City authorities to establish departure centre for highway buses

A NEW departure centre is planned to be developed in Yangon by the Yangon City Development Committee to ensure the systematic operation of highway buses, according to the YCDC's Revenue Department.

The departure centre will be constructed on 12 acres of land on the back of Thazi Road. Upon completion of the project, highway buses from Aungmyingala Long distance Bus Terminal are to start leaving from the departure centre for their target regions and states.

No exact date to begin the project has currently been fixed by the city authorities. Negotiations have been made by the YCDC and relevant authorities to implement the development project as quickly as possible.

As part of efforts to offer

better transportation services to commuters, an arrival centre has also been established in the city in 2014.

According to the YCDC, more than 800 highway buses are operating through 217 bus lines at the Aungmyingala Highway Bus Station.

Construction of the terminals for the passengers vehicles driving to every parts to the country after fixing below 200 miles as short journey and above 200 miles as long journey, is one of main functions of the Revenue Department under the YCDC.

In order to ensure smooth and secure transportation, the department is also carrying out the construction of a ticket booths, bus parking lots and resting places for travelers in necessary places.—200

Payment for farming machinery in installments aims to solve farm labour shortage

THE number of applicants wishing to buy agricultural machinery under an installment plan reached more than 700, according to the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation.

A spokesperson of the Agricultural Mechanisation Department said that under the current three-year installment plan, farmers will have to pay only a 10 per cent down payment of the total value of the machine.

The government sold farming equipment to domestic growers with a 30 per cent down payment and a 24-month installment plan.

The major aims of the plan are to solve severe shortage of

farm workers as well as boost the country's agribusiness. The scarcity of workers in the farming industry has gradually increased as they continue to go abroad to seek better job opportunities.

The ministry has already established business links with Sonalika, New Holland, Kubota and Daedong companies to implement the project to sell farm tractors, harvesters and related gear in installments.

Growers need to submit their application forms attached with the recommendations of respective ward and village administrators, farm ownership documents and the type of machine desired.—200



A farmer work in a farm with a tractor in Singaing. PHOTO: TIN TIN HTWE

Performances in One-Year Period

Amyotha Hluttaw helps consolidate democracy foundation

Thura Zaw (MNA)

Hluttaw sessions commenced with greetings extended by Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw Mahn Win Khaing Than wishing all the representatives health and happiness and all their dreams and wishes come true.

First regular session of the Second Amyotha Hluttaw commenced on 3 February 2016. In the first day session, speaker and deputy speaker of the Hluttaw were elected among the representatives.

The Second Amyotha Hluttaw formed by representatives elected by the people turned one year now.

The election of U Henry Van Thio of Chin State Constituency 3 as vice-president at the meeting of elected representatives was one of the performances taken by the Amyotha Hluttaw.

He is a member of Public Accounts Committee and was elected as candidate for the vice-president on 11 March and took oath before the Speaker of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw as vice-president on 30 March and assumed the job of the vice-president.

People's desire

As the representatives of the people Amyotha Hluttaw representatives raised questions, submitted proposals and made laws during the one-year period turning people's desire into reality.

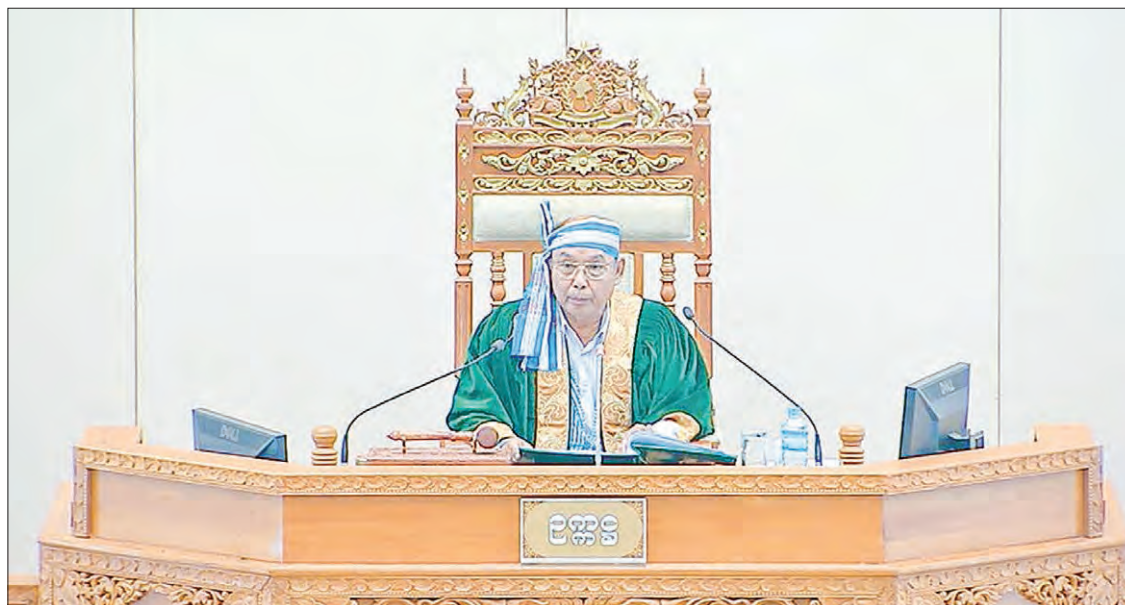
The Speaker of the Amyotha Hluttaw said that Hluttaw representatives made field trips in their respective constituencies, met people and sought what are the people's needs and then came back to Hluttaw to raise questions and make proposals.

284 Questions

In the interest of the people 284 questions marked with asterisk and 160 without asterisk were raised and four proposals were submitted. These questions and proposals were aimed at fulfilling the needs of people which are to be carried out by the Union government.

Four Standing Committees and 12 Hluttaw Affairs Committees were also formed to serve the interests of the people.

Speaker of the Hluttaw explained that Bill Committee, Public Accounts Committee, Hluttaw



Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than. PHOTO: MNA

Rights Committee and Government's Guarantees, Pledges and Undertaking Vetting Committee were formed.

Capacity building

As the committees are mini-parliaments they practice check and balances system scrutinizing the works done by the government. In that regard, they are carrying out the tasks for fulfilling the needs of people, amending or repealing the laws which are not designed to serve the interest of the people and propose laws that will serve the people.

Moreover, to promote the skills of the representatives, scholars and organizations were invited to the meetings held in Hluttaw.

Bill Committee

In accord with the Amyotha Hluttaw Law, Section 24, Paragraph (a), and Bye law Section (44), Paragraph (a), the Bill Committee was formed on 5 February

2016 with 15 members including U Zaw Win of Sagaing Region Constituency No. 6 as chairman.

In the interest of the people 284 questions marked with asterisk and 160 without asterisk were raised and four proposals were submitted. These questions and proposals were aimed at fulfilling the needs of people.

The Bill Committee, during the one-year period, completed 15 laws out of 22 which were discussed in Amyotha Hluttaw. Of

the remaining seven, five laws are under discussion and the rest two have been sent to Pyithu Hluttaw. Pyithu Hluttaw sent 11 laws to Amyotha Hluttaw and of them nine has been completed and two are under discussion. During the one-year period the new government assumed duties, five new laws were approved, eight were amended and six were repealed. All the laws were signed by the presidents.

62 times of committees' meeting

The Bill Committee met UN Special Rapporteur on Myanmar Ms Yanghee Lee and discussed matters on law amendments in the interests of the people. Moreover, 62 committees' meetings participated by the respective ministries, organizations and scholars were also held.

Besides discharging its main tasks of practicing legislative power, Hluttaw representatives are engaged in peace process which is an utmost importance for the nation, said the speaker.

SEE PAGE 6 >>



MPs of Amyotha Hluttaw get parliamentary publications. PHOTO: KYAW ZIN HTEIK (MNA)



Amyotha Hluttaw session is convened in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA

PERFORMANCES IN ONE-YEAR PERIOD

>> FROM PAGE 5

Public Accounts Committee

Public Accounts Committee was formed on 5 February 2016 with Chairman U Saw Than Htut and 14 members. During the one-year period, it held meetings 15 times and met invited guests, attended meetings and ceremonies on 43 occasions.

Under the duty assigned by the speaker of the Amyotha Hluttaw, the Public Accounts Committee invited officials from government and private financial institutions including Myanmar Insurance under the Ministry of Planning and Finance to discuss Myanmar Insurance Law (1993) and Foreign Exchange Management Law (2012). Concerning the laws, debates were made and proposals submitted to the Hluttaw.

In harmony

The activities carried out by the Public Accounts Committee were presented to the Hluttaw and harmonious actions have been taken between the legislative body and the government.

Hluttaw Rights Committee was formed on 8 February with 15 Hluttaw representatives including its chairman U Aye Thar Aung of Rakhine State Constituency No.6 and a secretary.

During the 103 days on which Hluttaw sessions were held, the committee scrutinized and approved the representatives who would attend the sessions. It also supervises the ethics and discipline of the representatives steering them to follow the disciplines.

Myanmar Examination Board Law

During the 11 meetings on legislative affairs held with its members, the committee heard, discussed and made suggestions on the laws especially it discussed Myanmar Examination Board Law with scholars and experts from the Ministry of Education several times and submitted it to the Amyotha Hluttaw.

Moreover, it discussed law enforcement, matters on people to enjoy the protection of law fully, disseminating knowledge of laws among people and amending and repealing laws including making new laws with 61 members including lawyers of Yangon Justice Center.

