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MOFA celebrates 70th Anniversary



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi looks at the portraits of former foreign ministers, including her father, at a display in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA

A ceremony to mark the 70th Anniversary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and a gala dinner were held on the lawn of the Ministry in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday evening.

Prior to the ceremony, State Counsellor and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs Daw Aung San Suu Kyi cordially greeted those present, followed by dinner with Union Minister U Kyaw Tint Swe, the Deputy Ministers, ambassadors and other attendees were served with dinner. After dinner, the State Counsellor and party toured the commemorative items the ministry displayed on the ground floor.

Speaking on the occasion, State Counsellor and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs Daw Aung San Suu Kyi said: "A nation's history is similar to a person's life; they both have ups and downs. We have to try our best to maintain our status while we are up, and not to be discouraged when we are down. We admit that the reputation of our Ministry for Foreign Affairs was not as good as it should be in the past decades."

"There is no reason to be discouraged as there are many other opportunities to improve and for the young generation it means there is more time to improve."

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The Republic of the Union of Myanmar Ministry of the Office of the State Counsellor Press Release 16th March 2017

The Government of Myanmar welcomes the Interim Report of the Advisory Commission on Rakhine State.

The Government would like to express its sincere thanks to the Chairperson Dr Kofi Annan and members of the Commission for their visionary and constructive

approach to the need for stability, peace and prosperity in Rakhine.

The Government concurs with the recommendations set forth in the report and believes that these will have a positive impact on the process of the national reconciliation and development.

The large majority of the recommendations will be implemented promptly with a view to maximum effectiveness. The implementation of a few will be contingent upon the situation on the ground but we believe there will be speedy progress.

The Government of Myanmar will be happy to cooperate with the Advisory Commission in its endeavours to assist us in finding viable and sustainable solutions to the complex situation in the Rakhine State.

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K 30 Billion To Be Spent For Supplying Electric Power Needed for Yangon Region During the Summer Season

2nd PYIDAUNG SU Hluttaw 4th regular session's 17th meeting held yesterday morning approved that K 30 billion from the special fund granted by Budget Law of the Union, 2016 be spent for supplying the electric power needed for Yangon Region during the summer season. Dr Tun Naing, Deputy Minister for Electric Power and Energy clarified, "Generating electric power through generators bought and hiring for use have advantages and disadvantages respectively. So, under the current situations, it has been targeted at using electricity after purchasing generators. According to the State's finance and procedure, a short-term plan will be taken into consideration. In purchasing generators, it has been arranged to purchase after making

direct contact with the original company to be able to buy brand-new machines at rightful prices. In the long-term plan, natural gas will be used for producing electricity for the area, where grid lines reach to be able to use the electric power. Yangon Fund Co., Ltd is a company formed in accordance with financial rules and regulations for Project Financing of the Yangon Region Cabinet. It will perform the tasks of finding finance needed and spending, searching loans and Repaying loans on behalf of the government. And, it is a company formed under Special Purpose Vehicle (a) a medium-sized investment company Act, in which there are 100% shares included from the government side. It has been formed with the intention of avoid-

ing involvement of middlemen in purchasing machineries."

Afterward, U Maung Maung Win, Deputy Minister for Planning and Finance made a clarification, "Yangon City Electricity Distribution Corporation gained profits, but expenditures can be spent only if there are allotted budget in Budget Allocation. There were no budget allotments for generators not only in the budget allocation of the ministry of electricity and energy but also in the budget allocation of Yangon City Power Supply Corporation. The Yangon Region Cabinet has to take the responsibility of spending this expenditure and of operating the generators bought. Being included in the special cases which are essentially worth spending, it was submitted

to get the approval of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw in accord with the article 4(A) of amended law of the Union Budget, 2016."

As regards the matter, Speaker the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw made parliamentarians vote by pushing buttons of the machine, announcing that the matter was approved by the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw with the majority votes of support. Then, U Maung Maung Win clarified concerning the matter spending K 5,575 million which will be spent from the special fund of granted by Budget Law of the Union, 2016 for restoration of 29-mile-long Phaung Phaungpyin Road to get the approval of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw. As regards this, speaker the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw made parliamentarians vote by pushing

buttons of the machine, announcing that the matter was approved by Pyidaungsu Hluttaw with the majority votes of support.

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw approved the matters concerning getting loan of Euro 23.883 million from the bank of KfW Development Bank of Germany for supplying electric power to 416 villages in Shan State (South) and getting loan US \$ 200 million from Development Policy Operation (DPO) under World Bank's loan arrangement.

In addition, the Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw clarified Hluttaw's performances including 2nd Pyidaungsu Hluttaw 4th regular session's works performed, followed by announcement that the meeting came to an end successfully. —Myanmar News Agency

Pyithu Hluttaw

2nd Pyithu Hluttaw 4th Regular Meeting concludes



Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Win Myint. PHOTO: MNA

PYITHU Hluttaw Speaker U Win Myint announced in his concluding speech of the 19th day of the Pyithu Hluttaw that, during the course of the Pyithu Hluttaw 4th Regular Meeting, 92 critical questions and 349 complimentary questions were successfully answered.

The Speaker announced that 14 proposals had been submitted with six proposals ratified, five proposals archived and three proposals left for further discussion. Concerning legal bills, 19 bills were successfully discussed with nine bills legislated and 10 bills left for further discussions. Also, 14 Pyithu Hluttaw Committees were granted extended terms, 34 Phythu Hluttaw representatives appointed as committee members, and eight Tatmadaw Pyithu Hluttaw representatives were substituted, two Pyithu Hluttaw representatives swapped committee positions and 38 Tatmadaw Pyithu Hluttaw representatives were appointed as members of various committees and some as observers of the Hluttaw. The Speaker further stated that successful realisation of the Hluttaw's objectives serve as the foundation for democracy and this responsibility rests on the Hluttaw representatives. Therefore it is imperative that Hluttaw representatives adhere to the Hluttaw's Laws, Acts, Rules and Regulations

so that the hopes and wishes of each constituency's citizens come to realisation. Kindness by itself cannot develop a nation, but needs to be partnered together with skills, knowledge, experience and rationality in performing upright and truthful tasks for the benefit of the country and its people. The Speaker concluded his speech by saying for the attainment of a peaceful and prosperous nation, the government, Hluttaw, Tatmadaw, and ethnic armed groups should foster trust, understanding, mutual respect, generosity, and patience in compromising dialogues with benefit of the nation in mind.

Afterwards, the Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker requested Hluttaw representatives returning to their constituency to participate in its development efforts, and that to ensure straightforward and just administration and judicial power for each region and state alike, the Hluttaw under the Basic Constitution Law Act 11 (A) Parliamentary Oversight will do its best to analyse and provide assistance. The Speaker requested the representatives to support each other in a check & balance system but to keep in mind not to cross set authoritative boundaries, and to aspire to become Hluttaw representatives that the citizens can look up to and trust.

Next, the Deputy Minister for

Education U Win Maw Tun replied to U Ah Moe Si from the Khaunglanphu constituency that to enhance the number of education providers in Khaunglanphu Township, various training courses are provided in every region and state's educational institution and priority is given to a township's resident in appointing of educators before recruiting from other townships if local educators are unavailable. The Deputy Minister then proceeded to reply to U Htun Htun Win from Yamethin constituency's question concerning the construction of a 3-story hostel in Yamethin Technological University in the 2017-2018 fiscal year. The Deputy Minister replied that 65.76 per cent of the construction has been completed despite delays caused by budget inconsistencies since the construction began in 26 June of 2014. However a proposal for the continuation of the project has been submitted and is expected to be completed in the current fiscal year. Deputy Minister U Win Maw Tun also answered U Bo Bo Oo from the Sangyaung constituency on whether Sikh nationalities will be continued to allow submitting exam forms and if wearing of turbans will still be permitted in certificate photos. Afterward, Deputy Minister for Electric Power and Energy Dr. Tun Naing answered various questions concerning restoration efforts after fires in Intaw Township, providing adequate electricity in Dekkhinathiri Township and the Danu self-administered zone, and plans on fixing the broken 11 KVA power line in Mongnai substation and the status on completing the 33 KVA power line from the Nantun substation. Finally, Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Win Myint announced the successful conclusion of the 2nd Pyithu Hluttaw 4th Regular Meeting.—Min Wai Mhwae (MNA)

Amyotha Hluttaw

MPs should do their best to fulfill constituents' requests: Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker



Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than. PHOTO: MNA

THE chairmen and secretaries of fifteen parliamentary committees presented the committee performance reports to be approved by the Hluttaw on the 19th day of the fourth regular session of the second Amyotha Hluttaw in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

The speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw, Mahn Win Khaing Than, announced that the Hluttaw agreed with the committee's performance reports after receiving reaction from all Members of Parliament. U Myint Naing, Member of Parliament for the No. 5 constituency in Rakhine State, discussed the performance report of the Government's Guarantees, Pledges and Undertakings Vetting Committee in a constructive way. U Thein Swe, Chairman of the Committee and Member of Parliament for the No. 10 constituency in Ayeyawady Region, presented the performance of the committee to be approved by the Hluttaw and received approval.

The Speaker then announced that the terms of the other 12 committees in the Amyotha Hluttaw under the 2015 Amyotha Hluttaw Law is complete for one year and extended it for another year under Article 107 in the 2015 Amyotha Hluttaw Law.

Then the Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw made a welcoming speech and praised the efforts of the Members of Parliament in vetting the national projects, budget and taxation, amending, new drawing and withdrawing of drafts, discussing proposals and responding to questions during the meetings.

He gave the messages to the Members of Parliament to continue meeting with the public to fulfil their requests and the developmental matters when they return home to their constituencies after Hluttaw's meetings. He then announced that the fourth regular session of second Amyotha Hluttaw had been successfully completed. —Myanmar News Agency

State Counsellor receives foreign delegations

STATE Counsellor and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs Daw Aung San Suu Kyi separately received President and Chief Executive Officer of MasterCard from the United States Mr. Ajay Banga at 3 pm and a delegation led by Mr. Jingdong Hua, Vice President of Treasury and Syndications of the International Finance Corporation (IFC) at 4 pm at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

At the meeting with the President and CEO of MasterCard, matters relating to further facilitating the payment and re-

mittance system, improving the tax collection system and cooperation in the human resources development sector were discussed.

At the talks with the Vice President of Treasury and Syndications of IFC, views were exchanged on topics such as Myanmar's economic development, infrastructural developments needed to increase the flow of foreign investments into Myanmar, and prospects for Myanmar and IFC to cooperate in the areas of agriculture, SMEs, development of the financial market and human resources development.—*Myanmar News Agency*



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi shakes hands with Mr. Ajay Banga. PHOTO: MNA

MOFA celebrates 70th Anniversary

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Improvement must not be just for oneself, but for the benefit of the country as well. Staff members working in MOFA are different from other Ministries as your manners, behaviours, and way of speaking defines the standards of one's country to others."

"Especially when foreign service personnel begin working in other countries our country's standards will be judged by their lifestyle and the way they interact with other diplomats and officials of the foreign government. You have to represent not only yourself but your country as well."

