

## ■ NATIONAL

Vice President U Henry Van Thio addresses 2017 World Water Day

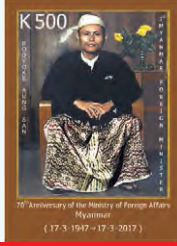
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## Ks30 bil allotted for electricity demands for Yangon summer

THE allocation of Ks30 billion for increased electricity demand for the summer and a Ks5.57 billion allotment for maintenance work on the 29-mile long Phaungpyin-Pinlebu Road in Sagaing Region were discussed on the 14th day, fourth regular session of the 2nd Pyidaungsu Hluttaw held in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

The Deputy Minister for Electric Power and Energy Dr Tun Naing explained matters

concerning the Ks30 billion allocation for power demands for the summer in Yangon Region in accord with the reserve fund of the 2016 Union Budget sent by the President. As to the proposal, the Deputy Minister for Planning and Finance U Maung Maung Win said that the motion was presented to the Union Government to purchase gas-fired generators and diesel-powered generators to be able to meet the increased electricity demand for the summer.

He urged the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw representatives to approve the Ks30 billion allocation for Yangon Region sent by the Union Government with its amendments.

With regard to allotment of Ks5.57 billion for maintenance work on the 29-mile long Phaungpyin-Pinlebu Road in Sagaing Region, Union Minister for Construction U Win Khaing replied that people living along the Chindwin River rely on un-

safe ferries for transport, highlighting the Aung Soe Moe Kyaw ferry that sank during a voyage between Homalin and Monywa on 15 October 2016, resulting in the death of many people including civil servants and students. The Sagaing Region government presented an estimated budget to the Union Government to construct a new road along its 29-mile length, he added.

If the proposed budget is allowed, construction of the

road will start in the third week of March this year. The project is expected to be completed in June in line with the set standard. He continued that maintenance works for the road must be carried out before the rainy season, saying the budget allotment from the presidential reserve fund should be approved. Regarding the requested budget allocation, Deputy Minister U Maung Maung Win said that  
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## Tatmadaw continues operations after 48 clashes with MNDAA

AS government troops were conducting area clearance operations from 6 to 12 March, there were at least 48 armed clashes with the Myanmar National Democratic Alliance Army (MNDAA), resulting in the deaths of dozens of soldiers.

The MNDAA armed group has been fighting against the Tatmadaw troops nearby the border area with China at four locations, taking advantage of the terrain. Tatmadaw troops continue area clearance operations.

In the attack on a hotel in Laukkai in the pre-dawn hours of 6 March, an MNDAA armed group of about 45 seized car keys hanging in the gate's entry-post and stole 300 million Yuan, abducted 120 male and 150 female hotel staff members, with motor vehicles parked in front of the hotel, according to a statement from the Tatmadaw.

One of the abductees who refused to follow them was shot dead. One of the female staff members was allegedly raped. The rest were taken away by car, according to the Tatmadaw statement.

While taking a brief stop, 50 women were chosen to be forced to serve in their group, apart from women from a neighbouring country. Out of the 120 abducted males,



This car was destroyed by fire in the 6 March attacks by the MNDAA in Laukkai. PHOTO: MNA

10 from the neighbouring country were released. The remaining 110 males and 150 females were taken to Namsang in cars. According to sources, it was learnt that all the abductees who were taken away to Kone Gyan township via Namsang, which is the stronghold

of the MNDAA, would be forced to undergo military training, according to the Tatmadaw.

As a result of the brutal armed attacks of the MNDAA in Laukkai, five locals and five traffic policemen were killed and four others abducted. Scores of citizens were

injured, public buildings were destroyed.

The attacks of 6th March included an incident where about 300 MNDAA members disguised in police uniforms entered Yanlonekyine Police Station, Laukkai Township, at about 2 am. The in-

surgents opened fire, prompting officers of the Tatmadaw-Myanmar Police Joint Security Force to engage in a protracted gun battle. The Yanlonekyine Police Station is a usual rendezvous point for members of the Tatmadaw and Border Security.

A few hours later, about 50 MNDAA armed troops infiltrated the house of U Wai San, a member of the Kokang Self-Administered Zone Directorate, and retreated at about 5 am, according to official reports. The insurgents also attacked the Kyintin Hotel and badly damaged four vehicles. The MNDAA troops earlier raided the cash counter at the Fulilight Hotel around 2:30 am.

Following the attack, State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, in her capacity as the chairperson of the National Reconciliation and Peace Centre, strongly urged all the armed groups to abandon the armed attacks, saying that the violence would bring about nothing but sorrow and suffering for the innocent local tribes and races. She urged them to join the dialogue for national peace and march together with the people on the path of peace with unified strong spirit on the basis of equality.

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သဒ္ဓါထက်သန် မြန်မာအားမန် ကမ္ဘောဇဘဏ်

# Pyidaungsu Hluttaw debates over refinery, fertilizer factories issues

THE topic of sub article 2 of the 2017-2018 fiscal year's National Planning Bill was put up for consideration to Hluttaw representatives after the Joint-Bill committee issued an appraisal. Deputy Minister for Electric Power and Energy Dr. Tun Naing stated the Department for Transport and Distribution of Oil and Chemicals' Oil Refinery (1) (Thanlyin) and fertilizer factory (3) (Kyawswar) have been temporarily shut down after careful inspections by the Hluttaw.

A proposal was submitted to continue production for the fertilizer factory (1) (Salay) and Liquefied Petroleum Gas factory (LPG) (Minbu). The two factories are still running and tender contracts have been signed with allotted budget from the 2016-2017 fiscal year and are expected to arrive in the 2017-2018 fiscal year. The two tender contracts are also included in the allotted budget and after careful reviews it was found that possible conflicts could arise between the two contracted companies and therefore the contracts should be free from secession and the two factories allowed to continue running.

The fertilizer factory (2) (Kyunchaung) and methanol factory (Seikthar) are submitted for demolition and the fertilizer



**Deputy Minister for Planning and Finance U Maung Maung Win.** PHOTO: MNA

factory (4) (Myaungdagat) and fertilizer factory (5) (Kangyidaunt) were constructed from a loan budget from China and were constructed in 2010 and 2011, respectively. Daily production of natural gas is about 12 million cubic meters. Daily production of fertilizer is about 500 tonnes. The factory in Nyaungdon produces 9.5 million each and 300 tonnes of fertilizers daily, so therefore they should be allowed to continue running.

The LPG factory (3) (Kyunchaung) has been halted and production being shifted to LPG factory (2) (Nyaungdon) while Oil Chemical Plant (Tampayarkan) will be put up to the



**Union Minister for Industry U Khin Maung Cho.** PHOTO: MNA

Hluttaw for inspection.

Deputy Minister for Planning and Finance U Maung Maung Win, Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation U Hla Kyaw and Union Minister for Industry U Khin Maung Cho discussed the factory matters.

The Speaker for Pyidaungsu Hluttaw announced that discussions and decision making concerning the aforementioned Bill will be conducted on the 15th day of the 2nd Pyidaungsu Hluttaw 4th Regular Meeting.

Daw Khin San Hlaing from Pale constituency answered questions concerning the "budget, basic considerations and policies of the National Budget Allowance



**Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation U Hla Kyaw.** PHOTO: MNA

Bill for 2017." The price for a new motor vehicle minus tax is not too high as it ranges between Ks 20-30 million for each vehicle. The situation is such that we can afford new vehicles which can last five to ten years. That is why a proposal is urged to Government Departments to review and reconsider spending the national budget on endless repairs of old vehicles and to set up plans for purchasing vehicles with five to 10 service years in mind.

The capital for purchasing new motor vehicles will amount to just half of the billions allotted by the national budget on big and small repairs and about 300-400 vehicles can be afforded to be

replaced annually. Maintenance for the new vehicles will not cost as much as the current older ones and the old motor vehicles can be auctioned off or melted in metal factories to recover a considerable amount of the national budget. The newer motor vehicles are also designed to save 50-70 per cent of gas, saving the national budget and they are designed with better safety in mind for its passengers. Concerning the aforementioned Bill, twelve Hluttaw representatives engaged in discussions.

Afterwards, Deputy Minister Dr. Tun Naing and Deputy Minister U Maung Maung Win discussed the topic of a "Euro 23.883 million loan from Germany's KfW Development Bank sent by the President for Ministry of Electric Power and Energy and Ministry of Planning and Finance to provide adequate electricity 416 villages in Southern Shan State".

Later, Deputy Minister U Maung Maung Win explained the loan amount of US\$200 million for Development Policy Operations (DPO) from the World Bank." The Speaker concluded by announcing Hluttaw representatives wishing to discuss the case can register in the waiting list. —Myanmar News Agency

## 29th Anniversary of fallen students Ko Phone Maw and Ko Soe Naing



**The 29th anniversary ceremony in remembrance of fallen students Ko Phone Maw and Ko Soe Naing is held at the Yangon Technological University.** PHOTO: DT

THE 29th anniversary ceremony in remembrance of fallen students Ko Phone Maw and Ko Soe Naing was held yesterday at the Great Hall of Yangon Technological University. Ko Phone Maw and Ko Soe Naing were killed during pro-democracy student protests in 1988.

At the ceremony honouring the two students and other fallen monks and students during the 88 revolution, State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi sent a formal message to the ceremony.

The ceremony was held with the aim of ensuring that dictatorship does not rise again and protecting and upholding the democratic—HWA

## Coordination meeting for eradication of child labour

A coordination meeting to draw up a national-level work plan for eradication of child labour was held yesterday morning at Thinhaha Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw.

U Thein Swe, Union Minister for Labour, Immigration and Population made a speech expressing the Ratification 182 of Child Labour In The Worst Form (ILO Convention 182) was signed in confirmation on 18 December, 2013 and the report of implementation was submitted to ILO.

The 4 year-project from 31 December 2013 to 31 December

2017 for Eradication of Child Labour was implemented.

Holding discussion courses to enhance the knowledge related to child labour, campaigning with pamphlets, holding the ceremony for worldwide eradication of child labour, drafting the list of work places and works hazardous to child labour, carrying out the direct supporting of works in Yangon Region, Ayeyawady Region and Mon State, increasing the youngest age of a labour from 13 to 14 in the 1951 Factory Act and 2016 Law of shops and work place were

implemented.

As child labour issue is very subtle, delicate and sensitive and it has direct impact on poverty and natural disasters, the Minister called for the people to make it a national issue and take part in striving for the eradication of child labour hand in hand with the government.

After the Minister's speech, ILO Liaison Officer Mr. Rory Mungoven gave a speech of greeting.

The Coordination Meeting will go on for 4 days till 16 March. —GNLM

## Storeowner charged with child abuse

A storeowner in Mingaladon Township is accused of child abuse on the two children working at her store. The Yangon Region Police Force is taking legal action against her.

"We received reports that the storeowner was beating the child helpers so we went to investigate with certain childcare organisations and found the children to be covered in bruises and wounds. The children also testified they were beaten with iron rods and belts and people in the community also came forth as witnesses. We will take legal action against the abusive storeowner," Mingaladon Township Police Force Chief Police Major Mya Htun Kyaw said.

Ma Phyu Phyu Htun (also known as) Daw Nge, 40, is the owner of Swe Nyinaung Store located on Monywa Street near the AungMinglar bus terminal in Mingaladon. After receiving reports of child abuse, the 6th Security Police Force of the township along with

concerned organisations and witnesses went to investigate at 3:05 in the morning yesterday. There they found Ma Htet Htet Zaw, 12, from Taungtwingyi, Magway and Ma May Thazin, 10, from Kyaiklat, Ayeyarwady covered in wounds from abusive beatings.

"The children were admitted to Insein Hospital and their caretakers notified of the incident," said Deputy Police Major Mya Htun Kyaw. Ma May Thazin started working at the store a month ago while Ma Htet Htet Zaw started work 7 months ago. The storeowner Ma Phyu Phyu Htun (also known as) Daw Nge is to be prosecuted for child abuse by the Mingaladon Police and an inspection by the Anti-Immigration Task Force (6) will make inquiries on the possibility of child trafficking.