In depth

In September last year, members headed by the chairman of the Hluttaw Right Committee met Advisor of European Union on Myanmar Mr Andreas Magnusson and discussed matters on measures taken on gaining peace, objectives of the establishment of a federal union and cooperation between Myanmar and EU. It actively takes part in Hluttaw affairs as a part of the Hluttaw.



Amyotha Hluttaw Building. PHOTO: MNA

Government's Guarantees, Pledges and Undertaking Vetting Committee

Government's Guarantees, Pledges and Undertaking Vetting Committee was formed with 15 members on 8 February 2016. The committee led by Chairman U Thein Swe of Ayeyawady Region Constituency No.10 is to watch whether the pledges made at the Hluttaw sessions were accomplished or not.

During the one-year period, there were 246 pledges to be carried out and the committee invited the respective ministries to approve that the pledges are fulfilled and to request them to make reports on work progress. Moreover, they made field trips regularly to check the progress of work practicing check and balance system between the government and the Hluttaw.

Public Complaints Committee

The 15-member Public Complaints Committee formed on 23 February 2016 was led by Chairman U Hsan Myint of Ayeyawady

Region Constituency No.3. Since its assumption of duties to January it received 4367 complaints. The authentic complaints were handled together with respective departments and organizations.

As regard land cases, 358 were transferred to Central Committee of Scrutinizing Confiscated Land and 141 complaints were

to consolidate the laws, fulfilled people's needs by making field trips and scrutinized and settled the complaints made by the public not to cause harm to them.

Citizens Fundamental Rights, Democracy and Human Rights Committee visited prisons in Yamethin and Loikaw and coordinated with officials on human

the national races.

Due to the efforts made by the Local and Overseas Labour Affairs committee, the dispute broke out at Panda Garment Factory in Paleik for 8 months ended and both sides agreed to signed agreements.

These are the tangible proofs of fulfilling the needs of the people by Hluttaw.

The Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker said that the Amyotha Hluttaw is actively and sincerely participating in efforts for ensuring peace and prosperity in the country and emergence of a genuine federal union desired by the people and he invited all the people to participate in these endeavours.

As regard land cases, 358 were transferred to Central Committee of Scrutinizing Confiscated Land and 141 complaints were replied.

replied. Prompt actions have been taken by the committee to settle people's grievances and to fulfill their desires in accord with the law.

12 Committees

The 12 Committees formed in Amyotha Hluttaw made discussions with organizations from abroad and at home, held meetings

rights affairs.

Similarly Agriculture, Live-stock Breeding and Fishery Committee made field trip five times in Taninthayi Region and Rakhine State to improve agro-business and fishery sector.

National Races Affairs Committee visited National Races Development University in Ywathgyi to promote the language, literature, culture and traditions of

Foundation for democracy

By making, approving and discussing laws, practicing check and balance system for the performances of the Union Government and the ministries and giving ears to people's voices, the Amyotha Hluttaw is laying a firm foundations for democracy.



MPs take a oath at Amyotha Hluttaw. PHOTO: MNA



MPs of Amyotha Hluttaw leave the Hluttaw Building in Nay Pyi Taw as the parliamentary meeting ends. PHOTO: MNA



Russia's Aerospace Forces to get 16 new Su-34 jets this year



Sukhoi Su-34 bomber. PHOTO: TASS

NOVOSIBIRSK — Russia's Aerospace Forces will receive 16 new Su-34 fighter-bombers (NATO reporting name: Fullback) this year, Deputy Defence Minister Yuri Borisov said on Friday.

"This year, we expect above the plan supplies of four aircraft, and the overall amount of order for this year is 16 Su-34," Borisov said during the visit to the

Novosibirsk Aircraft Plant named after Chkalov.

The plant has a long-term contract with the Defence Ministry for 92 Su-34 jets and is implementing it with almost one year ahead of schedule, he said.

The Su-34 jet "has shown its best characteristics in the Syrian conflict, has a huge potential for modernization and is almost a plane of the new generation,"

Borisov said.

The modernization of the Su-34 jet at the plant will begin next year. "The programme of Su-34's modernization is scheduled for 2018. We discussed with the leadership of the plant and the United Aircraft Corporation the plans of work on the aircraft as part of the future state arms program for 2018-2025," he said. —TASS

Berlin airport workers to strike again on Monday over pay

BERLIN — Ground staff at Berlin's two airports will start a 25-hour strike on Monday, the Verdi union said on Sunday, stepping up action in a pay dispute that has already caused the cancellation of around 1,000 flights.

Workers at Berlin's Tegel and Schoenefeld airports will walk out at 4 am local time (0300 GMT) on Monday and end the

action on Tuesday morning at about 5 am local time (0400 GMT), said Verdi in a statement.

The union wants an increase in pay for ground staff to 12 euros (\$12.80) an hour from about 11 euros as part of a one-year collective agreement. The employer is offering about 10 cents more an hour over four years.

Carriers including Air Ber-

lin, Lufthansa, easyJet and Ryanair serve the two airports.

Ground staff jobs include checking in passengers, loading and unloading planes and directing aircraft on the tarmac.

Tens of thousands of passengers were stranded in Berlin on Friday as the last strike by ground staff led to the cancellation of nearly 700 flights.—Reuters

Man faces 10-year sentence after scaling White House fence

WASHINGTON — An intruder carrying a backpack was arrested after scaling a fence around the White House and entering the grounds, the US Secret Service said on Saturday, in the latest breach of security at the president's official residence.

President Donald Trump was inside the White House when the male suspect climbed over the fence on the complex's South Grounds at 11:38 pm on Friday, and uniformed officers arrested

him, the Secret Service said in a statement.

The suspect, identified in court documents as California resident Jonathan Tran, 26, is scheduled to appear in federal court on Monday after a judge on Saturday ordered him held without bond, a spokesman for the US Attorney for the District of Columbia said.

Trump earlier thanked the Secret Service and commended the agents for apprehending the intruder.

"Secret Service did a fantastic job," Trump told reporters at the start of a working lunch on Saturday afternoon with several Cabinet members at his golf course outside Washington. "It was a troubled person."

Tran was charged with entering or remaining in restricted grounds while using or carrying a dangerous weapon, and faces a maximum of 10 years in prison, said Bill Miller, a spokesman for the US Attorney's office.—Reuters

NEWS IN BRIEF

China's int'l manhunt for corrupt officials nabs 164

BEIJING — Chinese authorities managed to return to the country 164 corruption suspects previously on the run in an international manhunt starting 2014, Procurator-General Cao Jianming said on Sunday.

The 164 suspects were repatriated or persuaded to turn themselves in from 37 countries and regions, Cao said when presenting a report on the work of the Supreme People's Procuratorate (SPP) at the National People's Congress annual session.

These include 27 wanted fugitives listed in an Interpol "red notice." Of the five most wanted on the list, Yang Xiuzhu, Wang Guoqiang and Huang Yurong turned themselves in to Chinese authorities from the United States, while Li Huabo was repatriated to China from Singapore. Yang Xiuzhu, the number one on China's top 100 fugitives, had been on the run for 13 years.

Yang, former deputy director of the construction bureau of east China's Zhejiang Province, fled China in April 2003 after graft inspectors began an investigation into her alleged involvement in embezzlement. She turned herself in to authorities on 16 November, 2016.—Xinhua

Dutch riot police break up pro-Erdogan demonstration in Rotterdam

ROTTERDAM — Dutch riot police carried out charges on horseback early Sunday to break up hundreds of backers of Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan demonstrating at the Turkish consulate in Rotterdam.

Protesters gathered to show support for the Turkish government after two of its ministers were prevented from campaigning for the referendum next month.—Reuters

Parliament must not have power to veto EU exit: Brexit minister

LONDON — Brexit minister David Davis said parliament must not be able to veto Britain's decision to leave the European Union, urging lawmakers to reject proposed changes to legislation that gives Prime Minister Theresa May the power to begin exit talks.

Davis urged lawmakers in the elected lower chamber of parliament to overturn changes made last week by the upper house of parliament which sought to give politicians more power to reject the final terms of Britain's exit.

"What we can't have is either house of parliament reversing the decision of the British people - they haven't got a veto," Davis said.—Reuters

Death toll from Damascus bombing climbs to 74: Observatory

BEIRUT — The death toll from a double bomb attack targeting Shi'ites visiting a pilgrimage site in Damascus has climbed to 74, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights reported on Sunday.

Most of the dead in Saturday's attack were Iraqi Shi'ites who were going to visit a cemetery near the Old City of Damascus.

There has been no claim of responsibility. The Hezbollah-run al-Manar TV station said it was carried out by two suicide bombers.

Syrian President Bashar al-Assad has been supported in the country's war by Shi'ite militias from countries including Iraq, Afghanistan and Lebanon.—Reuters

Eight fishing vessels trapped in drift ice return to port safely

KUSHIRO, Japan — Eight fishing vessels which were trapped in drift ice in a strait off Japan's northernmost main island of Hokkaido have all returned to their home port safely, the local coast guard said late Saturday.

The 19-ton vessels were trapped in the Nemuro Strait, about 1 kilometre from Rausu fishing port where they are based. The vessels were carrying a total of 56 crewmen, all of whom were reported safe.

The eight ships, which were stuck in drift ice and could not move on Saturday morning, were able to return to port by late Saturday night after a coast guard ice breaker created a passage, the coast guard said.