"A public service personnel

has to serve their elected government whether they like them or not, as in a democratic system everyone has the freedom to elect whomsoever they choose. However, after the election results they have to faithfully serve the elected government, that is why I do not see public service personnel following every order as something to be blamed."

"However, a faithful civil servant also speaks up when they have to and takes action when they need to. The higher ups too should not mislead and betray the trust of their staff members. If a department carries out its tasks in a just and correct manner then there is no need for us to deceive each

other. We must also keep the door open to allow the younger generation to express their ideas and opinions freely." In the 70 years of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs service there have been many ups and downs but not one has there been defamation. The State Counsellor concluded her speech with a statement by her father who was the First Minister for Foreign Affairs, "Have a clear conscience."

Minister of State for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Tin presented the Bogyoke Aung San Stamp to the State Counsellor as a memorial of the 70th anniversary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Afterwards, he gave awards to prize winners in the debating contest

and presented gifts to a veteran government employee on behalf of all retirees who retired in 2016. The staff from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs entertained the audience with songs and dance. A debate in commemoration of the 70th Anniversary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs was held in the afternoon at the Ministry, which was attended by the State Counsellor to give encouragement to the participants.

The Department of Foreign Affairs was formed on 17 March 1947 under the government's notification 77 D (MM) 47 and General Aung San became the first Foreign Affairs Minister of Myanmar. After independence,

the Department of Foreign Affairs was named the "Foreign Office" and was later renamed as the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on 25 May 1967.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs established diplomatic relations with 114 countries around the world. The ministry is currently operating diplomatic missions through 35 embassies, three branches and six consulates-general by establishing seven departments. During the 70th anniversary of its establishment, General Aung San was first Foreign Minister and State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi became the 23rd foreign minister of Myanmar.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Ministry prioritises good working environment for nurses, midwives

THREE days after hundreds of nurses demonstrated on the streets of Yangon, the Ministry of Health and Sports said it would make it a priority to provide good working conditions for nurses who are required to work at a government hospital for three years upon graduation from nursing school before they can seek employment elsewhere.

The group assigned by the Ministry of Health and Sports to communicate the issues of nursing made the announcement yesterday to respond to the complaints of about 500 nursing students from the University of Nursing and Institute of Nursing who took to the streets in their red-and-white uniforms to voice their displeasure at what they say is an unfair requirement.

The demonstration took place on March 15, one-and-a-half months after the Department of Medical Service's notice letter was sent to private healthcare centres forbidding them from hiring nurses who breached the terms of their three-year government contract.

The Department of Medical Service said they issued the no-

tice letter on 1 February because of a nursing shortage in government hospitals.

On Wednesday, one day after the demonstration, The Ministry of Health and Sports formed a team on 16 March to handle communications on nursing issues.

The press release said the Myanmar Nurse and Midwife Council will issue licenses and registrations that the nurses who served their country had asked for. The agreement between the government and the students signed while they are still enrolled in university requires them to serve their country without absences.

The Ministry of Health and Sports said they would not take action on those nurses from the University of Nursing and Institute of Nursing who demonstrated peacefully. The students will have to follow the code of conduct, ruled and regulations laid down by the Myanmar Nurse and Midwife Council.

"If the same problem will happen again, it would be negotiated internally, like a family," the press release said.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Be adaptable to change says Minister for Information

UNION Minister for Information, Dr Pe Myint has called on the employees of the ministry not to lose sight of the changes in the government's machinery in order to be adaptable to the changes as the incumbent government is carrying out reforms.

The Union minister met with the employees who were serving in Yangon at the meeting hall of Yangon Central Press building in Theinbyu Road yesterday.

"Civil staff need to be adaptable to the changes not only in the

political system but also in the technical era because only those who have the ability to be adapt to changes can achieve success," he said.

The Union Minister has also urged the employees to develop themselves and to contribute the development of their works as part of efforts for the development of the country.

At the meeting, the employees voiced their expectations from the government and the Union minister attended to their needs.

In the afternoon, the Union Minister attended the second work coordination meeting on holding a peace song contest at Myanmar Radio and Television (MRTV).

The competition titled "Peace Melody" would be held with the aim of contributing to the national reconciliation, peace effort and building a federal union.

A meeting on holding the Myanmar Democracy Week was held later at the same venue.—*Myanmar News Agency*



U Myint Swe, Editor of the Myanmar Alin newspaper, voices expectations of the employees at meeting with Union Minister for Information Dr Pe Myint. PHOTO: MNA

LOCAL Business

Myanmar-US bilateral trade reached nearly \$330 million over past 10 months



PHOTO: PHOE KHWAH

BILATERAL trade between Myanmar and the US reached almost US\$330 million in the first 10 months of this fiscal year, according to figures released by the Ministry of Commerce.

According to official statistics, Myanmar-US trade amounted to \$329.874 million between April of last year and January of this year. Of the total, Myanmar's

export to the U.S. hit about \$147 million and its imports from the US reached nearly \$183 million.

Myanmar exports marine products, clothing, beans and pulses, forestry products and some agriculture products to the American market. Imports from the US include medicine and related equipment, industrial products, transportation prod-

ucts, dairy products, and other commodities. The total value of trade between the two countries was \$196.902 million in 2015-2016 FY. Bilateral trade reached a record \$544.640 million in 2014-2015 FY. The trade of both countries was \$104.440 million in 2013-2014 FY, \$122.791 million in 2012-2013 FY and \$293.071 million in 2011-2012 FY.

Myanmar became a beneficiary of the U.S. Generalized System of Preference (GSP) programme on 13 November, 2016.

According to the Myanmar Investment Commission, the US's foreign direct investment through existing enterprises in Myanmar as of this February was \$4.651 million in total.—*Khine Khant*

Myanmar's tea leaves to be exported to Germany

ROUGHLY 1.5 tonnes of dried tea leaves are planned to be exported to Germany by the end of this year, said Daw Nila Oo, secretary of the Myanmar Fruit, Flower and Vegetable Producer and Exporter Association.

The dried tea leaves manufactured in Pindaya, a town in southern Shan State, are set to be sent to the western European country no later than early 2018, she said.

The demand from the western European countries will help grow the presence of Myanmar's products in the international market, exporters say.

One-and-a-half tonnes of dried tea leaves were also exported to Germany in 2016. The country also successfully exported wet tea leaves to the US last year.

Tea growers and exporters are putting forth continuous efforts to produce quality tea products to penetrate the international market, said U Tun Myaing, chair of Myanmar Tea Association.

Tea plantations are long-term investments and require significant capital to maintain. Producing quality dried tea leaves is a top priority of the local manufacturers wishing to expand their businesses into global market.

Under its small-and-medium enterprise development plan, the government has assisted in the manufacturing process by supporting modern drying machinery and related equipment to local firms.

Currently, about 30 villages in Pindaya can mass produce tea leaves with the use of modern equipment.—*200*

Trade using ITCs at borders hits over Ks14 billion

TRADE value with the Individual Trading Card (ITC) at border gates reached Ks14 billion this financial year, according to the Commerce Ministry.

Between 1 April of last year and 3 March of this year, the import value with ITCs was Ks13.355 billion, while the export value with ITCs was

Ks1.047 billion.

Trade values were Ks790 million at Tamu trade camp, Ks809 million at Muse border gate, Ks7.986 billion at Myawady trade station, Ks651 million at Tachilek trade camp; Ks26.406 million at Lwejel border; over Ks2.148 billion at Kan-piketee border gate; Ks370 mil-

lion at Kawthaung border town; Ks641 million at Reed border trade camp; Ks924 million at Mawtaung; Ks24.493 million at Kengtung and Ks29.905 million at Maese trade camp.

From 2012-2013 fiscal year to date, the Commerce Ministry issued over 1,220 ITCs to individual businesspersons to trade

at borders. The ministry granted 292 ITCs in FY2012-13; 261 cards in FY2013-14; 317 cards in FY2014-15; 146 cards in FY2015-16 and 204 cards at the end of this FY to trade up to Ks15m in five days at border trade stations and import and export offices, with a trade value of Ks3m a day on average.—*Shwe Khine*

US\$ 230 million in FDI entered Myanmar in February

A TOTAL of US\$229.033 million of foreign direct investments (FDI) flowed into the country in February, according to the statistics of the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA).

China topped the list of countries with the most foreign investments in the country, followed by Singapore, Thailand and Hong Kong. There was FDI of US\$69.76 billion as of the

end of February, which is up from US\$69.536 billion as of Jan 2017.

The oil and gas sector made up over 32 per cent of the total FDI amount, while the power sector accounted for over 29 per cent. Transport and communication made up for over 11 per cent, manufacturing for over 10 per cent, real estate for 5 per cent, mining and hotel and tourism for over 4 per cent each.

A small amount of FDI entered livestock and fisheries, agriculture, industrial estate, construction and other services, according to official figure released by DICA.

Stated in the second five-year National Development Plan for Fiscal Years 2016-2017 to 2020-2021, concerted efforts are being made to drive export volume up, enhance the private sector, transform social devel-

opment activities into economic coordination, and discuss matters of private investments to benefit the public.

Myanmar attracts foreign investors by giving permission to work under joint ventures with government-owned enterprises engaged in social development programmes and cooperating with government and private sectors for businesses under the Build-Operate-Transfer (BOT)

system, with other business opportunities offering.

MIC permits the project proposals only after verifying the sector-specific development, job opportunity, innovation, technical sharing, getting country's revenue, domestic and foreign market conditions, local requirements, environmental impact assessment EIA and social impact assessment SIA, it is learnt.—*Mon Mon*

Performances in One-Year Period

Efforts are being made for expanding into new overseas markets: Ministry of Commerce

July Moe



Officials of the Ministry of Commerce take part in commencing ceremony of Thilawa Special Economic Zone on 24 February. PHOTO: MNA



Union Minister for Commerce Dr Than Myint. PHOTO: MNA



Dr Than Myint accepts a souvenir at Myanmar-Thailand 7th Joint Trade Commission Meeting. PHOTO: MNA



Union Minister for Commerce Dr Than Myint visits a foreign investment factory in Thilawa Special Economic Zone. PHOTO: MNA

FOLLOWING the 8th World Rice Conference in Thailand in which Ministry of Commerce participated and could find new overseas markets including the market in Africa, Myanmar has seen increasing in export volume of rice through the normal trade.

Quality of Rice

"We should work first to reduce the cost for agricultural inputs and to increase the production because the agricultural cost is higher and the production is low in compared with neighbouring countries," said Union Minister for Commerce Dr Than Myint.

Besides, the quality of Myanmar's rice has not yet met with the international quality.

"To boost the country's agricultural produce export, we should solve some issues including relying on small market share with neighbouring countries," said Union Minister for Commerce Dr Than Myint.

He also called for cooperation between the ministries concerned and traders to solve that issue.

Exceeds of 470 million USD

Myanmar's commerce status under the new government 2016-2017 fiscal year (till February) generated 25,255 million USD in trading. Compared with previous fiscal years this marks an increase of 636 million USD in trade and an increase of 470 million USD in export.

