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THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Vol. III, No. 343, 13th Waning of Taboung 1378 ME | www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com | Saturday, 25 March 2017

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi arrives at the meeting of the National Reconciliation and Peace Centre in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA

NRPC Meeting 1/2017 commences

THE meeting of the National Reconciliation and Peace Centre (1/2017) was held yesterday at 10 am at the NRPC in Nay Pyi Taw with NRPC Chairperson and State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi delivering a speech.

Attending the meeting were NRPC Vice-Chairperson (2) Dr. Tin Myo Win, Union Ministers Lt-Gen Ye Aung, Nai Thet Lwin and U Tun Tun Oo, Lt-General Yar Pyae, Lt-Gen Min Naung, U Khun Maung Thaung and Chief Secretary U Khin Maung Tin.

The State Counsellor then gave advice on matters presented at the meeting and concluded the meeting by delivering a closing speech.

The NRPC meetings are held every two weeks.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Gov't rejects UN Rakhine investigation

The decision yesterday by the United Nations Human Rights Council to send an international fact-finding mission to investigate allegations of abuse by security forces against Muslims in Rakhine state was rebuffed by Myanmar's diplomatic and political leaders as well as government officials from China and India.

"The establishment of an international fact-finding mission would do more to inflame, rather than resolve the issues at this time" according to a statement from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs released late last night. "It is also not in accord with the situation on ground and the national circumstances. Given this, and the government's very real and serious efforts to build stability and find lasting solutions, Myanmar has dissociated itself from the resolution as a whole. A number of the HRC member countries including China and India have also dissociated themselves from the resolution or voiced their opposition to the establishment of such mission".

Myanmar's permanent representative to the United Nations in Geneva, U Htin Lynn, speaking before the decision was taken by consensus, rejected the move as "not acceptable". The Maungtaw Investigation Commission had just interviewed alleged victims who fled to Bangladesh and would issue its findings by August, he said.

The U.N. Human Rights Council adopted a resolution without a vote, brought by the European Union and supported by countries including the United States, that called for "ensuring full accountability for perpetrators and justice for victims".

> "The establishment of an international fact-finding mission would do more to inflame, rather than resolve the issues at this time.

A UN report issued last month, based on interviews with 220 members of Rakhine's Muslim community among the 75,000 who have fled to Bangladesh since October, said that Myanmar's security forces have committed mass killings and gang rapes of Muslims in northern Rakhine State in a campaign that "very likely" amounts to crimes against humanity and possibly ethnic cleansing.

U Htin Lynn, referring to the resolution, said: "Such kind of action is not acceptable to Myanmar as it is not in harmony with

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Gems and jades sales fetches five folds more than floor price

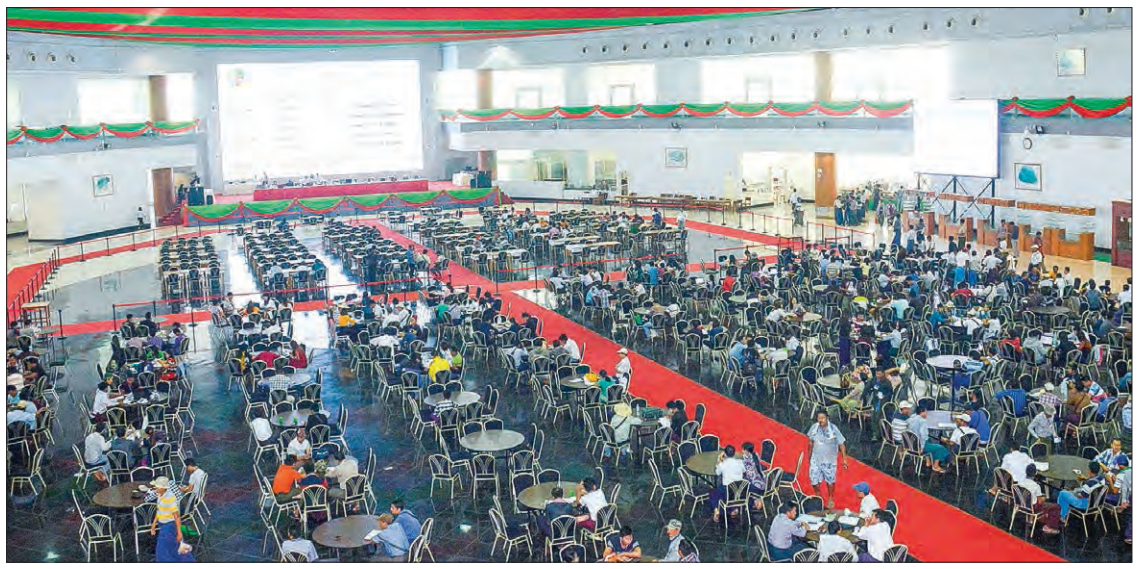
SALES of jade lots and uncut jade in Myanmar currency continued at the Mani Yadanar Jade Hall in Nay Pyi Taw at the early 2007.

During the emporium, 4649 lots of gems and jades were exhibited with the floor price of K 10815.68 million and 4267 lots totaling K 61915.20 million had been sold out and got five times more than the original floor price.

Deputy Director of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation, U Than Zaw Oo said that jade traders will need to pay 5% of the total price value of each of them as a deposit. The current sold out list is still not a real buyer's list because all the buyer of the jades and gems can be paid within 60 days after being bought and we have not got the exact value of cash for all the sold out items.

It is reported that the exhibition started from 19 to 24 March and a total of 1865 visitors gathered at the emporium.

During the exhibition, 130 lots of raw gems totaling K 5974.87 million among the exhibited 195 lots and K 55940.33 million worth of 4137 lots of utility jades among the exhibited lots of 4454 were sold out accordingly.—*Kyaw Thu Htet (MNA)*



Buyers and bidders at the Mani Yadanar Jade Hall in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA

Patients of food poisoning receive aid

Volunteers of the BFM are ready to deliver aid including food and drinking water to the patients. PHOTO: THURA LWIN

MORE than 600 people suffered from food poisoning from a charity meal in a village in Myaungmya on Thursday and about 400 patients were taken to hospital.

Aid including food and water from KBZ's Brighter Future Myanmar Foundation were delivered to about 200 patients receiving medical care at the hospital yesterday.

After consuming the meal at the Village of Seintalon in Myaungmya Township, Ayeyawady Region, more than 600 people fell ill, vomiting and pains all over their body, according to local authorities.

The sick were recovering after receiving treatment, according to the hospital.

Volunteers of the Philanthropic foundation and local volunteers delivered the aid to the patients.—*Thura Lwin*

10 purified water companies apply for FDA licenses

Ten purified water companies applied for licenses in Taninthayi region after the Food and Drugs Administration (FDA) announced legal action against the companies if they don't have an FDA certificate, it is learnt.

"I want people to consume only purified water which has an FDA certificate", said Dr. Hein Min Htet Aung, in charge of the Taninthayi region FDA.

There are a total of 26 purified water companies that have applied for FDA licenses, including renewal licenses in Taninthayi region.—*200*

Vocational training school to be built

A private company plans to open a vocational training school with an aim to produce skilled workers for the region, said Dr. Aye Myint, Director General of the Department of Technical and Vocational Education under the Ministry of Education.

The Ministry of Education will hand over or rent out the plot of land to build the vocational training school.

The ministry planned to open a school jointly at the vocational school site which will be operated by regional and state ministries.

The government and the private company, which was not named, plan to discuss the opening the vocational training school for development of human resources.

To enhance development of the technical and vocational education sector, the government will adopt three strategies for technical and vocational sector in its fiscal 2016-2021 national education strategies project.—*200*

Eyes Survive to be conducted in eleven regions

THE ministry of health and sports together with the International Academic Partnership Program (IAPP), Fred Follow Foundation, and the Seva Foundation will conduct Eyes Survive, a vision-saving programme, during April in 11 regions of across the country, said an official from Yangon eyes hospital.

"Eyes Survive was conducted across the nation in 1997. This is the second time for Eyes Survive 20 years later. Previously, we conducted eye tests in some regions. This time, we will conduct Eyes Survive in 11 regions, which is representative of across the country. We will provide training for one month. Then, we will start our project after the Water Festival," said an official from Yangon Eyes Hospital.

In Myanmar, cataracts are the most common eye disease, followed by glaucoma. Eye diseases mostly occur in the middle region of Myanmar, according to the 1997 Eyes Survive statistics.—*200*

Children's paintings exhibited

PAINTINGS by Asian children are being exhibited at the Yangon Zoological Garden from 23 to 29 March. The exhibition has been held jointly by Mitsubishi Public Affairs Committee and the National Federation of UNESCO Associations in Japan (NFUAJ).

The pictures are from Mitsubishi Asian Children's Enikki Festa competition. The Mitsubishi Asian Children's Enikki Festa competition was held in 24 Asian countries. This year, over 200 children from Asian countries participated.

Children from primary schools in Myanmar competed this year. Grade 3 students from Yangon International School won the grand prize. The third-grade student competed under the topic of "Here is my Life". She also won the UNESCO prize.

The invitation letter of the children's painting competition was sent to schools at the beginning of September. The children's painting competition is commonly held in January.—*MNA*

A child looks at intently at an art exhibition by primary school children. PHOTO: MNA

Vice President U Myint Swe being welcomed at Sanya International Airport by Chinese officials. PHOTO: MNA

Vice President U Myint Swe visits Boao, China

VICE President U Myint Swe accompanied by Deputy Minister U Maung Maung Win and Department officials, departed from Nay Pyi Taw International Airport for Boao, China yesterday morning to attend the 2017 Annual Boao Forum for Asia.

Union Ministers Lt-Gen Kyaw Swe and Dr Than Myint, Deputy Ministers Maj-Gen Than Htut and U Hla Kyaw and Charge' d' affaires from Chinese Embassy Mr. Li Xiao Yan were at the airport to see off Vice President U Myint Swe and party.

The Vice President and entourage arrived at Sanya City, Hainan Province around 1:40 pm local time. They were welcomed by Myanmar Ambassador to China U Thit Lin Ohn and Sanya City's Deputy Mayor Mr. He Shi Gan and officials. The Vice President then departed by express train from Sanya train station and arrived in Boao in the evening.

The four day Boao Forum for Asia will be held from March 23 to 26, with this year's headline being Globalization and Free Trade: The Asian Perspectives have been divided into Globalization, Growth, Reform and New Economy. This year's forum will include 42 discussions for government sectors and 12 for private sectors.

Over 80 senior executives from international organizations, country leaders, and business groups worldwide will attend the forum with 23 media groups invited.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Vice President U Myint Swe meets Vice Premier of China

VICE President U Myint Swe, who is in Boao City, Hainan Province to attend the Boao Forum for Asia, arrived yesterday evening at the State Guest House for discussions between Myanmar and China.

Together with the Vice President were Deputy Minister for Planning and Finance U Maung Maung Win, Myanmar Ambassador to China U Thit Lin Ohn and officials. Chinese Vice Premier Mr. Zhang Gaoli, Deputy Ministers and officials received the Myanmar Vice President and party.

Transparent discussions were held on strengthening relations, boosting business and trade, and reciprocal visits by officials between the two countries.