Hokkaido's northeastern coast facing the Okhotsk Sea is often covered with drift ice in late winter.—Kyodo News

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.

Anger, Hate Speech and Rude Words may lead to blasphemy. Beware!

Khin Maung Oo

ALL countries in the world including our country see today battles, armed conflicts, disputes and controversies. Greed, anger and ignorance are said to be the cause of these evil deeds. To avoid these occurrences, to put it simply, we need to get rid of the said three causes. People overwhelmed by greed and selfishness are likely to try to influence and instigate ignorant or naïve people by creating fabricated stories. At that time, a feeling of hatred or anger is apt to occur in the hearts of the naïve, who are easily deceived. So, anger can be said to result from greed and ignorance. In other words, greed and ignorance result in anger.

Everything and every being have a beginning point. All do not stop at their original stages. They actually pass to the process of maturity or development. A

spark which is very small in the beginning can become a flame that can destroy even a whole forest. Nowadays, a news item has been spreading on website pages. As usual, ultra-opportunists are waiting to ignite a spark of hatred among people to cause riots. Unless an attempt is successful, they will yet try again and again. Regarding this failed attempt, authorities concerned and responsible personnel have issued official clarification statements. Out of all dangers, racial and religious ones are the most sensitive and dangerous. Freedom of speech, expression and worship are our inborn human rights. We can enjoy our rights freely, without harming anyone.

It is very easy for us to upset someone. If we analyze all the conflicts happening around the world, we will find that the root causes

of nearly all conflicts are concerned with religion or race. If someone is annoyed, he will respond to it, physically or verbally. At that time, he may use abusive languages. Anger causes a hate speech using rude words. These offensive words may automatically become blasphemy. In brief, greed and ignorance can be said to be the root cause, that is to say, a spark. And anger, hate speech and rude words that can burst out into blasphemy, can be likened to fuels that can change the spark into a raging inferno.

As known by all, we are trying to march towards the emergence of a federal democratic union under the leadership of our chosen government. To reach our goal, leaders of the country are striving hard to achieve national peace which is vital for achieving development.

While most of us are all struggling to eke out a living, we should notice or glance at our national brethren living in places devoid of peace and stability running for their lives. At a time when they are being displaced from their original locations, we are enjoying and dreaming of creating a better future for all of us. In fact, those displaced people are losing their future as well as their hopes. In the midst of these circumstances, some destructive elements seem to have burning desires to create conflicts and riots. They are itching to force their offspring to go into unstable situations. We are responsible to and can overcome these scourges. So, let us avoid conflicts and disturbances by being careful of what we say and being alert not to fall for the tricks of evil-wicked minds.

Where are Our Dinosaurs Hiding?

Khin Maung Myint

WHILE I was in the matriculation class in the early 1950s, the English text book prescribed was **The Lost World** written by British author Sir Arthur Conan Doyle (first published in 1912). It was a science fiction about an expedition led by one Professor Challenger, its main character. The expedition discovered the prehistoric creatures including dinosaurs, still alive and thriving on an isolated plateau in the Amazon Basin. It was a very interesting book and since then I was obsessed with the dinosaurs. Also the movies: such as the **Jurassic Park** series and other similar ones based on the dinosaurs, kept my interest in them alive.

Later in life, I came across many literatures about the discoveries of dinosaur fossils in many places around the world. When I first learned about the discovery of a never before found species in China many decades ago, I was greatly intrigued to know whether there could be dinosaurs that once roamed in our country too. If they had existed in our country, I thought we too will have dinosaur fossils hidden somewhere.



Apart from the fossils of minor later day species, for example, the fragments of the primates' fossils in the Pakkoku area and fossils of ancient reptiles from the late dinosaur age, no genuine dinosaur fossils were uncovered until lately. Thus the discovery of a bloodied feathered tail of a tiny dinosaur encased inside a piece of amber found in the Hukawng Valley in the Kachin State was a breakthrough. It provided some hope that fossils of larger dinosaurs could also be lying

around waiting to be discovered.

The research carried out on that amber revealed that the feathered tail belonged to a tiny bird-like dinosaur and dated back 99 million years. It could be a hatchling or a juvenile bird that would grow larger or it could be a fully matured tiny bird about the size of a robin. One thing extraordinary about that find is: it was the first time ever, to find a body part of a dinosaur trapped in resin and also dating back closest to the **Jurassic Period**.

Although that discovery may be a breakthrough and something to take pride in, it is regrettable that the said piece of amber was bought two years ago from an amber market in Myitkyina by a Chinese paleontologist. Before this amazing discovery I knew that our Hukawng Valley area produces rare ambers, in which rare species of insects were trapped, dating back so many millions of years. These objects have great scientific values and are great losses to the country as they are now in the

possessions of the foreigners. More regretful is the fact that we learned about the existence of such rare and unique ambers was from the foreign media. At the time the news of this discovery emerged, it was heralded in the world media.

Here, I would like to mention a dinosaur fossil discovery in Thailand. After my retirement in 1996, I used to visit Thailand frequently. On one occasion in 1997, I had an unexpected opportunity to visit a dinosaur fossil site in **Isaan**, which is the name for the North Eastern part of Thailand. While we were on our way by motor vehicle to Ubon Ratchathani Province from Udon Thani Province, both situated in **Isaan**, I saw an interesting billboard by the roadside. It advertised a dinosaur museum nearby, off the highway we were traveling.

My curiosity and my inherent interest in dinosaurs since my high school days incited in me an urge to go and see that place. It was somewhere in the **Phu Wiang** mountain in the Khon Kaen Province. There I found a museum, where the dinosaur fossils and replicated skeletons of different dinosaur species and geological finds were displayed.

SEE PAGE 9 >>

Ground-breaking banking services for Myanmar-American Financial Sector

Aung Tun

IN the past, Myanmar had to make contact with a mediator country for help in conducting banking services with the United States. As of 16 February, that is no longer necessary.

Through efforts by Kan-bawza (KBZ) Bank, the largest privately owned bank in the country, remittances between Myanmar and the U.S. have finally reached international banking standards, a positive step toward the nascent development of Myanmar's economy.

In 2011, the U.S. reduced its economic sanctions over Myanmar in hopes of bettering Myanmar-American relations. Now trade financing and transfer of financing services between Myanmar and the U.S. can be done without delay at any time. Banking-related economic enterprises as well will be able to conduct their business more actively and effectively. Trade and financing are inter-related with each other, so banks and financial institutions will be able to offer smoother trading, better services and more convenience between sellers and buyers.

KBZ Bank can now operate banking services of remittance of financing with their partnership with Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation of New York (SMBC NY), opening a USD Settlement Account. This allows for more immediate and active transfer of financing, and should be considered a ground-breaking landmark for the Myanmar financial sector.

It is necessary to co-operate services in harmony with international banks for the development of Myanmar's financing world. In doing so, banks and financing institutions in our country are playing an important role like a bridge spanning between individuals.

In business, it is a necessity to save time in transferring financing. Availability of a 24-hour-clearance service is needed as well. Operating Services of Settlement Accounts makes banking processes less complicated. It is learnt that payment processes can now be accomplished without delay.

After having signed a Memorandum of Understanding in 2012, KBZ Bank has accomplished this co-operation with SMBC NY Bank, instantly improving the development of Myanmar's economy and financing market.

The Co-partner Committee was formed in November, 2016, with discussions and knowledge-sharing for trade finance, corporate banking and other services completed. In early February, a USD Settlement Account Service was launched with SMBC NY.

KBZ Bank, which was



Dignitaries from the KBZ Bank and SMBC pose for photo at the ceremony to announce KBZ Bank's USD Settlement Account. PHOTO: THURA LWIN

formed in 1994, is currently opening international branches and has been the company that pay the largest amount of taxes to the Union for the past five consecutive years. KBZ Bank achieves awards annually for its state-of-the-art banking services. It is operating services in over 450 branch banks across the nation. It lends the biggest amounts of loans and is simultaneously investing for internationally-standardized services and technical inventions.

A co-partnership with VISA, which has the biggest payment website in the world, has transformed its conventional banking system into a digital financing system that does not require the system of paying in cash. Settlement can be done promptly with the use of the Pay Wave Technique. Travelers and students who go abroad can pay online. The KBZ Explore Prepaid Card can be used in two forms—VISA & Master Card — that can be used for shopping, settling payment and withdrawing, it is learnt.

Union Pay Credit Cards are the most reliable credit cards in Asia, linking with KBZ UPI Classic Card and KBZ UPI Platinum Card.

In February 2016, KBZ Bank inked a Settlement Bank Service Deal with the Yangon Stock Exchange (YSX).

It was found that it has been co-operating with the American company Microsoft to secure financing service in accord with international standards. This will help the development of information technology on banking services and progress in corporate social responsibility. It is hoped that banking services will be promoted by using information technology.

As a campaign for civil society rehabilitation, KBZ established a foundation for the future in 2007, taking part in philanthropic works enthusiastically and donating huge amounts of money amounting to Ks114 billion so far.

Presently, IT began to take place in banking service. It is now bringing about a new electronic banking system in co-operation with Oracle Financial Services Software.

To upgrade online banking, iBanking and mBanking are said to be able to be used in bank branches in which Oracle Flexcube Universal Banking Software after registration.

It is of great importance to apply technology for the development of banking service.