Until February of this year export of rice and rice husks reached 1.5 million tonnes, 1.1 million tonnes of corn, 1.2 million tonnes of a wide variety of legumes, and 1.5 tonnes of other agricultural products. To boost the rate of export, a re-export system had been adopted which resulted in importing and then exporting 1.5 million tonnes of sugar.

In the endeavor to establish a discernable market economy during the current government's one year rule, the ministry is proceeding with 26 agendas placed in line with the nation's ordained 12 economic policies.

Economic Power

With a focus on developing the commerce and private sector, the Ministry for Commerce is boosting the trade sector with trade promotion, trade facilitation, trade negotiation, trade liberalization, trade education, and consumer protection as the six driving force in strengthening Myanmar's economic power.

To boost the country's agricultural produce export, we should solve some issues including relying on small market share with neighbouring countries.

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PERFORMANCES IN ONE-YEAR PERIOD

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"After surveying the trade sector till 24 February, we can see that export and import values have exceeded 25 billion USD which is more than last year. The total value of trade amounts to 600 million USD and export values to around 500 million USD," said Union Minister Dr. Than Myint.

New area of export

To expand the country's market range for export, the Ministry for Commerce send delegations of department officials and merchants to America, Switzerland, Korea, Kenya, China, Thailand, Italy, Viet Nam, India and Japan, discussing on ways to improve the production of Myanmar's new export items and agricultural products.

In the modern transparent world there is competition for the marketplace based on the price and quality of the export items. Only when the export items have advantages on all sides will the value of export increase.

Unable to catch up yet

Compared with its neighboring countries, Myanmar's production dynamism is still unable to keep up and the country's cost for production of agricultural products is higher than its neighbors.

Union Minister Dr. Than Myint said, "We have drawn a year-round programme to collaborate with international organisations, private business, local and foreign experts, and government organizations to solve local and foreign trade development, and exporting necessary items for expanding into new markets."

Main Target

"This programme includes 6 main points. For example, better-

ment of trade policies, rules and regulations, development of the quality of trade-related organizations, smoothness of the trade, reducing transport expenses, designating quality and standard of the products, examining quality control, development of entrepreneurs and increased sales of high-quality products instead of raw material. With the aim of the development of the State, these are being implemented," said the Union Minister.

As regards the exports restricted to be exported, restrictions were reduced. From 9828 commodity lines needed to apply for import license, only 3988 commodities were made to apply for the import license.

Prompt and Smooth

Foreign-Joint Venture Companies were granted to trade fertilizers, insecticides, hospital utensils and commodities used in construction sites. E-license application was granted via internet for the smoothness of trade.

In performing export-import works, settlement of payment was carried out through the online payment system. In making settlement of trade payment, it has been arranged to pay by Myanmar Payment Union-MPU Cards.

As the cooperation on trade between the two countries, Myanmar-Thailand Joint Trade Committee, Myanmar-Bangladesh JTC, Myanmar-Vietnam JTC's meetings were held, discussing increased trade between the two countries during one year period of the new government.

Posting Websites

With the increasing transparency, e-government system



The Myanmar delegation led by Union Minister Dr Than Myint takes part in trade activity in Japan in February, 2017 in Japan. PHOTO: MNA



Union Minister Dr Than Myint and officials pose for a documentary photo at the third project steering committee meeting of NTF III Myanmar. PHOTO: MNA



Union Minister Dr Than Myint receives guests. PHOTO: MNA



Staff from the Ministry of Commerce. PHOTO: MNA

was managed to have been implemented for people to be able to observe. For informing the public concerning the performances of the Ministry, commerce website, Myanmar Trade Website, trade promotion Website, Consumer Website, National Trade Portal and Trade Repository Website, Commerce Journal Website have been posted.

In one year period when the new government took office, Myanmar Trade Promotion Board commenced to be formed as of April 2016, with a view to promoting trade.

For managing to connect the production with the international market, trade centers and 11 exhibition rooms were opened, with 50 internal trade fairs and 33 foreign emporiums held for connecting Myanmar products with local and international markets.

Strategy for national exports

Strategy for national exports was being implemented by choosing 11 prioritized sectors including rice, peas, oil crops, sesame, rubber, water products

and tourism. And, it has been arranged to include new exports in the prioritized sector, after negotiating with partner organizations, departments, institutions, professionals and exporters.

Now, it has been being heard that consumers are facing with dangers repeatedly. So, the Ministry is emphatically performing examinations on the ground, holding knowledge-sharing talks in cooperation with international partner organizations and consumer protection organization.

and tourism. And, it has been arranged to include new exports in the prioritized sector, after negotiating with partner organizations, departments, institutions, professionals and exporters.

Increasing Imports

Safeguard Law is being drawn. In implementing with Export Led Growth Model, all the stake holders are required to take part in.

Our Ministry can perform transparently ideas, suggestions and assessments of entrepreneurs, professionals, businessmen, news media men, international partner organizations, so as to be able to increase exports and trade, said the Union Minister.

New Products

For the recovery of Myanmar Economy, special projects and SEZs are being implemented, with SEZs underway to establish in border areas.

New markets where there are no markets in the country are being searched. New markets were searched and coffee, tealeaves which had never been exported were exported.

Rakhine Advisory Commission recommends more than 30 points

Following are the excerpts from the Interim Report released on Thursday in Yangon by Rakhine Advisory Commission led by former United Nations chief Kofi Annan.

1. With a handful of exceptions, many parts of Maungdaw Township have been inaccessible to humanitarian groups since the beginning of military operations carried out by Myanmar security forces after armed attacks on Border Guard Police on 9 October 2016. The Myanmar government and the Rakhine State government should allow full and unimpeded humanitarian access to all areas affected by recent violence. The government, assisted by international partners, should ensure adequate assistance to all communities affected by the violence.
2. Since the beginning of the military operations in northern Rakhine State, media access has been highly restricted. Myanmar authorities should provide full and regular access for domestic and international media to all areas affected by recent violence.
3. Allegations have been made of serious violations of human rights law by the security forces during these operations. The government should – based on independent and impartial investigation – ensure that perpetrators of serious human rights violations are held accountable.
4. The recent crisis in northern Rakhine State has underlined the importance of the Myanmar/Bangladesh relationship. The Governments of Myanmar and Bangladesh should strengthen bilateral ties by immediately activating a joint commission, consisting of senior political and security officials from both sides. The joint commission – which should meet at least every quarter – should address the following issues:
5. Facilitate the voluntary return of refugees from Bangladesh to Myanmar through joint verification, in accordance with international standards.
6. Establish a joint mechanism to combat human trafficking, drugs smuggling and illicit trade – as well as illegal practices enabling such activities.
7. Develop a joint strategy to address the issue of illegal migration.
8. Promote a joint strategy to revive cross-border trade and investment, with private sector participation, and re-open all legal border crossings.
9. Strengthen intelligence sharing and cooperation to combat terrorism.
10. When refugees from northern Rakhine State return from Bangladesh, the Government of Myanmar should help create a secure environment and, where necessary, assist with shelter construction for those whose homes have been destroyed.
11. Rakhine is the second-poorest state in Myanmar; the economic environment is failing to provide adequate livelihood opportunities for the labour force. In mid-2016, the Rakhine State government – assisted by the UN – started to draw up the Rakhine State Socio-Economic Development Plan, a 5-year plan aiming to boost development in various sectors. The Commission recommends that the Rakhine State government rapidly finalise and publicise the plan, which should be based on an inclusive approach that takes into consideration, and gives priority to, the needs of all local communities.
12. The Union government should carry out a comprehensive assessment (or a so-called strategic environment assessment) for Kyaukpuyuh and its environs to explore how the Special Economic Zone (SEZ) may affect local communities and map how other economic sectors in the state may benefit (or possibly suffer) from the SEZ. The Commission recommends the fast-tracking of the following:
13. Vocational and technical training: The Government of Myanmar should develop a comprehensive plan for vocational and technical training in Rakhine, to be supported by international donors. The government should put special emphasis on skills training for women.
14. Education: Immediately expand primary education to the communities in the northern part of Rakhine State.
15. Health: The government should quickly finalise a plan for the expansion and refurbishment of Sittwe State Hospital, for the benefit of all communities and rapidly expand primary health care services in the southern and northern parts of Rakhine State (for instance through mobile health clinics).
16. The Union government and the Rakhine State government should ensure – and publicly state – that all communities have equal access to education, irrespective of religion, ethnicity, race, gender, or citizenship status. As such, the government should also reverse discriminatory policies that bar Muslim students from higher education.
17. The Union government and the Rakhine State government should ensure – and publicly state – that all communities have equal access to health treatment, irrespective of religion, ethnicity, race, gender, or citizenship status. The authorities should commence the removal of administrative obstacles that impede access to health care.
18. Both the Union government and Rakhine State government should encourage companies investing in Rakhine to give preference in hiring to the people from Rakhine State. The Commission commends the government for consulting with civil society during the development of the Rakhine State Socio-Economic Development Plan (SEDP). However, the dialogue with civil society needs to continue during the implementation period of the SEDP, and the government should seek to establish formal mechanisms to ensure regular and structured input from civil society.
19. Given the complex security environment in Rakhine State, the capacity of the police and other security forces to anticipate and manage threats to law and order in conformity with the provisions of Myanmar law as well as internationally accepted standards, needs to be significantly enhanced. The Government of Myanmar should – as an urgent measure – ensure comprehensive training for police and other security forces deployed in Rakhine, covering areas such as human rights and respect for cultural and religious diversity. International donors should support such efforts by providing technical and financial assistance.
20. The composition of the police force should reflect the population in all components, including women and minorities.
21. Protracted statelessness has left the Muslim community in Rakhine vulnerable to discrimination and abuse, and the community faces restrictions on movement, pursuit of livelihood, ownership of land, and access to health and education. Those verified as citizens should enjoy all benefits, rights and freedoms associated with citizenship. Consequently – and in line with the government's rule-of-law agenda – all who have been identified as citizens should have full freedom of movement. This will demonstrate immediate tangible benefits of the verification exercise.
22. The Government of Myanmar should immediately establish a clear strategy and timeline for the citizenship verification process. This strategy should be transparent, efficient, and with a solid basis in existing legislation. The strategy should be discussed with members of the Rakhine and Muslim communities, and communicated through a broad outreach campaign. The strategy should include a clear timeline for the different stages of the process.
23. Complaints related to the on-going verification processes should be addressed swiftly by a government authority independent of the institutions responsible for the implementation of the verification processes.
24. The Government of Myanmar should ensure that children and descendants of citizens do not have to go through the National Verification Card process (a preparatory step towards the citizenship process for undocumented people) but qualify automatically to apply for citizenship.
25. The Rakhine and Muslim communities should work constructively with the government to revitalize the citizenship verification process.
26. Both Muslims and Rakhines face restrictions on movement. The Government of Myanmar should initiate a process to map all existing restrictions on movement in Rakhine, covering all communities. Such an exercise should also investigate and determine additional travel costs generated by informal payments to allow passage.
27. Birth registration of Muslim babies came to an almost complete halt after the violence in 2012. The Commission recommends that the Government of Myanmar roll out a comprehensive birth registration campaign – with door-to-door visits carried out by mobile teams – in order to reach all children. International actors (including the United Nations and donors) should assist such efforts technically and financially in accordance with needs.
28. More than 120,000 Muslims are confined to IDP camps throughout the state, a result of the violence in 2012. The Government of Myanmar should prepare a comprehensive strategy towards closing all IDP camps in Rakhine State. The strategy should be developed through a consultation process with affected communities, and contain clear timelines. It should also contain plans for the provision of security and livelihood opportunities at the site of return/relocation.
29. More immediately, as a first step and sign of goodwill, the Government of Myanmar should facilitate the return and relocation of IDPs from the following the three locations mentioned below, in view of the established feasibility and safety of their return. It should also establish a designated security unit to ensure the safety of returnees and the neighbouring communities.
30. 55 Kaman Muslim households still displaced in Ramree. The Government of Myanmar should support shelter reconstruction in their original villages, and inform and prepare the Rakhine community for their return.
31. 215 Muslim households from Min That Phar village, currently living in Kyein Ni Pyin camp. The government should support the construction of individual houses for the returnees, and take the appropriate measures to facilitate reintegration into local communities.
32. Approximately 65 Rakhine households from Ka Nyin Taw who are ready to move to an already identified relocation site. The government should provide additional funds to provide the necessary infrastructure.
33. Mrauk U – arguably the greatest physical manifestation of Rakhine's rich history and culture – has been on UNESCO's tentative list for becoming a world heritage site since 1996. If such a status was granted, this could eventually serve to boost national and international tourism to Rakhine, and thus help strengthen the State's economy. As a first step, pending a comprehensive mapping of all cultural and historical sites in Rakhine, the Government of Myanmar should officially declare its intention to propose Mrauk U as candidate for the status as a UNESCO world heritage site. The government should work closely with UNESCO and local communities to ensure that formal criteria are fulfilled, with international donor support.
34. Inter-communal cohesion was significantly weakened as a result of the violence in 2012. The Government of Myanmar – both at the Union and State level – should publicly encourage inter-communal harmony and encourage dialogue, and proactively dispel misinformation about different communities.
35. The Government of Myanmar should forcefully denounce all kinds of hate speech, and hold perpetrators accountable. Political, religious and community leaders should be echoing this message.
36. Rakhine and Muslims are encouraged to establish joint markets ("friendly bazars") – accessible to both Rakhines and Muslims – and the Government of Myanmar should proactively support and facilitate such efforts.
37. There is a fundamental lack of Muslim representation at all levels of Myanmar's political system. As an immediate step, the government should establish consultative mechanisms which give voice to the state's Muslim inhabitants.
38. The government should allow Muslims in Muslim-majority villages and village tracts to become village administrators.
39. Viewing the challenges in Rakhine as a domestic issue, Myanmar has traditionally been reluctant to engage with its neighbours on the issue. However, on 19 December 2016, the State Counsellor invited ASEAN foreign ministers to Yangon to inform them about recent developments in Rakhine. In January, she dispatched a special envoy to Dhaka to initiate high-level talks with Bangladesh on the recent refugee crisis. The government should continue its initiative to brief ASEAN members on a regular basis on the broader dimensions and regional implications of the situation in Rakhine State. The Government of Myanmar should maintain a special envoy to engage with neighbouring countries on this issue.