In the evening, the Vice President attended a dinner party in honour of the heads of delegations and esteemed guests attending the forum hosted by Vice Premier Mr. Zhang Gaoli at the Main Hall of the Boao International Conference Center .

Afterwards, Vice President U Myint Swe met with Vice-Chairman of the Boao Forum Mr. Zhang Fei Yan at the State Guest House to discuss matters relating to the forum. —*Myanmar News Agency*

VP U Myint Swe meets Vice-Chairman of the Boao Forum Mr. Zhang Fei Yan. PHOTO: MNA

Literature workshop for national ethnic people held

THE second day of a workshop on literature for national ethnic people was held at the Mingalar Thiri Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

In yesterday's session, matters on techniques needed for the emergence of national ethnic literature and languages in Regions and States to get monetary subsidies were discussed.

At the workshop, there were discussions in small groups concerning the emergence of national ethnic literature acknowledged by the Ministry of Education, prescribing textbooks for teaching literature, possessing books on ethnic literature and making them available to be read, having teachers who will teach ethnic literature, ensuring there are organisations representing ethnic groups in townships, districts, states and regions at all levels.

In addition, the groups discussed matters that would like to be included concerning literature and culture groups, having summer training sessions opened, periods of trainings, numbers of trainees at the trainings at different levels of regions, states, districts and townships, matters needed to be included concerning conducting ethnic literature and matters on financial support.

In the afternoon, U Kyunn Lwun, U Saw Victor Khalite, U Sai Kham Noot, U Ba Aung, Dr San Hla Kyaw, Daw Nant Wun Kyi and U Saw Nwe Tun Oo discussed financial aid to ethnic literature and cultural groups teaching ethnic literature in Regions and States.

Afterward, U Win Naing, deputy director-general of the Ministry of Ethnic Affairs made a closing speech.—*Hmwe Kyu Zin (MNA)*

Action will be taken for illegal increased fares during Thingyan

YANGON Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein announced at a press conference yesterday morning in Yangon Region Government Office that severe action will be taken on drivers and owners of highway vehicles charging higher prices than usual during the Thingyan holidays.

"During the Thingyan festival there will be a lot of travellers and not enough vehicles, so there will be difficulties. We have made arrangements so that highway companies are able to operate more routes than usual," said the Chief Minister.

"There are instances where the prices of tickets are doubled due to insufficient vehicles, and we will take action towards bus terminals that increase their prices."

Plans have similarly been made for the city's YBS buses to operate as normal during the days of the festival.

"We have made arrangements so that the people face no difficulties, though some bus lines will temporarily cease operations. The bus fares will have be charged as normal and action will be taken to those who charge higher prices," said Minister for Electricity, Industry and Transportation Dr. Nilar Kyaw. During the 2017 Thingyan Holidays the schedule for passenger buses at Aung Mingalar Highway Station are bus line 101 for April 10, bus line 94 for April 11, bus line 86 for April 12, bus line 55 for April 13, bus line 16 for April 14, bus line 10 for April 15, a total of 10 bus lines each, while the schedule for South Dagon Highway Station is bus line 40 for April 10, bus line 39 for April 11, bus line 33 for April 12, bus line 5 for April 13, a total of 5 bus lines, and no bus lines will be operating from 14 to 15 April.—*Nay Lin*

Union Minister Dr Pe Myint inspects Kayin State IPRD

UNION Minister for Information Dr. Pe Myint visited Kayin State Information and Public Relations Department and inspected its children's reading room, miniature museum, library, community center and the workflow of the department.

The Union Minister made sure the children's reading room is a safe zone for children to pursue their interests, collecting Kayin literary artifacts for display at the museum during literary festivals, and invitation of ethnic groups and social non-profit groups in establishing the community center.

Afterwards, the Union Minister met with Kayin State Chief Minister Daw Nan Khin Htwe Myint and other state ministers at the Pyidaungsu Yeikthar to talk about the successful completion of the children's literary festival in Hpa-an, and to discuss future plans concerning the information sector.

In the evening, Union Minister Dr Pe Myint, together with Mon State Minister for Social Affairs Dr Htein Lin and officials, toured the site for the upcoming children's literary festival in Mawlamyine University. The Union Minster inspected on preparations made and advised on required issues.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Dr. Pe Myint observes historical artifacts. PHOTO: MNA

LOCAL Business

First Japanese food court opens in Myanmar

THE first Japanese food court in Myanmar has opened in Yangon in a joint venture between Tokyo-based trading giant Sojitz Corp. and the largest local retail chain, City Mart Holdings.

Dubbed "Tokyo Dining City," the facility has six restaurants that bring the authentic culinary arts of Japan combined with quality service, according to Sojitz.

It is operated by Sojitz City Food Co., 85 percent owned by the Japanese firm and 15 percent by Arctic Sun Co., a City Mart subsidiary.

The food court opened Wednesday inside a new commercial complex located in the central business district of Myanmar's biggest city Yangon.

It can accommodate around 200 seats with a cozy setting and caters mainly to office workers with a full menu of primarily Japanese dishes, including sushi and "udon" noodles.

"Japanese food has gained great popularity in Myanmar and there are many Japanese restaurants here. What makes us different from the others is that we aim to present genuine Japanese dining and Japan's culture of hospitality to our customers in Myanmar," said Zar Ni Kyaw, operation manager of Tokyo Dining City.

The first Japanese food court in Myanmar is launched on 22 March 2017, in Yangon. The six restaurants, serving dishes including sushi and udon noodles, are operated by a joint corporation of a Japanese trading house and a local distribution firm. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

The food court has employed around 50 local people as restaurant staff. The joint venture plans to open branches in future, offering more job opportunities.

The first Japanese restaurant in Myanmar opened in 1988 and Japanese cuisine has since risen in popularity.

Maung Maung, a 61-year-old customer who visited Tokyo Dining City on the opening day, said local people prefer authentic Japanese food to dishes adjusted with local taste.

"There are lots of Japanese restaurants in our neighborhood and they are always crowded. We have to wait in a long queue to be served or to get a table," he said. "But I can get the real taste of Japan from only a few of them. It's worth paying for bona fide Japanese cuisine."—*Kyodo News*

Myanmar registers trade deficit of over $5b in FY 2016-17

ALTHOUGH the import value increased this fiscal year, the country's trade deficit reached more than US$5 billion before the end of this FY, according to the official figures of the Commerce Ministry.

The total external trade value between Myanmar and its trade partners from 1 April to 10 March hit US$26.367 billion while the county has racked up a trade deficit of over $5 billion. This number represents an increase of $250 million of deficit compared to last year's figures.

Over the past 11.5 months of this FY, over $10.653 billion from the export sector and $15.714 billion from the import sector that occurred the trade deficit of more than $5.061 billion. This trade value has increased by $547 million compared with the same period last FY.

The country had a trade deficit of $5.4 billion over the same period last fiscal year.

According to the ministry, the country suffered a trade deficit of over $91 million in FY2012-2013. The trade deficit rose to $2.555 billion in FY2013-2014. It continues to increase to $4.109 billion in FY2014-2015, $5.441 billion in FY2015-2016.

Efforts are being made by the government to reduce import of goods to decrease the country's trade deficit.

Under the second five-year National Development Plan between 2016-2017 and 2020-2021 FY, efforts are being made by the ministry to promote the country's export sector by shipping new valued-added products from manufacturing sector within the next five year.—*Shwe Khine*

Export of industrial finished products declines by $335 million

THE export value of industrial finished products during this financial year decreased by US$335 million when compared with the same period of last FY, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

Last fiscal year saw the export value from April through second week of this month reach $5.281 billion, but this year's export value decreased to $4.946 billion, the majority of total industrial finished product exports being from the government sector.

The total export value of over the past 11.5 months hit $10.653 billion, an increase of more than $400 million matched against last year.

Myanmar predominately exports animal products, minerals, aquaculture, forest and agriculture products, while she imports capital goods, construction materials, personal goods, agricultural machineries and raw materials and electronic devices.

According to the official figures, animal products, which are worth $9.198 million, marine products worth over $525 million, mineral products worth over $865 million, forest products worth $220 million and others worth $1.435 billion were sold to partner foreign buyers.

While mineral and finished industrial products decreased, the value of export of agriculture, fishery, forest and animals products increased this FY.

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

Shwe Taung Development, AYA Bank to sell apartments under long-term loan

SHWE Taung Development Co. and AYA Bank reportedly entered into an agreement for a mortgage loan plan valid for up to 15 years.

This is the very first long-term loan plan offered by the private sector. The buyers under this mortgage loan plan can live in the apartment after 40 per cent of down payment is paid.

This plan aims to provide Myanmar Citizens who cannot afford to buy a condominium to have a chance to own the houses under an instalment plan. The apartments developed by Shwe Taung Development Co can be purchased under a mortgage loan plan which is currently valid for Hilltop Vista Condominium and Crystal Residences. —*Ko Htet*

New resort to be launched in Yangon's Hlegu Township

A NEW small resort named C Point is planned to be launched next month in Hlegu Township in northeast of Yangon, said U Aung Thu Shwe, director of the resort project.

The new resort on one-acre of land can host 50 guests at most, drawing people wishing to enjoy the scenery of countryside. It has been fixed with swimming pools for both children and adults, family camping tents and other luxury facilities. The rental fees for the whole area per hour is Ks12,000. The cost will be reduced to Ks10,000 per hour for people who rent the place for six hours or more. Those visitors can go to nearby villages through the resort under the arrangement of the company.

The new resort is suitable for party makers, company events and a moderately sized group of holidaymakers of no more than 50 people. Hlegu, a small city about 45 km northeast of the commercial city, is located on both sides of the Ngamoyeik Creek. It shares borders with Hmawby and Taikkyi townships in the west, the major township of Bago Region in the north and east, North Okkalapa, Dagon Myothit (North) and Dagon Myothit (East) townships in the south.—*200*

Performances in One-Year Period

Central Bank of Myanmar extensively engaged in monetary stability

Vice President U Henry Van Thio is seen together with officials from Cambodia, Laos and Viet Nam at a conference held in Yangon, Myanmar. PHOTO: MNA

Vice President U Henry Van Thio and Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein at Grand Opening Ceremony of BIDV Yangon Branch on 31 July 2016. PHOTO: MNA

Photo shows the building of the Central Bank of Myanmar near Yarzahtarni Road in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA

Min Min Zaw (MNA)

The Central Bank of Myanmar has become an independent financial institution after the new Central Bank of Myanmar Law was enacted in the year 2013. The CBM is in the process of implementing its three main objectives—monetary stability, financial stem stability as well as payments and settlement system development.

Monetary policy

As part of its efforts for implementation of monetary system, the Central Bank of Myanmar is extensively engaged in interest rate policy, reserve money requirement, exchange rate policy and free market activities.

With a view to ensuring monetary stability, the CBM is implementing the Reserve Money Targeting so that inflation or stability of prices can be maintained. With this end in view, the CBM is working hard in order to be able to set medium-term inflation 7 per cent on average, reserve money 13 per cent and monetary volume increasing rate 24 per cent.

If the reserve money increasing rate is greater than the target it is put to deposit auction and the surplus is subtracted. The deposit auction was introduced in the year 2012, and there are 20 times of deposit auction in one year period of the new government spanning between 2016 and 2017. One deposit auction is K 333 billion on average and the surplus is deducted from the market. The interest rate over deposit auction is not limited and the interest rate based on market is roughly from 5.5 per cent to 7.4 per cent. The term of deposit is two weeks, four weeks and 12 weeks. The deposit auction online system is being carried out through the CBM-Net.