It was also found that KBZ Gateway Company and Hughes Network System US are giving quick and better banking and financial services through Satellite Communication's new technological system.

So as to develop financial sector, which is important for the development of the State, all the staff from KBZ Bank are striving towards world-class banking. I assume that all privately-owned banks in Myanmar need to co-operate with international banks and technological companies. It is necessary for all our local banks and financial institutions to work hand in hand to be able to lift the economic development of the State.

We can also see that all the banks, regardless of its financial volume, are taking part in effectively implementing economic and financial policies.

The heart of a financial system can be likened to soul of all banks. Therefore, I want to assert that banks are greatly important for all the developments of the nation's economy and industries, for the survival of SMEs and prosperity of trade and commerce.

Only if savings and investments are encouraged and there is not a scarcity of capital for investment, will the economy of the State sustainably develop. In laying down economic development plans, investment plays an important role strategically, so the role of banks is vital. I hope that we will see all public-orientated banks develop proportionally, by providing timely banking services for the people.

It will definitely stand tall as an important sector for Myanmar's economic development, provided that sustainably developed banking system strengthens, according to Myanmar's unswerving spirit to keep abreast with the world.

POEM

Fear-stricken

Some people turn their back to the Truth
Though the Truth is close at hand;
For they fear_
no matter the promise was made
to wipe the slate clean,
since their souls couldn't be cleansed_
their wrongs would be out under the sun,
their lives would go helter-skelter.

So time lingers,
and their fear-stricken hearts,
tight-fisted,
get fossilized.

Dr Zaw Tun

Where are Our Dinosaurs Hiding?

>> FROM PAGE 8

There I also had a chance to study the fossilized dinosaur foot prints preserved in the sandstones nearby. I learned that the discovery was made in 1976 while a US led Geological Survey Team was prospecting for uranium and was the first ever discovery in Thailand. The very first find was a piece of bone fragment that was identified by experts to belong to a **sauropod**, a plant-eating dinosaur with very long neck that walked on four legs and could grow to great heights. It was a very interesting and educative experience for me.

Later, I learned that there are three such sites in Thailand. The other two are also in the **Isaan** region. One is at a place called **Kalasin** and the other is at **Nakhon Phanom**. When they discovered the one at **Kalasin**, I was staying in Thailand, so I had an opportunity to get detailed up to date informations from the media as they were divulged.

Taking into considerations the facts that dinosaur fossils of various sizes, ranging from a hen to large dinosaurs, such as the **theropods** and **sauropods** that were nearly 15 meters tall were found in Thailand and also the findings in China led me to believe that our country also could have them. The reasons to believe thus are the similarity in the terrains, vegetations, weather conditions and the habitats in some parts of China, Thailand and our country. Also the closeness of those places is another good reason to believe that these creatures would have roamed to and fro in these region hundred of million years ago.

So, where are our large dinosaur fossils hidden? I'm sure they are somewhere, but what we are lacking are: interests in them, well trained paleontologists, and lack of knowledge by our general populace about the fossils and their values. I included the last reason because I had learned about

some such discoveries in other countries were accidental, made by ordinary persons. Now that the first evidence of the existence of dinosaur, though small it may be, I strongly believe that one day, the remains of larger dinosaurs will be found in our country too.

I would like to mention a strange, but true story of one discovery in Thailand. It was at **Kalasin**. I said it was strange because according to the media stories I had read over a decade ago, an abbot of a forest monastery had a strange dream one night. In the dream he saw many strange creatures beneath the monastery that was built on high stilts to be safe from the dangers of wild animals. As the abbot was a bit knowledgeable of the dinosaurs, he knew those creatures in his dream were dinosaurs. The next day he dug the ground under his monastery. To his surprise he came upon large fossilized bones. The discovery was reported to the authorities that led to the discovery of another dinosaur fossil site. The story sounded supernatural. Though I'm not much into these supernatural things, I had to accept that it was true because the abbot was quite adamant about his dream.

I hope someday we might discover large dinosaur fossils by accident or even by supernatural means. Some may wonder why I'm so enthusiastic about discovering the remains of these ancient creatures that had been extinct for so many million years. The first reason is: it would bring reputation to the country and would attract more tourists and secondly, our people would be more knowledgeable and value our distant past and lastly, it is my obsession with these creatures since my school days. In conclusion, I would like to suggest that trading in such objects of scientific values should be strictly monitored. They are our **National Treasures**.

Abe Cabinet's support rate down 6 points to 55.7%: Kyodo poll

TOKYO — The support rate for Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's Cabinet fell 6.0 percentage points from the previous month to 55.7 per cent in a Kyodo News poll released on Sunday after the emergence of a scandal about a murky land deal involving a school operator with which the premier's wife had ties.

The nationwide telephone survey conducted over the weekend showed 86.5 per cent of respondents said they see Moritomo Gakuen's purchase of a state-owned land in western Japan at a heavily reduced price as inappropriate, while 6.6 per cent said they view it as appropriate.

The land is being used to build an elementary school, with funds for the school allegedly raised using Abe's name. Abe's wife, Akie, was to serve as the school's honorary principal but resigned after questions were raised about

the controversial land deal.

The poll showed 74.6 per cent of respondents said they back summoning of the educational entity's representative Yasunori Kagoike to a parliamentary session to get to the bottom of the land deal.

Opposition parties have demanded Kagoike's summoning but Abe's Liberal Democratic Party has remained reluctant about the move.

Abe said neither he nor his wife was involved in the land deal. Moritomo Gakuen operates a kindergarten promoting patriotism in Osaka city.

The disapproval rating for Abe's Cabinet stood at 30.7 per cent, compared with 27.2 per cent last month. On a contentious bill to criminalize conspiracy to commit terrorism, 45.5 per cent said they are opposed to the bill while 33 per cent said they support it.—Kyodo News

China's investment in Myanmar reaches 2.8 bln USD in 2016-2017 fiscal year



Huawei smartphones displayed at a store in Yangon, Myanmar on 12 March 2017. China's investment in Myanmar reached 2.8 billion US dollars in this fiscal year 2016-2017, drastically down by nearly 500 million US dollars as compared with the previous fiscal year according to the official media on Tuesday. However, China still ranks first overall in the total foreign investment line-up with 18.53 billion US dollars as of January 2017 since 1988, the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration was quoted as saying. PHOTO: XINHUA

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Acting Chief Editor - Aye Min Soe
dce@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

Expatriate Consultant Editor

Mark Angeles
markrangeles@gmail.com

Senior Translators

Khin Maung Oo
editor2@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
Copy Writer Min Zaw

International News Editor

Ye Htut Tin
editor1@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

Local News Editors

Tun Tun Naing (Editor)
intlnews@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
Nwe Nwe Tun (Sub-editor)

Translators

Khaing Thanda Lwin,
reporter1@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
Hay Mar Tin Win,
translator@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
Ei Myat Mon

Chief Reporter

Tun Aung Kyaw,
reporter2@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

Computer Team

Tun Zaw (Chief of Computer Team), Thein Ngwe,
Zaw Zaw Aung, Ye Naing Soe, Nyi Zaw Moe,
Hnin Pwint, Kay Khaing Win, Sanda Hnin, Zu Zin Hnin
Circulation

San Lwin (+95) (01) 8604532, Hotline - 09 974424114

Advertising inquiry

01 8604530, Hotline - 09 974424848
marketing@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

Printed and published at the Global New Light of Myanmar Printing Factory at No.150, Nga Htat Kyee Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon, by the Global New Light of Myanmar Daily under Printing Permit No. 00510 and Publishing Permit No. 00629.

China admits political education for students is poor

BEIJING — China is doing a poor job at political education for university students because the classes are outdated and unfashionable, the education minister said on Sunday in a rare admission of the difficulties faced enforcing a key government policy.

Beijing has campaigned against the spread of "Western values" at universities, and the ruling Communist Party's anti-corruption watchdog last year sent inspectors to monitor teachers for "improper" remarks in class. In December, President Xi Jinping called for allegiance to

the party from colleges and universities, the latest effort by China to tighten its hold on education. Speaking on the sidelines of the annual meeting of parliament, Education Minister Chen Bosheng said Xi had made "important comments" on political education for students in December, but that there were problems on the ground. "When we go and investigate at colleges and universities, attention levels at thought and political theory classes are not high. People are there in body but not in spirit," Chen said.

"Why is this? The contents do not suit their

needs. Perhaps mainly the formula is rather outdated, the tools are rather crude and the packaging is not that fashionable," he added. Students need to be led by the core values of Chinese socialism to ensure their healthy moral growth, and they should also study traditional Chinese culture, revolutionary culture and "advanced socialist culture", Chen said. That is the best way to get students ready to shoulder their responsibilities to society, he added. Crackdowns on what academics and students can say and should think are nothing new in China. Curricu-

lums and speech at universities, in particular, are tightly controlled by the government, fearful of a repeat of the pro-democracy protests in 1989 that were led by students. In 2013, a liberal Chinese economist who had been an outspoken critic of the party was expelled from the elite Peking University.

A year later, the university, once a bastion of free speech in China, established a 24-hour system to monitor public opinion on the internet and take early measures to control and reduce negative speech, according to a party journal at the time. —Reuters

Philippines, Maoist-rebels agree to resume talks next month

MANILA — Negotiators from the Philippine government and Maoist-led rebels have reached an agreement to resume formal peace negotiations next month, a month after an angry President Rodrigo Duterte cancelled talks after rebels ambushed soldiers.