Opinion

Write for us

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

Due to limitation of space we are only able to publish "Letter to the Editor" that do not exceed 500 words. Should you submit a text longer than 500 words please be aware that your letter will be edited.

We have yet to move on to our destination: A Federal Democratic Union!

Khin Maung Oo

ALMOST every individual has gone on a trip or a journey. As we all know, a trip is meant especially for a short one for pleasure or a particular purpose. Dictionaries define journey as an act of traveling from one place to another, especially when they are far apart. So, it is evident that it will take us more time to go on a journey than on a trip. Plus, we may usually find it more difficult to reach the goal. Once we decide to set out on a trip or a journey, we need to get to our destination. Failing that, we will miss an opportunity we want; pleasure or any other gains. Likewise, the people of Myanmar decided to set out for an extraordinarily long journey with a definite goal in mind: a

peaceful and developed Federal Democratic Union. Our journey is a rough one. We may take much time because we have many hindrances ahead.

In this long journey, it is imperative that we get nationwide peace. So long as it is not achieved, our desires will not be fulfilled. The only way to gain peace is just to come to the negotiating table. To reach this stage, we need to stop armed conflicts. However, armed conflicts cannot be stopped by one side only.

In other words, the Tatmadaw and all armed national ethnics groups must take part in the nationwide cease-fire, unanimously. We all belong to the same Union. We all are national brethren who are brothers

and sisters of the same Union. Now, we should be well convinced of the true situation. If we procrastinate to implement the peace process at the present time, our national brethren and their offspring will be displaced for decades and the whole nation will be groping in the dark for ages.

What we have to do simultaneously while marching along the nationwide peace process is to repair and strengthen the dilapidated pillar of the rule of law in the country. We all know what brought our country to this state. This is also a great problem. If the problem remains unsolved in time, it will destroy the future of the whole population like a pandemic disease. There is a well-known My-

anmar saying, "If we know the ailment, there is a medicine." We have found a well-qualified physician. Our duty is to take the medicines she gives us. The physician is not a charlatan. Our physician will not give us a temporary palliative, just to relieve the pain we are presently suffering. In the same way, our leaders will give us correct guidelines to cure the deteriorating situation in the rule of law area.

"Will we wait for the shade that will reach us while staying in the sunshine?" Or "Will we go to the shade without waiting for the shade to come to us? Whatever it is, our ultimate goal is to be able to live in the cool and shady place called "Peace".

Myanmars' marvelous spirit of water donation to others

Tommy Pauk

IN Myanmar, there is no one who does not wish to donate water to those who need water. As our saying goes; a person who does not drink water for a day will die. We, humans need to consume enough water in our daily life and we regard water as an essential sustenance of life. In other words, water is a life-saving element for human beings as well as living things on earth. We, Myanmars are never ever reluctant to donate or offer drinking water whoever is thirsty around us or beg for drinking water. Besides, we Myanmars are very generous to donate our blood and water to those who need them. We have the notion that blood donation and water donation are regarded as meritorious deeds.

Remarkably, in the streets of cities, towns, wards and villages in Myanmar, at least one cool drinking- water pot can be found on the wooden altar or bamboo altar for public or wayfarer or passers-by. Under the big shady tree, we can find an altar on which an earthen pot or plastic bottle holding drinking water and a cup is attached to the pot. This cool earthen drinking- water pot or plastic bottle is available for public free of charge. It is always donated by individuals or by a charity or by a community. It is a part

of Myanmar culture that people donate cash for digging well and lake in public area or in the compound of Buddhist monasteries as a charitable work as well as a meritorious deed.

Within the precincts of pagodas, drinking- water provision is made available for the devotees or pilgrims by the charities. There are charitable water donations being made for the residents at water scarcity affected areas in Myanmar. On the way up to the Kyaik- Hti- Yoe Pagoda Known as The Golden Rock Pagoda, the traditional style of drinking water pots is placed on the altar or stand for the visitors or pilgrims or public. The drinking- water for the pilgrims and devotees is available on the premises of the pagodas in the country. Drinking water donation charities donate clean drinking water to devotees and pilgrims at various famous pagodas in Myanmar. The water donation is made for anyone almost everywhere in Myanmar regardless of any races or any social classes. The government organization has laid down a project for exploration of ground fresh water in the arid areas and some drought affected areas in Myanmar. The project has been implemented to some degree i.e sinking artesian wells to supply fresh water to the residents there. Since Myanmar abounds with river water, rivulets, ponds, stream and waterfalls,



The wooden altar housing two water pots are ready to quench the thirst of passer-by.

we can live and survive around these areas. In addition, the south-west monsoon brings a lot of rain water to Myanmar.

Few arid areas exist in upper Myanmar, but those residents can access water from the nearest river. However, we need to purify some water which is contaminated with wastages from some factories so that we can get clean water for daily consumption.

Last summer in Myanmar, people in the arid areas and some drought-stricken areas induced by El Nino were severely facing drinking water scarcity problem. The local NGOs, individual donors, military service personnel, police personnel and the philanthropists went to these areas, carrying potable and drinking- water

of tankers and then supplied them to the local thirsty people. They supplied fresh water to quench the thirst of the locals and filled it up in the water tanks in the villages or wards of these areas for bathing, washing and drinking. The well-wishers also had sent the water tankers to the areas where the residents concerned suffered drinking water scarcity or water shortages due to El Nino.

People, police force, armed forces, philanthropists, local NGOs did contribute their voluntary services and charity in supplying potable water to those who had encountered clean and safe drinking water scarcity in drought affected areas in Myanmar. Apart from this, some local

foundations had sunk more artesian wells with sophisticated drilling machinery to supply the fresh water or clean water to the population affected by drought in some areas in Myanmar. These days, more and more artesian wells have been sunk in some of the arid areas and some areas in which people suffer fresh water scarcity problem. Now, it can be said that the local people can consume and use fresh water easily. Before, it was very hard for them to get clean water in the environment.

During the summer, when the water of creeks or streams or rivulets are dried up, the people who live around them have to make hand-scooped water holes in the sandy creek or sandy stream in order to take out water for drinking. Under these circumstances, it takes time to take out water from the hand-scooped water holes. Nevertheless, due to Myanmars' marvelous spirit of water donation, the charities or well-wishers or NGOs who live in abundant fresh water areas in Myanmar donate fresh water to the people facing water scarcity. This charitable work is derived from the generosity and compassion of Myanmars indeed. The foreigners visiting Myanmar find this charity work amazing and they do respect Myanmars' marvelous spirit of water donation.!!!

Myanmar bamboo products to penetrate international market

MYANMAR businessmen are seeking international market for their bamboo products decorated with paintings, caricatures and photos, according to the bamboo products creation artists.

The lamps which are made of bamboo are being sold in the market starting from January, 2017. The bamboo lamps are receiving greater demand from Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon and Mawlamyine as well as from China and Thailand.

Besides, the bamboo artists have planned to build a bamboo

showroom in Amarapura township, Mandalay region. It will be built with bamboo through the use of both Myanmar traditional methods and modern techniques. The bamboo showroom will exhibit 15 kinds of bamboo products and furniture such as cupboard, seats and bed so on.

Putting the photos on the bamboo costs a lot. The price will be Ks 3,500 for products with over 10 photos," said U Win Maw Nyein, owner of Bo Thagya bamboo products enterprise.

To make a bamboo lamp, the bamboo has to be dissolved in a chemical liquid for seven days to prevent the from the termites. We give three-year warranty for our lamps. The bamboo lamps can be used for five years.

We have to buy raw bamboo from thabeikkyin, PyinOoLwin, Tatkon and Pinluang townships. There are over 1,500 bamboo species in Myanmar. Currently, The bamboo products manufacturers are using 15 species of bamboo.—200

Taninthayi Region bans import of frozen chicken from abroad

OFFICIALS from the Taninthayi Region Livestock Breeding Department are taking preventive measures to ban the import of frozen chicken because of the threat of the spread of avian influenza (bird flu).