Easing of interest rate

The CBM is trying its utmost to ensure increasing of public savings, interest rate which covers inflation and reasonable interest rate for investors. It is also making arrangements for the easing of interest rate so that it could reflect market instead of prescribing the interest rate as a policy. The CBM is also selling government exchange certificates and government treasury bonds on behalf of the government for budget deficits which trigger inflation.

Sale of treasury bonds

The Central Bank of Myanmar on behalf of the Ministry of Planning & Finance was selling government exchange certificates to banks and other financial institutions starting from 28 January 2015 through competitive bidding, and government treasury bonds to banks and other financial institutions starting from 20 September 2016 through competitive bidding system with the aim of reducing the fulfillment of the CBM in the State's budget deficit and of ensuring the effective load management of the government.

Foreign banks (branch) chosen to be opened

In the 2016-2017 fiscal year, K 1181 billion worth government treasury bonds with an interest rate ranging from 7 to 9 per cent were sold and K 3032 billion worth government exchange certificates with an interest rate ranging from 8.6 per cent to 9.6 per cent were sold.

> In the 2016-2017 fiscal year, K 1181 billion worth government treasury bonds with an interest rate ranging from 7 to 9 per cent were sold.

The Central Bank of Myanmar granted permits to foreign banks (branch) in a transparent manner and it has been able to engage in development of financial inclusion as well as development of mobile banking, mobile financial services and mobile network operators. In that regard, altogether 13 foreign banks (branch) have been put out to tender and chosen transparently to be opened.

Project loan

The foreign banks (branch) are in the direct service of both foreign companies and domestic companies in the country through the project loan and trade finance. There are 13 foreign banks (branch), 24 private banks with 1475 branches, 16 private financial firms, 45 foreign bank representative offices and two foreign financial firms in the country. As part of financial inclusion to be implemented in 2025, the CBM is opening more bank branches to ensure that unbanked people have access to monetary services.

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PERFORMANCES IN ONE-YEAR PERIOD

CBM Governor U Kyaw Kyaw Maung poses for photo with those attendees at Asian Clearing Union. PHOTO: MNA

Governor of the CBM U Kyaw Kyaw Maung. PHOTO: MNA

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Mobile financial services

The CBM on 30 March 2016 issued rules and regulations on mobile financial services to be undertaken by two International Mobile Network Operators—Telenor and Ooredoo as well as MPT. Meanwhile, Non-bank Financial Institutions will be allowed to engage in mobile financial services and Digital Money Myanmar Ltd (Wave Money) has been allowed to do so.

Transforming rule-based supervision into risk-based supervision

To stabilize the banking sector, the CBM is transforming rule-based supervision into risk-based supervision in order to check whether the private banks abide by the rules and regulations or not. Financial soundness indicator was issued for the first time with the assistance of International Monetary Fund (IMF), said the Governor of the Central Bank of Myanmar. The CBM has introduced card payment systems such as Automatic Teller Machine (ATM) cards and credit cards to improve cash payment system and to reduce currency use.

The CBM-Net that connects with electronic technology was launched in January 2016 for all banks in Myanmar to be able to materialize an effective and advanced cash payment system. The CBM-Net member banks will be able to enjoy Real Time Gross Settlement and Mechanized Cheque Clearing through CBM-Net System for paying Nostro A/C in Myanmar currency.

In order to reduce currency in circulation and pay card system with the use of electronic technology, the CBM has already allowed the public to use Visa Card, Master Card, JCB Card and UPI Card not only at home but also abroad. Moreover, the local banks have been allowed to issue the prepaid cards. The local banks in Myanmar were permitted to issue International Cards (Master/Visa/JIC/UPI) and International Credit Card (Clean Card) that can be used at home and abroad in January 2017. The local banks were also allowed to issue "MPU-JCB, MPU-UPI" Co-branded Cards so that MPU Cards issued by the local banks can be used in the international network, U Kyaw Kyaw Maung added.

Interbank lending system

The CMB issued a new instruction in the fiscal year 2016-2017 to introduce Interbank Lending system which is practiced in international banking market as interbank credit transfer system had been used in the past. Under the new instruction, all local banks will have a chance to carry out their banking activities through the Central Securities Depository System. Currently, Interbank Lending System is being practiced by the local banks.

The currency SWAP system and currency forward system were allowed by the CMB starting from the financial year 2016-2017 to be able to prevent the losses that occur from exchange of foreign currency between the local banks and their clients or among the local banks. So, the SWAP and Forward system that fix currency exchange rate not to happen losses in purchasing and selling foreign currency can be used in the future.

Reserve fund

The Central Bank of Myanmar got the low interest rate because its reserve fund is being kept on deposit at foreign banks as Fixed Deposit. The CBM included in Reserve Advisory and Management Program (RAMP) as of 2016-2017 fiscal year and was undertaking Portfolio Investment like the central banks of other countries. Under the Portfolio Investment, the CBM is attracting international investments to earn more income of the Benchmark Returns from the Bonds issued by the foreign countries.

The CBM disbursed loans to small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in cooperation with international organizations. "Arrangements are being made to provide capital from the banking sector for the development of private sector as private sector plays an important role in market-oriented system. SMEs operate particularly in private sector and there are so many restraints and difficulties for the SMEs to ensure loan disbursement from the banks," U Kyaw Kyaw Maung said.

Three types of loan

The CBM Governor continued that the loans are being offered to the SMEs through three types of loans namely – loans through local banks, foreign loans through international organizations and scheme to ensure loans. All plans have been made by the Central Bank of Myanmar during one-year period of the new government.

The CBM implements financial policy, decides foreign exchange rate policy, gives suggestions to the government concerning foreign exchange rate system and manages foreign reserve fund of the State. Moreover, the CBM also supervises financial institutions, disburses loans to the private banks and links between the financial institutions and the government.

CBM Governor U Kyaw Kyaw Maung receives GIZ delegation from Germany. PHOTO: MNA

CBM Governor U Kyaw Kyaw Maung at 52nd SEACEN Governors' Conference/High-Level Seminar and 36th Meeting of the SEACEN Board of Governors. PHOTO: MNA

Culling of 300,000 chickens begins in Japan after bird flu detected

SENDAI — Local authorities in the eastern Japan prefectures of Miyagi and Chiba began culling nearly 300,000 chickens Friday after the highly pathogenic H5 strain of bird flu was detected in some chickens that had died in local poultry farms. The Miyagi prefectural government is planning to cull 220,000 chickens and bury them underground by early Monday, while the Chiba authority is culling 68,000 chickens, in the latest in a series of bird flu outbreaks in the country.

Officials work to cull chickens at a poultry farm in the northeastern Japan city of Kurihara on 24 March 2017, following a detection of highly pathogenic bird flu there. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

Japan has been experiencing a series of bird flu outbreaks, including recent ones in the southwestern prefectures of Miyazaki and Saga. The Miyagi and Chiba prefectural governments have restricted any movement of poultry and eggs within a radius of 3 kilometers from the farms where the virus has been detected. They have also banned poultry and eggs from being taken outside a 10-km radius. The Miyagi government has set up a response unit at its headquarters and requested the deployment of Self-Defence Forces personnel to engage in the culling operation.

"The initial response is the most important thing. We are making all-out efforts in the culling operation," Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Minister Yuji Yamamoto said, adding the central government will closely collaborate with the Miyagi and Chiba governments. According to the Miyagi prefectural government, a total of 96 chickens were found dead over three days through Thursday at a poultry farm in the city of Kurihara. Six of them tested positive in a preliminary screening on Thursday.

In Chiba, a total of 118 chickens were found dead in the same three-day period at a farm in Asahi and 10 tested positive in a preliminary test. Subsequent generic exams detected highly virulent avian influenza.

At the poultry farm in Kurihara, prefectural government officials clad in white protective gear conducted operations inside the poultry house, while work to dig holes to bury the chickens using heavy machinery was also in progress.

Farmers hope the culling operations can be completed as soon as possible so as not to cause any reputational damage to their products. Fujiko Hatayama, 70, who runs a poultry farm more than 20 km from the outbreak site in Kurihara, said, "I hope everything will be fine. There are only a few things we can do." Early in the morning, she spread lime powder on the ground to help prevent infections.

Since late Thursday night, Miyagi prefectural government employees have gathered to conduct culling operations.

"It was the first time in Miyagi Prefecture that bird flu has been detected in livestock but we experienced no problems as we had conducted drills last year," said Koji Abe, a 52-year-old prefectural government employee.—*Kyodo News*

Fire at Bangladesh central bank under control

DHAKA — A fire that broke out in Bangladesh's central bank on Thursday night on floors 13 and 14 of the 32-story building has been brought under control.

The cause of the blaze was not immediately known.

"Twelve units of the fire fighting department controlled (the fire) after several hours of efforts," a fire department official said.

"Those floors are very important as those floors deal with foreign exchange policy and also monitor activities of banks inside the country," an official of the bank said.

The central bank of Bangladesh drew global attention last year when the hackers tried to steal about $1 billion from its account at the Federal Reserve Bank of New York and ultimately got away with $81 million.

The US Federal Bureau of Investigation believes North Korea is responsible for the heist, an official briefed on its probe of the incident told Reuters.

A committee has been formed to find out the cause and whether it had any link with the heist, a senior official of the central bank said.—*Reuters*

Sri Lankan PM says spread of dengue part of health crisis in Asia

COLOMBO — Sri Lanka's Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe on Friday informed his parliament that the spread of dengue in the island country was part of a health crises looming in Asia.

A report quoting Wickremesinghe said that the spread of dengue in Sri Lanka and the spread of diseases in other Asian countries were a part of one health crisis in the region.

"Diseases such as fever and even bird flu are spreading in Asia, and millions of poultry are being destroyed in South Korea today.

And the spread of diseases in Sri Lanka may be a part of this crisis," Wickremesinghe said.

He said his government had taken several measures to control the spread of dengue in Sri Lanka and nearly 800 members from the security forces had been deployed throughout the country to curb the situation.

According to statistics from the Epidemiology Unit of Sri Lanka, over 20,000 people have been infected with dengue within the first three months of this year with 41.38 per cent of dengue cases reported from the Western province.

Thirteen deaths have also been reported.

The highest numbers of dengue cases were reported during the third week of 2017.

"This situation warrants regular removal of possible mosquito breeding sites from the environment.

It is also important to seek medical attention in the event of dengue fever," the Epidimiology Unit said in a statement.

Earlier this month, at least 66 schools were forced to remain close for three days in the Trincomalee District, in Eastern Sri Lanka due to the spread of dengue. —*Xinhua*

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

MV. CALMY CORAL VOY. NO (109)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV. CALMY CORAL VOY. NO (109) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 26.3.2017 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 ECL (S'PORE) PTE LTD
Phone No: 2301191, 2301178

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

MV. BANGSAOTONG VOY. NO (187)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV. BANGSAOTONG VOY. NO (187) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 25.3.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MSTL-1 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 WONGSAMUT OCEAN SHIIPING CO LTD
Phone No: 2301928

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

MV. MERATUS GORONTALO VOY. NO (167)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV. MERATUS GORONTALO VOY. NO (167) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 25.3.2017 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 YANG MING LINE
Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

MV. INNWA BHUM VOY. NO ( )

Consignees of cargo carried on MV. INNWA BHUM VOY. NO ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 25.3.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T/AIPT 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

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.