The two sides would hold talks in the first of April to work out a bilateral ceasefire, Duterte's peace adviser Jesus Dureza said after two-day informal talks in Utrecht over the weekend.

"I am pleased to an-

nounce that the peace negotiations between the Philippine government and the Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army-National Democratic Front which broke down weeks ago, are now back on track again," Dureza said on his Facebook post Sunday.

"The parties are expected to start discussions on the bilateral ceasefire during the planned resumption of the negotiations during the first week of April, this year." A second meeting was set for June. The talks are brokered by Norway to end nearly

five decades of conflict, which has killed more than 40,000 people. The communist rebellion is one of Asia's longest-running insurgencies.

The firebrand leader scrapped peace talks last month due to the New People's Army's increasing attacks in the countryside, a violation of its own unilateral truce. He said he would only agree to resume talks if rebels stopped the attacks and extortion activities on mines and plantations.

In Baguio City, a mountain resort city north

of Manila, the president said the government will reciprocate the "valor and courage" of soldiers by providing them with modern weapons and financial benefits. "In the next two to three years, the Armed Forces of the Philippines will have flight simulators, fast boats, radars, assault vehicles, as well as new surveillance and fighter aircraft so you can patrol our borders and seas," he said. He also promised to upgrade the army so it will be "at par with the rest of the world".—Reuters

PERFORMANCES IN ONE-YEAR PERIOD

Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture- Ongoing with dutiful performances on religious and cultural affairs

Yamanya + Nanda Win

THE land of Myanmar, metaphorically known as “Golden Land” has possessed the scenic beauty of nature, pagodas of different ages and styles, interesting fine arts and cultural heritage attracting and enthralling all the visitors and tourists. Shwedagon of Yangon is also one of the most important attractions that all the tourists and visitors never miss to visit.

It is none other than the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Cultures that always engages in the relentless effort in managing the religious and cultural affairs including the tasks to put the most revered and frequented pagodas such as the Shwedagon Pagoda into its highest glory and magnificence. During a year since the advent of incumbent government, the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture formed a new Board of Trustee, revised the rules and regulations to cope with the current situation and carried out the all-round development at Shwedagon Pagoda.

At the Shwedagon, up to the present time, donation money has amounted to US\$ 20 millions and carried out all-round development works ranging from paving the heat-proof tiles, planning to introduce the system to take free care of the foot wears at all the roofed pathways.

The ministry has supervised the work of putting the gold plate of specified quality to the pagoda in the open season of this year. Moreover, Measures have been taken to prevent self-flying drone has been launched to the air above the Shwedagon precincts for the safety of the pagoda.

Board of Trustee has also seen the possibility of using the drone with evil intentions. “The drone carrying the explosives flies over the Shwedagon and may threaten the safety of the Pagoda. As the preventive measure, the Board of Trustee bought the Anti-Drone, installed more

CCTV and also more lighting around the base of Shwedagon”, said the deputy permanent secretary U Zar Ni Win.

Besides, during one year ruling of the new government, the ministry has undertaken the development works at Thiri Minglar Kaba Aye Pagoda, including the dredging and maintenance works of the shallow pond, a fish sanctuary existed since 1952 in the premises of State Pariyatti Sasana University, renovation of roofed pathways and replacing the tiles.

At Sandawshin Kyaikhtiyo Pagoda of Kyaikto, Mon State which is said to be a wonder among Myanmar Pagodas, Ministry has done the necessary changes in response to the critical review of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee on the works of Board of Trustees.

Board of Trustee bought the Anti-Drone, installed more CCTV and also more lighting around the base of Shwedagon”.

According to deputy permanent Secretary U Zar Ni Win, the donation boxes were all under contract between Board of Trustee and individuals and it became much nuisance to the pilgrims. Other commercial works relating to the Kyaikhtiyo Pagoda were also assigned to individuals or organisations under long-term contracts. Actually, those individuals or organisations are not entitled to sign official contracts. At the coordination meeting chaired by Union Minister, all the contracts were revoked. Free accommodation or accommodation at the least reasonable rate was also arranged for the convenience of the pilgrims.

The donation money col-



The Shwedagon Pagoda is always crowded with devotees on the religious days. PHOTO: MNA



The earth-quake hit pagoda in Bagan will be conserved and renovated without losing their original artistic value. PHOTO: REUTERS

lected within four months of the previous year amounted to K 4,893 lakhs and this year under the new government, within the same time span K 15,400 lakhs were collected. The difference is about K 10,564 lakhs. The fact was also publicised through the media.

So also, Mahamuni of Mandalay is the most revered and frequented by foreign tourists and local pilgrims as well. The new Board of Trustee was elected and new rules and regulations were also put in place. Those works were done by joint team comprising the personnel from Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture and Mandalay Regional Government.

During the reign of the new government, residence for the Rector of State Pariyatti Sasana University was built with the combined effort of ministry personnel and other donors. State

Sangha Nayaka Website was launched on 25 August of the previous year so as to be able to give real time information to the world.

In relation to the activities of inter-faith committee, 11

Commercial works relating to the Kyaikhtiyo Pagoda were also assigned to individuals or organisations under long-term contracts.

committees of region and state level, 39 district level, 76 township level totalling 127 committees were formed and 66 activities were passed off at region and state level, district level and

township level.

The law on the protection of hate speech was drafted by inter-faith committee, then reviewed by legal professionals and sent to the Attorney General office, and after acquiring the international assessments through Ministry of Foreign Affairs redrafted the law and is now making an arrangement to submit it to the Security, Peace and Stability and the Rule of Law Committee.

With an unrelenting dedication to the protection of Myanmar Cultural heritage from fading out and disappearing, Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture has renovated the national museum in Nay Pyi Taw and displayed the interesting things. National Museum of Yangon was also renovated and upgraded during one year period of new government.

SEE PAGE 12 >>

PERFORMANCES IN ONE-YEAR PERIOD

>> FROM PAGE 11

Some of the religious edifices in Bagan had been damaged by Richter 6.8 earthquake. According to deputy permanent Secretary U Aung Myint (Culture) of Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture. 389 pagodas were damaged and the ministry could manage to repair the pagodas to the original form with the assistance of Myanmar people and international organisations. The damaged pagodas were categorised into 36 pagodas of first priority, 53 pagodas of second priority and 300 pagodas of third priority

To uplift the culture of ethnic peoples, the traditional performing arts of the ethnic people was included in the 22nd Myanmar Traditional Performing Arts Competition.

and they were repaired under the supervision of the departments concerned, with aids and suggestions from international organisations. Out of 300 pagodas of third category, 224 pagodas to be repaired by local donors.

Besides, the fund to renovate and conserve the pagodas in Bagan have been set up, K5.3 billion contributed by people at home and US\$1.2million by foreign countries including US\$1 million from the government of China so far.

The fund would be spent on renovating and conservation of the quake-hit pagodas in Bagan without losing ancient artistic value.

Meanwhile, as part of efforts for conservation of the country's traditional fine arts, the Fine Arts Department of the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture has conducted the traditional theatrical plays and passed down the arts to the new generation.

"The ministry produced the film on the Thiri Wuntha theatrical play which tells life of people under the landlord and service men during the time of Kongbaung era and attracted the peoples. Other achievements can be seen at the state-level ceremonies in which our ministry entertained the dignitaries with traditional performances. Our efforts could attract the foreign dignitaries," said Deputy Permanent Secretary U Aung Myint.

To uplift the culture of ethnic peoples, the traditional performing arts of the ethnic people was included in the 22nd Myanmar Traditional Performing Arts

Competition.

National University of Art and Culture in Yangon and Mandalay has conducted diploma courses and master-degree courses with the aim of conservation and propagation of Myanmar traditional arts.

"The two universities conducted the exchange programs with foreign universities, said U Aung Myint, "our artistes and foreign artistes jointly conducted performances."

The Department of Archaeology, National Museum and Library published nine research books on history of Myanmar and two journals on history in 2016.

The department also made field trips to historic places in Magway and Sagaing regions and recorded the findings in the places. Meanwhile, the Myanmar Historical Commission was re-formed at the end of 2016, with more members, and plans were laid down to put the history in periods on record.

The National Library of Myanmar also hosted in 2016.

The 17th Congress of South-east Asian Librarians hosted by the National Library of Myanmar, the 2016 Korean-Myanmar Connectivity Forum jointly organized by the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture and the Busan University of Foreign Studies and the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community forum can be seen as achievements of

The department also made field trips to historic places in Magway and Sagaing regions and recorded the findings in the places.

the ministry in 2016.

The Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture also opened the National Library in Nay Pyi Taw to assist those who want to find records and gather knowledge.