The animals and animal products protection team is checking fish and meat markets including chicken markets in Taninthayi Region following the outbreak of avian flu in another country. They also inspected Htee Khee, Maw Taung and Kawthaung border gates to prevent

the import of frozen chicken, according to Taninthayi Region Livestock Breeding Department Deputy Director Dr. Tin Htay.

"We have warned chicken breeders in the region to report if their farms meet with unusual events. And we are also conducting field trips to have the shops cleaned and to prohibit sale of frozen meat," the Dr Tin Htay added.

Those wishing to import the raw meat are required to undergo an inspection by the Ministry of Commerce and the department

of livestock breeding so that they can import the meat legally. Awareness courses are being given every Monday for businessmen engaged in livestock breeding.

"We have already told the FDA to check on a tighter scale the imported frozen chicken. Besides, we've also told the shopkeepers to be careful of cleanliness," said U Win Tun, officer in charge of Dawei Consumers' Protection Department.—Myitmakha News Agency

New expressway bus terminal to emerge in Yamethin within 1.5 years

YAMETHIN Township Development Committee will establish a new expressway bus terminal in the township within one and a half years to provide better highway bus services as well as to ensure the systematic operation of highway buses.

The new bus depot facility is planned to be constructed on 4.3-acre cemetery land located in the north part of the township in Mandalay Region. The Mya Myint Thida Company will build two-storey building which

is planned to be outfitted with 24 rooms worth Ks23 million and 64 rooms worth Ks20 million, in addition to filling stations and guest-houses.

"The committee has no budget to implement the new scheme, but it has the land. It invited investors through tender. We chose the second tender winning company as the first winner refused to make a financial investment in the project," said U Paw Lwin, chair of the committee.

He continues to say that the

investors are now making soil preparations for the construction project.

Under the bilateral contract, the project implementing company has to pay 10 per cent of the money obtained from the sale of rooms.

Mandalay Region Chief Minister Dr Ye Myint Lwin visited the project area last Sunday, urging project managers to finalise ground preparation tasks before the monsoon season.—Myitmakha News Agency

Thanlyin Bridge 1 will not collect gate fees beginning in April

THANLYIN Bridge 1, which links the cities of Thanlyin, Kayan, Thongwa and Kyauktan, will not collect a toll on the bridge beginning 1 April.

Previously, the bridge was under the purview of Myanma Railway. Now, Myanma Railway has handed over the bridge to the ministry of construction, which has said it will not collect a toll from those who cross the bridge.

"Regional Minister for Transportation Daw Nilar Kyaw

said (previously) that tolls will be collected on these bridges. But, Thanlyin Bridge 1 was not included in this plan because the bridge was then owned by Myanma Railway. Now, the bridge was handed over to the ministry of construction. The Ministry of construction will not collect the toll bridge. Previously, the toll bridge for Thanlyin bridge 1 collected Ks100, Ks200 or Ks700, depending on the weight of the vehicle," said U Nay Lin Aung,

Regional Hluttaw MP Thanlyin constituency-1.

"The Regional Hluttaw MP submitted the report to the Yangon chief minister in 2016 concerning the traffic problem and some difficulties of the passengers on the Thanlyinbridge 1," he added. Regional Hluttaw MP Thanlyin constituency-1 U Nay Lin Aung said that authorities need to repair damaged roads and traffic problem near the bridge.—Myitmakha News Agency

U Ko Ni court case scheduled for next week



Kyi Lin (centre) is seen on arrival at the court. PHOTO: ZAW GYI (PANITI)

Alleged gunman Kyi Lin, co-conspirators Aung Win Zaw and Zeya Phyo, and a newly revealed suspect —Aung Win Tun — appeared yesterday at Yangon's Northern District Court in Insein township, only for the case to be postponed to next week as some lawyers for the culprits were absent.

"Today, U Kyi Lin did not hire yet the lawyer. The other one has but the lawyer did not come. So we scheduled the case next week. U Aung Win Khine is being considered a fugitive but remains at large. The warrant for his arrest was issued on 3 March after he was sued by the court. The arrest warrant was deemed not valid on a technicality so the warrant was put out by the court today. Firstly, the fugitive case was heard," said Deputy judge U Khin Mg Myint, information officer of the District Court.

The case is being investigated by a panel of judges comprised of the Deputy Judge from Northern District Court, associate judge from Eastern District Court and Judge from Western District Court.

Aung Win Khine remains at large. The court is investigating whether he will be considered a fugitive or not. U Ko Ni's lawyer appealed to label him fugitive. As all the border gates were blocked, there is no condition of him being out of the country. So the court decided not to label him as fugitive," said U Nay La, U Ko Ni's lawyers to Media.

The culprits were charged under the article 302/34/212 and Kyi Lin, Aung Win Zaw are also being charged under Article 19(d) and (f) of the country's Arms Act. The defendants' next scheduled court date is March 24.—Zaw Gyi (Panita)

Accounting and finance sector seeks more skilled employees

EXPERIENCED finance sector employees are in high demand in the labour market, according to work.com.mm, a popular online job website that connects jobseekers with employers.

Accounting and finance professionals with five to seven years of working experience have been invited to join high-paying jobs at both local and foreign companies.

The IT and software companies also seek IT project managers, software developers and mobile application developers, inviting them to join each position with salaries of above Ks750,000, according to the work.com.mm.

In February, more than

28,000 applicants were searching for new jobs in different sectors through the website. The majority of applicants want to join the accounting and finance sector, engineering, sales and marketing, telecommunication services and import/export trading.

According to work.com.mm, Yangon, Mandalay, Ngapali, Nay Pyi Taw and Ayeyawady are the locations with the most vacancies.

Capital Diamond Star Group, the Banyan Restaurant, Ooredoo Myanmar, DKSH (Myanmar) Ltd and Max Myanmar Holding Co Ltd are the top companies offering the most jobs.—Swe Nyein

Yaba pills seized in Hpa Kant and Lashio

AN anti-narcotic squad from Mohnyin searched a motorcycle driven by Kyaw San with Yaing Hla Shwe on board at Hway Khar combined inspection gate in Hpa Kant on 16 March and found 19,700 yaba pills from them.

Likewise, another anti-narcotic squad from Lashio searched

a vehicle driven by Eik Ngo with Maung Yi on board near Oriental toll gate in Lashio on the same day and seized 30,000 yaba pills.

Police have taken action against them under the Anti-narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.—Myanmar Police Force

Tatmadaw clears base camps of MNDAA in Shan State



Tatmadaw troops after recovering Point 1088 in Shan State. PHOTO: MNA

THE TATMADAW have occupied an area in Laukkai, Shan State known as Point 1088, a strategic area on a hill near the China border that was once controlled by the Myanmar National Democratic Alliance Army (MNDAA).

The area is critical because it is on higher ground, making for better surveillance, and provides easy escape into China for insurgent groups. By controlling the Laukkai-Yanlonkyine route that leads into China, the MNDAA

had been able to engage government troops in skirmishes and then quickly flee. The Tatmadaw column gained control of Point 1088 on 8 March after it battled MNDAA troops with heavy weapons fire starting at 6 am and finally occupying the territory at 10 am.

Point 1088 is only 800 meters away from the China border, which required the Tatmadaw to be careful that their bullets and bombs did not land in China. The battle resulted in six casualties.

Sixteen different weapons and assorted accessories were recovered. Several Tatmadaw officers and soldiers were injured. Government troops scored another success on 15 March, when the Tatmadaw occupied Point 1269, which mainly controls the Laukkai-Yanlonkyine route, further strengthening the Tatmadaw's hold along the border route. The Tatmadaw will continue to clear MNDAA's base camps in the hills, authorities said.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Armed group blocks Union Highway

A GROUP of armed men on Thursday evening halted and forcibly took the car keys and mobile phones of 6 vehicles in Kutkai Township's Union Highway

between Hankine and Komone village, causing a traffic jam, and then took 10 cars and extorted money from the drivers. Border Security forces were dispatched

at 7 in the evening. By the morning of 17 March, traffic on the Union Highway had returned to normalcy.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Thai court dismisses labour abuse suit against chicken farm

BANGKOK — A Thai court on Friday dismissed a compensation claim by 14 migrant workers from Myanmar who had alleged labour violations at a chicken farm that supplied to the European Union.

In their lawsuit against Thammakaset farm and its buyer, agricultural giant Betagro, the workers had alleged forced overtime, unlawful salary deductions, passport confiscation and limited freedom of movement. They demanded around \$1.3 million in compensation and civil damages.

The Saraburi province labour court dismissed the case and upheld an August 2016 order by the labour protection department for the farm to pay the workers nearly \$49,000 for unpaid wages for overtime work.

"The court stood by the investigators' findings, but they didn't look into our claims about passport

confiscation or sleeping next to the chicken coops," said Suthasinee Kaewlekklai, a coordinator with the Migrant Worker Rights Network (MWRN), a local non-profit supporting the workers' case.

"We're satisfied to an extent, but we need to ask the workers if they have the energy to continue fighting this case," she said.

In interviews with the Thomson Reuters Foundation last year, the workers said they clocked 20 hours a day for 40 days straight during intensive chick-rearing periods, sleeping in hammocks next to the gigantic warehouses where the flock lived.

They earned \$7 a day, though the legal daily minimum wage for eight-hour days is \$8.60, with one day off per week. Thammakaset owner Chanchai Pheamphon denied the charges and said the staff voluntarily worked nights to rack

up bonuses and chose to sleep next to the chicken warehouse.

Chanchai said on Friday he would appeal the court's ruling. "I want them to cancel the compensation order," he said. "I am appealing because I don't agree with the order to pay the workers 1.7 million baht (\$49,000)."

Chanchai, who has said he is facing bankruptcy after Betagro halted business with him, has separately pursued criminal defamation cases against the 14 migrant workers and British rights activist Andy Hall, who has championed the workers. Thailand has been at the centre of scores of reports of slavery and human trafficking, with migrants from Myanmar suffering the worst exploitation.

In the face of mounting scrutiny of supply chains, Thailand has strengthened laws to crack down on labour exploitation.—*Reuters*

RAKHINE

Arrangements for families to meet relatives in custody for October Maungtaw events

U AUNG NAING and U Saw Thalay Saw, members of the Maungtaw region investigation commission, went to Buthidaung Prison Thursday afternoon, helping family members meet their relatives who had been arrested in connection with the attacks on border police outposts in October, it is learnt.

The commission members first visited the special court of justice at Buthidaung, Maungtaw district court to inspect the preparation of the court. Then the com-

mission members met with family members of the arrested. Township and district administrators interrogated the family members as to the situations to meet with the arrested, negotiating with authorities from the penitentiary.

It is learnt that Commission members met U Myint Tin, Maungtaw District Judge and U Nyi Nyi Lwin, deputy legal officer, discussed the performances for prompt and rightful action in making judgements.—*Myanmar News Agency*



Commission members meet with U Myint Tun, Maungtaw District Judge and Deputy Legal officer U Nyi Nyi Lwin. PHOTO:MNA

Villager found dead in Maungtaw

IT IS learnt that a villager from Yawnauk Ngarthar Village (middle) was found dead in the grove Dusailar, in Maungtaw township's outskirts.