Boomerang Effect

Khin Maung Oo

KARMA is a commonly used word in our every-day expressions. In Buddhism and Hinduism, it means the sum total of someone's good and bad actions in this and in past lives. Karma is believed to decide what will happen to them in the next life. And, informally it is also used to mean, "The good or bad effect of doing a particular thing, being in a particular place, etc." We generally believe in the effect of karma, and this belief makes us avoid immoral practices, that is, not to do immoral deeds. All religions teach its believers not to do mischief. We all pay respects to those who abide by moral principles. Here I would like to recount a poem about which we had to recite 50 years ago when we were school children. The poem named, "Mirror" says, "The mirror reflects my charming smile; and it responds as much to my grim look; the wooden-framed mirror void of life, soul, spirit and memory teaches me a lesson." Really, it makes us ponder a lot about karma. On the supposition that we had stolen something from someone, we would surely get suspicious looks from them even though they did not make any responses to the theft. From this we can guess how much we will be disliked if we stole public-owned properties.

A person is usually above killing a small bird or a tiny living thing. We often see birds making loud noises for the death of their fellow bird by being electrocuted or for other reasons. This sight gives us a vicarious sorrow. We should be considerate how much sadness we will feel if we were in the places of victims who were killed in battles or on roads or in their own places. For the person who commits the crime may be sentenced to death as a punishment, according to the boomerang effect, thence his family, relatives and friends will grieve forever. As known by all, our country is a predominantly Buddhist country. Most keep five precepts also called "Pyinsa Sila" of abstaining from killing, stealing, committing adultery, telling lies and taking intoxicating drinks for drugs. To put it simply, people with immoral practices are increasing more than ever. Criminal cases are on the rise. Some people are not above committing massacres, provided that they are given money. These days, there are many people, who are ready to boo and clap in front of the stages even if a meager amount of money is paid. In fact, they do not know that they will soon have a boomerang effect of being despised by the people. We may observe that they have a very low moral standard. In other words, they are not well convinced of further boomerang effects of their ignorance.

We had to learn this Newton's Law of Motion when we were in high school, "For every force of action there is an equal and opposite force of reaction". To sum it up, we are also partly responsible for their complete ignorance, because their intelligence and thinking powers had been shattered by the failure of past governments to give adequate freedom to the citizens to learn and acquire knowledge and our lack of courage to point out the then political system's shortcomings. Now is the time for us to help the government's plans for our future leaders to possess advanced thoughts and ideas which will be beneficial for the country.

Let us prepare for good boomerang effects to come to our younger generations!

Gaining Both Secular Success and Spiritual Merit

Tommy Pauk

THERE is no one who does not want secular success in life. Every sensible person wishes to make secular success and gain spiritual merit. Some people concentrate only on striving for secular success and they do neglect the spiritual merit. According to the ability and vigorous efforts of a person, he or she can obtain secular success in life. We must be able to endure hardship and failures with composure before gaining success. Spiritual merit can be attained by doing good deeds in life. The persons who refrain from doing evil deeds can gain spiritual merit. This belief or concept is embraced by all civilized peoples on earth. In other words, this is a universal truth for all mankind indeed. It is no doubt that the philanthropists, benevolent persons, charitable donors and righteous persons can gain spiritual merit. The very basic concept of humanitarianism is that we must have compassion, humanity, benignity, and loving kindness. All the religious teachings are based on doing meritorious deeds and cultivating human minds to possess compassion. The religious faith and its respective practices aim to endure peace and create harmony among fellow human beings on earth.

To be able to achieve secular success in life, we ought to have the quality of thinking or behaving in a correct and honest way. A person who does not succeed in life struggle is living dead. Actually, failures are the stepping stones to reach a goal of success. Rectitude, hard-work, good-judgment and dogged perseverance lead a person to achieve secular success in life. These days, people are inspired by the successful persons in education, art, science, politics, innovation, economy, business and so on. They are facing or experiencing lots of challenges and competitions in striving for making secular success. They also get caught up in the rat race in every field. Most of the people living in the urban areas or concrete jungle are craving for material wealth and material gains in this IT age around the world. Some unscrupulous persons use unfair or dishonest way for making success in a particular society. As a consequence, they feel guilty-consciousness for their malpractice in their minds. Normally, ambition, motivation and ego are driving factors to achieve success in human endeavor in life. It is human nature that we want to succeed in education, business, sports, arts and so on. However, the achievement of one's aim cannot be easily obtained in life. There are many obstacles to be overcome before achieving secular success. Simultaneously, we want to fulfill our cravings of creature comforts while striving for secular success in secular society. In addition, we seek worldly pleasure while we are alive. Even if we gain secular success, we ought to maintain it securely. If a person succeeds in various fields in secular society, he or she is likely to be a vainglorious person. It is very important to tame our minds that we should not be too proud of our secular successes or triumphs when we attain them. We must bear in mind that if we forget our origins and become conceited, we will encounter our downfall eventually. This means that we will lose our money, property, power, social positions and fame. In this case, everyone should be aware of the impact of haughtiness caused by secular success. Humans have a natural disposition to be good, but the character is changed due to excessive pride or conceit.

It is hardly ever to gain the secular success and spiritual merit on equal ratio in life. Some people try hard to gain spiritual merit in accord with the religious faith they profess. Different people around the world profess to different religion. Nevertheless, all the religious teachings guide the believers or disciples to behave honestly and correctly for gaining the secular success in life. Then they do have their own practices to attain spiritual merit with specific doctrines. The focal point of all faith is based on charitable work, charitable donation, compassion, peace and harmony for all mankind in deed. We all are taught not to commit sins or do evil deeds by the respective religions in human society. Good moral behaviors and meritorious deeds lead us to attain spiritual merit. Basically spiritual merit is regarded as an award for those who refrain from committing sins and doing evil deeds in human life. We value that award and eagerly want it for eternal life before attaining Nivarna. We ought to analyze our conduct and contributions toward humanity so that we will be able to improve or upgrade our meritorious deeds and charitable work as much as we can. Essentially, we need to gain both secular success and spiritual merit. We must value the human existence because humans can attain the enlightenment if they practice correctly. However, if a person behaves recklessly and does nothing for spiritual merit, he or she will meet crisis certainly. A man without secular success is like a vehicle without fuel. Similarly, a man who does not attempt for gaining spiritual merit is like a traveler without map or itinerary indeed. We understand the value and benefit of human life. As a matter of fact, we need to live beneficially, wisely and honestly in secular society. In order to enjoy the tempting luxuries in modern age, we have to work harder than before. At the same time, we strive for secular success with stable life. Since we are associated with other fellow human beings, we need to contribute to the social welfare activities by showing a sociable disposition. Thus, we realize that a secular success alone is not meaningful or complete for human life. Therefore, we also pay attention to the practice or work for gaining spiritual merit. We follow and practice in conformity with our faith, aiming to gain spiritual merit successfully.

The following the full text of the Press Release issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on UN Human Rights Council's resolution calling for the dispatch of an international Fact Finding Mission

THE resolution on the situation of human rights in Myanmar tabled by the European Union was adopted without a vote at the meeting of the 34th Session of the Human Rights Council (HRC), held on 24 March 2017 in Geneva.

In the resolution, the Human Rights Council welcomes the progress made by Myanmar towards achieving political and economic reform, democratisation, national reconciliation, good governance and the rule of law, as well as its efforts to promote and protect human rights and combat corruption. At the same time, the HRC resolved to dispatch an independent international Fact Finding Mission to Myanmar.

Myanmar has been making every effort to seek practical and lasting solutions to the deeply complex and challenging situation in Rakhine State. Within weeks of taking office, the government established the Central Committee on Rakhine to promote peace, stability and development in the State. An independent advisory commission headed by former United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan was also set up to assist the government in finding long-term solutions.

In response to the armed attacks on police border outposts and headquarters in October and November 2016 and subsequent allegations of human rights abuses, the government formed an Investigation Commission led by Vice President U Myint Swe to look into the causes of those incidents and allegations.

The government takes allegations of human rights abuses seriously. The Commission has spent several weeks visiting affected areas of Rakhine State and has just returned from its investigatory trip to Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh. Where there are credible allegations of abuses, witnesses will be invited to travel to Myanmar under international protection to give evidence in legal proceedings in open court.

The situation on the ground is both complex and challenging. The establishment of an international Fact Finding Mission would do more to inflame, rather than resolve the issues at this time. It is also not in accord with the situation on ground and the national circumstances. Given this, and the government's very real and serious efforts to build stability and find lasting solutions, Myanmar has dissociated itself from the resolution as a whole. A number of the HRC member countries including China and India have also dissociated themselves from the resolution or voiced their opposition to the establishment of such mission.

The government of Myanmar is fully committed to the promotion and protection of human rights. It will be steadfast in its commitment to advancing human rights for the benefit of all people in Myanmar. To this effect, the government will set out a clear action plan for the prompt implementation of the recommendations made by the Advisory Commission on Rakhine State, led by former UN Secretary General Kofi Annan, in its interim report last week. —*Ministry of Foreign Affairs*

Deputy Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw visits famous pagoda in MraukU

DEPUTY Speaker of the Amyotha Hluttaw U Aye Thar Aung visited the site of a Vesali ancient city wall after he donated meals, drinking water and cash to the Manngarpar historic Mingalarmanaung Pagoda, Htukkanthein temple, Shite-Thaung temple (temple of the 80,000 images of the Buddha), Vesali wish-fulfulled Buddha image, and Naphuthinkyittaw Buddha Image in MraukU in Rakhine State on Thursday.

The Deputy Speaker met with the township administrator, district departmental officers and the heads of the villages and local residents and shared his experiences in Hluttaw.

Then he listened to local residents and answered their questions.

The Deputy Speaker made an address yesterday at the ceremony of the 150th anniversary of Minbya Town held in the football ground in Minbya town in Rakhine State where Rakhine State Chief Minister and ministers, Member of Parliament, Departmental heads and civil servants, community elders and local residents were present.—*Myanmar News Agency*

No paid pandals at 2017 Thingyan

Ko Moe

U PHYO MIN THEIN, Chief Minister of Yangon Region Cabinet, said that commercial water-throwing entertainment pandals to which entry requires monetary payment will not be allowed in next month's Thingyan Festival.

"The Thingyan Festival is the occasion when Myanmar people transition into the New Year, cleansing mischievous and evil deeds done in the previous year. So, the occasion is assumed to be an auspicious festival for Myanmar people.

Selling tickets profitably for joining the water-throwing entertainment pandals will not be permitted."

Also, dressing in indecent clothing and public intoxication will be prohibited during the festival days, he added at a news conference held at the Office of Yangon Region Cabinet yesterday.

It has been learnt that a free, public central water-throwing entertainment pandal in front of City Hall and four other central water-throwing pandals in four districts will be built, instead of being crowded in one place, as in previous years.

And, according to the Yangon Region Cabinet, water-throwing pandals will not be permitted to be built on Inya Road and along Kandawgyi Circular Road so as not to cause traffic-jams.

"Provided that anyone who would like to build water-throwing entertainment pandals in privately owned places like Shwe Htut Tin grounds, they are required to apply for permission to the Region Cabinet, which will grant permits in accord with the prescribed rules and regulations", U Phyo Min Thein said.

Those who want to build entertainment pandals privately owned land must abide by the regulations that include arranging emergency exits, ensuring security affairs, and making arrangements so that traffic jams do not occur, said Naw Pan Thinza Myo, minister for Kayin Ethnic Affairs of Yangon Region Cabinet.

During the 2017 Myanmar Traditional Festival, Myanmar Traditional Dances, Beauty, Decorative Entertainment Vehicles and Myanmar Satire-like recitals (Thangyat) highlighting the irony found in the political arena will be granted according to the prescribed rules and regulations.

In Yangon Region, for people to have a good time during the festival period, Myanmar Police Force will ensure the security of the populace under the management of Yangon Region Cabinet.

Bus lines will run during these days for the people to conveniently travel, as usual. If illegal extra fares are charged, the passengers can make complaints to the Yangon Region Transport Supervision Authority, according to Yangon Region Cabinet.

So as not to cause traffic jams and for security, building commercial water-throwing pandals and profitable entertainment pandals were not permitted in 2016 on Kaba Aye Pagoda Road, it was learnt.

Government rejects UN. . .

>> FROM PAGE 1

the situation on the ground (or) our national circumstances. Let the Myanmar people choose the best and the most effective course of action to address the challenges in Myanmar.

"We will be doing what needs to be done and we will do it with great prudence and probity," he added.

China and India said they would "disassociate" themselves from the consensus, with China's delegation saying the issue "cannot be solved overnight".

The statement from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs said Myanmar's own investigations would continue.

"The government of Myanmar is fully committed to the promotion and protection of human rights. It will be steadfast in its commitment to advancing human rights for the benefit of all people in Myanmar. To this effect, the government will set out a clear action plan for the prompt implementation of the recommendations made by the Advisory Commission on Rakhine State, led by former UN Secretary General Kofi Annan, in its interim report last week", the statement read.

Activists welcomed what they called a "landmark decision" by the 47-member forum, while regretting that it was not a full international commission of inquiry, and called on the government to cooperate.

"It is unfortunate that the government of Burma/Myanmar has chosen to disassociate itself from this resolution," John Samuel, Executive Director of FORUM-ASIA, said in a statement.—*GNLM/Reuters contributed to this report*

Heroin, stimulant pills seized in Lashio and Momeik

STIMULANT pills and heroin were seized in Lahio and Momeik on Thursday respectively.

A local anti-drug squad in Lashio stopped and searched a vehicle driven by Thoo Nan on the road of Falam village, Kaung Kye Ei village-tract, Lashio Township on 23 March and seized 749 g of heroin in 61 soap cups and 74,100 pills of stimulant hidden in the vehicle.

Likewise, an anti-drug squad in Momeik seized 3,098 stimulant pills during a search of the house owned by Win Hlaing in Dhawdey village, Momeik Township the same day.

Tun Lin Naing, the son of Win Hlaing was found in the house during the search and was arrested. Action has been taken against all suspects under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.—*Myanmar Police Force*

Trump demands support in do-or-die Friday vote on healthcare plan

WASHINGTON — US President Donald Trump warned House Republican lawmakers that he will leave Obamacare in place and move on to tax reform if they do not get behind new healthcare legislation and support it in a vote on Friday.

It was not clear late on Thursday evening that Trump and the Republican leaders who crafted the bill had enough support to pass it, meaning they now risk defeat in their first attempt at major legislation and may fail to deliver on a key campaign pledge.

"We have been promising the American people that we will repeal and replace this broken law because it's collapsing and it's failing families, and tomorrow we're proceeding," House Speaker Paul Ryan told reporters after an evening all-hands meeting. He ignored reporters who asked if he had secured the votes to pass the bill.

Ryan and leaders in the House of Representatives were forced to postpone a vote on their healthcare bill, formally called the American Health Care Act, earlier on Thursday, dealing Trump an embarrassing setback.

Speaker of the House Paul Ryan and Office of Management and Budget director Mick Mulvaney arrive for a meeting about the American Health Care Act on Capitol Hill in Washington, DC, US, on 23 March 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

The vote had been symbolically planned for the anniversary of former Democratic President Barack Obama signing his namesake healthcare law, the Affordable Care Act, in 2010.

It was supposed to have been Trump's first legislative victory.

Trump and his fellow Republicans had pledged to replace Obamacare, which they view as too intrusive and too expensive.

But, after a week of calling Republican lawmakers and bringing them into the Oval Office for meetings, Trump failed to close the deal with two different factions within his party on time for the planned Thursday vote.

Conservatives felt the bill did not go far enough to repeal Obamacare and moderates felt the plan could hurt their constituents.

House Republican leaders had signaled they were ready to work through the weekend to figure out a way to reconcile their differences.

As the healthcare drama unfolded on Capitol Hill, Trump played it cool, taking a break from negotiations to hang out with some truckers, climbing into the cab of a long-haul transport truck parked on the back driveway of the White House, and blowing the horn a few times.

He told reporters the vote would be close but he remained optimistic. "I think we're doing well. We'll find out in about three hours," he said, just as reports began to surface that the vote had been postponed.

By evening, Trump sent his top lieutenants to a dramatic meeting on Capitol Hill on Thursday night with an ultimatum: he was done talking. According to Representative Chris Collins of New York, a top Trump ally, White House budget director Mick Mulvaney told House Republicans that Trump wanted a vote.

"The president has said he wants a vote tomorrow, up or down," Collins said.

"If for any reason it is down, we are just going to move forward with additional parts of his agenda" such as tax reform, Collins told reporters after leaving the meeting.

However, the vote has been seen by financial markets as a crucial test of Trump's ability to work with Congress to deliver on his other priorities, such as tax cuts and infrastructure spending.

Even if their replacement plan does eventually get approval from the House, the legislation faces a potentially tough fight in the Republican-controlled Senate.

The House and Senate had hoped to deliver a new healthcare bill to Trump by 8 April, when Congress is scheduled to begin a two-week spring break. —*Reuters*

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

Man held after car speeds into Antwerp shopping street

ANTWERP, (Belgium) — A man drove a car at speed into a pedestrianized street in Antwerp on Thursday, forcing people to jump out of its path, a day after an assailant rammed a vehicle into crowds in central London, police said.

The car sped away in the Belgian port leaving no one injured, but prosecutors said police later arrested a man suspected of being the driver, naming him as Mohamed R., a 39-year-old French national of North African origin.

Antwerp police found knives in the vehicle and a canister containing an unknown substance that bomb disposal officers were checking, Belgian federal prosecutors' office said in a statement.

The Belgian federal prosecutors did not give details of any motive but said they had been called in "based on all these elements and the events in London yesterday".

An investigator with a bomb retrieval robot device approaches a car which had entered the main pedestrianised shopping street in the city at high speed, in Antwerp, Belgium, on 23 March 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

A French source later told Reuters that authorities there believed the suspect had not been trying to hit anyone, but was probably drunk and trying to escape a police check.

The source described the suspect as a Tunisian national living in France, known to police for common law crimes. There was no immediate comment on the source's account from Belgium.

The car entered Antwerp's busy De Meir shopping street at around 11 a.m. (1000 GMT), said police.

Patrolling soldiers tried to stop it but it went through a red light and drove off, said a police spokesman.

The vehicle later came to a halt near Antwerp's waterfront, it added without going into further details.

"I want to thank the fast response team which arrested the man in a professional manner and may have prevented much worse," Antwerp mayor Bart De Wever said.

The London attacks came exactly one year after twin bombings at Brussels' airport and its metro killed 32 people. More police were visible on the streets of Antwerp on Thursday afternoon.

The London attacker who killed three people near parliament before being shot dead was named on Thursday as British-born Khalid Masood, who was once investigated by MI5 intelligence officers over concerns about violent extremism. —*Reuters*

PERFORMANCES IN ONE-YEAR PERIOD

Ramanya, home of Mon endowed with features of high potential ecotourism

July Moe

The bridge is under construction over the Thanlwin River, with the use of modern technology. PHOTO: MNA

A small stupa, atop a huge golden rock taking a shape of a human head precariously balanced on a slanting surface of the rock cliff and widely known as Kyaikhtiyo Pagoda is the distinct religious place of Mon State.

The stance of the golden rock (rock pasted with many layers of gold leaf) gives the charm and magic to the visitors as it seems incredibly perched on the cliff. The charm of the golden rock, Kyaikhtiyo Pagoda is compounded by the scenic view of the area with lush green tree clad mountain ranges interspersed with the misty valleys between them. That is why it becomes one of the most attracted tourist spots of Myanmar.

All The Tiredness Abate And Disappear

Kyaikhtiyo Pagoda located on the mountain at an altitude of 3600 ft. in an almost pristine place with all the natural beauties is situated near Kyaikto town of Mon State.

Mon State having the area 4748 sqml.and many islands and islets along its coast is located in the south-eastern part of Myanmar and bounded by Kayin State, Bago Region, Mottama Gulf, Tanintharyi Region and Thailand.

Kyaikhtiyo Pagoda, Kyaik Thanlan Zedi, U Zina Zedi, Kyaik Thoke Zedi, Kyaikhami Yele Pagoda, Setse Beach and Balu Island are the significant places to visit. Pha Auk Tawya Monastry is also a well-known place for meditation where both local people and foreigners come to practice meditation. Win Sein Tawya Reclining Buddha is also a place frequented by local and foreign pilgrims.

Mon State has all modes of transportation and is easily accessible to every parts of the country. Besides, it is found to have good trading as the flow of commodities is smooth and regular. There are many remarkable progress during one year period of the incumbent government.

The project of building a bridge across Thanlwin River from Mupon of Mawlamyaing to Kanyaw village of Chaungzone having total length 5203.4 ft. has seen 90% completion.

> Pha Auk Tawya Monastry is also a well-known place for meditation where both local people and foreigners come to practice meditation.

Launching System

The new engineering technology that dictates fixing the spans of Steel Box Girder by Launching System is first used in Myanmar in building this bridge. The bridge after being commissioned will facilitate the transportation and consequently will bring the better socio-economic condition.

"87% of the project has now been finished using allotted fund 60957 million kyats. When the bridge is finished, people can travel to every part of Mon State by road and there will be more progress in the state" said Dr. Aye Zan, Chief Minister of Mon State Government.

Road Department of Mon State could have finished 1 over-180 ft. bridge and 75 under-180 ft. bridges with Mon State budget allotment. Moreover, paving AC layers on old road, widening the roads from 12 ft. to 18ft. and 24ft. and upgrading the roads and bridges were also carried out.

Day Trip

Part of Yangoon – Myeik road between Sittaung and Mottama of Thaton District, Mon State was expanded in width from 2 lane road to 4 lane road having 48 ft. and it is now being paved by AC layers. Now, people can make a day trip from Mawlamyaing to Mesok of Thailand by road.

In agricultural sector of Mon State, Irrigation and Water Management Department carried out 43 works dredging creeks and drains to prevent floods, 14 works of building, maintaining and repairing of embankments that deter the intrusion of salt water, 9 works of building and maintaining the weirs and sluice-gates, 28 works of maintaining the dams and canals and 8 works of blocking the creeks for summer paddy plantation.

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Officials inspecting a transformer in a local community. PHOTO; MNA

Leveling and clearance of road in progress. The rainy season weathers the mountainside roads annually. PHOTO: MNA

PERFORMANCES IN ONE-YEAR PERIOD

Kyeikhtiyo Pagoda is seen precariously located on a stone. PHOTO: MNA

Workers securing parts of the bridge using advanced technology. PHOTO: MNA

A building in its foundation stage, constructors dotted about their work. PHOTO: MNA

A new modern bridge more than halfway complete in its construction. PHOTO: MNA

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Slew of Benefits

Mechanized farming Department of Mon State has brought out the land 625 acres for mechanized farming in the townships of Chaungzon, Thaton and Bilin using the 100 million kyats State Fund in 2016-17 financial year.

As the stability in electricity supply is essential for the economic progress, Mon State Electricity Supply Enterprise could extend , 47.58 miles of 11 KV cable line, 36.64 miles of 0.4 KV line, 29 sub-stations of 100 KVA, 18 sub-stations of 160 KVA and 28 sub-stations of 200 KVA.

77 high school buildings, 30 buildings for pre-school, 1 building for State Education Officer's office, school buildings costing under 50 lakhs, under 100 lakhs and over 100 lakhs, repairing, fencing, building retaining wall of Type-C school building, total works amounting to 667 were carried out during one year ruling of the present government.

More Appointments

2381 pairs of low bench type for primary classes, 1245 pairs of high bench for middle and high level classes were provided. Moreover, distributing fund to the schools according to the Funding Decentralization Program, granting more stipends to the students by the Union Government in cooperation with World Bank grant the stipends to students aiming at securing more schooling opportunities and stabilizing the schooling term. Upgrading the schools (eg. from sub-high school to full-fledge high school), appointing more teachers, building 1 one-storied housing each in Bilin, Kyaikmayaw and Ye townships respectively for the staffs and finally building one-storied library in Ye townships were also accomplished by Mon State Government.

> Funding Decentralization Program, granting more stipends to the students by the Union Government in cooperation with World Bank grant the stipends to students aiming at securing more schooling opportunities and stabilizing the schooling term.

Office building of the Head of State Health Department and 4 number of staff apartment buildings, 3 buildings of Rural Health Department and 21 sub-departments building and distribution of 131 varieties of medicine to the townships were also done by the state government.

3 number of 2 storied buildings for Ye Township, 1 number of 4 storied 24 apartment building in Paung and Kyaikhto Townships, 2 storied patient ward building in Kyaikhto township and 1 hospital building at Kinpun Chaung sub-township were finished and 5 storied new patient ward at women and children hospital of Mawlamyaing is still under construction.

In the first one-year period, Mon State Development Supervisory Office built road infrastructures, water supply facilities, schools and its district office equipped with solar panels.

In rural areas of the State, 45 roads, 59 bridges and 110 water supply projects are under construction currently while the emerald green project is being implemented in 35 villages with the investment more than K1 billion.

In the 2016-2017 Fiscal year, 88 road projects, 56 bridges, 43 education projects, two health projects, 86 water supply projects and five electrification projects are being carried out in rural areas with the use of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw's development fund which allots K100 million to each townships in the state.

More than K 1 billion which is in surplus of the budget the Mon State in the 2016-2017 Fiscal Year would be spent on 170 development tasks in eight townships in Mon State.

Meanwhile, more than K378 million, which is 15 percent share from the country's commercial tax collection and allocated to Mon State, has been injected into regional development tasks in 10 townships.

Free accommodation for pilgrims at Kyeikhtiyo Pagoda

Mon State Government has provide pilgrims with free accommodation at religious edifices at the Kyeikhtiyo Pagoda and arranged rooms at reasonable charges at guest houses.

Besides, to ensure road and traffic safety for pilgrims, an inspection team formed by Mon State Government has been carrying out road safety rules enforcement on the vehicles shuttling between Kyeikhtiyo Pagoda and the foot of the mountain where the pagoda is located.

Kyaikhtiyo Pagoda cable car project

A cable car service is being implemented to create easier access to the Kyaikhtiyo Pagoda, in Kyaikhto Town and this is one the achievements of the Mon State Government in its one-year period.

The Mon State Government has relaxed several rules on collecting fees at toll gates and closed four toll gates namely Yaychaung, Kalaw, Kunkyaik and Kyotan on the Yangon-Myeik Road.

Prospects for ecotourism

With smooth transportation, safety, good climate and beautiful beaches and traditional villages in mountains, Mon State owns prospects for ecotourism.

Mon State Government has not neglected the ecotourism prospects in the state as the business can create job opportunities to the locals and development of the state.

Let's work together with the people in Mon State for its development.

Poll finds unprecedented uncertainty among French voters before presidential election

PARIS — A month before the first round of France's presidential election, 43 per cent of voters are hesitant about who to vote for, a poll said on Friday, underlining the uncertainty surrounding the volatile election campaign. Opinion polls show independent centrist Emmanuel Macron and far-right leader Marine Le Pen likely to lead in the first round of the election on 23 April and that these two candidates would go through to a 7 May run-off that Macron would win easily.

But an opinion poll by Odoxa for franceinfo radio found that 43 per cent of voters were still hesitating between several candidates, which it said reflected an "uncertainty unprecedented in (French) electoral history." "The level of voter indecision about the candidates is completely exceptional," Odoxa said. Investors have been jittery about the possibility of Le Pen, leader of the anti-European Union, anti-immigration National Front, winning the election and taking France out of the euro. The poll found that potential voters for right-wing candidates — Le Pen and conservative Francois Fillon — were more settled in their choices than potential voters for Macron and the leading left-wing candidates, Benoit Hamon of the ruling Socialist Party and far-left firebrand Jean-Luc Melenchon.—*Reuters*

Candidates for the 2017 presidential election (LtoR) Francois Fillon, former French Prime Minister, member of the Republicans and candidate of the French centre-right, Emmanuel Macron, head of the political movement En Marche !, or Onwards !, Jean-Luc Melenchon of the French far left Parti de Gauche, Marine Le Pen, French National Front (FN) political party leader and Benoit Hamon of the French Socialist party (PS) pose before a debate organised by French private TV channel TF1 in Aubervilliers, outside Paris, France, on 20 March 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

Britain's left-wing Labour gets historic win in City of London

LONDON — Britain's Labour party has won five seats at elections in the City of London, the heart of the country's financial district, as it seeks to challenge the borough's centuries-old policy of independence from party politics.

Britain's main opposition party, lagging far behind the Conservatives in national opinion under its current leader, veteran socialist Jeremy Corbyn, has had its best ballot box result in the City ever, after fielding eight candidates for the lower house of the local authority's two-chamber council. Labour began contesting the City's elections after the onset of the global financial crisis. The party failed to take any seats in 2009 or four years later, but won its first seat in a by-election three years ago.

It is now expected to try to form an official opposition in the City's local government for the first time. The party wants to use more of the City's wealth to spend on areas such as social housing and tackling air pollution rather than promoting financial services.

"I'm very proud to have played my part in a great victory for Labour in the City," Richard Crossan, a public relations consultant and Barbican resident said after being elected unopposed in Aldersgate Ward for the Labour Party.

"For the small but spirited Labour Party here in the Square Mile, this is a very special day indeed."

The City of London, is the oldest, continuous representative local government in the world, running the area that is home to the Bank of England and St Paul's Cathedral for at least a thousand years.—*Reuters*

Japan to issue order to SDF over UN South Sudan mission completion

TOKYO — Defence Minister Tomomi Inada said Friday she will issue an order to the Self-Defence Forces later in the day regarding the planned withdrawal of Japanese troops from a UN peacekeeping mission in South Sudan in late May.

The move will set in motion the process to end a more than five-year deployment of Japan's Ground Self-Defence Force units in the fledgling African country, which gained independence from Sudan in 2011. Japanese troops built roads and other infrastructure while stationed there.

As part of the procedure, the government decided at a Cabinet meeting the same day to extend the participation of the GSDF civil engineering unit in the UN mission for two more months through 31 May.

The Defence Ministry said in a statement that the South Sudan government's efforts to bring stability to the country are "making progress" and that the deployment of the SDF civil engineering units has become unprecedentedly long for a UN peacekeeping mission.—*Kyodo News*

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR INVITATION FOR OPEN TENDER (6/2017)

1. Open Tender is invited for The Global New Light of Myanmar news office for raw materials to be paid in USD and received at Yangon Port.

	Raw Material	Amount Needed	Specifications
a.	1626 mm papers	1,500 tonnes	(Standard newsprint Paper) 45 gsm, Core 76 mm, Diameter 1016 mm
b.	813 mm papers	300 tonnes	(Standard newsprint Paper) 45 gsm, Core 76 mm, Diameter 1016 mm
c.	CTP Plate	11,000 plates	UV-CTP Positive PS-Plate Size: 1098 x 806 x 0.3 mm Brand: VPC-H

2. Tender forms are available from 23 – 3 – 2017 to 5 – 4 – 2017 during our office hours at the address featured below.
3. Tender documents and detailed information are available at the Global New Light of Myanmar office address featured below, during our office hours from 9:00 to 16:30, commencing 6 – 4 – 2017 and are to be submitted before members of the tender at our office.
4. We will provide further information of the tender opening.

Address for tender submission
The Global New Light of Myanmar
No (150), Ngarhtetgyi Payar Road, Bahan Township, Yangon
Contact Ph No. 8604530 / 8604532

REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR
Ministry of Electricity and Energy
Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise (MOGE)
Nay Pyi Taw

Request for Proposal for Joint Venture in Onshore Seismic Acquisition Services with Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise

Date: March 24, 2017

MOGE is a state-owned enterprise which is responsible for the upstream oil and gas sector under the Ministry of Electricity and Energy ("**MOEE**") of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar. MOGE intends to establish a joint venture with an internationally proven service company in onshore seismic acquisition services. The main goals are to strengthen MOGE's technological know-how, upgrade its workforce, gain access to financing, adopt international best practices and widen market access.

MOGE had initially launched a public invitation for interested parties to submit a Letter of Expression of Interest ("**LEOI**") for a Joint Venture in Onshore Seismic Acquisition Services with MOGE in June 2014. MOGE is now launching this Request for Proposal ("**RfP**") in the form of an open tender to interested parties, including but not limited to LEOI respondents from the LEOI exercise conducted in June 2014, to submit a response to this Request for Proposal (the "**Application**"). In this context, MOGE intends to select a suitable internationally proven seismic acquisition services company as the "**Joint Venture Partner**" through a step-by-step process: Phase 1: Request for Proposal; Phase 2: Evaluation Process; and Phase 3: Negotiations and Signing.

Interested parties are required to submit an Application **no later than 3 PM, local time (Nay Pyi Taw, Republic of the Union of Myanmar), on April 24, 2017** to the following address: **MOGE Tender Committee for Joint Venture Establishment in Petroleum Services (Seismic),** Complex 44, MOGE Office, Nay Pyi Taw, Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

The RfP, which includes guidelines for submission, can be purchased by any interested party starting March 24, 2017 (excluding Saturdays, Sundays and Public Holidays) at Complex 44, MOGE Office, Nay Pyi Taw, Republic of the Union of Myanmar for a non-refundable cash payment of five hundred United States Dollars (USD 500). The purchaser will be provided with a payment acknowledgement when payment is made. Only Applications from Applicants that had purchased the RfP document officially from MOGE will be evaluated.

Interested parties who have purchased the RfP are welcome to submit questions regarding the RfP and comments on the draft Joint Venture Agreement attached in its annex, no later than 12 PM, local time (Nay Pyi Taw, Republic of the Union of Myanmar), on April 4, 2017, to which MOGE will duly respond to all questions submitted and issue a revised draft Joint Venture Agreement.

Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise
Ministry of Electricity and Energy

Bob Dylan says 'not yearning' for old days in latest cover album

Bob Dylan performs during a segment honoring Director Martin Scorsese, recipient of the Music + Film Award, at the 17th Annual Critics' Choice Movie Awards in Los Angeles on 12 January 2012. PHOTO: REUTERS

LOS ANGELES — Bob Dylan's new album "Triplicate" explores American standards from the 1930s, 40s, and 50s, but the veteran singer-songwriter says that does not mean he is yearning for the past.

Dylan also is unconcerned whether his fans like the album - the third in as many years that features cover versions of classic songs like "Stormy Weather," "As Time Goes By" and "Stardust."

"These songs are some of the most heartbreaking stuff ever put on record and I wanted to do them justice. Now that I have lived them and lived through them I understand them better," Dylan, 75, told music writer Bill Flanagan in a rare interview. "It's not taking a trip down memory lane or longing or yearning for the good old days or fond memories of what's no more," he added in the lengthy Q&A, posted on the bobdylan.com website on Wednesday.

The three-disc album "Triplicate" will be released on March 31. It follows 2015's "Shadows in the Night" album of Frank Sinatra covers and 2016's similar "Fallen Angels" in marking a strong contrast from the early, socially-conscious folk and rock compositions for which Dylan remains most famous.

Asked what his fans might think of the cover albums, Dylan said; "These songs are meant for the man on the street, the common man, the everyday person. Maybe that is a Bob Dylan fan, maybe not, I don't know." In the wide-ranging interview, Dylan also touched on his admiration for the late Amy Winehouse, calling her "The last real individualist around"; his and George Harrison's abortive bid years ago to record with Elvis Presley, ("He (Elvis) did show up; it was us that didn't"); and the power of early rock and roll music, ("Rock and roll was a dangerous weapon, chrome plated, it exploded like the speed of light, it reflected the times, and especially the presence of the atomic bomb, which had preceded it by several years.")

Dylan also spoke of the loss of fellow musicians like Leonard Cohen, Leon Russell, and Merle Haggard, all of whom died last year.

"We were like brothers, we lived on the same street and they all left empty spaces where they used to stand. It's lonesome without them," he said.

No mention was made of Dylan's Nobel prize for literature, and his non-attendance at the annual Nobel award ceremony in Sweden. Dylan is due to perform in Sweden next week as part of a European tour.—*Reuters*

PHOTO: PTI

Adele pays tribute to London terror attack victims during gig

LOS ANGELES — British singer Adele paid tribute to the victims of London terror attack during her Auckland concert in New Zealand.

Eight people were arrested in raids across London and Birmingham on Wednesday after a terror attack on the UK Parliament in the heart of Westminster killed four people, including the ISIS attacker who was inspired by "Islamist ideology" and known to British secret services.

The 28-year-old star sent her condolences to the families of the victims before dedicating her hit single "Make You Feel My Love" to them, reported Entertainment Weekly.

"Today there was a terror attack in my hometown of London.

I'm on the other side of the world and I want them to see our lights and to hear us.

"It's very strange not being home, all I want to do today is be at home with my friends and family. Everyone's fine, but there are four (victims) who aren't fine, so let's dedicate this to them tonight," she told the crowd.—*PTI*

Actor Charlize Theron reacts on the red carpet at a media event for the new film 'The Fate of the Furious' in Beijing, China, on 23 March 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

Charlize Theron joins racing 'Fast and Furious' series with 'badass jet'

LOS ANGELES — Fast car chases, daring stunts and explosions return to the big screen in the eighth installment of the "Fast and Furious" racing film franchise and Oscar winner Charlize Theron joins the cast with her own "badass jet".

"The Fate of the Furious" sees lead character Dominic Toretto, played by Vin Diesel, go rogue. Theron, who won a best actress Academy Award for "Monster", plays the villainous Cipher.

"Charlize was very upset when she found out that she wasn't going to drive any cars, but Cipher, I think, was very excited to know that she was going to have her own badass jet," Theron told a Beijing news conference to promote the movie.

The actress was joined by director F. Gary Gray and fellow cast member Jason Statham, who returns to the action-packed franchise and said the most difficult part was not getting injured during filming.

"It's about what we're expected to do and trying to stay safe because we're trying to blur the lines of like, really death-defying stuff," he said.

The movie, released worldwide next month, also stars Dwayne Johnson, Michelle Rodriguez and Tyrese Gibson. —*Reuters*

REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR
Ministry of Electricity and Energy
Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise (MOGE)
Nay Pyi Taw

Request for Proposal for Joint Venture in Onshore Drilling Services with Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise

Date: March 24, 2017

MOGE is a state-owned enterprise which is responsible for the upstream oil and gas sector under the Ministry of Electricity and Energy ("**MOEE**") of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar. MOGE intends to establish a joint venture with an internationally proven service company in onshore drilling services. The main goals are to strengthen MOGE's technological know-how, upgrade its workforce, gain access to financing, adopt international best practices and widen market access.

MOGE had initially launched a public invitation for interested parties to submit a Letter of Expression of Interest ("**LEOI**") for a Joint Venture in Onshore Drilling Services with MOGE in June 2014. MOGE is now launching this Request for Proposal ("**RfP**") in the form of an open tender to interested parties, including but not limited to LEOI respondents from the LEOI exercise conducted in June 2014, to submit a response to this Request for Proposal (the "**Application**"). In this context, MOGE intends to select a suitable internationally proven drilling services company as the "**Joint Venture Partner**" through a step-by-step process: Phase 1: Request for Proposal; Phase 2: Evaluation Process; and Phase 3: Negotiations and Signing.

Interested parties are required to submit an Application **no later than 3 PM, local time (Nay Pyi Taw, Republic of the Union of Myanmar), on April 24, 2017** to the following address: **MOGE Tender Committee for Joint Venture Establishment in Petroleum Services (Drilling),** Complex 44, MOGE Office, Nay Pyi Taw, Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

The RfP, which includes guidelines for submission, can be purchased by any interested party starting March 24, 2017 (excluding Saturdays, Sundays and Public Holidays) at Complex 44, MOGE Office, Nay Pyi Taw, Republic of the Union of Myanmar for a non-refundable cash payment of five hundred United States Dollars (USD 500). The purchaser will be provided with a payment acknowledgement when payment is made. Only Applications from Applicants that had purchased the RfP document officially from MOGE will be evaluated.

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Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise
Ministry of Electricity and Energy

Town of Reduction, population 60, up for sale in Pennsylvania

HARRISBURG, (Pa.) — Got $1.5 million to spare? If so, tiny Reduction, a one-time company town built to house workers at a long-vanished garbage-processing plant in western Pennsylvania, could be yours for the asking.

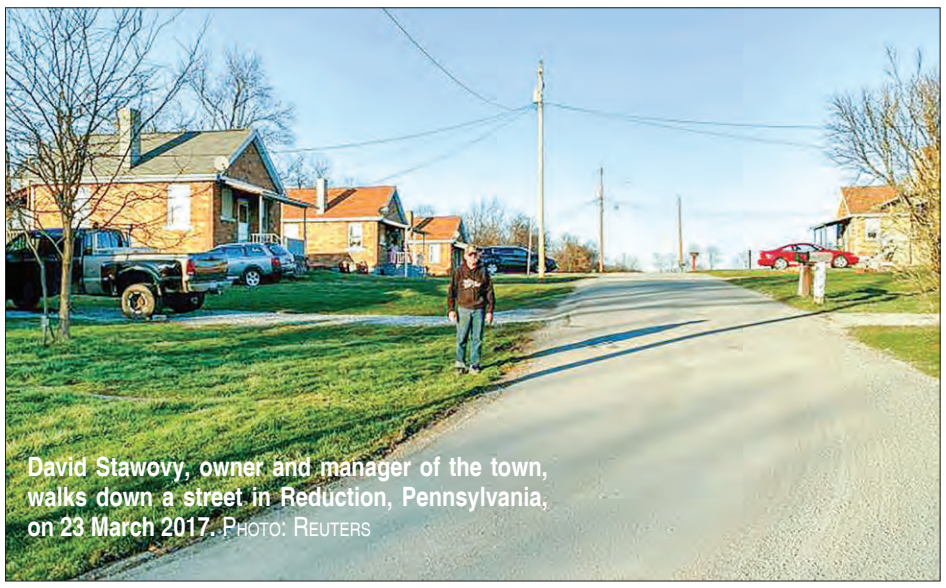
The aptly named town is home to 60 residents, down from 400 in its heyday. They live in 19 tidy brick houses, paying rent to the Stawovy family, proprietors of the unincorporated village for the past 70 years. The asking price includes a one-room schoolhouse that was long ago converted into a duplex residence.

The plant, built by American Reduction Co on a wide bend of the Youghiogheny River, shut down in 1936 after processing waste from the city of Pittsburgh since the early 20th century.

Workers would render animal carcasses, and separate metal from household waste for resale.

"This was the original recycling plant," said David Stawovy, 67, who owns Reduction with his three siblings. In 1948, David's father, John, owned an adjoining farm and was thinking about buying one of the larger homes in Reduction for his growing family. At one time, he would have had 28 from which to choose.

"My mother and dad wanted their own place," David Stawovy said, "and the man said: 'Why don't you buy them all?'"



David Stawovy, owner and manager of the town, walks down a street in Reduction, Pennsylvania, on 23 March 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

The senior Stawovy ended up doing just that, paying $10,000 for the place, lock, stock and barrel. It was a decision he never regretted, or at least never admitted regretting, his son said.

"He never complained. He made a living on it," said the younger Stawovy.

All that is left of the processing plant is the foundation, Stawovy said. Once the town dump contained a treasure trove of collectible bottles, but it was wiped clean years ago. Stawovy said his advancing age and the nursing home care his parents needed before their recent deaths led the family to put Reduction up for sale. He needs to sell so his siblings can cash out their shares of the inheritance.

"We'd like to travel," he said. "We don't need the aggravation."—*Reuters*

Language schools to help athletes prepare for 2020 Games

TOKYO — Language schools in Japan are tying up with sports associations to help improve the English skills of Japanese athletes in the lead up to the 2020 Olympic Games in Tokyo.

The push is aimed at overcoming concern about athletes' struggles to communicate in English during international competitions, while the schools see it as an opportunity to tap into a new market and revenue stream.

In January this year, major English language school operator Aeon Corp. signed a contract to become the "official provider" of services for Japan Rugby Football Union players learning English ahead of the Rugby World Cup, to be hosted by Japan in 2019.

The language school operator will create a special textbook for the Japanese team, which is expected to include phrases often used at airports and hotels, technical terms relating to the sport and useful phrases that can be used when players are being interviewed by overseas media. The company also plans to offer free English lessons with the help of smartphones and send English teachers to training camps, it said.

"Learning English is just like muscle training," said Aeon President Yoshikazu Miyake.

"Although the athletes are busy, I am sure that their English skills will definitely improve if they can study during their spare time," said Miyake. While English proficiency in Japan is relatively low, Noriyuki Sakamoto, chairman of the rugby union, said English skills are necessary "to win at the world level."

"They (players) will need to speak English when communicating with coaches and non-Japanese players. Conversations will take place in English during international matches," he said. Aeon's textbook, which will also include phrases used at hospitals, is expected to be completed by this summer.

Starting things off with the tie-up with the rugby association, "We hope to promote cooperation with other sports associations to expand our customer base," said an Aeon employee responsible for producing the textbook. Hitoshi Ono, who has played in the Japan national rugby team, said, "I am looking forward to trying out smartphone lessons when traveling on team trips to away games."

"English will also be useful for my second career, so I am determined to study hard," he added. —*Kyodo News*

Supplied photo taken 22 November, 2016 shows members of the Japanese women's ice hockey team learning English at a training camp held in Tomakomai, Hokkaido. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR
Ministry of Electricity and Energy
Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise (MOGE)
Nay Pyi Taw

Request for Proposal for Joint Venture in Onshore Pipeline Construction and Maintenance Services with Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise

Date: March 24, 2017

MOGE is a state-owned enterprise which is responsible for the upstream oil and gas sector under the Ministry of Electricity and Energy ("**MOEE**") of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar. MOGE intends to establish a joint venture with an internationally proven service company in onshore pipeline construction and maintenance services. The main goals are to strengthen MOGE's technological know-how, upgrade its workforce, gain access to financing, adopt international best practices and widen market access.

MOGE had initially launched a public invitation for interested parties to submit a Letter of Expression of Interest ("**LEOI**") for a Joint Venture in Onshore Pipeline Construction and Maintenance Services with MOGE in June 2014. MOGE is now launching this Request for Proposal ("**RfP**") in the form of an open tender to interested parties, including but not limited to LEOI respondents from the LEOI exercise conducted in June 2014, to submit a response to this Request for Proposal (the "**Application**"). In this context, MOGE intends to select a suitable internationally proven pipeline construction and maintenance services company as the "**Joint Venture Partner**" through a step-by-step process: Phase 1: Request for Proposal; Phase 2: Evaluation Process; and Phase 3: Negotiations and Signing.

Interested parties are required to submit an Application **no later than 3 PM, local time (Nay Pyi Taw, Republic of the Union of Myanmar), on April 24, 2017** to the following address: **MOGE Tender Committee for Joint Venture Establishment in Petroleum Services (Pipeline),** Complex 44, MOGE Office, Nay Pyi Taw, Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

The RfP, which includes guidelines for submission, can be purchased by any interested party starting March 24, 2017 (excluding Saturdays, Sundays and Public Holidays) at Complex 44, MOGE Office, Nay Pyi Taw, Republic of the Union of Myanmar for a non-refundable cash payment of five hundred United States Dollars (USD 500). The purchaser will be provided with a payment acknowledgement when payment is made. Only Applications from Applicants that had purchased the RfP document officially from MOGE will be evaluated.

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Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise
Ministry of Electricity and Energy

mitv Myanmar International
Programme Schedule

(25-3-2017 07:00am ~ 26-3-2017 07:00am) MST

07:03 Am News
07:26 Am Great Shwedagon - Charitable Associations
08:03 Am News
08:26 Am Kyauk Se Elephant Dance
08:51 Am Yangon Markets: Da Nyin Gone Market
09:03 Am News
09:26 Am "Myanmar Traditions and Culture" Tea
10:03 Am News
10:26 Am Next Generation "Skater"
10:36 Am Mon Traditional Wedding
10:47 Am Mahar Thakya Atula Man Aung - Nga Htat Kyee

(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 News
07:26 Pm Travelogue: A Tour in Korea (Ep-4)
07:38 Pm Myanmar Traditional Bullock - Cart & Equestrain Racing
07:49 Pm Today Myanmar: CBT in Myaing Township
08:03 Pm News
08:25 Pm The Stories Of The Great Souls (Mar Mar Aye)(Ep-1)

(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)

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

13th Waning of Taboung 1378 ME

Saturday, 25 March 2017

Japan and Iran remain on track to book World Cup berths

SYDNEY — Japan stayed on course to book their spot at next year's World Cup finals as Vahid Halilhodzic's side handed the United Arab Emirates a 2-0 defeat on Thursday, while Iran recorded a 1-0 win over Qatar.

Yuya Kubo and Yasuyuki Konno scored a goal in each half for the Japanese as the four-times Asian champions remained locked on 13 points with Saudi Arabia in Group B of Asia's qualifying tournament after Bert van Marwijk's team recorded a 3-0 win over Thailand in Bangkok.

The two countries moved three points clear at the top of the standings, with Australia dropping into third as a result of their 1-1 draw with Iraq in Tehran. The third placed team in each of Asia's two qualifying groups goes into a playoff.

Mathew Leckie gave the Socceroos the lead after 39 minutes only for Ahmed Yasin to score from close range with 14 minutes remaining to pick up a point for the struggling Iraqis.

"It was a tough game," Australia coach Ange Postecoglou told Fox Sports.—*Reuters*

Messi penalty lifts Argentina into qualifying berths

BUENOS AIRES — Lionel Messi converted a penalty as Argentina laboured to a 1-0 win over Chile in a World Cup qualifier on Thursday that put them back in the automatic qualifying spots for next year's finals in Russia.

Messi beat Claudio Bravo from the spot in the 16th minute after Angel Di Maria had been pushed from behind in the first quarter of a poor, tense match on a terrible River Plate pitch.

Argentina, a shadow of the team that finished World Cup runners-up in 2014, moved into third place in the 10-nation South American group on 22 points, eight behind leaders Brazil and one in arrears to second-placed Uruguay. Brazil earlier beat Uruguay 4-1.

Colombia, who beat Bolivia 1-0 at home, are now in the fourth qualifying place with 21 points, one ahead of Ecuador, who lost 2-1 away to Paraguay and sit in the playoff berth.

"We suffered because we lost the ball but at least we won," relieved Argentina coach Edgardo Bauza told reporters.

Chile, missing suspended midfielder Arturo Vidal but worthy of at least a draw, gave Argentina and early scare when they had the ball in net after a free kick from the left only for Jose Fuenzalida to be ruled offside.

Argentina took the lead when Brazilian referee Sandro Ricci ruled that Fuenzalida had pushed Di Maria as he chased a fine through ball from Javier Mascherano.

Messi sent Bravo the wrong way and buried the ball in the back of the net to a roar from a wildly passionate 60,000 crowd at El Monumental.

Stringing moves together was difficult for both teams on a patchy pitch and Argentina were relieved when the final whistle went after withstanding intense pressure from the Copa America holders, who are now sixth in the group on goal difference.

Argentina central defender Nicolas Otamendi should have scored from a Messi free kick before halftime but blasted a chance over the bar.—*Reuters*

Argentina's Lionel Messi prepares to kick a penalty during World Cup 2018 Qualifiers at Antonio Liberti Stadium, Buenos Aires, Argentina, on 23 March 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

Brazil's Paulinho. PHOTO: REUTERS

Paulinho hat-trick keeps Brazil on road to Russia

MONTEVIDEO — Brazil recovered from conceding an early goal to beat Uruguay 4-1 in Montevideo on Thursday, with Paulinho grabbing a hat-trick in a win that all but cemented their place at next year's World Cup finals.

The victory gave Tite his eighth win in eight games as coach and lifted leaders Brazil to 30 points in the South American qualifying group, a tally that has been more than enough to guarantee qualification in previous campaigns.

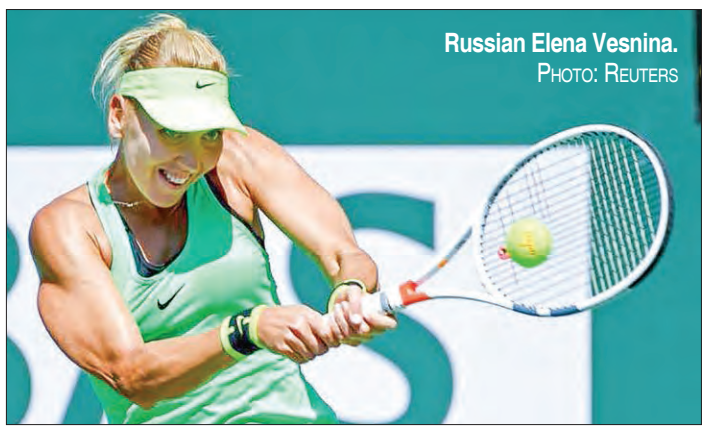
"We work hard every day and so this isn't an accident," Paulinho said of the three points and three goals, his first professional hat-trick. "We played a great game and got a great win. We knew how difficult it would be here. We went behind, but we kept our concentration and we had the coolness to go after a result.

"Now we need to keep it up and I am sure this team has a lot more to offer."

The five-times World Cup winners led second-placed Uruguay by four points before the game but it was the weakened home side that took the lead after eight minutes thanks to a penalty from Edinson Cavani.

Marcelo tried to chest down the ball to his keeper but Cavani nipped in to intercept and was pulled down by Alisson. The Paris St. Germain striker got up to rifle the ball home low to Alisson's right. It was the first time that Brazil had gone behind since Tite took over as coach last summer and it only took them 10 minutes to show they would not be bowed.

Neymar laid the ball off to Paulinho in midfield and the former Tottenham midfielder hammered home a spectacular right-foot shot from 30 yards out.—*Reuters*



Russian Elena Vesnina. PHOTO: REUTERS

Indian Wells champion Vesnina on ropes against world 594

RUSSIAN Elena Vesnina and Spaniard Garbine Muguruza were in big trouble in their second round matches when the weather came to their rescue at the Miami Open in Florida on Thursday.

Four days after the biggest victory of her career at the BNP Paribas Open at Indian Wells, 13th seed Vesnina was facing defeat at the hands of Croatian wild card Ajla Tomljanovic, who led 3-6, 6-4, 5-3 when a thunderstorm halted play for the night. The world number 594 will have more than 14 hours to think about the possibility of a huge upset before serving for the match when play resumes on Friday. Sixth seed Muguruza, meanwhile, drew a blank in the first set of her match against 46th-ranked American Christina McHale, who led 6-0, 2-3.

Earlier, Czech second seed Karolina Pliskova cruised into the third round with a 6-1, 6-3 win over Madison Brengle, while Dominika Cibulkova beat Paraguayan qualifier Veronica Cepede Royg 6-3, 6-2.—*Reuters*

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Editorial Section — (+95) (01)8604529, Fax — (01) 8604305
Advertisement & Circulation — (+95) (01) 8604532
gnlmdaily@gmail.com
www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
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"Printed and published at the Global New Light of Myanmar Printing Factory at No.150, Nga Htat Kyee Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon, by the Global New Light of Myanmar Daily under Printing Permit No. 00510 and Publishing Permit No. 00629."