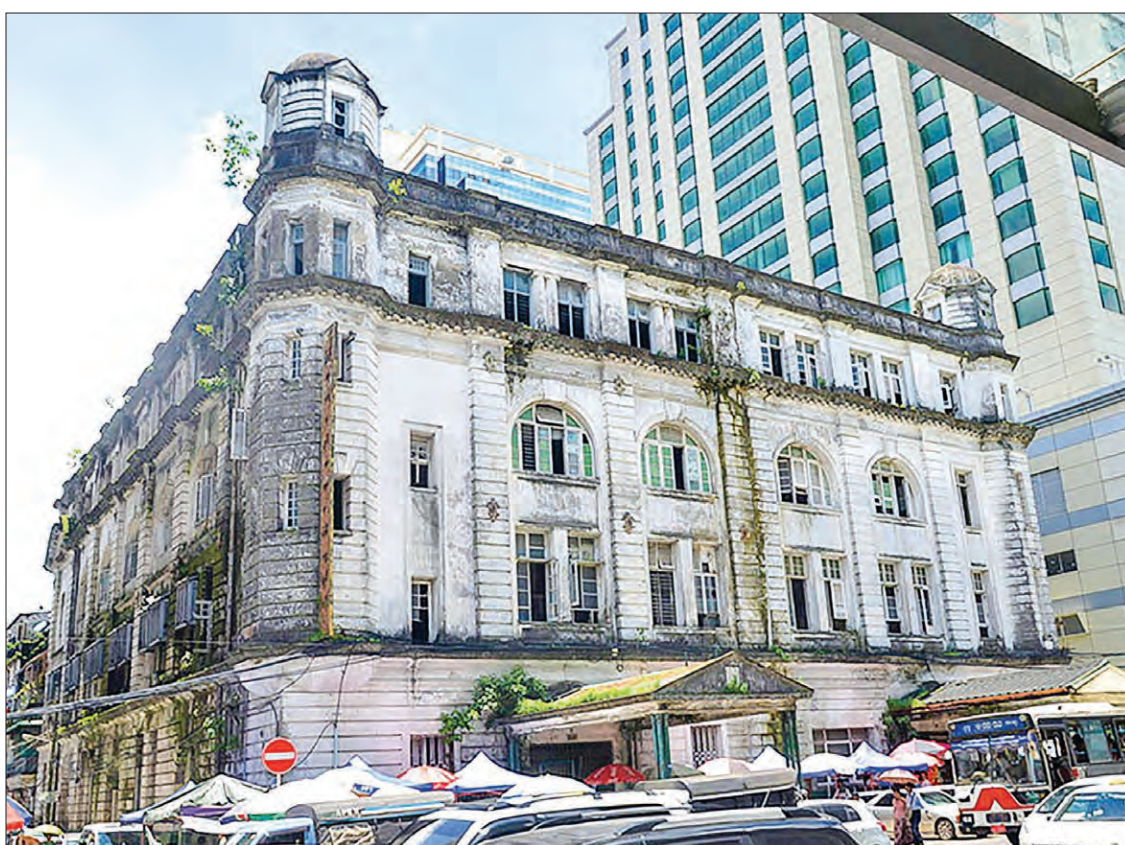
The Ministry has planned to move the National Library in Yangon from an isolated area in Yankin township to the historic building belonging to Burma Oil Corporation (BOC) during the colonial era near downtown Yangon. The National Library has a large collection of books, periodicals, manuscripts and other rare books, holding 172,556 books, 435,580 periodicals, 12,323 palm-leaf manuscripts, 345 hand-written letters, 25,468 rare books and other literary materials.



Artistees perform at the 22nd Myanmar Traditional Performing Arts Competitions. PHOTO: MNA



Union Minister Thura U Aung Ko meets with the Inter-faith Group (Central). PHOTO: MNA



The historic building belonging to Burma Oil Corporation(BOC) in Yangon . PHOTO: MNA

South Korea's disgraced Park leaves Blue House, says truth will out

SEOUL — Disgraced South Korean leader Park Geun-hye left the presidential Blue House on Sunday, two days after a court dismissed her over a corruption scandal, facing life as a private citizen and the possibility of jail.

Park struck a defiant tone upon arriving at her private home in the Gangnam district of the capital, Seoul, after leaving the Blue House compound in a motorcade of fast-driving black cars, flanked by police motorbikes.

"I feel sorry that I could not finish the man-

date given to me as president," a spokesman for Park, member of parliament Min Kyung-wook, quoted her as saying.

"It will take time, but I believe the truth will be revealed," Park said in her first public comments since her dismissal.

She accepted responsibility for the events that culminated in the Constitutional Court on Friday upholding a parliamentary impeachment vote over an influence-peddling scandal that has shaken the political and business elite.

"I take responsibility

for the outcome of all this," Min quoted her as saying.

Park, 65, is South Korea's first democratically elected leader to be forced from office.

A snap presidential election will be held by 9 May.

Her dismissal followed months of political paralysis and turmoil over the scandal that also landed the head of the Samsung conglomerate in jail and facing trial.

The crisis has coincided with rising tension with North Korea and anger from China over the

deployment in South Korea of a US missile-defence system.

Throngs of flag-waving supporters crowded the street outside Park's home as she arrived there about 30 minutes after leaving the presidential palace.

She waved through her car's tinted window as it inched its way down the street, with security men in suits walking alongside.

She stepped out smiling, the public's first glimpse of her since her dismissal, and greeted supporters.—Reuters



South Korea's ousted leader Park Geun-hye greets her supporters as she arrives at her private home in Seoul, South Korea on 12 March, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

Japan PM Abe's support slips amid questions over nationalist school land deal

TOKYO — Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's support rate slipped six points to just under 56 per cent, an opinion poll showed on Sunday, after weeks of questions in parliament about a murky land deal by a school operator to whom his wife had links.

Abe has said neither he nor his wife, Akie, was involved in the sweetheart deal for state-owned land purchased by Moritomo Gakuen, an educational body in the western city of Osaka that also runs a kindergarten promoting patriotism.

But opposition parties are pressing for parliament to call the school principal, who resigned his post on Friday, and others to answer questions about the deal, a demand Abe's Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) is resisting.

Support for Abe's cabinet dropped to 55.7 per cent, down six points from the previous month, Kyodo said.

Nearly 75 per cent of those responding said the former principal, Yasunori Kagoike, should be summoned to parliament to get to the bottom of the deal, which 86.5 per cent said was done at an inappropriately low price.

The drop in support for Abe in Sunday's survey was much less than that in an online survey by the Nikkei business daily last week, which found that Abe's support fell to 36.1 per cent from 63.7 per cent in the previous week.—Reuters



People gather to attend a ceremony to commemorate the 92nd anniversary of the death of Dr Sun Yat-sen at the Sun Yat-sen Mausoleum in Nanjing, capital of east China's Jiangsu Province on 12 March, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

Sun Yat-sen remembered 92 years after death

BEIJING — Ceremonies were held on Sunday to commemorate the 92nd anniversary of the death of Dr Sun Yat-sen, a renowned statesman who led the revolution that ended imperial rule in China.

Representatives from all walks of life attended a ceremony in Zhongshan Park, named after Sun, in Beijing. A moment of silence was observed before attendees showed their respect to Sun by bowing three times in front a statue of Sun. The ceremony was presided over by Liu Fan, vice chairman of the Revolutionary Committee of the

Chinese Kuomintang Central Committee.

Also on Sunday, local officials and residents of east China's Jiangsu Province marked the day at Sun's mausoleum in Nanjing, the province's capital city, honoring his achievements and role in the revolution.

Sun was born in 1866 and is known to the Chinese people as a "great revolutionary and statesman" for his leading role during the 1911 Revolution, which ended more than 2,000 years of feudal rule in China. Sun died on 12 March, 1925, in Beijing.—Xinhua

Invitation of Expression of Interest (EoI) Cooperation with No.16 Heavy Industry (Sinde) No.1 Heavy Industries Enterprise, Ministry of Industry

No.16 Heavy Industry (Sinde) (to produce Agricultural Equipment & Machinery) under No.1 Heavy Industries Enterprise, Ministry of Industry are intended to cooperate with local (and) foreign entrepreneurs as PPP (JV, Lease, etc.)

As a first step, companies who interested in that cooperation are required to submit their Expression of Interest (EoI) not later than 4:00 pm (Myanmar Standard Time), on 4th April, 2017 to Planning Department, No.1 Heavy Industries Enterprise, Ministry of Industry, Office No.30, Nay Pyi Taw, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Interested entities can inquiry and take over the EoI Form and other indications at above office by presenting the document of company profile.

Document of Company profile

- Valid Certificate of Incorporation
- Record and Regulation of Company
- Name of Foreign's Technical Cooperator

(For more information: Phone no: 067-405159, 067-405322)

TRADEMARK CAUTION

AMOREPACIFIC CORPORATION, a company registered under the laws of the Republic of Korea, which is located at 181, 2-ka, Hangang-ro, Yongsan-ku, Seoul, Republic of Korea, is the sole owner of the following trademark:

雪花秀
SULWHASOO

Reg. No. 977/2017

In respect of **Class 3:** Cosmetics; cosmetic preparations for skin care; make-up preparations, namely, make-up base; make-up powder; mascaras; creamy foundation; lipsticks; nail polish; beauty masks for cosmetic purposes; shampoos; dentifrices; perfumery; tissues impregnated with cosmetic lotions; cosmetic soaps.

AMOREPACIFIC CORPORATION claims the trademark rights and other relevant intellectual property rights for the mark as mentioned above. AMOREPACIFIC CORPORATION reserves the rights to take legal measures against any infringer who violates its intellectual property or other legal rights in accordance with the concerned laws of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Daw May Thwe Hlaing, LL.B., LL.M., (H.G.P.)