The victim, Soli Mullar, went into the forest to the east of the village to fetch firewood on Thursday morning. After he failed to return home,, villagers

searched for him, finding him with injuries on his neck, right part of forehead, right part of his head and stomach, and stabbed in the left part of ribs.

Arman Ullar, the brother of the victim, filed a case at the Aungzu police station. The investigation is ongoing, police said.—*Myanmar News Agency*

KS 300 million worth of WY seized

ON MARCH 16 at 7 pm, 159,920 tablets of psychotropic drugs with the words WY labeled on them were apprehended at the docks near Thaechaung village in Sit-tway Township.

Security forces acted on a tipoff and searched a motorboat docked at Thaechaung, discovering 16 huge sacks of the WY drugs with an estimated value of KS 319,840,000.

The owner of the motorboat, Adusalam, is on the run and the Mhanse police outpost have issued a warrant for the fleeing



man. The investigation continues.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Motorboat catches fire in Kyaukpyu

A MOTORBOAT sailing from Kyaukpyu to a donation ceremony in Kalarbartaung village in Rakhine State caught fire near Thitpote mountain yesterday afternoon. Four women died and two children are still missing.

The motorboat was piloted by U Ba Maung Oo and caught fire from its engine around 1.35 pm. Seven men and eight women, a total of fifteen passengers

were on board. Four of the eight women, Ma Aung May Thin, Ma Aye Than Myint, Ma Khin May Than and Ma Sandar Nway, drowned and two children went missing.

The rest of the nine survivors were rescued by Dan-yawady Naval Force and are receiving the necessary protection and aid.—*Myanmar News Agency*

PERFORMANCES IN ONE-YEAR PERIOD

Achievement made by Magway region government in one year period

Phoe Thet

SITUATED in the central part of Myanmar, Magway Region is 17305.62 square miles in area, made up of five districts, namely, Magway, Minbu, Thayet, Pak-koku and Gangaw. The five districts are made up of 3- towns, 184 wards, 1435 village-tracts and 4771 villages.

There are 780,956 households forming a population of 3,924,000 in the region, and Bamars are the majority with Chin national races residing in hilly areas. The mighty Ayeyawady river flows 240 nautical miles down Magway region from north to south. A variety of creek and small rivers originating from Chin mountain ranges, west Yoma mountain ranges and east mountain ranges flow down to the Ayeyawady river. Lying 300-1200 feet above sea level, Magway region is an arid region with a shortage of rainfalls.

It is Magway region which is dotted with historic pagodas such as Shweseztaw and Magway Myathalun and where human primates of over 40 million years had been found. The shortage of rainfalls has resulted in high unemployment in the region, compounded by poverty. This being the case, the Magway region government has been making all-out efforts for development during one-period of the new government and the strides are making progress in all spheres.

Transportation

In the transport sector, the Magway Region government with the use of the Union budget and the region budget is taking steps for the development of transport sector; careful scrutinizing of construction tenders in the 2016-2017 fiscal year. With this end in view, it utilized K 3694.450 million out of K 10.2735 billion in tender surplus for upgrading and tarring of six major high ways in the city of Magway and the project is near completion.

Moreover, different roads of 38 miles long in the city were upgraded, utilizing K 2012.3317 million whereas string of rural roads with a length of 142.17 miles were upgraded with the use of K 5546.728 million.

Education

As regards the education sector, altogether 97 schools big and small were upgraded with the emergence of new school buildings, utilizing K 930.150 million to meet the set standards. At the same time, a total 352 schools were provided with 11051 desks using the funds to the value of K 472.319 million for the conveni-



Magway Region Chief Minister assists in establishing new plots for residents in Sedoktara. PHOTO: MNA

60 health centres and sub-centres were built, utilizing K 4470.828 million in order to undertake health activities in an effective manner.

ence of school children.

Health

To be in line with two objectives of the health sector—ensuring people to live long and ensuring people to be free from diseases, health awareness was given to rural people while effective prevention and treatment were provided throughout the nation. Meanwhile, altogether 60 health centres and sub-centres were built, utilizing K 4470.828 million in order to undertake health activities in

an effective manner. Similarly, K 100 million out of K 500 million in tender surplus were used for nutritious development of children under 2 and K 400 million used for health care of pregnant women and children under 5.

Agriculture

With a shortage of rainfalls, the region largely relies on water fed creeks and rivers such as Ayeyawady, Mone, Mann, Salin, Yaw, Pin and Myinththa as well as reservoirs, lakes and natural lakes for agricultural purposes

in one year period of the new government. Apart from that, dams and embankments were renovated plus reclamation of new mechanized farmland for the agricultural development. The extension of spillways of Ohngyi-Ohnwa dam in Pwintpyu township was carried out to ensure the safety of local people and effective flood prevention.

In the meantime, altogether seven small dams and lakes were renovated with the use of K 563 million plus reclamation of 300 acres of new mechanized

farmland and quality species of seeds were distributed for farmers to enjoy higher yields of crops.

Drinking water supply

With a scarcity of water, the region utilized K 511.4487 million on urban water supply facilities including sinking artesian wells for security of drinking water and K 1990 million for rural water supply facilities including digging wells and lakes.

Electrification

For electrification, 11 KV power line (44.8 miles), 45 11/0.4 KV transformers and 400 Voltage power line (18.81 miles) were constructed along with the replacing of 1793 wooden lampposts with concrete ones. Moreover, 33/11 KV 5 MVA Hluttaw Sub-power station was upgrade into 33/11 KV 10 MVA one and 66/11 KV 5 MVA No. 2 Sub-power station into 10 MVA one respectively. And some procedures on rural electrification have been eased, and efforts are being made for 42 villages that are not connected to the national grid to have access to solar energy plus diesel in cooperation with the Parami Energy Co and EDF (Electricite De France).

Labour and industrial sector

Swift registration of labour organizations and resolving of eight industrial disputes were made through regional industrial tribunal during the one-year period of the new government. Under the social security law, the rights prescribed for premiums and mobile medical unit were facilitated to seven departments. In cooperation with the Ministry of Industry, the Magway region government conducted a series of industrial and vocational training courses in 15 townships of five districts.

Issuance of citizenship scrutiny cards

A plan to issue citizenship scrutiny cards to the locals was carried out in Magway Region from 1 November 2016 to 2020 with the arrangement of the regional government. As part of the first phase of the plan, the 10-year citizenship scrutiny cards were issued to 42,272 people and 18-year citizenship scrutiny cards to 16,508 persons totaling 58,780 citizens from 57 schools in 193 village-tracts and nine wards during the period from 1-11-2016 to 28-2-2017. Citizenship scrutiny cards were issued to the 49.01 percent of the people in Magway Region who have yet to apply national identity cards, within three months of the plan.

SEE PAGE 12 >>



People spending their leisure time at Bogyoke Park in Magway. PHOTO MNA

PERFORMANCES IN ONE-YEAR PERIOD

>> FROM PAGE 11

Natural disaster response in Magway Region

Magway Region government managed to assist in relief efforts for the people affected by natural disaster such as heavy rain, inundation and a 6.8 magnitude earthquake during the period from July to August in 2016. In doing so, the 23,880 acres of crop plantations damaged by the flood were provided with K 1,374.832 million contributed by the regional government and respective departments. The union minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement and officials concerned supplied relief items to 3,107 flood victims from 987 households in Minbu Township and K 1,663,200 cash contribution to 258 households from a village in Pwintbyu Township.

Natural disaster response tasks were undertaken in the affected areas with K 400 million allotment from the Presidential Reserve Fund. The Relief and Resettlement Department in Magway Region provided K 518.928 million for the natural disasters such as fires, floods, earthquakes, erosion and landslides. K 358.5249 million was contributed to the people in 28 areas affected by the natural disasters with the arrangement of the Magway Region Natural Disaster Management Committee. The 175 houses from the nine villages in six townships were evacuated to safer places due to river bank erosion.

Commemoration and festivals

During one-year period of the new government, the Magway Region government reorganized the new pagoda board of trustees led by the local people, undertaking all-round development of the pagodas in a systematic manner. The regional government made necessary arrangements in health and security sectors for convenience of the pilgrims from four corners of the country, fixing reasonable accommodation prices for them.

The regional government managed to open Bogyoke Aung San Residence Museum in Natmawk Township for public knowledge on auspicious days of the country. Martyrs' Day, Independence Day and Union Day celebrations were held in the region on a grand scale during one-year period of the new government. The 69th Chin National Day celebration was held in Magway Region for the first time within 69 years.

Public services

With a view to offering better services to the public, winning public trust in nurturing effective services and practicing check and balance system among government departments in fulfilling basic necessities of the people in Magway Region, 14,429 times of public services by the General Administration Department, 12,622 times by the Myanmar Police Force, 3,865 times by



Circular steel sheets being replaced with rectangular sheets for better flow of water along the Taungman channel. PHOTO: MNA

the Immigration and National Registration Department, 2,771 times by the Department of Agricultural Land Management and Statistics, 3,753 times by the Electric Power Distribution Enterprise, 3,491 times by the Fire Services Department, 5,462 times by the Development Affairs Committee, 13,032 times by the Department of Health, 7,520 times by the Internal Revenue Department, 79 times by the Department of Social Welfare, one time by the Department of Rural Development and 130 times by the Forest Department have been offered to the people in time of the new government.

As part of efforts to issue land lease grant to one village in each township of the region, the village land lease grants were issued for 2,195 land plots during one-year period of the new government. In an attempt to return confiscated farmlands to the rightful owners in the region, 49-acre of farmlands were returned to the 16 farmers and farmland work permit certificates were issued for 6,220 acres of farmland including the relinquished lands

Natural disaster response tasks were undertaken in the affected areas with K 400 million allotment from the Presidential Reserve Fund.

to 2,927 farmers.

The region-, district- and township-level registration committees issued registration certificates to altogether 81 associations. In the past, those wishing to apply registration certificates need to pay registration fee. The new registration process is not required to pay registration fee and is allowed the applicants to form associations/organizations freely.

Knowledge dissemination

In an effort to educate the public with knowledge, the Magway Region government permitted 31 literary talks during its one-year term. The regional government encouraged the civil society organizations, departments and social and political parties to organize talks on peace, democracy, knowledge dissemination and human re-

source development, workshops and assemblies. The regional government also cooperated with the abovementioned organizations to expose freedom of expression, freedom of belief and peaceful assembly. Under the MoU signed by the Ministry of Information and Daw Khin Kyi Foundation, a community center and a mobile library were opened at the office of Information and Public Relations Department in Natmawk. The aforesaid community center and mobile library became a gathering point for the civil society organizations and learning center for human resource development course.

The Magway Region government purchased 15 mini excavators at a cost of K 1218.75 million to be able to undertake rural development tasks during one-year period of the new gov-

ernment. The move is thought to be one of the Magway Region government 'efforts to reduce poverty rate in the region. The regional government is trying to ensure development and stability to emerge a democratic federal union by exercising national reconciliation approach in a harmonious manner. Rule of law and anti-corruption drive are being implemented in Magway Region.