"Currently we have not found any evidence of child trafficking," said an official from the Anti-Immigration Task Force (6) (Yangon). —Myanmar News Agency



**Ma May Thazin's wounds from the abusive beatings.** PHOTO: MNA

# Vice President U Henry Van Thio addresses 2017 World Water Day

U Henry Van Thio, Vice President and Chairman of the National Water Resources Committee, addressed the gathering at the ceremony marking the International Water Day 2017 held at the Myanmar International Convention Centre 2 in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

"The special subject of focus of the World Water Day 2017 is wastewater. There is a great need for recycling of wastewater for reuse and for all the water-related stakeholders to pay great attention to the task of reducing the wastage of water. We need to protect and manage water resources systematically for ensuring sustainability of water resources and quality of water. For Myanmar, we must implement a multi-dimensional water resources management project to the fullest extent and work hard so that we will become a country where water resources can be utilized effectively. So to effectively manage all the water resources of the State, it is necessary to systematically manage the rivers and river basins. While undertaking necessary reforms of infrastructures and organizations, we must undertake capacity building of personnel from water-related departments, organizations and stakeholders," the Vice President said.

Vice President added that development growth and envi-

ronmental responsibility go hand in hand.

"People are required to co-operate with the government to develop distribution of water, sewage system and water treatment, environmental sanitation, sectors on agriculture, livestock breeding, hydropower, industry and tourism and concurrently not to harm the natural environment. Plus, it needs to increase co-operation in knowledge and technology concerning uses of water among water users. Storage of water more than ever can solve water problems to some extent, hence the need to give priority to rain water harvesting. Now, arrangements are being made to build more infrastructures to store more water and to launch campaigns for using water systematically to prevent wastage of water. On the other hand, we need to co-operate with respective ministries and organizations to implement preventive measures needed to alleviate water-related natural disasters.

"It is necessary to use modernized techniques and systems in forecasting for the future. We need to strive for the emergence of monitoring systems that will allow timely responses if water quality-related problems occur. A National policy for future water management was formulated with the support of an advisory board of the National Water



Vice President U Henry Van Thio addresses ceremony to mark World Water Day 2017. PHOTO: MNA

Resources Committee. And arrangements are being made for formulating a Water Law which will comply with the policy of the State. Matters relating to the development of the Myanmar Water Sector, Monitoring and Assessment works of the Meteorological and Hydrological Department and Ayeyawady River Development Works are currently being implemented with a World Bank loan. Myanmar is taking part in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals for the eradication of pov-

erty, protection of the earth and supplying water sufficiently to the world, as laid down by the United Nations."

Afterwards, Mr Abdoulaye Seck, the World Bank's Country Manager in Myanmar, Mr Wouter Jurgens, Netherlands Ambassador to Myanmar and Mrs. Kaye Schofield of Australia Water Partnership Organization and Dr Kotaro Takemura of Japan Water Forum and Secretary-General of APWF also addressed the gathering, followed by posing for documentary photo with the

Vice-President and those present at the ceremony.

Present at the ceremony were Union Ministers, Deputy Ministers and members of Regions and States' Cabinets, Hluttaw representatives and committee members of water resources committee, scholars from home and abroad, and representatives from civil societies.

22 March is designated as World Water Day and is celebrated in most of the countries in the world, it is learnt.—Myanmar News Agency

## MYANMAR GAZETTE

### Appointment of head of service organization

THE President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has appointed U Thant Sin, Deputy Director-General, International Organizations and Economic Department under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs as Director-General of the Protocol Department on probation from the date he assumes charge of his duties.—MNA

### Moderate earthquake hit near Taikkyi

A moderate earthquake of magnitude (5.8) Richter Scale with its epicenter inside Myanmar (about (5)miles West-Southwest of Taikkyi) about (22) miles Northwest of Kaba-Aye seismological observatory was recorded at (20) hrs (49) mins (06) sec M.S.T on 13<sup>th</sup> March, 2017.—MNA

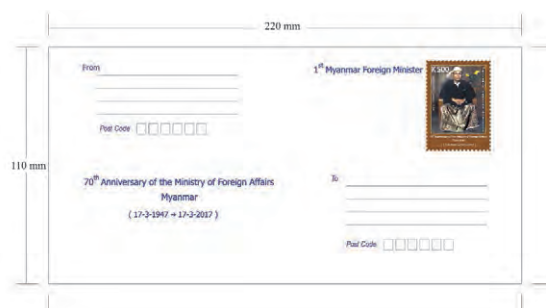
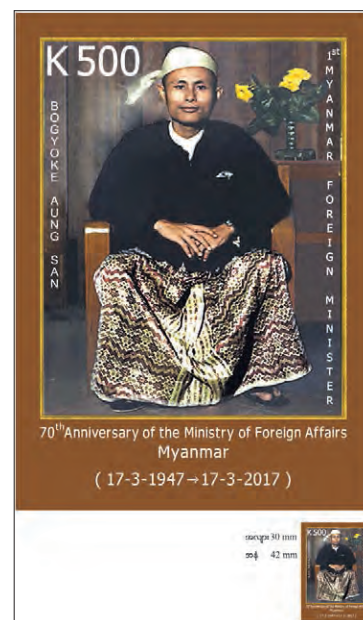
## Bogyoke Aung San stamps and envelopes to be sold

STAMPS bearing the likeness of Bogyoke Aung San, the father of modern-day Myanmar and the country's first foreign minister, will be sold starting on 17 March, according to the Ministry of Transport and Communications.

The Ks500 stamps and envelopes will be available at each and every post office in all Regions

and States as a memorial of 70th anniversary of Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

It is reported that the date will be printed on the first day of issue for stamps and envelopes bought on 17 March at the Central Post Office of Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon Post Office and Mandalay Post Office.—Myanmar News Agency



A labourer unloading rice from a ship at Botahtaung Jetty.

PHOTO: PHOE KHWAH

## Rice exports increase in this FY

### Ko Moe

THE Ministry of Commerce announced yesterday that rice exports reached 1.5 million tonnes on March 3 in the 2016-2017 Fiscal year, an increase of 70,000 tonnes from the previous fiscal year.

"We suffered some losses last year due to natural disasters, but this fiscal year we did better," said Permanent Secretary U Toe

Aung Myint from Ministry of Commerce.

Myanmar exports the most rice to its neighbours China and Thailand through the border trade. Exports used to be done mainly by sea routes but starting in 2011 exports through the border became the preferred route.

"In the past we did 80 per cent of our exports by sea route, but after permission to trade through the border, use of the sea

route declined. However there has been some increased trading by the sea route recently," said U Toe Aung Myint.

The Ministry of Commerce announced that in the 2015-2016 fiscal year 21 per cent of exports were done by sea route while 79 per cent were done through the border. The highest export value was in the 2014-2015 fiscal year with 1.8 million tonnes of rice exported.

# LOCAL Business



PHOTO: PHOE KHWAH

TRADE value at the Muse border, which usually has the largest amount of trade, slumped by US\$325.769million as of 3rd March in the current Fiscal Year 2016-2017, according to statistics released by the Commerce Ministry.

Muse border trade from 1st April to 3rd March this FY fetched US\$4.55 billion, whereas the value at a similar point

last year was US\$4.88 billion. The drop in trade was attributed to the outbreak of armed conflicts in these areas and the confiscation of illegal rice exports by China authorities, it is learnt.

The total border trade value as of 3rd March this FY was up by US\$ 194.029million when compared to that in last FY in spite of the fact that Muse, Kengtung,

Kawthoung, Htee Khee and Sittway border trade camps show a decrease in trade value. Chin Shwe Haw and Myawady border trade camps performed the best with increase of over US\$200mill and over US\$170million respectively.

The country is conducting the border trade with neighbouring countries via border trade camps: trading with Chi-

na through Muse, Lweje, Kanpikete, Chinshwehaw and Kengtung, with Thailand through the Tachilek, Myawady, Kawthoung, Myeik, Htee Khee, Maese and Mawtaung border gates. The cross-border trade camps between Myanmar and Bangladesh are Sittwe and Maungtaung, while the country trades directly with India via the Tamu and Reed border gates. —*Mon Mon*

## Broom Reed Plants from Khamaukkyi Township exported to foreign market

BROOM reed plants from Khamaukkyi Township, Kawthoung District in Taninthayi Region are flourishing, with the product being sent to the domestic market as well as to

the neighbouring countries such as Thailand, it is learnt from broom businessmen in Khamaukkyi Township.

They are still unable to produce finished products, the local residents are still

benefitting financially by harvesting the plants, said a local.

The locals have to cut down the branches of these broom reed plants in the forest. Then the branches

must be stripped of flowers and dried for export. The businessmen from Khamaukkyi Township this year extended their businesses, said one entrepreneur. —200

## Rakhine fishery businessmen faced with shortages of shrimp larvae

A SHORTAGE of shrimp larvae due to loss of breeding grounds and destructive fishing practices has become a major problem in the Rakhine shrimp farming sector.

The cause for the crisis in shrimp farming is multi-faceted. Overfishing of shrimp larvae in past years in Rakhine State has adversely affected shrimp production. The lack of high-quality shrimp feed and shrimp hatcheries has caused problems for the businessmen. It is now rare to find quality shrimp larvae, forcing farmers to buy shrimp larvae, an additional cost.

“Only those who can afford a high capital are working. The shrimp production of Rakhine State has declined by about half over the past few years,” said U Zaw Min, a fishery businessman from Minbyar Township.

Shrimp farmers in Rakhine State usually breed the shrimp larvae caught from sea, rivers and creeks in shrimp farming lakes. The drop in Rakhine shrimp larvae has resulted from loss of mangroves where shrimp larvae proliferate, destructive fishing practices such as using closely threaded fishnets or electrocution using car batteries, fish toxins and erratic weather changes, ac-

cording to the Rakhine Fishery Partnership.

Out of four shrimp hatcheries in Rakhine State, the Maungtaung shrimp station cannot produce larvae while the rest are thriving. The Yaychanpyin shrimp hatchery in Sittway has been producing them since October. They have a plan sell the shrimp larvae at under Ks10 per head. The shrimp farmers can directly link to the hatchery or they can place order from a Thailand shrimp larvae producing company, said Dr. Nyunt Wai from Rakhine State Fishery Department.

Rakhine State has the most land devoted to shrimp farming with about 155,533 acres, according to 2015 data from the Fishery Department. Despite having four shrimp hatcheries, there is still not enough shrimp larvae, said the Rakhine fishery businessmen.

Fishermen in Rakhine State usually wait for the time when the shrimp larvae emerge along the coast, which depends on weather conditions. The shrimp production will drastically plunge down further if the shrimp fingerlings do not emerge by the end of this month, said fisherman U Than Kyaw. —*Myitmakha News agency*

### CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

MV BBC ODER VOY. NO ( )

Consignees of cargo carried on MV BBC ODER VOY. NO ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 14.3.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T-5 where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT  
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY  
AGENT FOR: M/S BEN LINE AGENCIES PTE LTD

Phone No: 2301928

### CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

MV OCEAN DESTINY VOY. NO ( )

Consignees of cargo carried on MV OCEAN DESTINY VOY. NO ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 14.3.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T-2 where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT  
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY  
AGENT FOR: M/S PACIFIC BASIN SUPRAMAX LTD

Phone No: 2301928

### CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

MV HAN DE VOY. NO (H1710E)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV HAN DE VOY. NO (H1710E) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 13.3.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.I.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT  
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY  
AGENT FOR: M/S HANSSY SHIPPING PTE LTD

Phone No: 2301928

# Performances in One-Year Period

## Accomplishments of the judicial pillar in its reform mission during the one-year period

Naing Lin Kyi

OF the three branches or the three pillars of sovereign power of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar — the legislative power, the administrative power and the judicial power — the judicial power is entrusted to the Supreme Court of the Union, Region High Courts and State High Courts, district courts, township courts, special courts in accord with the 2008 Constitution and the relevant laws. Judicial affairs are being conducted by the Union Supreme Court, 14 region/state high courts, 72 district courts, 330 township courts, 22 special courts.