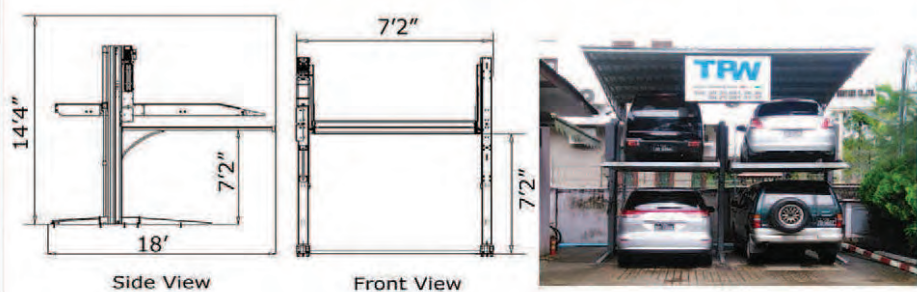
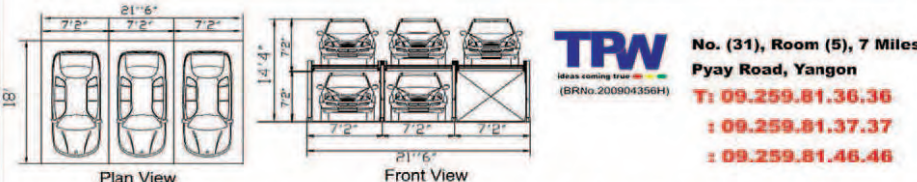
For AMOREPACIFIC CORPORATION

Tilleke & Gibbins Myanmar Ltd. No. 1608, 16th Floor, Sakura Tower, 339 Bogyoke Aung San Road, Kyauktada Township, Yangon, Myanmar.

Email address: myanmar@tilleke.com

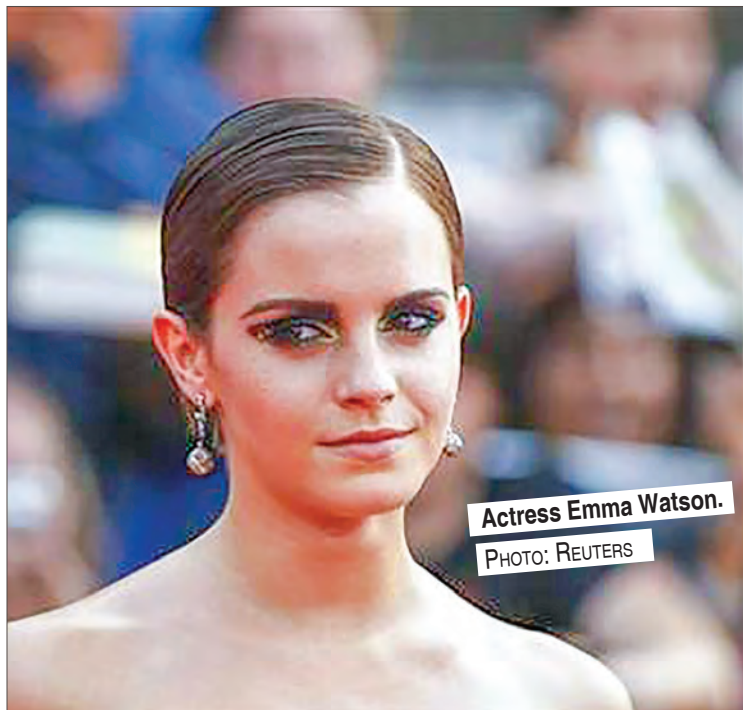
Dated: 13th March, 2017.

ကွန်ပျူတာ စနစ်ဖြင့်ထိန်းသော MECHANICAL CAR PARKING



အမှတ်(၃၁)၊ အခန်း (၅)၊ ၇မိုင်၊ ပြည်လမ်း၊ ရန်ကုန်။

Emma Watson praises Josh Gad



Actress Emma Watson.

PHOTO: REUTERS

LOS ANGELES — Actress Emma Watson has praised Josh Gad for his subtle performance in 'Beauty and the Beast'.

The 26-year-old actress — who plays Belle in the new live-action version of the fairytale — has heaped praise on her co-star for his portrayal of LeFou, Disney's first openly gay character, reported Entertainment Weekly.

"I think that's what's so fantastic about Josh's performance is that it's so subtle. It's always like, 'Does he idolise Gaston? Is he in love with Gaston? What's the relationship there?'" Watson says.

"I think it's incredibly subtle, to be perfectly honest. I don't want people going into this movie thinking there's a huge narrative there.—PTI



Tom Hiddleston. PHOTO: REUTERS

I relished The Adventure Of Kong: Skull Island: Tom Hiddleston

LONDON — Tom Hiddleston says for him "The Adventure Of Kong: Skull Island" was a chance to indulge in a genre he previously hasn't explored with great breadth.

"As it was pitched to me, it was a big adventure film that was quite old-fashioned, but with a very fresh context," he says.

"Truly, I think there's a part of all of us that wonders how we would survive on an island untouched by man. Even better, how we'd survive on an island untouched by man and inhabited by King Kong!"

Hiddleston was involved in the project early enough that he got to have input into developing

his mercenary, ex-special forces character Captain James Conrad, reported Contactmusic.

"I wanted him to be someone who starts off in a world weary place," he says.

"And his experiences on the island give him a new humility in the face of the wonder and power of the natural world."

To make the film, director Jordan Vogt-Roberts took his cast and crew to Hawaii, Australia and Vietnam. "It was a completely unique experience. We traveled to these extraordinary locations where nature is at its most beautiful and terrifying, where you could believe that Kong as a myth could originate," Hiddleston says.—PTI

I am a better person post fatherhood: Elton John

LONDON — Singer Elton John says he is amazed to see by how much fatherhood has changed him for the better.

The 69-year-old singer and his husband David Furnish have two sons, Zachary, six, and four-year-old Elijah — who were born

to a surrogate.

John says it is "unimaginable" how much his life is different now to before he became a parent, and he couldn't be happier with the changes, reported Contactmusic.

"It's unimaginable how the children have changed my life.

Years ago I couldn't imagine becoming a dad, but the kids have changed me so much as a person and for the better.

"I love them more and more every day and being a dad is now the most important thing in my life," he says.—PTI

Adele stops show after fans suffers heart attack

LONDON — Singer Adele had to stop her Sydney concert after a fan collapsed with a cardiac arrest.

The

Grammy winner was forced to halt the performance when a 47-year-old woman suffered the heart condition and emergency services were called, reported Daily Mirror.

More than 95,000 fans had made their way to the ANZ stadium last night and had to clear a path to allow paramedics to get to the ill woman.

The fan was taken to a local hospital in a serious condition, and Adele seemed upset about what had happened.

Eyewitness Meg Rylance says she was sitting in the next row from the woman.

"She (Adele) stopped the concert and she was like, 'I'm so sorry but someone got hurt and I have to check they're okay'.

"She actually seemed really tearful," the concert-goer adds.—PTI



Singer Adele.

PHOTO: REUTERS

'Mr Robot' season 3 gets delayed

LOS ANGELES — "Mr Robot" season 3 has been pushed back.

The show previously

kicked off season 1 and season 2 in the summer but now the third installment won't begin until fall. The show is scheduled return with all-new 10 ep-

isodes in October, reported Ace Showbiz.

"Vinyl" alum Bobby Cannavale joins the cast in a major role while recurring player BD Wong is promoted to a series regular to reprise his role as Whiterose, the leader of the Dark Army.

Sam Esmail will direct all the episodes and Rami Malek is back as Elliot.

"Sam is a true creative visionary who continues to deliver a series that boldly tackles timely issues and leans into the major headlines of the day," says Chris McCumber, President of NBCUniversal Cable Entertainment, in a statement.

"We're eager to share the next phase of Elliot's journey with fans this fall.—PTI

Garage Art Museum exhibition unveils widely-canvassed works by artists from across Russia

MOSCOW — The Garage Contemporary Museum of Art opens its doors on March 10 for the Contemporary Art Triennial, the art venue said in a press statement on Friday.

The exposition brings together works of over 60 artists from different Russian regions, from Kaliningrad to Vladivostok.

“This isn’t behind-the-desk research, six of our curators traveled across Russia for several months and studied the contemporary art scene. This way, we are uniting the regions with

Moscow, including them into the process, even an international process. This will be an ongoing project,” said museum director Anton Belov.

Garage’s curators visited over 40 cities and met with over 200 artists and picked out 60 out of them.

“We decided that we have no right to impose our theme-related fantasies on such rich and diverse material, and so we applied much more intellectual efforts to systematize it (the art). Out of that came about seven directories, the

so-called points of growth, which allow us to describe Russia’s contemporary art scene. They are so universal, so that they can demonstrate style and conceptual key points,” said the exhibition’s co-curator, Alexandra Obukhova.

The “Master figure” directory is composed of well-known Russian artists Dmitry Bulatov, Andrey Monastyrsky and Anatoly Osmolovsky. As the organizers explain, the artists were selected based on their influence, not bound by where they live, and also



Final preparations for the 1st Garage Triennial of Russian Contemporary Art. The exposition brings together works of over 60 artists from different Russian regions. PHOTO: TASS

ongoing project, I hope that it will become a cross-platform and will allow different cities to communicate, for example, Izhevsk with Kaliningrad,” concluded Belov. The Triennial runs until 14 May and includes an extensive educational programme.—Tass

Siberian pageant shows beauty comes in all sizes

KRASNOYARSK (Russia) — In Russia’s snowy Krasnoyarsk, women preparing for a plus-sized beauty contest parade around a hall dressed in ball gowns and swimsuits — but also take classes in kick-boxing and dancing. The competition, now in its

second year, is organized by a local modeling agency, SibPlus. Inna Sertrakova, who works at the agency, said the pageant in May aims to challenge Russian attitudes that equate beauty with an ultra-slim figure.