As part of efforts to ensure rule of law in the region, action has been taken against 26 gamblers along with one vehicle and 102 motorcycles in Pwintbyu Township, Minbu District. Similarly, one township judge, one district education officer and one township administrator in Magway Region were charged with code of ethics of civil servants. The Magway Region government is making utmost efforts to exercise culture of democracy in judicial pillar through check and balance system. At the same time, the regional government put emphasis on improving socioeconomic status of the local people, endeavoring to make equitable development in all townships in the region.



Magway Region Chief Minister views plans for better water pipelines in Myaing Township. PHOTO: MNA



CBT (Award) winner from Myaing, Magway Region accepts prizes in Singapore. PHOTO: MNA

South Sudan government to blame for famine, still buying arms — UN report

UNITED NATIONS — South Sudan’s government is mainly to blame for famine in parts of the war-torn country, yet President Salva Kiir is still boosting his forces using millions of dollars from oil sales, according to a confidential United Nations report.

UN sanctions monitors said 97 per cent of South Sudan’s known revenue comes from oil sales, a significant portion of which is now forward oil sales, and that at least half of the budget - “likely substantially more” — is devoted to security.

“Revenue from forward oil sales totalled approximately \$243 million between late March and late October 2016,” the panel of UN monitors said in the report to the UN Security Council, seen by Reuters on Thursday.

“Despite the scale and scope of the political, humanitarian, and economic crises, the panel continues to uncover evidence



A woman waits to be registered prior to a food distribution carried out by the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) in Thonyor, Leer state, South Sudan, on 16 February 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

of the ongoing procurement of weapons by the ... Government for the SPLA (South Sudanese army), the National Security Service, and other associated forces and militias,” the report said.

The United Nations has declared a famine in some parts of the world’s youngest country, where nearly half its population — some 5.5 million people — face food shortages. A civil war erupted in 2013 when Kiir, an ethnic Dinka, fired his deputy Riek Machar, a Nuer, who has fled and is now in South Africa.

“The bulk of evidence suggests that the famine ... has resulted from protracted conflict and, in particular, the cumulative toll of military operations undertaken by the SPLM/A in Government in southern Unity state; denial of humanitarian access, primarily by the SPLM/A in Government; and population displacement resulting from the war,” the report said.—Reuters



A tourist stands in front of Italy’s Mount Etna, Europe’s tallest and most active volcano, as it spews lava during an eruption on the southern island of Sicily, Italy on 28 February 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

Volcanic explosion on Mount Etna injures 10 people

SICILY, (Italy) — Ten people were injured in an eruption on Mount Etna on Thursday when magma flowing into snow caused a violent explosion that sent stones and rocks flying into the air, emergency services said.

Amongst those hurt near the summit of Etna on the island of Sicily were members of a television crew filming for the BBC.

“Running down a mountain pelted by rocks, dodging burning boulders and boiling steam — not an experience I ever ever want to repeat,” the BBC’s science correspondent Rebecca Morelle wrote on Twitter.

“BBC team all ok — some cuts/ bruises and burns. Very shaken though — it was extremely scary,” she said.

Italian officials said six people had to be taken to hospital, but none were in a serious condition.

Etna is Europe’s most active volcano. After a quiet couple of years it burst into action in February with repeated explosive eruptions that sent orange plumes of lava into the air.

Thursday’s explosion was the result of a so-called phreatomagmatic eruption, caused by magma hitting water — in this case snow.—Reuters

CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE
MV HUNSA BHUM VOY. NO ()
Consignees of cargo carried on MV HUNSA BHUM VOY. NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 18.3.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T/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 REGIONAL CONTAINER
LINES**
Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE
MV WEST SCENT VOY. NO (143N)
Consignees of cargo carried on MV WEST SCENT VOY. NO (143N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 18.3.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.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 INTERASIA LINES**
Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE
MV MALACCA STAR VOY. NO ()
Consignees of cargo carried on MV MALACCA STAR VOY. NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 18.3.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.
Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claim’s Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.
No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.
**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S MCC TRANSPORT (S’PORE)
PTE LTD**
Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE
MV SANTA MARGHERITA VOY. NO (0571)
Consignees of cargo carried on MV SANTA MARGHERITA VOY. NO (0571) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 19.3.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MIPL where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.
Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claim’s Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.
No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.
**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S CHUN AN SHIPPING PTE
LTD**
Phone No: 2301928

CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE
MV TAN BINH 79 VOY. NO (-)
Consignees of cargo carried on MV TAN BINH 79 VOY. NO (-) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 18.3.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of AIPT-3 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 MERIDIAN SHIPPING
AGENCIES PTE LTD**
Phone No: 2301928

CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE
MV SIGAP VOY. NO (3)
Consignees of cargo carried on MV SIGAP VOY. NO (3) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 19.3.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MITT-4 where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.
Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claim’s Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.
No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.
**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S MERIDIAN SHIPPING
AGENCIES PTE LTD**
Phone No: 2301928



Singer Selena Gomez performs during We Day California in Inglewood, California, in 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Selena Gomez reveals Instagram addiction, low self-esteem

LOS ANGELES — Pop star Selena Gomez said she canceled her world tour last year and went to therapy because she was depressed, anxious and “my self-esteem was shot.”

Gomez, 24, who has more than 113 million Instagram followers, also said in an interview published on Thursday that she was freaked out by her social media obsession and no longer has the Instagram app on her phone.

“As soon as I became the most followed person on Instagram, I sort of freaked out. It had become so consuming to me. It’s what I woke up to and went to sleep to. I was an addict,” Gomez told Vogue magazine in a cover story for its April edition.

The former Disney Channel singer and actress made headlines last August when she abruptly quit her “Revival” world tour, saying she needed to take time off to deal with panic attacks and

depression.

She told Vogue she entered a treatment programme for three months.

“My self-esteem was shot. I was depressed, anxious. I started to have panic attacks right before getting onstage, or right after leaving the stage. Basically I felt I wasn’t good enough, wasn’t capable. I felt I wasn’t giving my fans anything, and they could see it — which, I think, was a complete distortion,” she said.

Gomez said she had also found it hard — as have other young stars like Miley Cyrus and Lindsay Lohan — to shake off her perky “Wizards of Waverly Place” persona from her Disney days.

“For a guy there’s a way to rebel that can work for you,” she said. “But for a woman, that can backfire. It’s hard not to be a cliché, the child star gone wrong.”—Reuters

In Bollywood, if you’re doing good, you will get work: Anushka

MUMBAI — Actress Anushka Sharma says in Bollywood, one gets work based on their performance and it does not matter if the artist is an outsider or an industry kid. The actress says she realised this post “Band Baaja Baarat”, which made people take note of her performance.

“My life changed after ‘Band Baaja Baarat’. People started taking me more seriously. Of course I got appreciation for my first film, but not as much as I got after ‘Band Baaja...’. So, with that experience, I realised one thing that if you are doing good work, people will want to work with you,” Anushka told reporters here last evening.

The 28-year-old actress says



PHOTO: PTI

an outsider like Shah Rukh Khan became a superstar purely on the merit of his work, which is why many people want to team up with him.

“If you are not working well, come what may, people won’t want to work with you. This is a business and everyone takes business (oriented) decisions. For example, if you

have an outsider, a big star like Shah Rukh Khan, why wouldn’t you want to work with him?”

The actress says over the years with what she has “experienced” in the industry, she has learnt that everybody has their own struggles and one should not be judgemental about it.

“As I am evolving, I am learning that everyone’s struggles are different. I am becoming less judgemental day by day. I will not want to pass any judgement on anyone else’s experiences because their battles are their own, about which I don’t know anything,” she says.

Anushka’s next film “Philaurla” is scheduled to release on 24 March.—PTI

Don’t learn classical music if you want a career: Khan

NEW DELHI — Sarod maestro Amjad Ali Khan has a word of caution for aspiring musicians, “Don’t learn classical music if you want a career.”

“If you want to make a career then don’t learn classical music... Become an engineer, scientist or a bank manager.

Classical music is a lifelong service, commitment and dedication to understand music,” Khan told PTI.

The musician was here to perform at a charity concert held by Indian Cancer Society.

Khan said only a few who can “entirely dedicate their lives to music and their masters” manage to find the light in the “dark tunnel that is music”.

“For music, you have to entirely dedicate yourself to the

Gods and your teacher. Classical music is like entering a dark tunnel with this hope that some light will reach you someday.

“A few of us find that light, while thousands of others are still stumbling around in the darkness,” Khan said.

Pointing at the increasingly commercialised prospects of music, he said that people were learning music only “to make an album or to be on television”.

“These days you see people who learn music to make an album, to appear on reality shows or to perform on stage. You don’t find many people who are learning music to actually understand music,” the Padma Vibhushan awardee said.

While Khan disapproves of the commercialisation of music,

he also feels that the “future of classical music is secure” in the hands of “talented” young aspiring musicians like his sons Amman and Ayaan and their contemporaries.

“There are some very young talented musicians in this generation. Amaan, Ayaan and their contemporary musicians are very talented and they are quite established. So, I feel the future of classical music is secure,” he said.

The Sarod player also noted that while legacy played its part in a musician’s life, it was largely his or her dedication and hard work that pays off.

“It is not necessary that only a newcomer with a legacy can find his or her place in this field. Legacy helps, but not always.—PTI



Actor Hugh Jackman poses with a cloth puppet, a traditional type of opera during a news conference during Asian premiere of the X-Men series film ‘Logan’ in Taipei, Taiwan, on 28 February 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

Hugh Jackman: I was initially unsure about Logan ending

LONDON — Hugh Jackman says he was initially unsure about the ending of Logan, as he believed it would have been more powerful if Wolverine survived. The 48-year-old actor makes his eighth and final appearance as the clawed mutant Wolverine in the recently released X-Men spin-off, and has said he wasn’t sure about the movie’s final scenes when he first read the script, reported Contactmusic.

In the movie, Wolverine — also known as the titular Logan — meets a noble end when defending X-23 and her fellow young mutants from the Reavers, and Jackman says he originally believed it would have been more powerful if he didn’t die.

Logan happens to be the 10th film in the X-Men series — making it the seventh-highest-grossing film franchise of all time. Hugh Jackman has played Wolverine in nine of those films, including Logan. Neither of that

is a reason to skip this one. On the contrary, there are lessons here in how to wrap up a film journey, as Jackman has announced Logan is — the end of his time in the X-men universe.

The fantastic Australian actor presents Wolverine here as a rasping, breathless, tired version of himself, dying physically as well as mentally as mutants such as him are forced into desert hideouts by a world that is targeting them. When the film wants us to have a glimpse of the Wolverine of the past, it finds a clever way to do that too.

“It was always floated that Logan would possibly die. I said, ‘Let’s be open, because it may be more powerful for him not to die... James was always certain of that ending, and he was right.

“Unlike a human character, what’s most poignant for someone who is thought to be indestructible is him dying while saying, ‘This is what it feels like.’”—PTI

Egypt says ancient colossus pulled from slum likely not Ramses



Prince Henrik of Denmark (L) and Egyptian Minister of Antiquities Khaled Al-Anani stand beside the colossus now believed to be of King Psammetich I in Cairo, Egypt, on 16 March 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

CAIRO — A massive eight-meter statue discovered in the ground water of a Cairo slum this month is likely not a depiction of the revered Pharaoh Ramses II as first believed, Antiquities Minister Khaled Al-Anani said on Thursday.