### A promise for justice

The judicial pillar of Myanmar guarantees quality services, free and fair hearings and equal justice for every person, while placing the mission of winning public trust and reliance as its priority goal. It is also receiving international cooperation in its reform process.

On 15 June 2016, the Union Supreme Court and Federal Court of Australia signed MoU to cooperate in yearly implementing the judicial strategy of Myanmar and follow-up judicial procedures.

On 1 December 2016, the Union Supreme Court and the Embassy of Denmark in Myanmar signed MoU for further enforcement of the rule of law and promotion of human rights in Myanmar.

The Union Supreme Court on 18 March 2016 signed the amendment of the document with Japan International Cooperation Agency-JICA on the discussion in connection with judicial affairs of Myanmar.

The judicial strategy (2015-2017) was drawn to implement the policy, targets, objectives and work programs of the Union Supreme Court. The second year of the strategy fell in the first year term of the government in office. The strategy has five areas – to enable people to enjoy equal rights in justice through the provision of proper protection, to promote public awareness in the judicial matters, to promote freedom of justice and responsibility and accountability of the courts, to guarantee the quality, fairness and dignity of the judicial affairs.



High court advocate certificates were conferred on 1087 lawyers and Higher-Grade Pleader certificates on 1530 persons in 2016.



Director-General of the Union Supreme Court U Ko Ko Naing



Director-General of the Union Supreme Court Daw Aye Aye Kyi Thet

**As a public awareness campaign, the Union Supreme Court published 380,000 copies of pamphlets explaining about crimes, civil laws, capital punishment, writs, and court procedures in the whole country.**

### Upgrading of judicial services

All the procedures of the courts are posted on [www.union.supremecourt.gov.mm](http://www.union.supremecourt.gov.mm) which is the Internet page of the Union Supreme Court and the social network page of Public Relations Division of the Union Supreme Court in real time for ensuring transparency and enabling people to enjoy justice on equal terms.

As a public awareness cam-

paign, the Union Supreme Court published 380,000 copies of pamphlets explaining about crimes, civil laws, capital punishment, writs, and court procedures in the whole country. The Union Supreme Court also makes arrangements for university law students to study its procedures in person.

### Structural reformation

With the aim of providing

better and quality judicial and court services, a new building for the Union Supreme Court was inaugurated on 16 May 2016. The building houses public rest room, media room, civil law cases and writs acceptance counters, and counters for advocates, correspondence and copier machine services and other necessary services. These counters and rooms facilitate public services at the

Union Supreme Court and ensures public satisfaction.

The Union Supreme Court in implementing the judicial codes of conduct has made improved, modified or adjusted some of them to become more perfect. Union Supreme Court took the assistance of the Denmark government, UNDP and ICJ in holding the Third Dialogue in Myanmar on 28 last month. The Union Supreme Court opens case acceptance counters, advocate counters and general services counters to provide one-stop services for all.

Opening of Dekkhinathiri District Court, Namhsam (North) Township Court, Dekkinathiri Township Court at new buildings has smoothened their procedures and provided convenience for the public. Hence, a new building for Hlaingthaya Township Court was permitted at a construction cost of K 1379 million in fiscal year 2016-2017.

### Spacious courts

Separate rest rooms for witnesses, lawyers, law officers, information centres for the public, enquiry counters, case acceptance counters, wheel-chair path for the disabled, media interview rooms, spacious temporary lock-ups, and security gates are included in erecting a new court building to have all the necessary court facilities and services.

A pilot project is under way to facilitate court procedures at all levels. The pilot project covered Toungoo District Court in Bago Region, Hlaingthaya Township Court in Yangon Region, and Hpa-an Township Court in Kayin State. The project which started in 2015 showed significant signs of improvement at the courts in 2016 during the one-year period.

So, in 2016, five more courts — Chanayethazan Township Court in Mandalay Region, Patheingyi Township Court in Ayeyawady Region, Magway Township Court in Magway Region, Monywa District Court in Sagaing Region and Mawlamyine District Court in Mon State were added to the project.

### Code of judicial conduct

The Union Supreme Court held the meeting on the review and development of codes of judicial conduct for two times.

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## PERFORMANCES IN ONE-YEAR PERIOD

### >> FROM PAGE 5

It also held the meeting with the participation of Denmark, UNDP and ICJ on 28 February this year in Myanmar. The aim of the meeting was to make the codes of judicial conduct in Myanmar to be in conformity with the international practices and norms.

Judge efficiency improvement courses were conducted under Presentation, Mock Case Study, Sharing Experience Style, Group Work which was a new system, with the help of JICA. Mock Case File, Flowcharts were used as teaching aids at the course. At the course, Casflow Management was conducted with the cooperation of USIDA, Fair Trial Standard with the cooperation of UNDP, and International Standards to Juvenile Justice with the cooperation of UNICEF.

As for the staff of Union Supreme Court, basic computer courses, job efficiency computer refresher courses, mid-level computer courses and other necessary courses are being conducted. Region and state high courts also conducted courses on Introduction to International Computer Driving Level, Fair Trial Standards Training and Rule of Law Principles and Evidential Analysis with the help of UNDP for the efficiency improvement of their judicial staff and office staff.

High court advocate certificates were conferred on 1087 lawyers and Higher-Grade Pleader certificates on 1530 persons in 2016. Moreover, a total of 1323 persons were acknowledged as interns of the profession.

### Caseflow Management

As to reduce time, cost and energy the defendants, plaintiffs and witnesses have to use in visiting the courts time and again to the most possible degree, the Union Supreme Court has worked in coordination with the USIDA.

Caseflow management is the process by which courts move cases from filing to closure. This includes all pre-trial phases, trials, and increasingly, events that follow disposition to ensure the integrity of court orders and time-



The Union Supreme Court held the meeting on the review and development of codes of judicial conduct.

ly completion of post-disposition case activity.

Effective casflow management makes justice possible not only in individual cases but also across judicial systems and courts, both trial and appellate. Effective casflow helps ensure that every litigant receives procedural due process and equal protection. The quality of justice is enhanced when judicial administration is organized around the requirements of effective casflow and trial management.

Crucial issues that impact the effective movement of cases from filing to closure include: Court system and trial court organization and authority relationships, including the management of judges by judges; The identification, development, selection, and succession of chief judges and court managers, chief judge/court manager executive leadership teams, and the best use of these and other multi-disciplinary executive teams; Allocation of court resources: judges, man-

## Effective casflow management makes justice possible not only in individual cases but also across judicial systems and courts, both trial and appellate.

agerial, technical and administrative staff; budgets; technology; and courthouses, courtrooms, and other facilities across courts, court divisions, case types, and particular types of hearings; Application of court technology and the court's research, data, and analytic capability; and Coordination with the judiciary's justice system partners.

Caseflow management is the process by which courts convert their "inputs" (cases) into "outputs" (dispositions). This conversion process, casflow management, determines how well courts achieve their most fundamental and substantive objectives and purposes. Properly understood, casflow management is

the absolute heart of court management.

The system was introduced in the three courts of the pilot project — Toungoo District Court, Hlinethya Township Court and Hpa-an Township Court — on 1-7-2015. The review of their functions after the one year period has shown the satisfaction of all stakeholders has increased to 66 per cent. Hence, Monywa District Court, Mawlamyine District Court, Magway Township Court, Chanayethazan Township Court and Patheingyi Township Court totaling five courts were put under the Casflow Management project beginning 1-10-2016.

As to ensure full rights for the prisoners and detainees the Union

Chief Justice, judges of the Union Supreme Court, chief justices of High Courts of the regions and states and judges are visiting prisons, detention centres, correction centres and police lock-ups and meeting with prisoners and detainees. They check whether the prisons, detention centres, correction centres and look-ups are in accord with the required norms such as sanitation, food, health condition, welfare, accommodation, access to medical care, and safety at the sites.

The judicial system of Myanmar meets the norm widely accepted and applied by the democratic countries, and the existing laws are constantly protecting and promoting the legal rights of the citizens. All along the early term of the government in office, the Union Supreme Court with the effective cooperation of the people and partner organizations has been steering all the subordinate courts towards improving their procedures and winning public trust and reliance.

**High court advocate certificates were conferred on 1087 lawyers and Higher-Grade Pleader certificates on 1530 persons in 2016. Moreover, a total of 1323 persons were acknowledged as interns of the profession.**



Newly constructed Namsang Township Court.

# KBZ employees makes pilgrimage to Buddha Gaya

MORE than 165 employees of the Kanbawza Group of companies donated cash to Buddhist monasteries in Buddha Gaya in Bihar State, India, during a pilgrimage trip.

During the three-day trip, the chairman of KBZ Bank and his family donated US\$45,000 to Nalanda University, US\$5,000 to the Maha Bodhi Monastery and US\$3,500 to Maha Bodhi (Chinese) Monastery. Employees donated more than Ks1.4 million, US\$3,960 and 46,000 rupees to Maha Bodhi Monastery, US\$1,420, 32,250 rupees and more than K1.4 million to Maha Bodhi (Chinese) Monastery and US\$8,228, 40,110 rupees and K640,000 to Nalanda University.



They also offered silk saffron robes to the Buddha Statue in the Maha Bodhi Pagoda and a lotus robe to the Bo Tree.

They also visited religious sites and places of pilgrimage in Gaya district in Bihar.

For Buddhists, Bodhi Gaya is the most important

of the main four pilgrimage sites related to the life of Gautama Buddha.

The seventh pilgrimage trip sponsored by the KBZ family began on 10 March by MAI charter flight. So far about 1,000 employees have participated in the annual pilgrimage.—Thura Lwin (Eco)

## Suspect for truck driver murder arrested

A man suspected of murdering a truck driver who was found dead in the Botahtaung containers yard in Yangon on 10 March, was arrested yesterday, according to the Botahtaung Police Station.

The police managed to arrest Aung Zaw Min at his home in Maubin, Ayeyawady Region, on suspi-

cion of killing Thein Zaw, also known as Soke Phwar.

Ko Tun Tun Min, the brother of Thein Zaw, found the body of the victim, who is a truck driver, near the truck which the victim drives, on the morning of 10 March and informed the police. The suspect is the conductor and was working together with the victim at

the same truck.

Several stabs wounds made with a screwdriver were found on the neck and chest of Thein Zaw, according to the police. During the interrogation, Aung Zaw Min said a brawl happened between them under the influence of alcohol before the murdering.—Myanmar News Agency

## Ks30 bil allotted for electricity

>> FROM PAGE 1

Ks5.57 billion was approved by the Union Government to undertake maintenance works for the 29-mile long Phaungpyin-Pinlebu Road that can be used in all seasons. He underlined that upgrading of the road will enable the local people to enjoy better transportation and contribute to regional development.

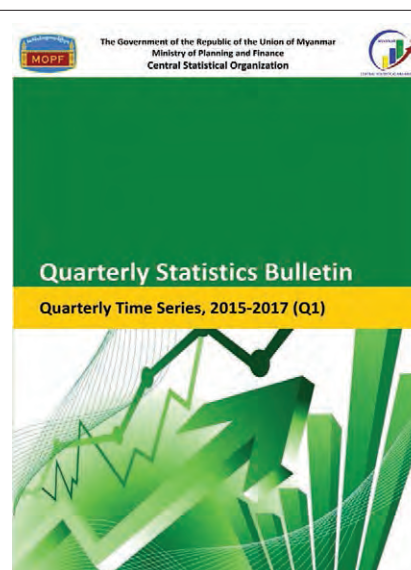
The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker announced that the parliamentarians are to enlist if they wanted to discuss the budget

allotment from the reserve fund.

Concerning the Ks400 million allocation from the reserve fund of the 2016 Union Budget for conservation and sustainability of Inle Lake in Southern Shan State sent by the President, the Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation U Hla Kyaw explained that priority will be given to dig sand and silt on Kalaw and Ngaphe creeks under the 5 year Action Plan for the Sustainability of Inle lake.

He also clarified matters on allotting Ks400 million from the reserve fund of the Union Budget to purchase a dredger for the sustainability of Inle lake in Shan State.

Afterwards, the Deputy Minister for Planning and Finance U Maung Maung Win made a supplementary clarification. The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker sought approval from the MPs, announcing the motion had passed with 531 votes in favour, 1 against and 1 abstention.—Myanmar News Agency



**Quarterly Statistics Bulletin** has been published by Central Statistical Organization as international statistical bulletins. It is mentioned the methodology sheets on statistical sources, a glossary and an analytical index. It can take the better response to the information scope and depth of user needs. The price is 3,500 kyats.

It is available for the purchase at Central Statistical Organization, Office No(32), NayPyi Taw, Myanmar, Central Statistical Organization Yangon Branch, No(1), Thit Sar Road, Yankin Township, Yangon and Sar Pay Beik Man Store (Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon) will be purchased.

Phone : +၉၅-၆၇-၄၀၆၃၂၅, ၆၇-၄၀၆၂၀၉,  
၆၇-၄၀၆၃၃၆, ၀၁-၆၇၂၃၀၈

### INVITATION FOR PRICE QUOTATIONS

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar has received financing from the International Development Association (IDA) towards the cost of the National Community Driven Development Project (NCDDP). The IDA N° of the financing agreement is N° H814MM. The Department of Rural Development (DRD) of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation, in its role as implementing agency of the NCDDP, intends to apply a portion of the proceeds of this financing towards eligible payments under the Purchase Order/Contract for the supply of Vinyl Posters. DRD now invites eligible suppliers to express their interest in supplying the following items:

**Reference Number: G 53 – COMMUNICATION MATERIALS: VINYL POSTERS**

| Reference No.                    | Lot N° | Item N° | Description                                                                                                                           | Quantity |
|----------------------------------|--------|---------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| G 53                             | 1      | 1       | Project Cycle Poster                                                                                                                  | 9,600    |
|                                  | 2      | 1       | Grievance Poster                                                                                                                      | 9,600    |
|                                  | 3      | 1       | ECOPs – Environmental Code Poster                                                                                                     | 9,600    |
|                                  | 4      | 1       | Positive and Negative List Poster                                                                                                     | 9,600    |
|                                  | 5      | 1       | Finance Poster                                                                                                                        | 9,600    |
|                                  | 6      | 1       | Procurement Poster                                                                                                                    | 9,600    |
|                                  | 7      | 1       | Social Accountability Poster                                                                                                          | 9,600    |
| <b>Supply to (Project Sites)</b> |        |         | Department of Rural Development, Office No.(14),Nay Pyi Taw and forty seven (47) Township Offices spread over the National Territory. |          |

Expressions of Interest must be submitted in a written form to the email address below and clearly indicate the reference number above. Eligible suppliers having expressed interest will receive an INVITATION TO QUOTE (ITQ). Sealed Quotations will be submitted to the address below at the latest at the dead line of **Friday 31 March 2017 at 11 am Myanmar time.**, after which no Quotations will be accepted.

The goods will be contracted in 7 (seven) contracts. Suppliers will be selected following the Shopping Method as per the “Guidelines for Procurement of Goods, Works and non-Consulting Services under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits & Grants by World Bank Borrowers” dated January 2011.

Please submit your Expression of Interest for receiving the Invitation to Quote (ITQ) to: U Kyaw Soe, Deputy Director General, Department of Rural Development, Office No.(14), Nay Pyi Taw. For detailed information please contact U Kyaw Swa Aung, Director, Procurement and Logistic Section, Mobile phone 0943434333 or office phone 067409071/ Email: [unioncddprocurement@gmail.com](mailto:unioncddprocurement@gmail.com). Please indicate your e-mail address as only electronic copies of the ITQ will be send. For more information on the NCDD Project please also visit Website: [www.cdd.drdmyanmar.org](http://www.cdd.drdmyanmar.org).

### INVITATION FOR PRICE QUOTATIONS

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**Reference Number: G 59 – COMMUNICATION MATERIALS: T-SHIRTS and CAPS**

| Reference No.                    | Lot N° | Item N° | Description                                                                                                                           | Quantity |
|----------------------------------|--------|---------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| G 59                             | 1      | 1       | T-Shirts with the logo and text of the NCDD Project                                                                                   | 75,000   |
|                                  | 2      | 1       | Caps with logo of the NCDD Project                                                                                                    | 75,000   |
| <b>Supply to (Project Sites)</b> |        |         | Department of Rural Development, Office No.(14),Nay Pyi Taw and forty seven (47) Township Offices spread over the National Territory. |          |

Expressions of Interest must be submitted in a written form to the email address below and clearly indicate the reference number above. Eligible suppliers having expressed interest will receive an INVITATION TO QUOTE (ITQ). Sealed Quotations will be submitted to the address below at the latest at the dead line of **Friday 31 March 2017 at 10 am Myanmar time.**, after which no Quotations will be accepted.

The goods will be contracted in 2 (two) contracts. Suppliers will be selected following the Shopping Method as per the “Guidelines for Procurement of Goods, Works and non-Consulting Services under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits & Grants by World Bank Borrowers” dated January 2011.

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# Opinion

## Write for us

We appreciate your feedback and contributions. If you have any comments or would like to submit editorials, analyses or reports please email [ce@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com](mailto: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.

## Live to learn and learn to live

Kyaw Myaing

SINCE the dawn of civilization the function of learning has always been an important part of our lives. In Myanmar which is a predominantly Buddhist country, this statement has even more relevance and meaning.

In the world there are of course many theories and philosophies about the meaning of life. There are different answers to the question "why do we live". For Buddhists, it may be said that we live to know and understand the Four Noble Truths. The goal of every Buddhist is to attain Nivarna either in this life or in the shortest possible time in future lives. All Buddhists believe that we have to wander in this endless cycle of births and deaths called Samsara.

That is why all good Buddhists try to do good deeds and avoid evil deeds. For us, the purpose of living is to accumulate good deeds in this life. Buddhists believe that the main goal in life is to acquire knowledge and wisdom. The purpose of our life is to gain as much knowledge and wisdom as possible so that one day we

would reach our final goal of Nibanna.

The path laid down by the Buddha is quite simple: follow the Noble Eightfold Path. If we simplify it we get the three-step approach namely, Sila or Conduct, Samadhi or Concentration and Pyinya or Wisdom. So for a good Buddhist, he or she would try to lead a life of virtue based on the Buddhist precepts. All good Buddhists try to abide by at least the Five Precepts: not to kill, not to steal, not to tell lies, not to take drugs or intoxicating drinks and not to commit adultery.

In Myanmar, the first thing you would notice as you travel from the city of Yangon to other towns and villages is that in almost every town and village there is a pagoda and a monastery. The pagodas are symbols of peace and learning for if we visit a pagoda, we will encounter images of the Buddha in many poses. The most popular pose is of course the crossed-legged pose where we can see the serene face of the Buddha in deep meditation. This is called the Dhyana

mudra. All Buddhist monks of Myanmar have two main purposes in donning the yellow robe and living a life of virtue. The first is to learn the Buddhist scriptures and the other is to do Vipassana or Insight Meditation. All Buddhist monasteries in Myanmar are places of learning. In the olden days when Myanmar was ruled by the Burmese kings, young boys from the villages go to the monasteries to learn how to read and write. The young boys are called "phongyi kyaungthars" which means boys who live in the monasteries. These boys are taught not only the three R's but also other useful subjects such as astrology, herbal medicine and the Jatakas or the lives of the Buddha.

Let us discuss now what we mean by "Learn to Live". These three words have a very deep meaning. It means we should know how to live a virtuous life as good Buddhists. However, if we expand the meaning of these three words, we get a very good advice. In this day and age Myanmar citizens need to learn to live in

peace and harmony with other citizens whether they are from different religions or from other racial groups. By learning to live in peace and harmony all of us will have a greater chance of reaching the goal that we all desire. Just as every brick of a pagoda is important to serve as a symbol of peace and wisdom, in the same way every family is important to build a community which enjoys peace.

As Myanmar is a union of different ethnic races, we should all learn to live in peace and harmony. To be able to do this, we have to respect the religious beliefs of other ethnic races. One of the most practical things we could do is to study about the traditions and cultures of other ethnic races. In a very cosmopolitan city such as Yangon, where we have different communities with different religious beliefs, we need to have respect for each other and live in peace and harmony. Narrow-mindedness and selfishness will lead us to discord, disunity and destruction. Harmony and Understanding can lead us to peace and prosperity.

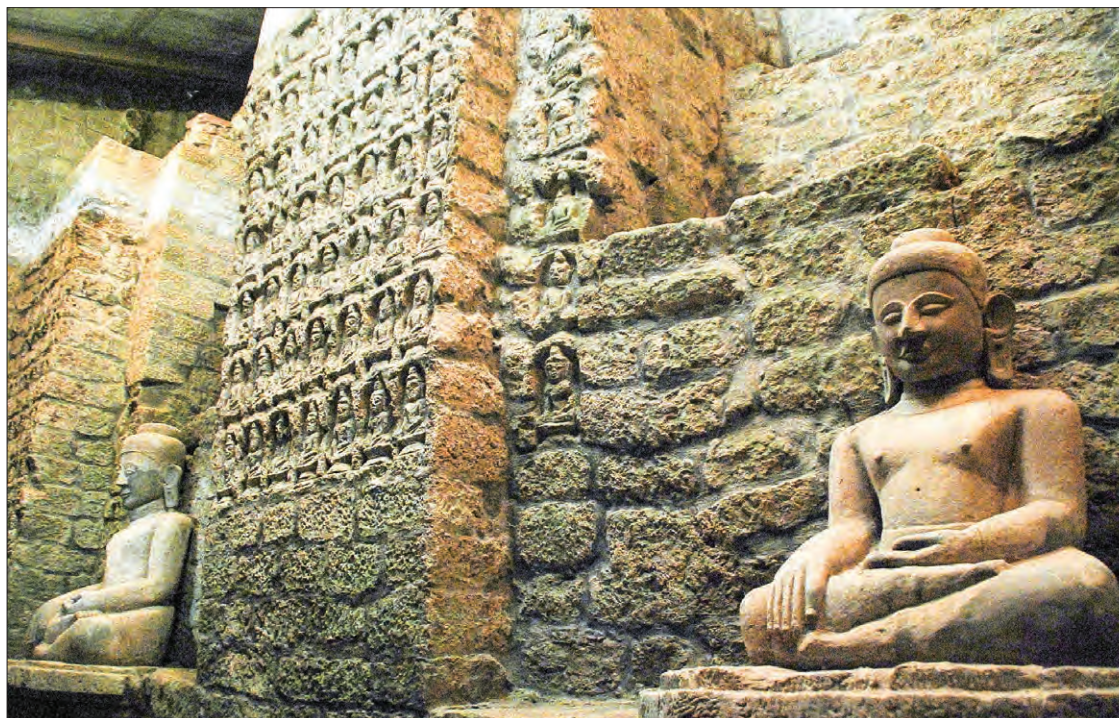
# The promising Rakhine tourism

Htay Win

THE western Myanmar which looks like a crescent land along the coastal area is Rakhine State. It possesses the blue sea and green forests with streams and rivers networks. Rakhine State is famous for its rich historical and cultural legacy having been an independent country for thousands of years. It has passed through the sweet and bitter history for centuries.

According to UNESCO, there are two kinds of culture. They are tangible culture and intangible culture. Tangible culture is the religious and monarchical buildings that we can see and touch such as stupas and temples, churches and mosques, moats and palace walls and so on. Intangible culture is customs and traditions which the people stick to for thousands of years with a pivot between West and East civilization.

From October to March is the best time to visit with temperature from 22 degree Celsius to 35 degree Celsius. The common places to visit are Sittway, MarukU and Ngapali beach with good and favorable infrastructures and



One of the tourists attractions in MraukU. PHOTO: PHOE KHWAH

services. People are mostly honest and pretty friendly depending on their happiness in life. The western culture influencing on the local culture to some extent, the people wear both traditional and western clothes, especially for townspeople. But, mostly the people are traditional.

Built Sittway also known as

Akyab in 1827, Sittway is located by the sea and it has a beautiful view point park for relaxing in the Bay of Bengal. The places to visit in Sittway are Lawkanandar pagoda, Lawkachantha Buddha image, Kandawgyi lake and Ye Kyaw Thu monastery. The national museum is for those who have interests for the cultural ob-

jects and old artifacts. Conducting the urbanization by the Scottish people, they based on three main roads like Mawlamyine.

Built MraukU in 1430 AD, it was the capital of the last Arakan dynasty. Being a cultural and historical center, it attracts the tourists to come and see. The views and architectural designs of

Mrauk U is different from Bagan's, having linkages with India. But they created their own architectural designs even though they had linkages with India in the medieval period.

The most important architectural designs are Chitthuang, Htokkanthein and Kothaung pagodas. Cambodia is the top tourist destination in the world having two world heritage sites such as Angkor archeological park dated back to 12th century and Preah Vihear temple dated back to 11th century. The government started conservations over MraukU stupas providing 124 Millions k in January, 2015 but it must be internationally systematic conservations.

According to the legend, Thandwe was built before Dannyawaddy period, but actually it was an ancient city. After the British force annexed Arakan, the town was upgraded with modern characteristics. One of the most beautiful beaches in the world called Ngapali lies near Thandwe. The beautiful sea with background mountains is attracting the visitors for recreation. It has beautiful and modern facilities to be convenient for the tourists.

SEE PAGE 9 >>

# Abhidhaja Puja ceremony held to honour Abhidhaja Maharahthaguru titles Sayadaws in Sagaing

A CEREMONY to honour Abhidhaja Maharahthaguru titles Sayadaws was held at Sitagu Sanvajaniya Dhamma Beikman in Sitagu International Buddhist Academy on the morning of 13 March on Sagaing Hills, Sagaing Region.

The ceremony was attended by eleven Abhidhaja Maharahthaguru title recipient sayadaws led by State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Chairman Abhidhaja Maharahthaguru Adhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotika Bharmo Sayadaw Dr Bhaddanta Kumarabhivamsa, Chairman from Sitagu International Buddhist Academies and venerable sayadaws led by Shwekyin Sasana Abhidhaja Maharahthaguru Sitagu Sayadaw Dr. Bhaddanta Nanissara as well as Defence Services Commander-in-Chief Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla and Sagaing Region Chief Minister Dr Myint Naing.



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla receive five precepts of virtue. PHOTO: MNA

Bhamo Sayadaw and venerable sayadaws administered the Five Precepts of virtue to the congregation.

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, high ranking officers, U Han from Sitagu Buddhist Association donated silk robes and

monastic offertories to Abhidhaja Maharahthaguru Sayadaws.

Then, the Senior General and wife, the Region Chief Min-

ister and wife and well-wishers donated cash to the Sitagu Buddhist Association.—*Myanmar News Agency*

## The promising Rakhine tourism

>> FROM PAGE 8

I would like to point out water-based tourism in the area in Ponnagyun, Yathedaung and Sittway. Boating is one of the water-based tourism. Tourists can see things through the waterways. They enjoy boating seeing natural beauty in the local area. A special area in Ponnagyun township is Tawpyarchaung, a beautiful stream with natural beauty and green forest. Inlay lake in Shan State is its rival. Tourists can enjoy seeing the local tribes like Mro and Kami and trekking in the beautiful mountains. Gutaung Buddha images in Muse Kyun in Yathedaung township is one of the ancient heritages in Rakhine. They are on the way to Tawpyarchaung, a beautiful stream.

As the ancient city, Mrauk U has more ancient pagodas. Among them, I want to present about Ratanamanaung pagoda which was slightly damaged by the recent earthquake in Myanmar.

Ratanamanaung pagoda is situated half a mile away from the north-east corner of the palace site. King San Da Thu Dam Ma built the pagoda in AD 1658. The pagoda was named Ratanamanaung dedicating to that Rakhine people have taken refuge in three gems: Buddha, Dhamma and Sangha in belief from generation to generation. The pagoda was built step by step with bell-shaped dome, the inverted alms bowl, the mold-

ing, the downturned lotus petals, the colored-glass ball, the upturned lotus petals, the banana bud, the umbrella, the triangular vane and the diamond orb.

The pagoda is 150 feet high. There are planetary figures in all directions near the pagoda. The sabbath hall which is 54 feet in length, 13 feet in breadth and 10 feet in height, is in the northern part of the pagoda. That Sabbath hall is called white cave. The monk who dwelt in the cave, was given the throne of MraukU in 1696 AD, and he ruled Rakhine for one year in the name of Mar Rone Pi Ya. The stone cave is in the east, and the stone Buddha images are inside the cave.

The archery field is out of the eastern wall of the pagoda. That place is called Laykhanpyin. The art of riding elephants and horses and the art of shooting bows, were celebrated in the month of Pyartho in MraukU period. So far, there is a place where the stones were arranged in tiers as the grandstands in MraukU period at the southern part of the field. Nowadays, a monastery was built in the place of the ancient monastery compound and the monks are dwelling in the monastery. The pagoda was damaged by the 6.5 magnitude earthquake in Myanmar.

Thus, Rakhine is a charming place for natural and cultural lovers with simple and honest people.

## Tatmadaw continues operations after MNDAA clashes

>> FROM PAGE 1

### ESCAPE TO CHINA

Within earshot of mortar fire echoing from Myanmar, a sprawling relief camp in south-western China is swelling steadily after the fighting.

In a recent Reuters visit to the rugged area in southwestern Yunnan province, aid workers and those displaced expressed fears of a more violent and protracted conflict than a previous flare-up in the Kokang region in early 2015.

"Every day, more people come," said Li Yinzhong, an aid manager in the camp, gesturing at the mostly Han Chinese refugees from the Kokang region trudging through the reddish mud earth around rows of large blue huts where they sleep on nylon tarpaulin sheets.

"We will look after them until they decide they want to go back."

Blue disaster relief tents provided by the Chinese also dotted the terraced sugar cane, maize and

tea terraces flanking the mountainous winding road to Nansan. The town, close to the Kokang region of Shan State, is providing refuge for a stream of refugees that Chinese authorities estimate number more than 20,000.

Kokang has close ties to China. The vast majority are ethnic Chinese speaking a Chinese dialect and using the yuan as currency."

Reuters contributed to this report.

## Crime NEWS

### Five unlicensed vehicles confiscated in one day in Paung, Zin-Kyaik

FIVE vehicles without registrations were seized on Yangon-Mawlamyine Road in Zin-Kyaik and Paung, Mon State on Sunday.

"The vehicles were taken from Myawady to Mawlamyine and Mawlamyine to Taunggyi. So, we could manage to arrest them," said Police Inspector Thet Soe Oo from Paung Myoma Police Station.

Meanwhile, a combined team led by Police Inspector Thet Soe Oo who inspected vehicles on Yangon-Mawlamyine Road confiscated four unlicensed vehicles en route from Mawlamyine to Thaton and detained four drivers who could not show any documents or evidence related to the vehicles.

The four vehicles are a white Toyota Crown driven by Zaw Zaw, 28, living in Taunggyi, a white Honda Fit driven

by Khun Maung Chun, 41, living at Pinlaung, a white Hijet driven by Khun Aung Min, 28, living at Taunggyi and another white Hijet driven by Nay Win, 36, living at Myawady.

On the same day, another combined team from Zin-Kyaik Township Police Station confiscated a white Alphard driven by

Hein Min Naing, 29, living at Kyaikto en route from Mawlamyine to Thaton on Yangon-Mawlamyine road in Zin-Kyaik Township.

Cases have been filed at the Paung Myoma Police Station and five men were found with the unlicensed cars.—*Myitmakha News Agency*



Confiscated unlicensed vehicles. PHOTO: MYITMAKHA NEWS AGENCY

## US deploys attack drones to South Korea amid tension with North

SEOUL — The United States has started to deploy attack drones to South Korea, a US military spokesman said on Monday, days after it began to deploy an advanced anti-missile system to counter “continued provocative actions” by isolated North Korea.

The drones, Gray Eagle Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS) coming to South Korea are part of a broader plan to deploy a company of the attack drones with every division in the US Army, the spokesman said.

“The UAS adds significant intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance capability to US Forces Korea and our ROK partners,” United States Forces Korea spokesman Christopher Bush said in a statement. He did not say exactly when the drones would arrive in South Korea, officially the Republic of Korea (ROK).

North Korea has conducted two nuclear tests and a string of missile tests since the beginning of last year, despite the imposition of new UN sanctions.

Last week, the US ambassador to the United Nations, Nikki Haley, said Washington was re-evaluating its North Korea strategy and “all options are on the table.”

The Gray Eagle is a remotely controlled attack drone made by US-based General Atomics. They will be stationed at Kunsan Air Base, 180 km (112 miles) south of Seoul, Bush said, and would be permanently based in South Korea.

On 7 March, the United States deployed the “first elements” of the controversial Terminal High Altitude Area Defence (THAAD) anti-missile system to South Korea, despite angry opposition from China. Once fully deployed in South Korea, a THAAD battery could theoretically use its radar to see and monitor activity beyond North Korea, deep into Chinese territory.

Russia also worries the deployment could compromise its security, and said it would lead to a stalemate on the Korean peninsula.—Reuters

## Russia’s newly-created National Guard on alert in first ever sudden combat readiness check



PHOTO: TASS

MOSCOW — A sudden combat readiness check has kicked off in the Federal National Guard Troops Service known as the Russian (National) Guard, the Guard’s press office reported on Monday.

“By decision of Russian National Guard Troops Commander-in-Chief Army General Viktor Zolotov, a sudden combat readiness check is being held from 13 March. This

check, which will start in the Central Federal District and will continue in other federal districts, is being held for the first time since the new federal executive body was established,” the press office said.

Some of the Russian Guard’s governance bodies, military units and formations have been put on alert and started accomplishing missions.

During the check, the

National Guard troops “will practice their readiness to fight subversive activity and reconnaissance groups, terrorist and extremist formations, and will also carry out a set of measures to strengthen the protection of especially important state facilities in the sphere of power engineering, industry and transport,” the press office said.

The National Guard troops were formed to carry

out joint operations with police to protect public order, ensure public security and an emergency regime, take part in the fight against terrorism and in the provision of the legal regime of a counter-terror operation, and also participate in the struggle against extremism and in Russia’s territorial defence.

The National Guard is subordinate to the Russian president.—TASS

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## North Korea boycotts “politically motivated” UN rights session

GENEVA — North Korea boycotted a UN review of its human rights record on Monday, as an investigator said an escalation in hostilities on the divided peninsula had further closed off opportunities for dialogue with Pyongyang’s isolated government.

The UN Human Rights Council held a two-hour session on abuses in the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (DPRK) where rights experts called for action against perpetrators of crimes against humanity documented in a 2014 UN

report that detailed the use of political prison camps, starvation and executions.

“We are not participating in any meeting on DPRK’s human rights situation because it is politically motivated,” Choe Myong Nam, Pyongyang’s deputy ambassador to the UN in Geneva, told Reuters.

UN special rapporteur on human rights in the DPRK Tomas Ojea Quintana said he regretted the decision but was still seeking engagement with North Korea. Rising political and military tensions should not

shield ongoing violations from international scrutiny, he said.

“There are no quick fixes or instant solutions to tackle human rights abuses of the scope and nature that has been reported for a very long time in the DPRK,” he told the 47-member forum. “Military tensions have brought human rights dialogue with the DPRK to a standstill.”

Between 80,000 and 120,000 people are held in four known political prison camps in North Korea and hundreds of families in

South Korea and Japan are looking for missing relatives believed abducted by North Korean agents, Ojea Quintana said.

Sara Hossain, a member of the Council’s group of independent experts on accountability, said the UN should consider ways of prosecuting those responsible for human rights abuses in North Korea, possibly by creating an international tribunal.

“The groundwork for future criminal trials should be laid now,” she said.—Reuters

## Japan, US hold joint military drill with Osprey fleet

NIIGATA — Four US Marine Corps Osprey transport aircraft were used Monday in an ongoing joint military exercise between Japan and the United States in Niigata, making it the largest-ever fleet of the tilt-rotor aircraft to take part in a joint drill in Japan.

Up to six MV-22

tilt-rotor aircraft from a Marine Corps base in Okinawa are scheduled to participate in the drill which started with about 750 troops at the Ground Self-Defence Force’s Camp Somagahara in Gunma Prefecture, eastern Japan, on 6 March and will continue through Friday

at the Sekiyama training area.

It is also the first joint drill involving the aircraft since an Osprey crash-landed in shallow waters off the coast of Okinawa during an exercise on 13 December, injuring some crew members.

The incident reignited

safety concerns about the aircraft, which have caused concern among Okinawa residents due to their noise and record of accidents overseas.

The latest joint drill also comes at a time when the GSDF is planning to deploy Ospreys.—Kyodo News

## PERFORMANCES IN ONE-YEAR PERIOD

# Shan State enjoying fruits of development in various spheres

Yamanya and Nanda Win

Dotted with natural wonders such as Inle Lake, Goteik viaduct, Pintaya cave, Mwetawkakku pagoda, Htantsan cave, Phaungdaw-U pagoda and Mongshu, a source of Myanmar ruby, sapphire and gems, Shan State is one of local and international tourist destinations.

With a total population of over 5.8 million, Shan State is home to various national races namely Shan, Danu, Intha, Palaung, Padaung, Pa-O, Kokang, Wa, Kachin, Bamar, Ahkhar, Lahu, Lisu and others. And its area is 61,000 square miles.

Shan State is constituted with one self-administered region, four self-administered zones, 13 districts and 55 townships.

The authorities concerned of Shan State government have been able to serve the interest of regional residents with sweeping reforms in various spheres during one-year period of the new administration.

With a view to ensuring the improvement of socio-economic status of local residents, peace and stability in the region and rule of law and multi-sector development, the Shan State government had made relentless efforts for agricultural development, construction of bridges in both urban and rural regions, ensuring power supply and development of education, health and tourism sectors.

## Political dialogues

There are the Restoration Council of Shan State/Shan State Army (CSS/SSA) and Pa-O National Liberation Organization (PNLO) that signed the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement-NCA in Shan State and five national race armed groups that did not sign the NCA. The Tatmadaw in coopera-

tion with Myanmar Police Force-MPF are engaged in ensuring security and rule of law in the state under the supervision of the state government.

The Joint Monitoring Committee for Shan State held three rounds of its meeting on 27 January, 29-30 June and 4 November, and had been able to touch upon matters presented by both the Tatmadaw and armed groups.

The first Union Peace Conference—21st Century Panglong was successfully held after the signing of the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement-NCA. Under the agreement reached in the first Union Peace Conference, the National Level Political Dialogues for respective Ethnic groups are being held across the nation, and the National Level Political Dialogue for Pa-O Ethnic was successfully held in Hopong, Shan State from 16 to 20 February. Those present at the political dialogues focused on matters related to democratic federalism, ethnic rights, social, economic, land and environment issues, and their discussions contributed much to the emergence of a democratic federal Union.

## Destruction of poppy fields

Altogether 8175.37 acres of poppy fields were destroyed in the 2016-2017 fiscal year, and measures are being taken to continue to destroy the remaining poppy fields in Shan State. The state was dotted with rubber, apple, orange, tea, grape, grapefruit and others.

## Production of quality species and seeds

In order for the development of agricultural sector in Shan State, the Agriculture Department produced quality species

and seeds of various crops such as paddy, maize, sunflowers, legume, etc. in the 2016-2017 fiscal year and those quality seeds were grown on over 2,000 acres of cultivable land.

Apart from the project, high-land reclamation projects were initiated, reclaiming 600 acres in Hopong, Kengtung and Kutkai townships to ensure that local farmers could generate extra incomes in the 2016-2017 fiscal year, and more 800 acres are projected to be reclaimed in the com-

Farmland Law, Bylaws, altogether 383,842 holding blocks of 298,160 farmers were granted land certificates (Form-7) to engage in agriculture for generations, and 24,192 land certificates (Form-105) have been granted in the time of the new government in accordance with the Farmland Law and Bylaws for land ownership. Meanwhile, collection of land utilization premium according to types of land being practiced in the past under the Notification on Royalty Fees was annulled in the time of

watershed plantations, 860 acres of value-added natural forest plantations, numbering 1560 acres with the use of funds to the value of K 67.014 million. And 90 per cent of the plantations are thriving.

## Emerald green (meat sector) livestock villages

As focus is being placed on the development of meat sector for ensuring food security in Shan State in the time of the new government, distribution of livestock with the establishment of emerald

**Altogether 8175.37 acres of poppy fields were destroyed in the 2016-2017 fiscal year.**



Muse 105-mile Trade Zone in Shan State is important for the border trade with China. PHOTO: MNA



National Level Political Dialogue for Pa-O ethnics. PHOTO: MNA

ing fiscal year.

In the time of the new government, the amount of agricultural subsidies has been increased to K 150,000 per acre from K 100,000, and a ten-member loan disbursement group has been transformed into a three-member one to ensure the smooth and swift disbursement.

As regards loans disbursement, the Myanmar Agriculture Development Bank disbursed K 22,412.08 million to 38,399 farmers from 448 village-tracts in 47 townships in the state.

In accordance with the 2012

the new government.

## 4364 village grants

Under the village-land rent grant plan, a total of 43,64 village grants were given to 47 villages in 47 townships in the 2016-2017 fiscal year by the Shan State General Administration Department.

## 300-acre commercial plantations

Under the plan on ensuring reforestation in the forest sector in the time of the new government, Shan State was engaged in the growing of 300 acres of commercial plantations, 400 acres of

green (meat sector) livestock villages, dairy cows under the school milk programme and quality livestock through the livestock breeding bank is being made with the intention of creating jobs and ensuring development of manageable-scale livestock breeding under the rural development and poverty alleviation plan. Livestock each to the value of K 30 million were distributed to Nyaungshwe, Pinlaung, Loikaw, Loilem Lashio, Nankham and Tachilek townships in the 2016-2017 fiscal year.

SEE PAGE 12 >>



Displaced people in Shan State are provided with aid. PHOTO: MNA



Plantation for producing paddy seeds in Nyaungshwe. PHOTO: MNA



The meeting of the Joint Monitoring Committee in Shan State. PHOTO: MNA

## PERFORMANCES IN ONE-YEAR PERIOD



Thazi Lake in Nyaungshwe Township has been dredged. PHOTO: MNA



New bridges were constructed for better transportation in rural areas in Shan State. PHOTO: MNA



Mandalay-Lashio Road is being expanded. PHOTO: MNA

### >> FROM PAGE 11

#### 119 households

In order to fulfill the shelter needs of low-income families including government employees, the Urban and Housing Development Department is undertaking low-cost and reasonable housing projects. In the 2016-2017 fiscal year, the department has been able to settle 119 households of three categories at six building of five-storey four-room by a vote.

#### Work target

The Shan State Development Affairs Department is in the building of roads, bridges and water supply facilities in the 2016-2017 fiscal year, spending K 12102.862 million. So far, 326 roads of various types with a length of 47 miles and 5.132 furlongs have been constructed. Furthermore, altogether 171 bridges were constructed in 42 townships and 72 water supply facilities were implemented in 21 townships.

In the time of the new government, the Road Department is engaged in upgrading of various roads in Shan State, such as tarring, graveling, extending, leveling, etc to meet with the set standard, spending funds amounting K 45045.402 million. In the meantime, altogether 273 bridges on 13 roads were upgraded and seven road/bridge gates worth less than K 30 million were eased while projecting to upgrade all roads in the state into the one of ASEAN Class III.

#### Socio-economic development

The Rural Development Department is engaged in roads and bridge building, water supply and electrification for the improvement of rural socio-economic status. In the 2016-2017 fiscal year, the department implemented 111 tarred roads, gravel roads, earth roads with the use of allocated funds of K 8858.674 million and 164

concrete bridges, wooden bridges and others with allocated funds of K 1828.03 million.

In the water supply sector, it implemented ten narrow wells, 27 deep wells, six manual wells, 19 earthen water tanks, 204 stream water fetching systems and 58 others with the use of funds to the value of K 5028.621 million.

#### Rural electrification

When it comes to rural electrification tasks, 40,141 sets of solar panel are being facilitated in Shan State whereas the respective committees formed with a view to improving socio-economic status of the rural people have been implementing the emerald green project in 603 villages in Shan State in the 2016-2017 fiscal year through a loan.

#### Electric power

In an effort to ensure better electricity distribution to the people, the 61.93-mile long 11KV transmission line, 66.59-mile long 400 voltage transmission line and the 66 transformers were constructed by spending K 18,168.758 million funds of allocated by the Shan State government in the 2016-2017 fiscal year. Altogether 66,382 power consumers from 24,552 families of 23,430 households in 174 villages in Shan State have been supplied with electricity.

#### Trade volume to over US\$ 4,294 million

As to trade sector, Myanmar's export volume through Muse 105-mile trade zone stood at US\$ 2,674.685 million and import volume amounted to US\$ 1,389.062 million in the 2016-2017 fiscal year. So, Myanmar's total trade volume hit US\$ 4,294.696 million in the 2016-2017 fiscal year.

In a similar manner, Tachileik trade centre saw a total trade volume of US\$ 70.819 million—commodities worth US\$ 13.340 million exported to Thailand

and US\$ 57.479 million worth imported goods in the same fiscal year. And Chinshwehaw trade centre saw US\$ 534.734 million—US\$ 483.021 million worth of goods exported to China and goods worth US\$ 51.713 million were imported from China in the 2016-2017 fiscal year. So, total trade volume between Myanmar and China through Chinshwehaw trade centre was US\$ 534.734 million in the 2016-2017 fiscal year.

In a bid to attract

operation, 1,669 transportation licenses (car/boat) and 1,165 tour guide licenses to the applicants in the financial year 2016-2017. With the aim of improving human resources in hotel and tourism sector, vocational training courses were given to 1855 trainees. The community-based tourism pilot project (CBT Pilot Project) was initiated at four villages where Pa-O ethnic people reside in Southern Shan State. The project created job opportunities for 50



The community-based tourism pilot project was initiated at four villages of Pa-O ethnic people. PHOTO: MNA

## The 2,212 times of free healthcare services were given to over 80,000 ethnic people.

more investment at home and abroad, Shan State Investment Fair was held at the Royal Taunggyi Hotel on 10 February this year. 21 booths displayed their products at the fair and the departmental officials, officials from the embassies and international organizations and the entrepreneurs attended the event.

#### Promotion of tourism industry

In an attempt to promote tourism industry in Shan State, the local government made necessary preparations to operate direct flights from Lanchang, Yunnan Province in China to Heho and from Chiang Rai of Thailand to Heho.

Shan State government issued 288 hotel/guesthouse licenses, 80 licenses for tour

youths from those villages.

The CBT Pilot Project was awarded a prize at ASEAN Tourism Forum held in Singapore and a winner award at ITB Tourism Trade Fair in Berlin, Germany. The project will be implemented in four villages residing Danu and Palaung ethnic people in Pindaya Region. Two community-based tourism pilot projects are being implemented in Sagarinn Village, south of Inle Lake.

#### Conservation of Inle Lake

Sustainable development of water resources of Inle Lake is being conserved in a systematic manner by the local government. Shan State government purchased a dredger at a cost of K 1 billion to be able to preserve natural beauty and

ecosystem of the Inle Lake in cooperation with respective departments.

#### Small- and medium-sized enterprises

The Department of Small and Medium Enterprises Development conducted short-term courses that enables livelihood of the businessmen for 33 times and the 130 entrepreneurs was allowed to register for 13 types of small and medium-scale enterprises in 2016-2017 FY. The Consumer Affairs Department disseminated knowledge about consumer affairs to 154,342 people in 27 townships in Shan State in 2016-2017 FY.

#### Over 15,800 basic education schools

During one-year period of the new government, Shan State government has been able to open 15,844 basis education schools. As literacy rate in Shan State is 64.4 per cent, literacy activities were carried out in nine townships, commencing 12 January this year. Altogether 2,685 teachers taught to 16,972 illiterates and plan is underway to raise reading habit and to conduct vocational training courses.

#### Improvement of healthcare services

The Shan State government built 25 healthcare facilities with the appointment of over 2,000 nurses and midwives in 2016-2017 FY. The 2,212 times of free healthcare services were given to over 80,000 ethnic people. The Shan State government placed emphasis on facilitating healthcare standard of the people, opening reception centers at Sao San Htun Hospital and Women and Children's Hospital in Taunggyi and 200-bed hospital in Loilem.

A Cobalt 60 machine was installed at x-ray department of Sao San Htun Hospital and the local people in Shan State received healthcare services with the use of MRI 1.5 Tesla (GE-SignaExplore) start-

ing from last June. Kidney cleansing treatment was given to the kidney patients as a HD machine has been already installed at aforementioned hospital since May last year. A CT machine was installed at 200-bed hospital in Loilem. To commemorate tobacco free zones in Shan State, the Sports and Physical Education Department and Department of Public health jointly organized mass bike ride and mini-marathon in six townships under the leadership of Shan State government.

#### Social welfare sector

The Department of Social Welfare provided philanthropic centers for the youths, homes-for-the-aged and self-reliance kindergartens with K 256.79 million in 2016-2017 FY, increasing to 3.3 times when compared to that in the similar period of last year. The department also contributed K 15,000 per month to the population aged 90 and above and K 20,000 to the elders above 100 years old in the fiscal year 2016-2017.

In an effort to introduce the Early Childhood Intervention, the department is planning to supply K 180,000 per year to the pregnant women in 2017-2018 FY as 1000-day pilot project. The elders aged 90 years and above are expected to be provided with K 120,000 per year in coming 2017-2018 fiscal year as second phase of social protection scheme.

Since taking office, the new government has been making all-out efforts for development of political, economic and social sectors in Shan State and arrangements are being made to improve socioeconomic status of the local people. So, it is safe to say that with its natural beauties such as mountain ranges, tourist destinations, natural scenes plus traditional culture and dance, local food and customs, Shan State is now fully enjoying fruits of development in various spheres.

# World Bank's medicine for Thailand: more jobs, green protection

BANGKOK — Thailand needs to rein in rapid depletion of its natural resources, create more and better jobs, and provide support to millions of the poorest if it is to achieve green growth that brings prosperity to all, the World Bank said on Monday.

“We believe that when economic development benefits all groups in society, then that will by itself contribute to stability and social cohesion,” Ulrich Zachau, the bank's director for Southeast Asia, told journalists at the launch of a report on getting Thailand's economic growth back on track.

Between 1986 and 2014, high growth reduced poverty in Thailand from 67 per cent to 10.5 per cent of its population, the report said.

But the country has been troubled by unrest in the past decade. In 2014, a coup restored an uneasy peace.

In that year, 7.1 mil-

lion Thais, mostly outside Bangkok, were still living in poverty, with an additional 6.7 million at risk of falling back into it, the report said.

Agricultural prices and job creation — two of the country's growth engines in previous decades — have declined.

Meanwhile, one-third of all 15-year-olds nationwide are functionally illiterate, the report said. The number rises to 47 per cent in villages, underlining the inequality between the capital city and the rest of Thailand.

The Southeast Asian nation of 66 million people is also experiencing a slowdown in job creation caused by a weak global economy and loss of its competitive edge.

A decade ago, Thailand ranked above other Southeast Asian and upper-middle-income countries on all dimensions measured in the World Economic Forum's Glob-

al Competitiveness Index. Today, other nations have caught up, the World Bank report said.

Climate change and environmental degradation, meanwhile, are making Thailand more vulnerable to natural disasters, the World Bank report warned.

The rate of depletion of Thailand's natural resources — including forests, mangroves and coral reefs — has sped up in the last decade, the report showed.

At 4.4 per cent of gross national income, it is similar to other countries in the East Asia and Pacific region, but is almost double the rate in 2002 and three times the rate in the 1980s.

Climate change is expected to bring more frequent coastal flooding to low-lying Thailand, with the biggest threat to Bangkok and central areas, the report said.

Deforestation, caused mainly by illegal logging and smuggling, and poor

planning for public infrastructure exacerbate flood risks, the report added.

Severe floods in Bangkok in 2011 resulted in losses estimated at \$46.5 billion. About 19,000 homes were destroyed and 2.5 million people displaced, World Bank figures showed.

Saline intrusion from sea-level rise could also cause Thai coastal farms to be less productive, the report said.

According to the Thai meteorological department, the country's annual mean temperature rose by 1 degree Celsius from 1981 to 2007, and precipitation has suffered an overall decrease over the last 50 years, raising the risk of drought.

Embarking on more environmentally conscious growth requires better land zoning and management, alongside the promotion of energy efficiency and clean energy, the World Bank report said.—Reuters

## Do-it-yourself robot “Robi” from Japan debuts in Malaysia

KUALA LUMPUR — Robi, a Japanese-developed humanoid robot assembled with parts supplied weekly, has made its debut in Malaysia, touting its ability to communicate in English, Malay and Chinese.

“Robi is a fusion of sophisticated design and advanced Japanese technology that was designed to provide interactive bonding experiences for the entire family,” said Hajime Murano, head of DeAgostini Japan, its distributor, during a launching event in Malaysia on Friday.

According to Murano, every issue of “Robi Weekly Magazine” will come with Robi's accessories and subscribers can complete the robot only

by collecting all 70 issues, each priced at 24.90 ringgit (\$5.5) to 137 ringgit (\$30). “Malaysia has a great market potential and we are targeting to sell 20,000 Robis.”

Tomotaka Takahashi, a robotics expert who created the robot, said Robi, standing about 35 centimetres tall and weighing 1 kilogram, “is a consumer robot, (and) our target consumer is families.”

Murano said Robi has been introduced in Taiwan, Hong Kong, China, Singapore, Italy and Britain, with more than 130,000 units sold worldwide. “Now, the company is considering bringing Robi to Thailand and Indonesia because both countries have a good market potential.” —Kyodo News

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

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

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# Box Office: 'Kong: Skull Island' Rules With Mighty \$61 Million Debut

LOS ANGELES — “Kong: Skull Island” emerged victorious after a battle of the beasts that pitted the giant ape movie against the Wolverine’s last stand. Cresting a wave of good reviews, “Kong: Skull Island” topped the domestic box office, racking up a mighty \$61 million. That handily beat estimates, which had “Kong: Skull Island” debuting to between \$45 million to \$50 million.

In its second weekend, Fox’s “Logan” dropped 58% to \$37.8 million, pushing its stateside total to \$152.6 million. The R-rated comic book adventure is Hugh Jackman’s swan song as Wolverine after nearly two decades playing the X-Men member.

“Kong: Skull Island” gets bragging rights for topping expectations, but the film isn’t out of the woods yet. It cost a hefty \$185 million to produce, which means that it will need to be a big hit overseas if Legendary and Warner Bros., the studios behind the film, want to make a profit. On the domestic front, “Kong: Skull Island” is also staring down Disney’s “Beauty and the Beast,” a live action fairy tale that is expected to premiere to as much as \$120 million next weekend. That will likely suck up most of the oxygen in



Actor John C Reilly poses for photographers at the European Premiere of Kong: Skull Island in London, Britain on 28 February, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

the multiplexes, making it difficult for other films to keep drawing in big crowds.

Legendary and Warner Bros. has grand ambitions for King Kong. The film is the second installment in a planned monster franchise. The first chapter, 2015’s “Godzilla,” opened to \$93.2 mil-

lion in the states before topping out at \$529.1 million globally. The plan is for King Kong and Godzilla to meet in an epic showdown of primordial creatures. Because of its massive production and marketing costs, “Kong: Skull Island” will need to do roughly \$500 million worldwide to be considered a

success.

Set in the waning days of the Vietnam War, “Kong: Skull Island” exchanges embassy helicopter rescues for oversized primates looming large against a fog-encrusted jungle setting. Jordan Vogt-Roberts, who made splash with the Sundance favorite “Kings

of Summer,” directed the picture, with Tom Hiddleston, Samuel L Jackson, and Brie Larson heading up an ensemble cast. Critics embraced the decision to give an “Apocalypse, Now” sheen to the oft-filmed story of King Kong, with Variety’s Owen Gleiberman hailing it as “a rousing and smartly crafted primordial-beastie spectacular.” With Wolvie and Kong duking it out, Blumhouse and Universal’s “Get Out” snagged third place. The low-budget thriller about a black man whose visit to his white girlfriend’s hometown takes a sinister turn, picked up \$21.1 million. It has earned \$111 million in three weeks of release — a fantastic return on its \$4.5 million budget.

The top five was rounded out by Lionsgate’s “The Shack” and Warner Bros.’ “The Lego Batman Movie,” which earned \$10.1 million and \$7.8 million, respectively. “The Shack,” a faith-based drama, has grossed \$32.3 million in two weeks of release. The latest Lego movie has earned \$159 million after five weeks. In limited release, CBS Films’ “The Sense of an Ending,” an adaptation of Julian Barnes’s prize-winning novel, opened to \$42,000 from four locations.—Reuters

## Joni Sledge of ‘We Are Family’ group Sister Sledge dies aged 60

LOS ANGELES — Joni Sledge, who along with her siblings formed the group Sister Sledge and recorded the enduring hit “We Are Family,” has died aged 60, representatives for the group said on Saturday.

Sledge was found unresponsive at her home in Phoenix on Friday and the cause of death has not been determined, according to a statement from the band’s publicists.

The Philadelphia-born Joni Sledge, along with her sisters Debbie, Kim and Kathy, formed the group Sister Sledge in 1971.

Aside from “We Are Family,” which reached No 2 on the Billboard Hot 100 and became an international hit, the group also was known for “He’s the Greatest



One of the original members of the music group ‘Sister Sledge’ Joni Sledge performs ‘We Are Family’ at the CD launch party for the ‘We Are Family’ CD and DVD All-Star Katrina benefit CD in Los Angeles on 14 August, 2006. PHOTO: REUTERS

Dancer,” “Lost in the Music” and a cover of the Motown classic “My Guy.” Joni Sledge did not normally sing lead in the group, but she did on one popular song, “Reach Your Peak.”

Sister Sledge performed before Pope Francis in 2015 when

he visited Philadelphia.

“Yesterday, numbness fell upon our family,” the Sledge Family said in a statement. “We are saddened to inform you that our dear sister, mother, aunt, niece and cousin, Joni passed away yesterday.”—Reuters

## Fame changed people around me: Ed Sheeran

LONDON — Singer Ed Sheeran says he may not have changed that much after becoming famous as much as his popularity changed people around him.

In an interview with OK! magazine, the 26-year-old musician says money accompanied with fame often messes up lives.

“It (fame) changed the people around me more than it changed me. And that in turn changes you because when the people around you change towards you, you can get very paranoid. Fame is a weird thing,” says Sheeran.

The “Shape of You” sing-

er adds he would rather use his money and fame to support his near and dear ones and the causes which are close to his heart.

“I have more value on my friends and family being OK.

A lot of my money goes to charity or to children’s hospitals near where I live,” he says.—PTI

## Wheelchair-bound singer Yulia Samoilova to represent Russia at 2017 Eurovision in Kiev

MOSCOW — Wheelchair-bound singer Yulia Samoilova will represent Russia at the 2017 Eurovision Song Contest in Kiev with the song Flame Is Burning, Russia’s Channel One said on Sunday.

A total of 43 countries will participate in the Eurovision Song Contest this year. Semifinals will be held in the Ukrainian capital on 9 and 11 May. The grand final will take place on 13 May. The show will be hosted by the International Exhibition Centre in Kiev, the country’s biggest exhibition center with an area of about 58,000 square meters.

Yulia, who will turn 28 on 7 April, has been using a wheelchair since childhood. In 2013, she won second place in the Factor A television project. She took part in

the opening ceremony of the 2014 Paralympic Winter Games in Russia’s Sochi with the song Together.

The Eurovision Song Contest has been held annually since 1956, and each country member of the European Broadcasting Union sends its representative. Traditionally, the country whose singer has won the previous contest, hosts the next one. Ukraine’s singer Jamala won the 2016 Eurovision song contest held in Stockholm in May with the song called “1944”. Australian singer Demi Im was second. Russia’s Sergey Lazarev who sang the song “You Are the Only One” took the third place.

Kiev previously hosted Eurovision in 2005 after Ukrainian singer Ruslana won the 2004 contest in Istanbul.—TASS



Yulia Samoilova. PHOTO: TASS

# Hate daylight saving time? You may have a point, researchers say

NEW YORK — For most Americans, daylight saving time means only one thing: losing an hour's sleep. So what is the point?

This is actually a reasonable question, according to a growing body of scientific research.

Daylight saving time is the practice of moving clocks forward by one hour during summer months so that daylight lasts longer into evening. Most of North America and Europe follows the custom, while the majority of countries elsewhere do not.

When clocks in almost all of the United States spring forward by an hour at 2 am on Sunday, it will likely prompt an increase in heart attacks and strokes, cause more car accidents and reduce worker productivity, according to studies. It will also fail to cut the nation's energy bill, contra-

ry to what the experts once believed.

In December, a psychology journal published results showing that federal judges handed out sentences that were on average 5 per cent longer the day after daylight saving time began than those given out one week before or after.

Disruptions, even minor ones, to human beings' sleep patterns can have outsized effects, according to researchers.

"Our study suggests that sudden, even small changes in sleep could have detrimental effects," Amneet Sandhu of the University of Colorado told Reuters in 2014 after his study of Michigan hospital data showed a 25 per cent jump in heart attacks on the Monday after daylight saving time began.

Daylight saving time, which runs until the fall,



Scott Gow adjusts a tower clock on test at the Electric Time Company in Medfield, Massachusetts on 6 March 2009. Daylight saving time begins in the United States at 2 am on 8 March. PHOTO: REUTERS

was widely adopted during World War Two as an energy-saving measure. The rationale was that a later sunset meant people would

spend fewer hours using lights inside their homes in the evening.

But studies have generally failed to show signif-

icant energy savings associated with the shift. Plenty of people expressed frustration on social media on Saturday, as the prospect of los-

ing an hour's sleep loomed large.

"Daylight Savings Time seems like a communist plot to get us all confused and tired and thinking the government wants to help us," wrote Twitter user Michael Farris Jr.

Abolishing daylight saving time — or conversely, extending it year-round — would require a law passed by US Congress. States are allowed to opt out of daylight saving time, but all states are required to follow standard time from November to March. Legislators in some states have tried unsuccessfully to pass laws abandoning daylight saving time, but Arizona and Hawaii are the only states that do not reset their clocks twice a year. For everyone else, Sunday morning will come just a little bit earlier than usual. —Reuters

## Luxury liner Queen Elizabeth to start cruise from Japan for 1<sup>st</sup> time

KOBE — The luxury cruise ship Queen Elizabeth arrived at Kobe port in western Japan on Monday

ahead of its first cruise departing from and returning to Japan.

The eight-day voy-

age from Kobe through 20 March comes after the municipal government of Kobe asked the Cunard Line, the

ship's British operator, to organize a Kobe-originating tour as it celebrates the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year of the port's opening.

The 90,901-ton cruise ship that went into service in 2010 is due to visit Kagoshima, South Korea's Busan, Hiroshima and Kochi in western Japan before returning to Kobe.

The ship is currently on an around-the-world voyage after leaving Southampton in southern England. After Kobe, it is due to set sail for Shanghai.

The first Queen Elizabeth went into service in 1940.

The current vessel was built at the cost of about \$500 million. —Kyodo News



Luxury liner Queen Elizabeth arrives at the port of Kobe, Japan on 13 March 2017. The 90,901-ton cruise ship is on an around-the-world voyage. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

## Miami the Spaniel charms judges to win British dog show Crufts

LONDON,— An American Cocker Spaniel named Miami won the top prize at Britain's Crufts dog show in Birmingham on Sunday.

The black, white and brown gundog, whose full name is Afterglow Miami Ink, was crowned "Best in Show" after four days of competing with nearly 22,000 other dogs from 56 countries.

"He's pretty special

... I'm absolutely shocked and thrilled," handler Jason Lynn said after Miami won the finale of the 126-year old show, which is billed as the world's largest.

Frankie, a miniature poodle, came second and was named "Reserve Best in Show" after a seven-dog final at the National Exhibition Centre in Birmingham, central England.

—Reuters



American Cocker Spaniel Miami poses with its handler Jason Lynn after being awarded best in show during the final day of the Crufts Dog Show in Birmingham, Britain, on 12 March 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

### mitv Myanmar International Programme Schedule

(14-3-2017 07:00am ~ 15-3-2017 07:00am) MST

|       |    |                                                                  |
|-------|----|------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 07:03 | Am | News                                                             |
| 07:26 | Am | Ngapali, Unique Spot to Relax                                    |
| 07:45 | Am | Kambawzathardi Golden Palace - A Treasured Legacy of Golden Days |
| 08:03 | Am | News                                                             |
| 08:26 | Am | Travelogue: Chaung Tha at its peak period                        |
| 08:41 | Am | Lucrative Myanma Rattan Industry                                 |
| 09:03 | Am | News                                                             |
| 09:27 | Am | Archery Session (from Ramayana Play)                             |
| 09:48 | Am | Today Myanmar: Yangon Book Plaza                                 |
| 10:03 | Am | News                                                             |
| 10:26 | Am | Back to A Paradise (Ep-1)                                        |

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

#### Prime Time

|       |    |                                          |
|-------|----|------------------------------------------|
| 07:03 | Pm | News                                     |
| 07:26 | Pm | A Day out With Sarah (EP-3)              |
| 07:51 | Pm | Sagaing: Gold Leaf                       |
| 08:03 | Pm | News                                     |
| 08:26 | Pm | Taste of Myanmar (Mandalay Noodle Salad) |
| 08:44 | Pm | Young Lady Musician: Nge Nge Lay         |

(09:00 Pm ~ 11:00 Pm) - Today Repeat (09:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)  
(11:00 Pm ~ 03:00 Am) - Monday 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](http://www.myanmaritv.com/schedule))

# Can seals comeback win to maintain Liverpool's top four push

LONDON — Liverpool kept their push for a top-four finish in the Premier League on course as Emre Can thundered home a second-half winner to complete a hard-earned 2-1 comeback win over Burnley at a relieved Anfield on Sunday.

Juergen Klopp's side were again out of sorts but he was pleased with the way they won "ugly" to earn their first back-to-back league wins this year and keep up the pressure on the league's leading trio.

While nowhere near their scintillating best, typifying the Merseysiders' uneven form of 2017, Liverpool displayed real character to strike back after going behind to an Ashley Barnes goal after seven minutes.

With the league's worst travellers Burnley dreaming of their first away win of the season, the out-of-sorts Reds were grateful to equalise just before halftime through their first shot on target from Georginio

Wijnaldum.

Liverpool looked short of ideas before German international Can produced what Klopp called a "wonderful" goal from seemingly nowhere just after the hour mark, bending his low 25-metre strike into the bottom corner past a despairing Tom Heaton.

The victory gives Liverpool 55 points, a point behind second-placed Tottenham Hotspur and Manchester City in third and 11 adrift of leaders Chelsea.

The top three all have a game in hand over the Reds, who now lead fifth-placed Arsenal by five points albeit having played two games more than Arsene Wenger's side.

"The result is massive for us — it's the first ugly game we have won," a delighted Klopp told Sky Sports. "It was intense and we had to fight."

"It is clear we have to do a few things better."

We were not at our absolute



Burnley's Robbie Brady in action with Liverpool's Georginio Wijnaldum during the Premier League between Burnley and Liverpool at Anfield on 12 March 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

best but we fought. I liked it. It is this kind of game we haven't won until now."

Liverpool followed a handsome home win over Arsenal with a dismal first-half display that left Anfield strangely quiet, especially when Barnes stretched to finish superbly with the outside of his right foot from Matt Lowton's defence-slicing through ball.

Liverpool levelled with their first shot on target dur-

ing first-half stoppage time, a coolly converted volley from Wijnaldum after the ball sat up for him as Burnley's rearguard failed to deal with a cross from the left.

Klopp brought off playmaker Philippe Coutinho just before Can delivered his piece of inspiration when given room to shoot from distance. "We had some moments... it was a wonderful goal from Emre Can," Klopp enthused.

Still, Liverpool had to hold on a mite nervously towards the finish as the home crowd feared that, as has become a bit of a habit, they might slip up against a side they were expected to beat comfortably.

Burnley never gave up, seeking to earn only their third point away from home all season, and manager Sean Dyche looked agonised when Lowton blazed a late chance over the bar.—Reuters

## Shakespeare given Leicester manager's job for rest of season

LONDON — Craig Shakespeare has been appointed as Leicester City's manager for the rest of the season, the Premier League champions announced on Sunday.

Shakespeare has been acting as Leicester's caretaker boss since the sacking of Claudio Ranieri last month during which time they have won their two Premier League matches and eased clear of the relegation zone.

On Tuesday, Shakespeare will lead the Foxes into action in the Champions League last-16 tie second leg at home to Sevilla, seeking to overturn a 2-1 deficit.

On their official website (www.lcfc.com), Leicester announced that Shakespeare would continue to be supported by first team coach and goalkeeping coach Mike Stowell and the club's existing team of backroom staff for the rest of the campaign.



Leicester City caretaker manager Craig Shakespeare. PHOTO: REUTERS

Vice Chairman Aiyawatt Srivaddhanaprabha told the website: "Craig's skills as a coach and the high regard in which he is held by everyone at the Club were well known to us. We always knew the team would be in good hands when we asked him to take charge a fortnight ago."

"He has initiated the type of positive response that we hoped change would bring, showing great leadership qualities and composure under considerable pressure to produce two very important results."

"We have asked him to continue to lead the team this season

and we are very happy that he has accepted."

Shakespeare, 53, joined Leicester's coaching staff as assistant to Nigel Pearson in 2008, spending a season with Hull City in 2010-11 before being brought back to the King Power Stadium by the Srivaddhanaprabha family in 2011.

Shakespeare, who had been hoping for the appointment, has received his reward for the way the team has been galvanised after Ranieri was dismissed less than a year after he guided them to the unlikely of title triumphs.—Reuters

## Icardi scores 10-minute hat-trick to spark Inter rout

MILAN — Inter Milan captain Mauro Icardi scored a perfect hat-trick in 10 first-half minutes and Ever Banega also helped himself to three goals in a 7-1 rout of hapless Atalanta in Serie A on Sunday.

Atalanta, whose coach Gian Piero Gasperini was infamously sacked by Inter after only five games in 2011, started the day above Inter and had been expected to provide a stern test to their opponents.

Instead, Icardi's quickfire hat-trick followed by two goals by his fellow Argentine put Inter 5-0 ahead after only 35 minutes to put a dampener on what has so far been an excellent season for Atalanta. The win also took Inter into fourth place with 54 points, two more than their opponents who are sixth with 52. Lazio, who host Torino on Monday, are sandwiched in between on 53.

Icardi put Inter ahead in the 17<sup>th</sup> minute, scoring with his left foot from close range after Ivan Perisic's free kick deflected off the Atalanta wall and fell invitingly into his path.

After winning and converting a penalty with his right foot

six minutes later, Icardi completed his hat-trick in the 26<sup>th</sup> minute by heading in from a corner.

Banega's then got in on the act as he scored twice from close range, both from Antonio Candreva crosses.

Remo Freuler pulled one back before the break but further goals from Roberto Gagliardini, who left Atalanta for Inter in January, and Banega compounded Atalanta's misery in the second half. Napoli, who started the weekend in third place, were awarded two penalties on the way to a 3-0 win over lowly Crotone as they bounced back from their Champions League elimination by Real Madrid.

Lorenzo Insigne converted the first after 32 minutes and Dries Mertens the second, an extremely harsh decision for the faintest of touches on Marek Hamsik, in the 66<sup>th</sup>. Insigne then completed the scoring. Napoli moved into second place on 60 points ahead of AS Roma (59) who were at Palermo later on Sunday (1945 GMT).

Nikola Kalinic scored in stoppage time to give Fiorentina a 1-0 win over Cagliari and Chievo thumped Empoli 4-0.—Reuters