“We want to show off our femininity even though

it doesn’t conform to current fashion standards because we want to be seen as beautiful,” said Olga Olesnitskaya, 25, who won the competition in 2016.

Another of last year’s contestants, Aleksandra Ryzhenkova, a violinist for the Krasnoyarsk State

Opera Theatre and Ballet, said taking part had helped boost her self-image.

“After my children were born I put on a lot of weight and started trying to hide my figure, she said. “But now, after the competition, all of my insecurities melted away.” —Reuters



Models of the SibPlus Models agency and participants of the Miss Doughnut beauty competition walk during a rehearsal in Krasnoyarsk, Siberia, Russia, on 4 March 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

Scars of looting, destruction all that remain at Mosul museum

MOSUL (Iraq) — After two and a half years under Islamic State control, all that is left in Mosul’s museum are the traces of looting and destruction.

Inside the rubble-strewn building, where militants filmed themselves destroying ancient artifacts, the large stone wing of a statue of lamassu — an Assyrian winged bull deity — lies on the dusty floor among other broken remnants of the past.

A block engraved with Arabic Islamic calligraphy lies close by, and some Islamic manuscripts have been left undamaged. But almost everything else has gone.

“What they didn’t loot they destroyed,” said Lieutenant Colonel Abdel Amir al-Mohammedawi, of Iraq’s elite Rapid Response units, who captured the museum building from Islamic State just days ago.

The battle against the militants still raged nearby on Saturday, however, as a Reuters cameraman visited the site with Iraqi troops.

Dozens of Assyrian, Akkadian, Babylonian, Persian and Roman artifacts that the ransacked museum held have all been stolen or damaged.

“Some were smuggled out of Iraq,” Mohammedawi said.

Islamic State militants filmed themselves smashing some of the building’s contents including priceless statues with sledgehammers in 2015, as part of their highly publicised campaign to erase any cultural history that contravenes their extreme interpretation of Sunni Islam.

But they have also used the antiquities as a source of income. Excavations under an ancient mosque elsewhere in Mosul, recently discovered after the militants retreated, showed that they took care of artifacts for loot.

The efforts to avoid damaging some antiquities contrast with the destruction of ancient sites across Islamic State’s self-declared caliphate in Syria and Iraq, from the desert city of Palmyra to the Assyrian capital of Nimrud, south of Mosul.

—Reuters



A view of a museum, where Islamic State militants filmed themselves destroying priceless statues and sculptures in 2015, during a battle against the militants in Mosul, Iraq, on 11 March 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

mitv

Myanmar International

Programme Schedule

(13-3-2017 07:00am ~ 14-3-2017 07:00am) MST

07:03	Am	News
07:26	Am	Innovative Handiworks Based on The Art of Line Drawing
07:45	Am	village Belle
08:03	Am	News
08:26	Am	“Myanmar’s Beauty and Nature” Beach
08:51	Am	Next Weekend
09:03	Am	News
09:26	Am	On the River
09:48	Am	Artistic Erosion on Steel: Kyi Wynn
10:03	Am	News
10:26	Am	Crab Business (Part-II) Soft Shell Crab

Prime Time

10:38	Am	Conflict & Solution Between Man & Elephant
10:56	Am	[Doctor] [Painter]
(11:00 Am ~ 03:00 Pm) - Sunday Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)		
(03:00 Pm ~ 07:00 Pm) -Today Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)		
07:03	Pm	News
07:26	Pm	Food Trip (EP-4) (Part-1)
07:45	Pm	Gemstone Sculptor
08:03	Pm	News
08:27	Pm	Myanmar’s Traditions and Culture
08:52	Pm	“A stir about of Rainbows”
08:52	Pm	Culture Shows: Theatrical Art
(09:00 Pm ~ 11:00 Pm) -Today Repeat (09:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)		
(11:00 Pm ~ 03:00 Am)- Sunday 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)		

Sevilla title hopes hit new setback with Leganes draw

BARCELONA — Sevilla's hopes of winning a first La Liga title since 1948 were dented for the second time in five days as they were held to a 1-1 draw at home against struggling Leganes on Saturday and dropped points for the second game running.

Sevilla are third in the table on 57 points, three behind leaders Barcelona, who visit Deportivo La Coruna on Sunday, and two behind Real Madrid, who host Real Betis also on Sunday and have an extra game in hand on both their title rivals.

Gabriel Pires gave Leganes a shock third minute lead with a clever backheel from close range

and the Madrid outfit, who are 16th, missed two more chances to double the lead.

Stevan Jovetic pulled Jorge Sampaoli's Sevilla side level two minutes before halftime after Fernando Vazquez had an effort narrowly ruled offside but Sevilla barely threatened to find a winner in a disappointing display after the break.

They were booed off by supporters after again failing to win following Monday's 1-1 draw at Alaves. Sevilla visit Premier League champions Leicester City on Tuesday in the second leg of their Champions League last 16 tie with a

slender 2-1 lead.

"Playing like this we're going to struggle to go far in the Champions League because you face the toughest games against opponents who don't afford you any mistakes," Sampaoli told reporters.

"If we don't manage to improve the way we control games then Tuesday's game is going to be very difficult. Then again, we haven't lost for eight games, but we have to try and do much better than we have been doing recently."

Later on Saturday fourth-placed Atletico Madrid visit struggling Granada.—Reuters

Newcastle shocked by teenage Fulham sensation, Huddersfield win

LONDON — English Championship leaders Newcastle United had their progress halted by a sensational performance from 16-year-old Fulham full-back Ryan Sessegnon, who scored twice in the London side's shock 3-1 win at St James' Park on Saturday.

Sessegnon, a young English prospect who has attracted the interest of Premier League sides, grabbed his double in eight minutes just before the hour as Fulham, who went ahead through Tom Cairney's first-half strike, pulled off a fine victory.

The setback for Rafa Benitez's side, who scored a late goal through Daryl Murphy, means they stay top of the second-tier on 77 points on goal difference from Brighton & Hove Albion, who beat visiting Derby County 3-0 on Friday.

Huddersfield Town moved within six points of the leaders with a game in hand after a 1-0 win at Brentford thanks to Rajiv van La Parra's speculative 28th minute strike.

The Terriers moved five

points clear of fourth-placed Leeds United, who were held 0-0 by Queens Park Rangers at Elland Road where the home side's ex-England keeper Rob Green, 37, made a fine first-half save on his 600th league appearance.

Leeds stay two points ahead of Reading, who lost 3-0 at fellow playoff-chasing team Preston North End after Tom Barkhuizen's brace for the home side. Newcastle suffered a seriously lethargic off-day at St James' Park as Fulham, chasing a playoff spot after a recent run of good form, took the game to the leaders from the start.

Cairney put Fulham in front with a superb 20-metre strike into the top corner in the first half and after the teenager Sessegnon made his decisive contribution, a late goal from Murphy was just a consolation for the Magpies.

It could have been worse for Benitez's side as Tim Ream missed a penalty in added time for Fulham, who moved up to seventh only two points outside the playoff spots.—Reuters

King hat-trick gives Bournemouth vital win over West Ham

LONDON — Joshua King scored a hat-trick and missed a penalty as Bournemouth edged a five-goal thriller against West Ham United to ease six points away from relegation danger on Saturday.

Bournemouth missed two penalties in the first half. King screwed wide in the ninth min-

ute and West Ham went ahead seconds later when Michail Antonio turned smartly and shot past Bournemouth keeper Artur Boruc. The hosts deservedly levelled through King in the 31st minute before Bournemouth were awarded another penalty when Marc Pugh went down in the area, only for Benik Afobe to have his

kick saved by Darren Randolph. King put Bournemouth ahead from Afobe's knockdown early in the second half but Ayew struck eight minutes from time. In a thrilling finale King lashed Bournemouth's winner in the 90th minute after Randolph had saved from Jack Wilshere.—Reuters

Arsenal end Lincoln's Cup adventure with 5-0 romp

LONDON — Lincoln City's fairytale FA Cup run ended at the quarter-final stage as Arsenal put aside their own problems to crush the fifth-tier side 5-0 at the Emirates Stadium on Saturday. It took a labouring Arsenal until first-half stoppage time to take the lead through Theo Walcott but the 12-times winners made their superiority count after the break.

Olivier Giroud side-footed Arsenal's second after 53 minutes and five minutes later Lincoln's hopes were extinguished as their skipper Luke Waterfall turned in Kieran Gibbs' cross into his own goal. Alexis Sanchez, on from the start added a classy

fourth and Aaron Ramsey made it 5-0 to the Premier League side who were humiliated by Bayern Munich in the Champions League in midweek. Lincoln, who became the first minor league side to reach the FA Cup quarter-finals for more than a century by knocking out top flight Burnley in round five, had delighted their 9,000 travelling fans in the first half with a gritty display.

They even went close to taking the lead when Nathan Arnold weaved in from the right and forced Petr Cech into a fine save.—Reuters

Arsenal's Alexis Sanchez in action with Lincoln's Bradley Wood during the FA Cup Quarter Final during Arsenal and Lincoln City at the Emirates Stadium on 11 March, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