The colossus is instead thought to be of King Psammetich I, who ruled from 664 to 610 BC and, if confirmed, would be the largest statue of the Late Period ever discovered.

Egyptian and German archaeologists found the statue in the working class area of Matariya among unfinished buildings and mud roads, but near the ruins of Ramses II’s temple in the ancient city of Heliopolis.

It was initially hailed by the Antiquities Ministry as among the most important discoveries to date on the basis that it depicted Ramses the Great, the most powerful and celebrated ruler of ancient Egypt.

After examining piec-

es of the 8-meter statue however, Anani said its characteristics pointed to a different time.

“When the head was lifted, we started to find some features which are characteristic for other periods,” he told a news conference.

A key piece of evidence is the name “Nebaa” inscribed on the statue.

“The only pharaoh who got his name ‘Nebaa’, is Psammetich I. He’s a pharaoh of the 26th dynasty,” said Anani.

Egypt is hoping renewed interest in its ancient past could be a boon for its tourism industry, a vital source of foreign currency that has suffered many setbacks since the uprising that toppled autocrat Hosni Mubarak in 2011.

Despite the statue’s clues, Anani said it could take months to determine with 100 percent certainty which historical figure it depicts as archaeologists search for additional fragments.—Reuters

Giant satirical puppets go on display in Spanish ‘Fallas’ fiesta

VALENCIA (Spain) — Satirical effigies of United States President Donald Trump, German Chancellor Angela Merkel and footballer Cristiano Ronaldo went on display on Thursday for Spain’s Fallas festival in the Mediterranean port city of Valencia.

Made of materials such as wood, plaster and paper mache, months of painstaking work go into constructing the “ninots”, Valencian for dolls, some reaching soaring heights only to be burned to the ground in an

explosive finale. Commemorating Saint Joseph, the patron saint of carpenters, the annual tradition is believed to have evolved from pagan rituals marking the change of seasons with a five-day fiesta of processions and fireworks. Hundreds of sculptures, often of celebrities, are exhibited beforehand for the public to vote on their favorite with only two saved from the bonfire to join fellow survivors in a permanent collection at the local Fallas Museum.—Reuters



A figure of a Fallas monument pictures US President Donald Trump during the Fallas festival in Valencia, Spain, on 16 March 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Sierra Leone pastor discovers 706-carat diamond

FREETOWN — A Christian pastor has found one of the world’s largest uncut diamonds - weighing 706 carats — in Sierra Leone’s eastern Kono region.

The stone, a photograph of which was posted on the president’s official website, is being stored in the country’s central bank, government sources said.

A local chief from Kono handed the stone to President Ernest Bai Koroma on behalf of Emmanuel Momoh who made the discovery. The government plans to auction it. The presidency said in a statement on Thursday that Koroma thanked the chief who acted as an intermediary for not smuggling it out of the country. Diamonds fueled a decade-long civil war that ended in 2002 in which 50,000 people were killed. Rebels forced civilians in the east to mine the stones and bought weapons with the proceeds, leading to the term ‘blood diamonds’.

“He (Koroma) underscored the importance of selling such a diamond here as it will clearly give the owners what is due them and benefit the country as a whole,” the statement said.

The stone is yet to be valued but could be worth millions of dollars. Sierra Leone’s gross national income per capita stood at \$620 in 2015, according to World Bank data. The United Nations lifted a ban on diamond exports from Sierra Leone in 2003.

The International Monetary Fund expects the country to export \$113 million worth of diamonds this year though the sector remains plagued by smuggling. Despite its size, this week’s discovery is considerably smaller than the Cullinan diamond, which was found in South Africa in 1905. That 3,106-carat stone was cut into several polished gems and the two largest pieces are part of Britain’s crown jewels.

A 1,111-carat diamond was unearthed in a Botswana mine in 2015.—Reuters



An undated picture released 16 March 2017 of a 706-carat diamond discovered by pastor Emmanuel Momoh in eastern Sierra Leone. PHOTO: REUTERS



Myanmar International

Programme Schedule

(18-3-2017 07:00am ~ 19-3-2017 07:00am) MST

07:03	Am	News
07:26	Am	Great Shwedagon-The Exhibition Hall Of The Great Chronicle Of Buddha
07:54	Am	A Girl Guide
08:03	Am	News
08:26	Am	Winkabar Festival
08:49	Am	Kay Tu Mar Lar “The Family”
09:03	Am	News
09:26	Am	A Day Life Of Kayan Padaung Tribe
09:55	Am	Kid’s Home
10:03	Am	News
10:26	Am	Next Generation “Sammy Tin (Clarinetist)”

10:35 Am Coconut Shell Artist

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

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

Prime Time

07:03	Pm	New
07:27	Pm	The Korean Treasure, Kimchi, Black Garlic & Apple Wine
07:48	Pm	Safari World
08:03	Pm	New
08:25	Pm	National Literary Icon & Guiding Light of Myanmar Literature: Sayar Zaw Gyi (Episode- 2) Service Life and Literary Journey
08:50	Pm	Myanmar Masterclass: Artist Tin Win (Beikthano)

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

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

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

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

Elena Vesnina (RUS) as she defeated Venus Williams (not pictured) in the quarter final match in the BNP Paribas Open at the Indian Wells Tennis Garden in Indian Wells, CA, USA on 16 March 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS



Vesnina ousts Venus to reach semi-finals at Indian Wells

INDIAN WELLS — Elena Vesnina denied Venus Williams another comeback win, while Kristina Mladenovic roared back from a set and a break down to beat Caroline Wozniacki on Thursday to reach the semi-finals of the BNP Paribas Open at Indian Wells.

The 30-year-old Vesnina, a Wimbledon semi-finalist last year, ripped a forehand putaway off a backhand from 12th seed Williams that clipped the netcord to end the two hour 11 minute battle in the California desert.

“At the end of the match, I don’t know how I won that game from 0-40,”

Vesnina, who had ousted second seed Angelique Kerber to reach the quarters, said in an on-court interview.

“In the first set she was a little bit slow, missed some easy balls. But then in the second set, Venus was back and I was in trouble.”

Mladenovic, the 28th seed, continued an impressive run of form beating 13th seed and 2011 winner Wozniacki 3-6, 7-6(4), 6-2 to reach her first Premier Mandatory semi-final and guarantee her debut in the Top 20 in next week’s WTA rankings.—Reuters

Williams, who this week survived match points against Jelena Jankovic and was down a break in the third against Peng Shuai, fought off three match points in the eighth game and had six chances to bring it back on serve in the next before the 14th-seeded Russian finally held to finish a gutsy 6-2, 4-6, 6-3 win.



Wayne Rooney. PHOTO: REUTERS

Manager Southgate cannot promise Rooney’s England return

LONDON — Wayne Rooney faces a battle to get back into the England squad due to his lack of playing time at Manchester United, with a number of in-form players currently ahead of him in the pecking order, manager Gareth Southgate has said.

Rooney, who was omitted from England’s 26-man squad for the upcoming international fixtures against Germany and Lithuania, has started only nine Premier League games this season. “We have to look at Wayne as a No. 10, which is his predominant role,” Southgate told the British media. “In the last two games we’ve played Dele Alli there and we’ve played Adam Lallana there. Both are playing very well, scoring and assisting for their clubs. “Ross Barkley has been playing very well for his club. So there’s competition. I can’t dress it up any other way.” Alli has scored 13 league goals for Tottenham Hotspur this season, compared with Rooney’s two at United.—Reuters

Wawrinka wins Thiem thriller to reach Indian Wells semis



Stan Wawrinka. PHOTO: REUTERS

INDIAN WELLS — Stan Wawrinka raised his game on the big points and dominated the climactic third-set tiebreaker to beat Dominic Thiem 6-4, 4-6, 7-6(2) on Thursday and reach the semi-finals of the BNP Paribas Open at Indian Wells. Third seed Wawrinka, who six months ago beat Novak Djokovic to win the US Open, won a gripping slugfest against the 23-year-old Austrian, hammering home five third-set aces including one to reach quadruple match point in the tiebreak.

“The level was really high tonight,” Wawrinka, 31, said in an on-court interview. “I’m really happy the way I was playing, the way I found a way to win it.” Thiem kept pace with the Swiss on the strength of his booming forehand, but by the end of the two hour 31 minute match, he lost the range on his favoured shot, belting three forehands well long to lose his way in the third-set decider.

“The player who was the most aggressive, was dictating, was winning most of the points,” said

Wawrinka, who saved eight of 11 break points. “I’m really happy to have served well in the tiebreak. I think that was the key.” Wawrinka broke in the second game to storm out to a 3-0 lead. Thiem then swept the next three games to level the set on the way to the decider. The Swiss advanced to his first final four at Indian Wells, where he will meet 21st seed Pablo Carreno Busta, who was also extended to a third-set decider in his 6-1, 3-6, 7-6(4) win over Pablo Cuevas of Uruguay.—Reuters

Bayern’s Ancelotti gets Real reunion, Juve meet Barca

NYON, (Switzerland) — Title-holders Real Madrid must face their former coach in the Champions League quarter-finals after they were drawn against Carlo Ancelotti’s Bayern Munich on Friday. Ancelotti led Real to the 10th of their 11 European Cups in 2014, inflicting Bayern’s heaviest European home defeat on the way with a 4-0 win at the Allianz Arena in the second leg of the semi-final.

Barcelona were pitted against Italian champions Juventus in a repeat of the 2015 final which the Spanish side won 3-1. Rank outsiders Leicester City will take on Diego Simeone’s Atletico Madrid, runners-up in two of the last three seasons, with the first leg at the Vicente Calderon where no English side have won.

Borussia Dortmund face AS

Monaco who upset Manchester City in the previous round. Bayern will host the first leg against Real as the two sides renew one of European soccer’s oldest and most bitter rivalries.

“The match against Real Madrid will be special for me. It is going to be exciting to play against them,” Ancelotti said.

“We have a lot of confidence and want to win the Champions League this season. I think we have the ability to beat Real Madrid. But they have a fantastic team with a fantastic coach.”

Juventus will host the first leg against Barcelona and the second will see their full back Dani Alves return to the Nou Camp where the Brazilian made 247 appearances in eight years. Dortmund chairman Hans-Joachim Watzke was

relieved not to draw Bundesliga rivals Bayern. “We wanted to avoid Bayern, and I think they wanted to avoid us. From that perspective, it is a good draw,” he said.

“I saw Monaco’s match against Manchester City and I am aware that they have a goal difference of +58 in the league. It’s a difficult match. At this level, it doesn’t really matter if you play at home first.”

Three-times European Cup winners Manchester United were drawn against Belgian league leaders Anderlecht in the Europa League quarter-finals.

Ajax Amsterdam will meet Germany’s Schalke 04, French club Olympique Lyon face Turkey’s Besiktas and Spain’s Celta Vigo take on Belgian side Genk.—Reuters



The UEFA Europa League trophy is pictured after the draw of the quarterfinals in Nyon, Switzerland, on 17 March 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS