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Serious efforts made to ease local people's difficulties in Rakhine State

LOCAL residents in Rakhine State presented explanations about their sufferings on social difficulties and having to deal with natural disasters almost every year and the requirements of preparedness when they met with Dr Win Myat Aye, Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement yesterday at the township administration offices of Kyaukphyu township.

Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye listened to the reports of the residents with the help of local responsible persons and visited the Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) camps in Kanyintaw to meet IDP people and fulfilled the requirements for moving to newly constructed houses and provided rice, cooking oil, beans and salt as humanitarian assistance.

Local people in the Kyauktalone IDP Camp were encouraged to participate and work for stability and peace and were told of the plan for socio-economic development and received humanitarian assistance.

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Fishing is one of the sources of livelihood for the people in Rakhine State. PHOTO: REUTERS

INSIDE



YSX to extend trading time to four times a day in April

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Local, foreign media to visit Maungtaw

THE Ministry of Information is working for both foreign and local media groups to make excursions into the Maungtaw District in northern Rakhine State, the site of violent attacks in October on border police outposts that prompted

months of security clearance operations. A team of 20 foreign and local media groups led by General Manager U Ye Naing from the Ministry of Information's News and Periodicals Enterprise will travel to Maungtaw District from

28 March to 1 April. The media groups have received permission to freely investigate the district for news concerning the October attacks, the fleeing and resettlement of families, damage and reconstruction of areas destroyed by fire,

the resulting decline of the fishing industry of the district, immigration and trading of merchandise near the border. Foreign and local media made a previous trip to Maungtaw District on 19 December 2016.—MNA



သဒ္ဓါထက်သန် မြန်မာအားမန် ကမ္ဘောဇဘဏ်

LOCAL Business

Exports from fishery sector fetched over US\$500million this FY



Workers sort out prawns at the cold-storage factory. PHOTO: SUPPLIED

THE export of fishery products as of 10th March this Fiscal Year hit US\$525.986million, which is an increase of US\$93.929million from that of the similar point last FY, according to statistics released by the Commerce Ministry.

The fisheries exports attained over US\$668mil in 2011-2012, over US\$493mil in 2012-2013 and over US\$341mil in 2013-2014. The figure then declined slightly, but the export value was a bit up in 2015-2016 FY with over US\$469mil.

Erratic weather adversely affected fisheries production and fish resources, and offshore fishing does not look very promising. As a result of this, to boost

the export volume, the fish farming sector is being prioritised and concerted efforts are needed to be exerted by all the stakeholders in the fisheries export supply chain, including the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation and Myanmar Fishery Federation (MFF).

Those engaged in Myanmar's fish and prawn farming need to switch over to a modern farming method from the traditional one. Adopting modern farming techniques can help prevent the fish from infectious disease, increase the growth rate of fish and prawn and help clean the farming lakes, according to MFF.

To control the quality of lake

water, the farmers should also conduct testing at the laboratories of the Fisheries department.

Saltwater and freshwater prawn farming businessmen are being faced with difficulties. Out of 27 hatcheries for freshwater prawns, only four are left due to the difficulty in reproduction process.

Similarly in saltwater farming, only some prawn farmers are able to farm the saltwater prawns and they are faced with difficulty in maintaining the gene.

Only 40,000 tonnes of freshwater and saltwater prawns can be produced in the country and the prawns are being imported from Thailand, it is learnt. — Ko Htet

Food safety can scale up value at export market

SAFE food production can increase value in the international market, said an official from Myanmar Consumer Affairs Department.

The products with no guarantee of safety can be placed only on the raw market, resulting in a lower than prevailing market price. In addition, there is no firm market for those products.

Food safety is positively related to the foreign market as

foreign consumers demand only the food systematically produced from farm to production.

Myanmar exports the fishery products to foreign countries as raw goods. The technical and financial assistance from the foreign countries are required to proceed to safe food production system, said U Tun Sein, the secretary of Myanmar Fish Paste, Dried Fish and Fish Sauce Producers Association.

Fifty per cent of local food products face difficulties when they are placed on the export market due to the lack of adequacy and weakness in food safety. Some are rejected to be placed on the market because some local businessmen follow the simple way rather than pursuing the systematic methods in manufacturing process, said U Maung Maung, the secretary of Myanmar Consumer Union. —200

Chin Shwe Haw border trade up by over US\$200million

THE value of trade through Chin Shwe Haw border trade camps as of 10th March this Fiscal Year 2016-2017 soared to US\$ 539.834mil which is up by over US\$ 206.023million than that of similar point of last FY, according to the statistics of the Commerce Ministry.

Nevertheless, the total value of border trade between Myanmar and China as of 10th March in the current fiscal year showed a slight decrease of over US\$2million against that of last FY as the trade value via Muse border trade camp which performed the largest trade out of all 16 border camps significantly declined by nearly US\$310million, according to the statistics of the Commerce Ministry.

Myanmar-China trade value from 1st April to 10th March this FY reached US\$5,449.953million whereas that in the similar period of last FY hit US\$5,452.518million.

Myanmar and China trade is flowing in and out of these

border trade camps: Muse, Lweje, Chin Shwe Haw, Kan Pike Tee and Keng Tung. Out of the five, Muse and Keng Tung border trade camps were found to have had a decrease in trade value, whereas the remaining three trade camps managed to bolster trade. The trade values as of 10th March this FY were US\$4.63bil in Muse, US\$179.421mil in Lweje, US\$539.834mil in Chin Shwe Haw, US\$90.359mil in Kan Pike Tee and US\$4.357mil in Keng Tung respectively, according to the Commerce Ministry.

In the same period, the trade values via 16 border camps— Muse, Lweje, Kanpikete, Chinshinaw, Tamu, Reed, Myawady, Tachilek, Kengtung, Kawthaung, Myeik, Hteekhee, Mawtaung, Maese, Sittway and Maungtaung totaled US\$6.78bil, with an export value of US\$4.21bil and an import value of US\$2.57bil. The figure is up by US\$219.931mil from that of last FY, it is learnt. —Mon Mon

YSX to extend trading time to four times a day in April

TRADING time on Yangon Stock Exchange (YSX) will be extended to four times a day starting in April, according to the YSX Anniversary Forum held on 25th March at YSX office.

Currently, stock trading on YSX is opened twice a day at 11am and 1am. The extension of trading time aims to gain a more vibrant stock market.

If this plan brings a fruitful result, the stock trading time will possibly extend to six times per day, with the bylaws being drawn up, said U Yin Zaw Myo, the managing director of Yangon Stock Exchange.

The meetings will be held to

set the timings of stock trading and the result will be submitted to the commission to approve, it is learnt.

The details of trading times will be publicised and disclosed through the YSX website.

Present at this forum were U Yin Zaw Myo; the MD of YSX, U Thet Tun Oo; the executive manager of YSX, U Ye Min Aung; the vice chair of Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI), U Aye Thiha; CEO of Thiha Group of Companies and U Thurein Aung, the Managing Director of MAEX Public Co., Ltd. —200



Trading at the Yangon Stock Exchange is extended from twice to four times a day as from coming April. PHOTO: PHOE KHWAH

Vice President's short excursion to Nanshan Temple

VICE President U Myint Swe, who is in China to attend the Boao Forum for Asia, travelled from Boao to Sanya by motor vehicle and visited the Nanshan Buddhist temple yesterday morning. Officials escorted the Vice President and briefed him about the historical significance of the temple, which was built on April 12, 1988 to commemorate two thousand years of Buddhism in China.

The Vice President then departed around noon from Sanya International Airport with Myanmar Ambassador to China U Thit Linn Ohn and Sanya City's Deputy Mayor and officials bidding him farewell and seeing him off.

The Vice President and entourage arrived at Nay Pyi Taw International Airport in the evening and was welcomed by Union Ministers Lt-General Sein Win and U Pe Zin Htun, Deputy Ministers, Chinese Embassy envoy Ms. Li Xiaoyan and other officials.—*Myanmar News Agency*



Vice President U Myint Swe lights incense at Nanshan Temple. PHOTO:MNA

Clinical partners sought to offer care to workers

PLANS are underway to join more private clinics in Yangon and Mandalay to offer better healthcare to workers with social security numbers, said U Maung Maung Aye, deputy director of the Social Security Board.

The SSB is now searching private clinics in Shwepyitha, Dagon Seikkan, Shwelinban Industrial Zone and Dagon Myothit (South)

townships in Yangon Region as well as Mandalay, especially in the areas with a large population of workers. Under the agreement between the SSB and private clinics, the SSB will offer medicines to the clinical partners to treat unhealthy individuals with social security numbers. The medical expenses including service fees for an employer will be Ks3,600. There are

about 980,000 social security card holders across the country, according to the SSB's statistics. Almost 100 clinics plus three workers' hospitals and one traditional medicine hospital have been opened by the Social Security Board. However, the SSB is now connecting with only two private clinics, planning to expand the joint services in the future.—200

Serious efforts ...

>> From page 1

The Union Minister met with social organisations, elders of the community and local residents in the hall of the Yanbye administration office to support the financial aid requirements before visiting the IDP camp in Ward 6, where he discussed resettlement and provided food rations. The Union Minister and his team also spoke with departmental officers, community leaders and charity organisations

and urged them to come up with solutions for the financial difficulties faced by local people. The Union Minister also met with the Rakhine State Chief Minister and work committee members at the state government office in Sittway to discuss issues of development of the socio-economic situation and resettlement. He also asked the local residents about their views on resettlement matters.

The Union minister provided cash to locals to renovate the library and its facilities in villages in Myintga and Kyaukpyin village

in Pauktaw township before going to the Smart Garment Factory in Saitin Hydro-electric Generation Compound in Sittway, where he observed the tailoring work being done for school dresses ordered by the Ministry of Education.

The Garment Factory was established by the Rakhine State Government and Minister of Social Welfare Relief and Resettlement and provided job opportunities to local residents and members of the Rakhine tribe. More than 100 people are employed at the factory.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Finalists chosen for AFC Women's Asian Cup qualification

TWENTY-THREE finalists from the Myanmar Women's National Football Team have been selected to compete in the 2018 Women's Asian Cup organised by the Asian Football Confederation.

For Myanmar, Mya Phu Ngon, May Zin Nwe and Zar Zar Myint were selected as goalkeepers. Khin Than Wai, Nge Nge Htwe, Zin Mar Tun, Lae Lae Hlaing, Zin Mar Win, Phu Pwint Khaing, Wai Wai Aung and Aye Aye Moe will perform as defenders midfielders, while Khin Mala Tun, San San Maw, Naw Ar Lo Wah Phaw, Khin Mo Mo Tun, Rupa Khaing, Aye Moe Myat, May Thu Kyaw and Hla Yin Win as midfielders, and Yi Yi Oo, Khin Moe Wai, Win Theingi Tun and July Kyaw, as strikers.

The Myanmar team is in group D together with Vietnam, Iran, Syria and Singapore. The team will compete in the qualification between 3 and 11 April in Vietnam. The Vietnam team may be a strong opponent for Myanmar.

Myanmar footballers will play against Iran on 3 April, Syria on 7 April, Singapore on 9 April and the host Vietnam on 11 April. Those players are now undergoing training for the upcoming competitions.

The AFC Women's Asian Cup is a biennial competition in women's football for national teams in the AFC and it is scheduled to be held in Jordan. The top three finishers of the last AFC Women's Cup qualified automatically and do not have to undergo qualifying.—*Nyi Myat Thawda*

Police to educate public for reduction of crime during Thingyan 2017

MEMBERS of the Myanmar Police Force are attempting to reduce the outbreak of crime across Myanmar before Thingyan, according to police.

Police officials performed drug-risk prevention procedures, including the banning of the selling of any sexual stimulant drugs and educating the public about crime prevention and mitigation.

Police from Pyinmana police station and No. 1 police station investigated the pharmaceutical shops and other shops at Myoma Bazaar of Mingalar

Ward, Pyinmana Township in Nay Pyi Taw and the bazaar of Shwe Kyarpin ward in Zabuthiri Township on 24 March and gave educative talks on prevention against narcotic drug use to the public, the enforcement of the law including the banning of the use and sale of sexual stimulant tablets to public.

Similarly, local police from Bago Region and Mandalay Region also investigated the pharmaceutical shops for narcotics and educated the regional people accordingly.—*Myanmar Police Force*

Over 180,000 WY tablets seized

NAVY troops patrolling in Maungdaw stopped and confiscated a boat containing psychotropic drugs yesterday. As the navy patrol approached the opening of the Ushaykya creek around 10pm, they sighted a suspicious-looking boat. After signaling the boat to come closer for inspection, the boat sailed away and was found at 10:40 pm 2,000 meters to the

west of Ywetnyotaung creek. The boat measured 20 by 3 feet and was deserted. After inspecting an odd-looking bag, officials discovered 180,000 tablets of the WY drug with an estimated value of Ks 3,600 Lakhs. The confiscated drugs have been transferred to Maungdaw Township's Drug Enforcement Squad.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Splendid and Opulent Moment

Facilities
 Bridal Dressing Room | Centerpiece Pinpointing Light | Following Spotlight for Couple walk | Stage setup |
 Ice carving | Couple Walkway Stage | PA system | Live recording | LCD projector | Wedding Cake |
 Standard Flower Deco | Photo Shooting Soiree | One night stay with Breakfast | Newlyweds Dinner | Champagne |

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Carrie Lam wins HK leadership race

HONG KONG — Carrie Lam, the former No 2 in the Hong Kong government, was on Sunday elected the next chief executive of the semiautonomous territory by a pro-Beijing election committee, becoming its first female leader.

Lam received 777 votes of the 1,194-member Election Committee, easily beating her two rivals — former financial secretary John Tsang, who received 365 votes, and retired judge Woo Kwok-hing, who had just 21. The total valid vote count was 1,163, according to the returning officer.

Lam will take office for a five-year term on 1 July. Her official appointment by Beijing's is expected to come within days.

A career civil servant since 1980, Lam, 59, has built a solid reputation for her competence. She previously served as the chief secretary for administration under Chief Executive Leung Chun-ying, who decided not to seek re-election.



Carrie Lam receives flowers after being elected Hong Kong's next chief executive by a pro-Beijing election committee on 26 March 2017.

PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

Lam was widely seen as Beijing's favoured candidate to lead the former British colony, which returned to Chinese rule two decades ago.

Hundreds of people from the pro-democracy camp critical of

what they called the "small-circle election" and others from a handful of pro-China organizations in support of the election demonstrated outside the voting venue where a heavy police presence was seen.—Kyodo News

Signs detected of possible N Korean preparation for nuclear test

WASHINGTON — Satellite surveillance of North Korea's nuclear test site suggests Pyongyang may be preparing to test another nuclear explosive device, a US institute monitoring the site said on Saturday.

"Commercial satellite imagery of the Punggye-ri nuclear test site indicates the presence of possibly four or five vehicles or trailers at the entrance" to the site, the US-Korea Institute at Johns Hopkins University said on its 38

North website.

While not conclusive, the institute said the presence of vehicles could indicate North Korea is preparing to conduct a sixth nuclear test, as they "could be involved in the installation of instrumentation or even a nuclear device."

Satellite imagery also shows construction materials, likely sand and aggregate, piled in a nearby storage lot, according to the institute.

The think tank said the mate-

rials, when mixed with concrete, may be used to prevent nuclear materials from escaping into the atmosphere following the underground detonation of a nuclear bomb.

According to recent US media reports, North Korea is in the final stages of conducting a nuclear test in the next few days at the earliest.

North Korea conducted five nuclear tests between 2006 and 2016, with the last test occurring last 9 September.—Kyodo News

DPRK army warns US, South Korea against "special operation" targeting leadership

PYONGYANG — The military of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) on Sunday warned the United States and South Korea against any attempt to stage a "special operation" to hit its leadership and military installations, including the nuclear arms base.

The General Staff of the Korean People's Army said in a statement carried by the Korean Central News Agency that it is ready to "mercilessly smash the enemy's moves with its own style of special operation and preemptive attack, now that the sinister aim of the US imperialists and the South Korean War maniacs' 'special operation' to hurt the dignity of the DPRK's supreme leadership has become clear, and they disclosed even the dangerous attempt at 'preemptive attack.'"

It accused the United States and South Korea of being "busy staging madcap joint military drills for aggression involving more than 300,000 troops, US nuclear carrier Carl Vinson and B-1B and other nuclear strategic

assets."

"The situation has reached an extreme phase which should not be overlooked," the General Staff said in the statement.

The statement urged Washington and Seoul to think twice about the catastrophic consequences to be entailed by their outrageous military actions.

On 13 March, combined forces of South Korea and the United States kicked off the annual command post exercise code-named Key Resolve, following the launch on 1 March of the joint field training drill with the code-name of Foal Eagle. The DPRK has denounced the joint military exercises as a dress rehearsal for northward invasion.

The US-South Korea commands will exercise a so-called Operation Plan 5015 during the Key Resolve drill, according to local media reports. The operation plan includes preemptive strikes against the DPRK's nuclear and missile facilities when signs of attack are detected.—Xinhua

Bangladesh bomb blasts kills six, scores injured

DHAKA — At least six people, including two police officials, were killed and scores wounded in two bomb blasts in Bangladesh on Saturday near a militant hideout that was raided by commandos, police said.

The explosions in the northeastern district of Sylhet came a day after a suicide bomber blew himself up at a security checkpoint near the country's main airport in an attack claimed by Islamic State.

"At least six people including two police official were killed in two explosions, one near the hideout and another in front of the building," said Sylhet police spokesman Zedan Al Musa.

More than 40 people were wounded, several critically, he added. About a dozen army and police personnel were among the injured.

Islamic State claimed responsibility "for a bombing on Bangladeshi forces in Sylhet", the SITE monitoring service said, citing the militant group's news agency Amaq.

Army commandos had stormed the hideout, which belonged to a domestic Islamist group that has pledged allegiance to the Islamic State, and was blamed for a cafe attack in July last year in which 22 people were killed, most of them foreigners.

On Saturday, commandos rescued all 78 people trapped inside the five-storey building for more than a day in an operation that was still underway.

The raid came after a string of suicide attacks on security bases this month.

A forensic report confirmed that Friday's attack was a suicide blast that was the third incident involving explosives in the capital, Dhaka, in a week.

Islamic State and al Qaeda have made competing claims over killings of foreigners, liberals and members of religious minorities in Bangladesh, a mostly Muslim country of 160 million people.

The government has consistently ruled out the presence of such groups, blaming domestic militants instead.—Reuters

People participate in Pinkathon in Kolkata, India



People participate in Pinkathon in Kolkata, India on 26 March, 2017. Pinkathon is a women's running event aiming to encourage women's health and fitness and create awareness for breast cancer. PHOTO: XINHUA

Performances in One-Year Period

A year of nation-building endeavours through the education promotion programs

News: Thoon Wathan
Photo: May Oo Moe

THE education sector is an important yardstick in measuring the development of a nation. The current government since its assumption of the office has been striving with utmost efforts for the education promotion of the country, introducing a system in which advanced learning is provided from the pre-school to high school and offering technological and professional studies. I interviewed Union Minister for Education Dr. Myo Thein Gyi in connection with the ministry's accomplishments during the one-year period.

Q: Please elaborate on the adoption of policies for educational reforms during the one-year period.

A: The Education Ministry made education reforms with the aim of promoting children and youths' access to education and sharpening the learning skills of students. Its one-year efforts were within the framework of 2010 education objectives of the national education strategy. Nine different areas have been designated in implementing the 2016-2020 national education strategy. The national education strategy was adopted at the meeting held at Myanmar International Convention Centre in Nay Pyi Taw on 23 February 2017.

Q: I would like to know the one-year efforts of the ministry in facilitating all children's access to the basic education in the whole country.

A: If we compare school education between the urban and the rural, the former has the higher pass rate and lower drop-out rate. In the past, the upgrading of schools for promoting the access to education of the children of the rural and remote areas was based only the number of students. But now distance and location

have also become other fundamental factors. In this regard, we make plans to upgrade schools within two-mile radius in difficult terrains and three-mile radius in plain regions where transport is easy. The ministry upgraded 3312 schools this year, but the basic education high schools are upgraded only if their student populations meet the required level.

The number of upgraded basic education schools is: 45 high schools, 55 middle schools, 236 primary schools, 318 affiliated high schools, 907 affiliated middle schools, 1242 post-primary schools and 508 affiliated primary schools totaling 3312.

Q: Tell me about the progress in implementing the free compulsory education system.

A: The aim of the system or in other words the project is to enable students to continue middle school education after completion of their primary education. The project covers the work of distributing one-set of text books to each student, and six exercise books and one-set of uniform to each student without providing any cash assistance during the enrollment week. Thanks to the help of parents and the people the project met significant success during the week. The progress during the one-year period of the incumbent government is the existence of 46006 schools, 3.6 million teachers, and 9.07 million students. In the academic year 2016-17 522 new primary schools emerged and over 18000 new teachers appointed.

Q: What are the ac-

Academic Yr	school	teacher	student
2015-16	45484	368012	8656093
2016-17 (December)	46006	386709	9078360
Progress	522	18697	422267

tions for an all-inclusive education system?

A: Students with impaired eyesight are at-

tending the No 5 BEMS in Mayangon Township and No 5 BEHS in Kyimyindine Township; students with impaired listening power are attending the No 3 BEHS in Dagon Township; and students with disabilities are attending schools together with their nor-

The Education Ministry made education reforms with the aim of promoting children and youths' access to education and sharpening the learning skills of students.

mal counterparts. Special courses will be conducted for teachers to teach such handicapped students systematically. As to pay greater attention to the all-inclusive education, exercise books, bags and other teaching aids were presented to those handicapped students in June 2-16 in cooperation with the UNICEF.

Q: Any knowledge and moral dissemination plans for students by the ministry?

A: We have conducted school environmental greening activities, school sanitation activities, school health programs, and talks on the danger of traffic accidents, narcotic drugs, and human trafficking. We have also made coordinated efforts to issue national registration cards for all students who have reached the age of 10, provide education aids for children

Q: We have witnessed the substitution of the outdated curriculum with the advanced ones by the ministry. Any comment about this sir?

A: We have conducted refresher courses for teachers to organize their kindergarten pupils to do sports activities, singing and dancing, and poem reading. Exercises books for writing skills were distributed for students who would attend the first standard in 2017-2018 academic year. We are planning to distribute first standard text books in the coming AY after compiling them in cooperation with JICA. Higher level teaching courses were also conducted for teachers.



Union Minister for Education Dr. Myo Thein Gyi.

The Education Ministry in cooperation with the parent-teacher associations is in the task of improving the quality of the basic education schools in the whole country. In the coming year, parents will be enabled to teach their children through non-formal ways in lending a helping hand to teachers,

Beginning the coming year, class promotion will be based on grading obtained through the average marks of chapter-wise examinations, mid-term

examination and final examination. The new system will improve the work of measuring the education improvement of students.

During the one-year period the ministry introduced the remedial education especially for students who failed to reach 75 percent school attendance and who were weak in their studies. It is also planning the abolishment of the system of dividing students into good, fair and bad groups.

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Teachers taking part in school enrolment week in May 2016.



Pa-O ethnic women receive reading and writing skills.

PERFORMANCES IN ONE-YEAR PERIOD

>> FROM PAGE 5

Q: Please explain me about the support made for students sitting for the matriculation examination this AY.

A: This AY, the matriculation examination began on 8 March. Over 714000 students sat for the examination, up over 80000 from the previous AY. Arrangements were made for the blind, the deaf and the dumb, the disabled and those who face problems for various reasons to sit for the examination as others. About ten minutes were spared to explain the examination rules to the deaf through the sign language.

	2016	2017
Candidates	636237	714521
The blind		24
The deaf		24
The disabled		101
Laukkai centre		87
Myawady DP		103

Q: we have heard that ethnic languages will be included in the syllabus in conserving them. Please elaborate.

A: Ethnic language, literature and culture associations have compiled syllabus for 49 ethnic languages that will be taught at schools under the supervision of region and state governments. The Basic Education Department is arranging the free of charge distribution of books published in ethnic languages. It is also providing financial support for locals who can teach an ethnic language well. The department in coordination with region and state governments is going to fix the minimum level for them who will be later assigned as teaching assistant.

Q: How is your teacher quality promotion program going?

A: We are drafting master plans to upgrade education colleges into four-year degree colleges in promoting the teaching qualifications. We have started the teacher mentoring program to enhance the qualification of teachers within a year. Qualification enhancement workshops were held to improve the knowledge of teachers and the Teacher Competency Framework has already been drawn.

Q: Please share with me some knowledge about the life-long non-formal education.

A: We have adopted continuous learning

programs for those who cannot attend classes for certain reasons and those who have to leave school without completing their studies. The ministry formed the new body under the name "Non-formal and Life-Long Learning Department" in August last year. Last November we launched the all Kayah State literacy campaign and in January this year, we launched the nine-township literacy campaign in Taunggyi District, Shan State.

Q: What is your accomplishment in the vocational training program?

A: The Education Ministry has opened government technical high schools, technical institutes and technological colleges totaling 59 where over 2000 teachers

are giving lectures to over 19000 students.

	School	teacher	student
technological college	3	307	3733
technical institute	21	950	10079
gov tech high school	35	1178	5889
total	59	2446	19691

With the aim of ensuring greater access to vocational education and producing skilled labour for the country, the ministry opened the Nyaung Vocational Training Institute-NVTI, and Singapore-Myanmar Vocational Training Institute-SMVTI, where short-term vocational education based courses are conducted. During the first-year term of our government we take back the government technical institute from under the Yangon city Development Committee-YCDC. We are planning to open regular classes as usual.

Q: What are the Education Ministry's implementations for students of institutions of higher learning?

A: The Higher Education Sector has 176 institutions of higher learning. Of them 133 are under the administration of Education Ministry. At the institutions 21000 faculties are giving lectures to 835000 students.

	Institute	faculty	student
Institution of higher learning	48	13200	
	742019		
Tech/com	60	6156	

As to broaden the learning opportunities of the institutions of higher learning, Haka college was opened last year. In addition, Taungup college was upgraded into a degree college. A new building for Toungoo college was erected at a new location under JICA

assistance. Those are all the educational developments.

ment of the government in its one year in office.

About half the population of the students of the higher education sector is attending the distance education universities.

The existing hostels can accommodate only a small portion of the regular students.

We are aiming at building more hostels for ensuring safe and secure learning for all students, promoting higher learning opportunities and creating a worthy university education environment in the country.

The ministry has been working a lot to realize this goal.

The Education Ministry in cooperation with parents, people, partner organizations, people, MPs, region and state governments and the relevant departments is striving for the emergence of professionally qualified and skilled graduate youths for the country.



Union Minister Dr Myo Thein Gyi presents the award to outstanding student with no eyesight.



The volunteer assists a disable student.

Ethnic language, literature and culture associations have compiled syllabus for 49 ethnic languages that will be taught at schools under the supervision of region.



Teachers volunteer for voting education program.

Abe's popularity intact, handling of land scandal questioned: poll

TOKYO — Public support for Prime Minister Shinzo Abe has not been significantly shaken by the scandal over alleged influence-peddling in a cut-price land deal, even though a vast majority of respondents to a new Kyodo News poll remain doubtful about his version of events.

The approval rating for his Cabinet slipped only to 52.4 per cent, down just 3.3 percentage points from a survey on 11-12 March, according to the nationwide telephone survey conducted on Saturday and Sunday.

Yet 82.5 per cent of respondents said the government has not done enough to dispel doubts concerning the sale of government land at a huge discount for construction of a school in Osaka, or allegations that Abe donated money to the school operator, the results released

Sunday showed.

The disapproval rate for Abe's Cabinet stood at 32.5 per cent.

Only 10.7 per cent believe the government has provided convincing explanations, while 62.6 per cent were "not convinced" with Abe's denial of any involvement by himself or his wife Akie in the controversial land deal. Just 28.7 per cent said they were convinced neither had any involvement.

Abe on Friday again dismissed accusations that he had donated 1 million yen (\$8,900) to nationalist school operator Moritomo Gakuen, after Yasunori Kagoike, its head, repeated the accusation while testifying as a sworn witness in parliament the previous day.

The poll found that 58.7 per cent said they cannot understand the explanation given by Abe, while



Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe attends a session of the House of Councillors budget committee in Tokyo on 24 March 2017. The approval rating of his Cabinet slipped 3.3 percentage points to 52.4 per cent, falling only slightly despite a growing political scandal involving alleged influence-peddling in a cut-price land deal, a Kyodo News poll showed on 26 March. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

30.2 per cent said otherwise.

On whether Akie should testify as a sworn witness in parliament, 52 per cent said the first lady should, against 42.8 per cent who said that was unnecessary.

On other key issues, 38.8 per cent said they support the bill to punish people convicted of planning to carry out serious crimes, up 5.8 points after the Cabinet approved the bill last week. Some 40.0 per cent said they are opposed to the bill, which is similar to legislation which twice before failed to secure passage.

As for whether to allow the Japanese emperor to abdicate, as discussed by a government panel, 57.4 per cent said they support revising the Imperial House Law to permanently allow emperors to relinquish the throne, while 34.6 per cent are in favor of enacting leg-

islation allowing only Japan's current monarch, Emperor Akihito, to abdicate. Asked about a proposal recently compiled as a Diet consensus and calling on the government to prepare such one-off legislation, 56.2 per cent said they are in favor, while 34.9 per cent are opposed.

By party, Abe's ruling Liberal Democratic Party remained dominant with 42.4 per cent backing it, down just 1.4 points from the previous survey.

The support rating for the main opposition Democratic Party stood at 8.8 per cent, and for Komeito, the LDP's junior coalition partner, at 3.8 per cent.

The survey covered 1,460 randomly selected households with eligible voters nationwide, with valid responses collected from 1,018 people.

—Kyodo News

Malaysia says talks with Pyongyang to conclude "very soon"

KUALA LUMPUR — Malaysian officials indicated Sunday that talks with North Korea on thorny affairs plaguing bilateral relations following last month's murder of Kim Jong Nam, the estranged half-brother of North Korea leader Kim Jong Un, could wrap up "very soon."

"Tomorrow, there will be an official statement to be issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs about our negotiations with DPRK," Deputy Prime Minister Zahid Hamid told reporters, using the acronym for the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the official name of the country.

In a separate event, Health Minister Subramaniam Sathasivam said negotiations are currently underway involving the Foreign Ministry and the Prime Minister's Department on the Malaysian side and the North Korean government.

"I have been told they have made some decision but am confident that an announcement will be made very soon. The announcement can come as early as even today," he was quoted as saying by the official news agency Bernama.

The remarks follow reports Saturday that former North Korean ambassador to the United Nations Ri Tong Il has returned to the Malaysian capital.

He first came to Kuala Lumpur on 28 February,

some two weeks after Kim Jong Nam's assassination, with the aim of repairing frayed ties after the North's then ambassador Kang Chol sparked an uproar by accusing Malaysia of colluding with "hostile forces" like South Korea to tarnish Pyongyang's image over the murder.

Two female suspects, an Indonesian and a Vietnamese, have been charged with murdering Kim Jong Nam using the highly toxic nerve agent VX, a banned chemical weapon. Authorities, however, believe that four North Koreans who fled the country on 13 February, the same day of the attack at Kuala Lumpur International Airport, are the masterminds. Another three North Korean accomplices are believed to be hiding in the North Korean Embassy including Hyon Kwang Song, 44, the second secretary of the embassy.

In addition, federal police chief Khalid Abu Bakar said last week that the authorities believe that more North Koreans, including "an important person," are involved.

Ri's first mission to Kuala Lumpur ended miserably, with Malaysia expelling Kang Chol after the latter refused to retract his remarks and apologize. Pyongyang has even refused to even acknowledge the deceased was Kim Jong Nam, insisting on refer-

ring to him as Kim Chol, the name in the diplomatic passport found on the body.

Malaysia said the body of Kim Jong Nam was conclusively identified via DNA samples from his son.

During his previous trip, Ri had also sought to have the body sent to North Korea. On 5 March, both Kang Chol and Ri left Kuala Lumpur. Two days later, Pyongyang imposed an exit ban on the nine Malaysian citizens living there who are mostly embassy staff and their families. Malaysia reacted swiftly, banning the hundreds of North Koreans working here from leaving the country.

Just when it looked like Malaysia would cut off ties established over 40 years ago with Pyongyang, the government announced that it would hold talks instead with North Korea to resolve the issues. A flurry of activity has been noted in the past two days as Ri was spotted back in Kuala Lumpur. There were rumors that both sides have reached a decision on the remains of Kim Jong Nam paving the way for the 45-year-old's body to be given to Pyongyang. When asked about the rumors, Subramaniam merely said, "I don't know as I was told a decision will be made soon. Most likely, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak will make the announcement."

—Kyodo News

Malaysian police enter North Korean Embassy: local paper

KUALA LUMPUR — The Malaysian police on Sunday entered the North Korean Embassy in Kuala Lumpur in connection with last month's murder of Kim Jong Nam, the estranged half-brother of North Ko-

rea leader Kim Jong Un, according to China Press, a Malaysian Chinese-language newspaper.

Four police officers, including the investigating officer of the murder, the Selangor state police chief

and Selangor prosecution team officer entered the embassy in the morning and were there for two and a half hours, the report said. They were given permission to enter by the embassy. —Kyodo News

ကွန်ပျူတာ စနစ်ဖြင့်ထိန်းသော
MECHANICAL CAR PARKING

Side View Front View

TRW
Tel: 09-259.81.36.36

Plan View Front View

TRW
No. (31), Room (5), 7 Miles,
Pyay Road, Yangon
T: 09-259.81.36.36
: 09-259.81.37.37
: 09-259.81.46.46

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

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.

Let us set up genuine mutual trust with People's contribution!

Khin Maung Oo

It may be said that the most powerful force in any country is people's power and the iron will and staunch hearts of its citizens. In all the affairs of the country, especially in the national affairs of the country, powerful contribution is of great importance. Successful achievement of the Peace process is of vital importance above all, currently. Hence, we need to get the willing and wholehearted participation and contribution of all our ethnic nationalities for gaining Peace. To mobilize the people to get their wholehearted support, it is necessary for us to take risks and make sacrifices not only for the present benefits of the people but also for future generations. We believe and trust that the present Government will perform the above-said duties. The People and the Government should not be seen as two separate entities with the government performing the task of governing the people. We should certainly not see ourselves as the "ruled" and the government as the "ruler". A government should be seen as the body which brings about people's benefits or a body that manages people's affairs or the body that administers people's affairs on behalf of the people. So, people should join hand in hand with the government as it is the body performing people's affairs, so that people's force will become that of the country.

Looking back at the historical background, we have seen that people's power could change the country. Depending upon the depth of political knowledge, people can assess the performances and achievements of successive governments. People in our country, Myanmar had been under various kinds of regimes. Accordingly, they understood the affairs of the country very well. That is, they know very well who took risks, sacrificed and devoted themselves for the people, and to which extent. Now that we have a representative form of government the people have the opportunity to decide the country's affairs, so that they can no longer be deceived of the history they themselves will write. After gaining Independence, people's affairs had been managed in different ways, throughout Myanmar history. People had known whether people had enjoyed their benefits or not. It is now nearly one year that we have had the new NLD-led government. It is quite clear for the people to see how much the Union Government has brought about tangible results in such a short period of time.

Since the long journey towards a modern, developed Democratic Federal Union is full of obstacles, pitfalls and challenges, the Government has been working very hard to make the political path as smooth as possible. Among all its efforts, the Government has focused its attention on the Peace Process which it considers to be very important. Our country was not able to keep up with our neighbouring countries. Due to various causes during the rule of successive governments, the country lagged behind in development. One of the causes is none other than the absence of internal peace for many decades. So long as the country was devoid of internal peace, it will never develop. Presently, under the active leadership of the Union Government political dialogues are being held for achieving peace. To achieve internal peace, genuine trust needs to be built. That is to build up mutual trust among different ethnic groups, various armed ethnic groups and political organizations. Let us therefore build trust among our national brethren with people's contribution and people's power.

Hailing the 72nd anniversary of Armed Forces Day 27-3-2017

Maha Saddhamma Jotika dhaja Sithu,
Dr. Khin Maung Nyunt

OUR past is our lesson for our present and our guide for our future. To hail the 72nd anniversary of Tatmadaw Day the writer contributes to the highly esteemed Daily the Global New Light of Myanmar the following article entitled "The brilliant Performance of Tatmadaw in Nyaung Yan Period [1605-1752 A.D.] of Myanmar history.

King Anaukpet Lun [1605-1628 A.D.] whose army decisively defeated the Portuguese intruders at Syriam [Than Hlyin] in 1613 A.D deserves a place among our great leaders who timely saved the nation from falling under foreign yoke. His war against the Portuguese was as equally important for us as achievements of any other of our national leaders. Viewed from the angle of historic continuity, it was our second resistance against alien domination, after our first encounter with a foreign aggression in the 13th century. The Tartar armies of Kublai Khan that invaded Myanmar [Old Bagan] in the reign of King Narathihapate [1256-1287 A.D]. It was also our successful resistance against the first European imperialists from overseas.

Today, although the war of 1613 was more than five centuries old, its import still bears relevance in modern context. To recapture it the events of the war may be briefly reviewed. The coming of the Portuguese to our country was the side effect of their imperialism in India, Ceylon [Sri Lanka] the East Indies and Malay the four regions in Asia in which they were vitally interested. A variety of motives prompted them to come out to the orient at the turn of the 16th century. Love of sea adventures, quest for new land, hunt for fortune, propagation of Christianity, trade with the fabulously rich oriental countries, and many other personal reasons. Being a seafaring people themselves and having discovered the technique of building larger and all weather ocean going boats and also being equipped with modern arms-[muskets and cannons] and navigation devices, these European from the Iberian peninsula were able to build up their maritime empire in the eastern hemisphere of the world. But in religion, trade and navigation, and they were surpassed by their Arab predecessors, who were much far in advance in these fields. So in their expansion in the East, they

found themselves up against the Arab barrier which they tried to break up with the only strength they had —navy. This explains why the Portuguese maritime Empire in the 16th and the 17th centuries covered the eastern seaboards and the surrounding rim lands —the beaten treks of the Arabs. From the Persian Gulf in the Arabian Sea to the China Coast in the Pacific Ocean, the Arab strongholds were taken one by one by the Portuguese by sheer force. The capture of Goa in 1510 laid the foundation of their Empire. It was from Goa that Portuguese imperialism stretched out its tentacles to grip all lands, places and seaports of strategic and commercial importance.

Most historians hold the view that as Myanmar coastline is off the international navigation route her seaports are of little or no use to the maritime travelers. Hence Myanmar's oversea contact, if composed to those of other nations in the South-east Asian region has been sparse. This view, however, oversimplifies the geographical factor and ignores the navigation conditions of the time. The sea route from Portugal via the Cape of Good Hope to India was quite a long journey pregnant with all kinds of risks, dangers and hardships. Then again the route from Goa on the Malabar Coast of India to the East Indies or Malay Peninsula was another great distance. Nonstop sail whether from homeland or Goa to their bases in Malay or the East Indies was quite unthinkable for the Portuguese. Besides, navigation conditions in those days were still primitive by our modern standard.

Although the Portuguese galleons were equipped with strong sails and oars they could not withstand Hurricane and Cyclone. Sea routes in those days were fraught with piracies in which the Portuguese themselves participated largely. Therefore stations for transit, repair of boats and ships and supply of water and food ration were needed, and the Portuguese tried to secure them either by military conquest or political arrangements with the local magnates. On the coastlines around the Bay of Bengal, the Rakhine Province, Myanmar deltas, and along the Teninthyay strip were a chain of Portuguese bases either well-fortified or strongly guarded by armed boats and galleons an-



Boat racing plays an important role in the recruitment of soldiers during the time of kings.

chored off the shores. Chittagong, Sund wip Island at the mouth of the Hoogli River. Mrohaung, Ciryon [Syruan ဆွေငါး], Pegu, Martavan [မုတ္တမ] and Tanacary [Taninthayy] were the places they made settlements.

Apart from navigation, the Portuguese had economic reason to come to Myanmar. Although it was true that their main focus was on the most profitable spice trade of the East Indies and the oriental merchandizes of India, China and Japan, Myanmar's natural products such as rubies, and precious stones of all kinds, lac, bee wax, indigo, musk, ivory, and such like forest products did not fail to attract the commercial interest of the Portuguese merchants. These products fetched handsome prices in European markets. So merchant ships frequented Myanmar's seaports Mrohaung, Cosmin [Basim] Dalla, Ciryon [Thanhlyin], Pegu, Martavan, and Tanacary [Taninthayy], where they bartered the commodities they brought with Myanmar products. Some got settled down at seaport towns and lived a family life among local populace. Others stayed on for a few years, seeking fortune by all means, including piracy and

slave trade and returned home taking back the loots or wealth they had accumulated. They did not pose a menace to the nation provided their number was negligible and they kept aloof from local polities.

But in the first half of the 16th century, the Portuguese residents in Myanmar increased manifold and they began to dabble in the court intrigues. It was the time when the Portuguese Empire was at the height of its power. Portuguese "free booters" or the "Feringhees" [Bayingee ဘင်္ဂါနီ] as they were then commonly called in the East made themselves available as professional fighters for hire. They had no loyalty to any authority, not even to their King. They would serve him well who could offer them better terms and a greater reward which was usually a lion's share in the war spoils. Kings and princes of south and South-east Asian countries employed them in their dynastic wars and family feuds. In Myanmar, Taungoo Kings like Tabin Shwe Hti [1531-1550 A.D.] and his successor and brother-in-law King Bayint Naung [1551-1581 A.D], Mon King of Pegu Tagarupi, Martaban Prince Banya Dala, Rakhine King Min Rajah Gri [1593-1612

A.D.] and Lord of Chittagong Min Mangri hired these Portuguese free booters for their military campaigns. Lavish rewards were given to them and titles and high posts were awarded to those who distinguished themselves by bravery and fighting ability. Glovani Caeyro and Diago soaze de Mello were the two outstanding Portuguese who served in the armies of the above-mentioned Taungoo Kings. The latter was promoted to the highest military rank and post by King Bayintnaung because of his excellent military service. Ferdinand de Moraes fought on the side of King Tagarupi when the latter went to war with Tabin Shwe Hti. Philip de Brito and Sebastiao Gon salves were the favourites of King Rayah Gri and King Min Mangri respectively.

At first, these free booters were not organized nor did they owe allegiance to their home Government or any political authority in their colonies. They were just free-lance fighters. But later the Portuguese Viceroy of Goa Alfonso de Albuquerque tried to use them in carrying out his imperial design on Myanmar. As early as 1511 A.D he was pursuing a policy of aggression in the South-east Asian region. In that year he at-

tacked Malacca, the great emporium town of the region and forcibly took it from the Malay Sultans. From there he planned to bring all South-east Asian Seaports under his control. So he sent two missons to Myanmar, one led by Ruy Nunez' Achunnha was dispatched to Pegu in 1511 A.D and the other headed by John de Silveira to Chittagong in 1517 A.D. The declared object of these missions was to open diplomatic relations with the Rakhine and Pegu Courts. But the ulterior motive was to influence the native Kings through Portuguese residents there. But both missions failed in their purposes. In 1519 A.D Portuguese Governor at Malacca Digo Lopes de Sequiera sent a mission to Martalean, headed by Andrea Correa. This mission succeeded in signing a commercial treaty with the Lord of Martaban Banya Yan. By this treaty the Portuguese were permitted to open a factory [trading station] at Martaban, settle down there and their ships were free to ply along and anchor off the coast.

Subsequent missions were not successful as the native Kings were once again engaged in their dynastic quarrels. Ferdinand Morales who headed the mission to

Pegu sent by Goa Viceroy in 1513 A.D only saw the war going between Taungoo and Pegu. He sided with Pegu and died in the battle. Ferdinand Mendes Pinto was sent to Martaban in 1545 A.D. by the Governor of Malacca Pedro de Faria to renew the 1519 treaty. He became an eye witness to the fighting between Martaban and Taungoo.

Though these missions failed in their immediate objectives, they established contacts between Portuguese colonial authorities and Portuguese communities in Myanmar. With the blessing and encouragement of Goa Viceroy Portuguese residents now became rebellious and their activities turbulent and defiant. They came under his influence and control. The Viceroy entered into secret dealings with those who held high posts in the royal services, promising them handsome rewards, positions and titles if they cooperated with him in pursuing imperial policy in Myanmar. It is said that the young Portuguese who brought King Tabin Shwe Hti to excessive drinking was the nephew of Goa Vivieroy sent by his uncle to debauch the young King Tabin Shwe Hti. The result of the Viceroy's political intrigues was the rise to power of two Portuguese adventures-Philip de Brito at Syriam and Sebastiao Gonsalves Tibao on the Sand wip island. Being frequently engaged in personal rivalry and family feuds native Kings and lords were little aware of the growing menace of their Portuguese employees who were misusing their authorities and position for their selfish ends. But public who had suffered enough at the hands of these powerful royal servants resisted them as best they could. Digo Soaze de Mello was the first to meet the punishment from the people for his acts of high handedness, cruelty, and immoral crimes which he had committed in the heyday of his power. On one occasion he disturbed a Mon wedding ceremony in Pegu by killing the bridegroom and taking the pretty bride for his harem. Ashamed, and heartbroken the bride hanged herself. Her father vowed to avenge him at any opportunity. By 1582 his royal master King Bayint Naung was dead and he himself fell from power under the new King Now was the time for the bride's father to take vengeance. The old man roused up a mob by provoking public hatred for de Mello. Recalling the tragedy of his daughter he appealed to the Peguans to bring the wrongdoer to justice. The angry mob

marched with him to de mello's house where they stoned him to death. His body was cut into pieces and his house destroyed. This incident was a prelude to the nation-wide resistance against Portuguese imperialism.

Regarding de Brito and Sebastio Gonsalves a united action of Rakhine, Mon and Myanmar Kings was needed to overthrow their power. Here the Tatmadaws of these three native Kings timely appeared at the clarion call of our nation in danger of falling under foreign yoke.

Like any other adventurer of their type these two Portuguese were upstarts who rose to greatness by a combination of intrigues, arms and sheer luck. Philip de Brito was a cabin boy who came to Rakhine during the reign of King Min Rajah Gri. His gallantry and fighting skill impressed the King and he won royal favour. He received promotions in the King's Service.

In 1599 A.D a dynastic war broke out between Rakhine and Taungoo on the one hand and Pegu on the other. Min Rajah Gri appointed De Brito as a minor officer in the combined armies of Rakhine and Taungoo which laid seigs to Pegu. When Pegu fell and the war was won Rakhine and Taungoo divided the spoils between them. To keep a constant with Taungoo, the Rakhine King stationed his officers and an army at Syriam. But at this time the Portuguese were commanding Myanmar's seas and there was a large number of their communities residing in Syriam. So Rakhine King appointed de Brito as Governor of Syriam so as to cooperate with his officers in collecting customs duties and protecting the port. But in no time de Brito made himself Lord of Syriam's by expelling King's officers and bringing the town under his personal rule. He harbored a high ambition of becoming the sovereign of Myanmar. He built up his military strength by recruiting local Portuguese into his army and entering into an alliance with the Lord of Martaban Banya Dala. The alliance was reinforced by a dynastic marriage between his son Simon and Banya Dala's daughter. He also went to Goa to seek support from the Viceroy who supplied him with arms, ammunition and war ships and in addition offered him as bride his own niece Dona Luisa de Saldana. The Viceroy recognized Syriam as Portuguese possession and he hoped that all of Myanmar's coastal provinces would fall under the Portuguese sway.

To be continued

NEWS IN BRIEF

Cost of wide access to EU single market not yet clear — UK minister

LONDON — Interior minister Amber Rudd said on Sunday the British government did not yet know what kind of cost there may be for trying to get the “widest possible access” to the European Union’s single market.

Prime Minister Theresa May will trigger Article 50 of the EU’s Lisbon Treaty on Wednesday, hoping to secure what she calls a “good deal” of close cooperation on the economy and security while being able to control immigration.

“I certainly do think that we should try to have the widest possible access to the single market ... we don’t know what that cost would be, we don’t know that at all, that is going to be part of the negotiations,” Rudd told the BBC’s Andrew Marr show. “We have a lot to offer in this negotiation as well so we must not ever forget that it is going to be two-way.” —Reuters

Egyptian court jails 56 over migrant boat shipwreck — judicial sources

CAIRO — An Egyptian court sentenced 56 people to prison on Sunday over the capsizing of a migrant boat that left over 200 people dead last year, judicial sources said.

The defendants were sentenced to jail terms ranging from seven to 13 years, the sources said, and one other person was acquitted.

The boat capsized off the Mediterranean coast on 21 September near the village of Burg Rashid. Rescue workers and fishermen rescued at least 169 people, but at least 202 people died. —Reuters

Fights erupt at pro-Trump rally on California beach



Demonstrators protest at the beach in support of US President Donald Trump during a rally in Huntington Beach, California, US on 25 March, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

HUNTINGTON BEACH, Calif — Supporters of President Donald Trump holding a rally on a popular southern California beach clashed with counter-protesters on Saturday and four people were arrested, law enforcement said.

Multiple fights broke out and at least one Trump supporter was doused with pepper spray when pro-Trump demonstrators marching along Bolsa Chica State Beach encountered a small group opposed to the Republican president who had gathered to denounce the rally.

Four counter-protesters were arrested, three for illegal use of pepper spray and one for assault and

battery, Kevin Pearsall, a spokesman for the California State Parks Police said on Saturday evening.

The fights appeared to start in the early afternoon when around a dozen anti-Trump protesters dressed in all black refused to move from a bike path to allow a larger group of pro-Trump supporters taking part in the Make America Great Again rally to pass. The confrontation escalated into a fight with more skirmishes quickly breaking out.

At least one person was pepper-sprayed by an anti-Trump protester, Pearsall said. Park police estimated that 2,000 Trump supporters flocked

to the stretch of coastline located south of the ocean-side community of Huntington Beach. Around 20 counter-protesters attended, Pearsall said.

Known as Surf City, USA, Huntington Beach is located some 40 miles (64 km) south of Los Angeles.

Video footage from social media uploaded to the Los Angeles Times’ website showed a chaotic scene with men fighting in the sand and a group of around 20 Trump supporters, some carrying Trump flags, chasing a man in a black mask away from the beach and on to a freeway. The man was stopped by members of the California Highway Patrol, the news-

paper said.

The masked man had used pepper spray on a female rally organizer and was set upon by a group of Trump supporters, the newspaper reported. Demonstrations denouncing the Trump administration have drawn hundreds of thousands since he took office in January. Smaller rallies have been staged across the country in support of Trump. On Saturday, Trump praised his supporters.

“Thanks you for all of the Trump Rallies today. Amazing support. We will all MAKE AMERICA GREAT AGAIN!” He said in a message on Twitter. —Reuters

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France’s Le Pen says euro exit “wouldn’t be chaos”

PARIS — French presidential candidate Marine Le Pen sought on Sunday to reassure voters concerned over her plans to withdraw the country from the euro zone, saying it “wouldn’t be chaos” and she would seek “well-prepared” talks with other European Union countries.

Opinion polls show the anti-EU, anti-immigrant National Front (FN) leader qualifying for the 23 April first round of the presidential election but losing the 7 May run-off to centrist Emmanuel Macron. Leaving the euro is one of the FN’s standard-bearing poli-

cies, both a mark of its anti-establishment stance that attracts voters angry with globalisation, and a likely obstacle to its quest for power in a country where a majority oppose a return to the franc.

“The euro triggered a very serious increase in prices and a very steep drop in purchasing power,” Le Pen said in an interview published in Le Parisien newspaper on Sunday.

“It is also a serious hindrance to job creation because it triggered a loss in competitiveness for the French economy.”

However, some 72 per

cent of French voters oppose a return to the franc, an Ifop poll published in Le Figaro newspaper showed.

With previous opinion polls also showing such opposition, Le Pen has said for months that if elected she would not abruptly withdraw from the euro but instead hold a referendum after six months of negotiation with the rest of the EU on a range of issues including leaving the border-free Schengen agreement and reducing the EU to a loose cooperative of nations.

She specified in the

Le Parisien interview that talks on the euro would come at the end of those negotiations, after Germany’s general election in September.

“It must be done in a rational, well-prepared way,” she told Le Parisien, “I don’t want chaos. Within the negotiation calendar I want to carry out ... the euro would be the last step because I want to wait for the outcome of elections in Germany in the fall before renegotiating it.”

The Ifop poll showed that, unlike voters overall, a majority of FN voters back a euro exit. —Reuters

PERFORMANCES IN ONE-YEAR PERIOD

Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population

Naing Lin Kyi

Performance in one year

A worker, no matter where he works, locally or oversea, will have the difficulties to get through the problems pertaining to rights of labor and other related affairs without the help of Labour Organizations or Agencies and labour laws.

The Ministry of Labor, Immigration and Population, in implementing the creation of more job opportunities and other labour affairs that can lead to the people's benefits, carried out the works in two divisions, labour affairs and immigration works.

There are 4 departments, Labour Department, Social Security Board, Factories and Labour Law Inspection Department, Labour Relation Department to undertake the labour affairs and other 3 departments, Immigration Department, National Registration Department and Population Department to execute the affairs related to immigration affairs.

Wages

The ministry has laid the policy in carrying out the effective use of labour force for the development of the country, to place the able workers to a suitable work and consequently to alleviate the poverty, the perpetual production of the disciplined, capable skilled workers, the development of human resource, to boost the socio-economic status of workers by creating more jobs and to create safe and peaceful work atmosphere for the workers.

Validated and Precise Population

The ministry also carries out to prescribe the law that suits to the prevailing condition and protect the rights of workers, to bring out the social security project truly beneficial to the workers, to cooperate with local and international organizations in doing worker's affairs, to set the lowest wage of the workers, the national registration work and foreigner- controlling works in line with the existing law and regulations, to get the validated and updated population that are crucial in drawing national planning and national security and management.

Moreover, the ministry is finding the job opportunities both inside and outside the country, training the workers to be more skillful, holding job fairs where employers and employees can meet and it tries to be able to issue skill-certificate, establishes the skill inspection departments and trains the inspectors, collects the data and make statistics on number of workers, wages, working time, number of factories and work



Testing of NID survey process in Pobbathiri, Nay Pyi Taw on 8-12-2016.
PHOTO: MNA

shops in industrial zones.

Determining the lowest wage

The ministry is trying to publish a Manual of Human Resources Development Index that includes setting the lowest wage of the workers and for them to be able to enjoy the rights and indices of 2014-15 and 2015-16 years. Holding the seminars for raising knowledge pertaining to eradication of forced labour and freedom of forming labour organizations, revising, amending and redrafting the existing labour laws and finally supervising the signing contract of job appointment.

The seminars and workshops to raise the knowledge of both employers and employees, to develop small and medium scale enterprise and workers of daily wages and work shops for labour law were also held at industrial zones to make the workers understand the labour law. Moreover the ministry finds the ways and systems of networking that provide chances for the employers and job seekers to meet, discuss and negotiate for the jobs.

Drawing the By-Law

The ministry is drawing the Labour Law and By-Law in line with the prevailing political system. Some laws and by-laws were revoked as it was not compatible with the prevailing system. And the ministry organized the Mobile Medical Unit aiming at providing better and more efficient health care services. Social security boards also try to issue the money to the workers who cover the social security insurance and are no longer able to work due to decease, injury and failing health, etc. during the work. The new social security law covers all the workers, no matter permanent or part time or odd-job workers to be able to access the insurance policy of Social Security.

The ministry also is taking census on the total number of workers under the insurance policy of Social Security Board and upgrading and extending the hospitals and dispensaries which are under labour ministry.

Re-entry Visa

The ministry has also undertook the works relating with the supervision and checking on the activities of foreigners staying in the country, taking care the entry and re-entry visas of foreigners, the issuing of e-Visa for the Visa on Arrival for the foreigners, extending the stay visa in accordance with the existing rules and regulations and issuing multiple re-entry visa for foreigners, taking relevant actions or penalize the



Union Minister U Thein Swe observes immigration process at Yangon International Airport on 30-10-2016. PHOTO: MNA

law-breaking foreigners and deporting the convicts after the term of imprisonment, issuing of National Registration Card to those who apply to re-register the Myanmar citizen in line with the rules and regulations and keeping the record of foreigners and doing the preliminary registration works.

Employment

The ministry also carried out for the workers to secure the jobs through the Labour Exchange

Management System.

It can seek 183422 jobs for the workers within April, 2016 and January, 2017.

Displaced Workers

The government is managing for displaced workers to be able to secure the labour rights and human rights, to get protection from illegal abuses employing the labour law of the respective country and to get connection with their families.

Collecting and managing the data on the migration and development of workers, taking the news of foreign labour market, signing MOU for sending Myanmar workers with Thailand and Republic of Korea were carried out by the Ministry of labour, Immigration and Population.

As a result 5981 workers could be sent to Korea between January 2016 and February 2017.

Without Legal Documents

The ministry could bring 31791 Myanmar illegal workers in Malaysia into the legal fold by issuing passport within February 2014 to July 2016. It is in the process to sign a MOU between Myanmar and Japan to give technological training to Myanmar workers in Japan as part of the program to produce apprentice workers and to protect those apprentice workers. Between January 2016 and February 2017, 161295 Myanmar workers were sent abroad with legalized passport and visa. 12 Myanmar Rehabilitation Centers for displaced workers were established in 12 townships to manage for the safety of displaced workers.

Assessment on the skill

Certificate of National Level Working Skill (Level-1) could be issued to 727 workers who could pass the assessment test level 1 of preliminary planning of skill assessment, on 11 types of works under the program implemented by NSSA. Now in the 3rd phase 251 workers passed the level 1 and 2 for 16 types of works and the certificates were issued at certificate awarding ceremony at UMFCCI in Yangon.

SEE PAGE 12 >>

The ministry is drawing the Labour Law and By-Law in line with the prevailing political system. Some laws and by-laws were revoked as it was not compatible with the prevailing system.



Union Minister U Thein Swe observes the process of the e-visa system.
PHOTO: MNA



Union Minister U Thein Swe meets with members of Rakhine's Immigration and National Registration Committee in Sittway. PHOTO: MNA

PERFORMANCES IN ONE-YEAR PERIOD

>> FROM PAGE 11 Manual of Oversea Jobs

Workers who wish to work abroad can get free admission to steering course on overseas jobs conducted at the skill training schools of Yangon and Mandalay starting from January of this year.

The course includes culture, environment and geography of the countries of destination, some facts of human trafficking, labour laws, safety of the work place, safety in transfer, facts about immigration, employment agreement contract, contacts for the help, monetary management and departure procedure. To turn out well qualified human resource and perpetual availability of skilled labour that are crucial to the development of the country is one of the main responsibilities of the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population. The ministry in cooperation with other 18 ministries including Ministry of Education could churn out 29854 workers who finished the training course on basic welding, supervising, inspection, repairing air-con and Korean language between the period of April 2016 and February of 2017.

Social Security

A worker, to be able to work needs a good health. Social Security Board of the ministry takes the responsibility in taking care of the health of the workers by upgrading the hospitals, replenishing the medicines and giving medical treatment to the workers. From April 2016 to January 2017, 71028 workers were given medical treatment at 3 Worker Hospitals and medical team visited the worksites and treated the ill workers. 355704 outdoor patients took the treatment at 96 dispensaries opened by Social Security Board, 5691 took treatments at hospitals. 1660 of times of mobile health-educating and health-caring trips by MMU vehicle could have made treatment to 34035 workers working in 1340 work sites.

Social Security Dispensary was opened at Salingyi Township, Yinmabin District, Sagaing Region in September 2016 and gave health care in cooperation with private clinics. In Mingladon Townships where there are numerous workers covering the social security insurance, Social

Security Board in cooperation with Care Well Medical Co.,Ltd. opened a medical care unit on 4th march.

From the time when Social Security law was ratified in 2012 to January 2017, 697781 Social Security Registration Card (Smart Card) and 512995 temporary cards were issued. During one year period of the incumbent government 41055 Smart Cards and temporary cards 288315 had been already issued. More efficient e-Smart Card containing micro-processor chips is now under way to be issued.

The Union Minister confirmed that there were 248 locals and 371 foreigners who were erased from the blacklist, and that scrutinising is underway to remove further people.

The principal duty of the Social Security Board is to register the works entitled to registration according to the law, to register the workers, to collect the contribution money and to give medical treatments to workers. By contributing 5% (3% from employer, 2% from employee) of the salary, the workers will get the privilege of medical care and other 15 types of monetary benefits.

Regarding to the given advices, the ministry is working on the national level discussion about gender issues to be put in the national work plan for migration and to amend the overseas employment law to be able to put the gender related matters based on the past experience.

Ministry has been working with total 17 laws which are nine approved laws, one amending law, three new laws under developing, two abolished laws, two new laws which are required. The ministry had transferred

one labour law established in 1951 to the Ministry of Electric Power and Energy. The Ministry also submitted the draft of occupational safety and health to Pyidaungsu Hluttaw on 17 February, 2017.

Labour disputes

To settle the labour disputes in the country, Labour organizations and employer organizations have been allowed to form independently under the labour organization law enacted in 2011, and a total of 2,399 labour and employer organizations, including 2,369 labour organizations and 30 employer organizations, have been formed so far up to February, 2017, while some labour organizations have formed federations in accordance with the law.

In solving the disputable labour issues, Ministry can manage transparently, harmoniously and impartially in making fair decision base on social justice, getting trust on the solution for the labour disputes, working with labour committees in the factories on the disputable issues which can be solved under the existing laws without a tribunal help.

Population and Households

The ministry has conducted analysis training courses on census resulted map and made 13 research paper based on the result of population and household census in 2014. By working on the preparation for data management, making data user workshops, compiling data and reporting, the ministry has issued the papers about urban emergence, migration, population changes, birth and marriages, death and maternal death.

More than 1 million Citizenship IDs nationwide in the one-year period

The ministry relaxed the rules on issuing the citizenship scrutiny cards since November 2016 and has issued the IDs to 1,034,658 nationwide during the one-year period of the new government in accordance with the 1982 Citizenship Law.

e-Visa tourists

Today, tourists can use to enter and exit Myanmar if they have a valid e-Visa to enter My-



Staff reviewing migration in and out of Shwenandaw Inspection Gate in Muse. PHOTO: MNA



2-1-2017. Trial run of collecting NID survey in Insein, Yangon. PHOTO: MNA

anmar. Electronic visas (e-Visa) are now issued that allow at Yangon, Mandalay and Nay Pyi Taw international airports and border crossings.

Citizens of 100 countries are eligible for an e-Visa. They simply go online complete the form and pay via a credit card a non-refundable USD50 for a 28-day stay. Usually, they receive a confirmation email with a visa approval number, which they present to immigration officials along with their passport at the border checkpoint. The actual visa is stamped into the passport.

Wiping the slate clean

Nearly 620 people erased from blacklist

A total of 619 people were removed from the previous government's blacklist, said Union Minister for Labour, Immigra-

tion and Population U Thein Swe.

At the press conference in Nay Pyi Taw last year, the Union Minister confirmed that there were 248 locals and 371 foreigners who were erased from the blacklist, and that scrutinising is underway to remove further people.

Registration cards issued to Myanmar migrants

Registration cards were issued to Myanmar migrants who are illegally working in neighbouring countries and others aiming at enabling them to enjoy legal protection of the countries where they work in.

Under the registration card issuance program, 41,892 migrant workers in Thailand have received the card so far up to 23-2-2017.



Careful evaluation in process after viewing the results of the 2014 census. PHOTO: MNA



A patient receiving treatment inside the Mobile Medical Unit. PHOTO: MNA



Myanmar workers in Thailand waiting to receive Certificate of Identity. PHOTO: MNA

Germans in tiny Saarland vote in big test for Merkel

BERLIN/SAARBRUECKEN — Germans in the small western state of Saarland voted on Sunday in a regional election that could deliver an upset to Chancellor Angela Merkel and hurt her prospects of winning a fourth term in September’s national election.

The election carries significance as it is the first of three regional votes ahead of the 24 September federal vote and as such it offers an opportunity for the parties to build — or lose — momentum in their quest to prevail at national level.

The vote is the first electoral test for the Social Democrats under their new leader, Martin Schulz who has re-energised the centre-left party with a promise to tackle inequality that is resonating with many voters tired of Merkel.

“This time every vote really counts,” an unusually impassioned Merkel told a rally in Sankt Wendel, near Germany’s border with France and Luxembourg, on Thursday.

“Take my words seri-

ously,” she said in a last-gasp effort to drum up support for her conservative Christian Democrats (CDU).

Voting began at 8 am (0600 GMT) and runs until 6 pm (1600 GMT), after which exit polls are released.

Like federal Germany, Saarland is currently governed by a ‘grand coalition’ of Merkel’s conservatives and the Social Democratic Party (SPD).

But polls suggest a left-leaning ‘red-red-green’ alliance of the SPD, the far-left Linke party and the environmentalist Greens — or even a ‘red-red’ coalition if the Greens fail to win enough votes — could emerge after the vote.

A three-way leftist alliance in Saarland would be the third at state level after Berlin and the eastern region of Thuringia and could give impetus to a similar format at national level.

A survey by pollster Emnid published in Sunday’s Bild am Sonntag newspaper showed national support for the SPD had risen slightly from a week ago



People cast their vote for the Saarland state elections in Puettingen near Saarbruecken, Germany, on 26 March 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

and the centre-left party was tied with Merkel’s conservative bloc on 33 per cent.

With the Linke and Greens both on 8 per cent nationally, the poll suggested the three left-leaning parties could form a federal coalition government after September’s election.

Under Merkel, Germany has enjoyed economic growth and high employment, but the gap between rich and poor has grown.

Schulz is trying to win over dissatisfied working class voters with a message

of social justice.

The SPD, Linke and Greens have discussed refraining from attacking each other during the national campaign. Schulz is wary of talking about coalition formations before the state and federal elections, keen to maximise SPD support.

“The same applies in Saarland as at the federal level: we want to be the strongest party,” he told Bild am Sonntag. “Whoever then wants to govern with us, is very welcome to come to us.”—Reuters

Dozens detained in anti-corruption protests across Russia

VLADIVOSTOK/YEKATERINBURG — Several dozen people were detained in protests across Russia on Sunday, after the opposition urged people to take to the streets to demonstrate against corruption and demand the resignation of Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev.

Russian opposition leader Alexei Navalny said on his website that more than 80 towns and cities across Russia would hold protests on Sunday and that authorities had not sanctioned the majority of the rallies. The Kremlin said on Friday that plans to hold a protest in the centre of Moscow were an illegal provocation. In the far eastern city of Vladivostok, a Reuters reporter saw the detention of at least 30 protesters at an unsanctioned rally drawing hundreds of young people to a square near the city’s railway station. The detentions started after protesters unfurled banners reading “Corruption steals our fu-

ture” and “The prime minister should answer”.

The protesters then marched to a local police station to demand that police free those who had been detained. Hundreds also rallied in the city of Yekaterinburg in the industrial Urals region. Witnesses said at least four people holding banners were detained on the city’s Labour Square, where opposition protesters, nationalists and supporters of the pro-Kremlin United Russia party gathered. Police said 500 to 700 people had gathered on Labour Square but did not confirm that there had been any detentions. “Corruption affects every person. The fight against corruption can unite all people irrespective of their convictions,” 20-year-old student Ivan told Reuters, asking that his last name not be published. Navalny supporters are due to hold an unsanctioned rally in central Moscow from around 1100 GMT.—Reuters

Communal strife in home state of India’s Modi kills one, 14 hurt

NEW DELHI — One person was killed and about 14 injured when violence erupted following a scuffle between Muslim and Hindu school students in Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s home state of Gujarat, a senior administrative official said on Sunday.

A crowd of about 5,000 people attacked Muslim

residents and set dozens of homes and vehicles on fire at Vadavali village in Patan district on Saturday after Hindu students complained of misbehaviour by Muslim students, said K K Nirala, the district’s top administrative official.

Members of the Muslim community retaliated by throwing stones and po-

lice used teargas and fired seven rounds to disperse the crowd and control the violence, Nirala said.

Gujarat has a history of serious communal trouble.

Rioters killed about 1,000 people, most of them Muslims, in the state 2002, according to estimates.—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 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

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

Filmmaker Gurinder Chadha gets Sikh Jewel Award



Actor Manish Dayal (L-R), actress Gillian Anderson, director and screenwriter Gurinder Chadha and actress Huma Qureshi arrive for the screening of the movie 'Viceroy's House' at the 67th Berlinale International Film Festival in Berlin, Germany, on 12 February 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

LONDON — Indian-origin British director Gurinder Chadha has been honoured with the Sikh Jewel Award for 2017 for her immense contribution to British cinema. Chadha, whose films include "Bhaji on the Beach", "Bend It Like Beckham" and "Bride and Prejudice", received the award from UK Defence Secretary Michael Fallon at the Vaisakhi Dinner organised by the British Sikh Association at the Lancaster Hotel here Thursday night.

The High Commissioner of India to the UK, Y K Sinha, who was the Guest of Honour, was also present on the dais.

Chadha's latest film,

"Viceroy's House" tells the true story of the final five months of British rule in India and coincides with the 70th anniversary of the Independence of India and the founding of Pakistan.

Receiving the award, Chadha said, "Some people use religion to divide — that is the theme of my film — and also the atrocities inflicted on us. It is a fair film." Jasmininder Singh, OBE, Chairman and founder of Edwardian Hotels, Jagjeet Singh Sohal, a writer, broadcaster and communications consultant, and Khalsa Aid founded in 1999, also received the Sikh Jewel Awards. In his address, Sinha said, "We were

really touched when we saw the films screened on the occasion depicting the sacrifices made by Indian soldiers, mostly Sikhs and Gurkhas in the two world wars, winning more laurels than others. "Sacrifices made by Sikhs are always remembered in India. The Government of India and the people of India gratefully acknowledge the contributions made by Sikhs." Fallon said he would be visiting India next month and "utilise the opportunity to have greater defence co-operation between Britain and India."

"Sadly, the contribution of over a million Indian soldiers in each great war is not taught in British schools and if it were, there would be a better understanding about our shared history," Dr Rami Ranger, CBE, Chairman of the British Sikh Association, said.—Reuters



Actress Bella Thorne poses on the red carpet of the movie premiere of "Ted 2" in New York on 24 June, 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

BELLA THORNE GOES TOPLESS IN MARILYN MONROE — INSPIRED SHOT

LOS ANGELES — Actress Bella Thorne posed topless for a sizzling photo shoot inspired by Hollywood icon Marilyn Monroe.

The 19-year-old star shared the photo on Instagram sporting a platinum bob while peering over her shoulder with a seductive glance.

"The body is meant to be seen not all covered up. #marilynmonroe #flashback," she captioned the picture.

Thorne also treated her Snapchat followers to another hot photo with her dark locks.—PTI



Amy Schumer

My boyfriend is very protective of me

LONDON — Actress Amy Schumer feels lucky to be in a relationship with Ben Hanisch because he is very protective of her.

The 35-year-old "Trainwreck" star has been dating the furniture designer, who relocated from Chicago to live with

her in New York City, for over a year and she is thankful he is always "really cool" with the attention that comes with life in the public eye, reported Glamour magazine.

"He's very protective of me. Like, not overprotective, but if someone's

taking pictures of me or filming in a restaurant, he'll start taking pictures of them," she says.

"He's really cool; it's not a problem to be around any of the sorts of people who are at these events. He takes it all in his stride.—PTI

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.

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

Sex in Thai city frustrates junta

PATTAYA (Thailand) — With mascots dressed as smiling fish and a police rock band, Thai authorities launched a “Happy Zone” at the weekend to improve the image of a city notorious for sex tourism.

Stung by foreign headlines portraying the seaside resort of Pattaya as “Sin City” and “The World’s Sex Capital”, Thailand’s junta has begun a new effort to re-brand it.

But the contradictions in Pattaya highlight Thailand’s challenge in tackling a side of its tourist industry that remains economically vital while being officially excoriated.

“I want people to see that we are not like what they say. We are not allowing prostitution in these entertainment places,” provincial governor Pakkaratorm Teianchai told reporters on the infamous Walking Street in Pattaya, southeast of Bangkok.

Less than 10 metres (yards) away, women accosted foreign men to offer sex for 2,000 baht (\$60). Others lined up with numbers so customers could take their pick. Masseuses in miniskirts offered “happy ending” massages whose euphemistic title has nothing to do with the Happy Zone of the authorities.

“Everyone is here to make a living,” said one 35-year-old woman who came originally from a village in central Thailand. Tagged with the number “136”, she declined to give her name.

“I would rather be a waitress, but then I couldn’t send my children to school and I want them to have a better future than this,” she said.

In fact, sex tourism is not growing as fast as other aspects of Thailand’s tourist industry — the only bright spot for an economy whose expansion has been by far the slowest among major Southeast Asian economies since the 2014 coup.

No official figures show its scale.

But there is an indication in the balance of male to female visitors. In 2012,

there were nearly 6 men for every 4 women. In 2015, the numbers were pretty much even, according to figures provided to Reuters by the tourism ministry.

Sex tourism began in Pattaya when it became an R&R spot for U.S. soldiers during the Vietnam War, though prostitution is just as evident in parts of Bangkok and other resorts.

The number of female sex workers in Thailand was put at over 120,000 in a 2014 UNAIDS report. Some estimates run to double that and not all the women who get paid for sex are full-time prostitutes.

Given a 305 baht (\$8.80) a day minimum wage, the chance of earning several times more is an obvious lure, particularly in poorer rural regions.

The latest of many crackdowns in Pattaya happened after foreign newspaper reports last month, which drew an angry response from junta leader Prayuth Chan-ocha, for whom bringing order is a mantra.

A handful of bars were raided. Bar owners and working women were fined.

Scared to venture out, tourists looking for sex stayed in hotels. Street vendors and shops saw sales tumble. The money which flows to all levels in the city - including law enforcement agencies - fell off.

The Happy Zone approach is a softer way to try to show that something is being done. If it works on Walking Street, the idea will be spread to the less sanitized side streets - the sois.

Businesses in the Happy Zone are asked to make the area feel safer, there are increased security patrols, police launched a mobile phone app for visitors to summon them in emergency. “This is a pioneer project to organize a tourist destination and elevate it to promote Thailand’s quality tourism,” Apichai Krobpetch, chief of Pattaya city police, told Reuters. “We will also stamp out prostitution in the area.”

There was no sign of that at the weekend. In fact, Pattaya’s sex industry has become an attraction in its own right for the millions of Chinese who make up about one in three visitors to Thailand.—Reuters



Soe Htet Oo (STL) and Min Maung Maung (Taungkalay) exchange kicks in the ring in Yangon on 26th March 2017. The fighting ended in a draw. PHOTO: PHOE KHWAH

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.

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



Policemen dance during the launch of the ‘Happy Zone’ program aiming to improve the image of the city in Pattaya, Thailand on 25 March, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

Sayamagyi A Bharadwaja (Accaji)
BA., M.A., B.Ed
Aged (88) years
Principal (Retired)
B.E.M.S. (2) Pabedan
B.E.H.S. (4) Insein
Principal, MLA International School
Daughter of (Sri Ram Chandra and Smt Meenakshi), beloved wife of (Sri Gautam Bharadwaja, Retired Lecturer, Physics Dept, R.A.S.U), sister-in-law of (Sri Purshotam Bharadwaja and Padmavati), (Sri Ved Vyas Bharadwaja) — Daw Khin Mya Oo, (Smt Lata Bharadwaja, ex Head of History Dept, Mandalay College), beloved aunt of (Dr Indria Bharadwaja), (Dr Vidya Laximi Naidu), Dr Krishan Bharadwaja, Sri Raj Tilak Bharadwaja, Smt Asha Kherthapal, Rishi Bharadwaja — Aye Aye Myint, Rabindra Nath Bharadwaja, (Ravi Raj Bharadwaja), Smt Mala Bharadwaja — U Win Lwin, Smt Neela Bharadwaja — (Tony Singh), beloved mother of Dr Vasant Bharadwaja — Dr Nina Khin Maw Maw, grandmother of Kevalyn Bharadwaja passed away peacefully on 26-03-2017 at 2:10AM (1ST) at the Global Hospital, Chennai, India.
Cremation date and time will be announced at a later date.
Bereaved family



Myanmar International

Programme Schedule

(27-3-2017 07:00am ~ 28-3-2017 07:00am) MST

07:03	Am	News
07:26	Am	Myanmar Traditional Identity (EP-2) Myanmar Chinthe (Myanmar Lion)
07:41	Am	Dhamma School
07:55	Am	A Traditional Doctor
08:03	Am	News
08:27	Am	A Lucky Boy
08:44	Am	Living Myanmar Glazed Ceramics
09:03	Am	News
09:26	Am	“Myanmar Traditions and Culture” Tea
09:54	Am	Myanmar Street Foods
10:03	Am	News
10:27	Am	Crab Business (Part-I) Mud Crab
10:43	Am	Natural Mineral Water

(11:00 Am ~ 03:00 Pm)- Sunday Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)
(03:00 Pm ~ 07:00 Pm) -Today Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)
Prime Time
07:03 Pm News
07:26 Pm Food Trip (EP-2)
08:03 Pm News
08:27 Pm Unique Pattern of Myanma Ethnic Group: A Trend of Chin Traditional Dress
(09:00 Pm ~ 11:00 Pm) -Today Repeat (09:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)
(11:00 Pm ~ 03:00 Am)- Sunday Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)
(03:00 Am ~ 07:00 Am) -Today Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)
(For Detailed Schedule – www.myanmaritv.com/schedule)

NO CAKEWALK AS FEDERER WINS OPENING MIAMI MATCH

Roger Federer of Switzerland hits a forehand against Frances Tiafoe of the United States (not pictured) on day five of the 2017 Miami Open at Crandon Park Tennis Centre in Miami, FL, USA on 25 March, 2017. Federer won 7-6(2), 6-3. PHOTO: REUTERS

MIAMI — Roger Federer continued his impressive 2017 campaign with a straight-sets, second-round victory at the Miami Open in Florida on Saturday. But it was far from a cakewalk for Federer, who came within two points of losing the first set before breaking twice in the second for a 7-6(2), 6-3 triumph over American teenager Frances Tiafoe. Next up for Federer is Juan Martin del Potro, who beat Dutchman Robin Haase 6-2, 6-4 in a night match at Crandon Park. Federer has a 15-5 career record against del Potro, the 2009 US Open champion. “I would love to play against (del Potro),” Federer said, speaking before know-

ing who his next opponent would be. “We’ve had some epic matches against each other. I’m sure the crowd would love to see it.”

Tiafoe provided a good competitive workout for the 35-year-old Swiss maestro in his first match since he won the BNP Paribas Open at Indian Wells on Sunday. Tiafoe broke in the first game of the second set, but fourth seed Federer broke straight back with a sizzling backhand winner and another break was all he needed to clinch his 1094th career victory at tour level. Tiafoe, ranked 101st in the world, has only four career victories, but he showed enough to suggest he will add to that number sooner rather than later. Federer could be on course

for a semi-final showdown with compatriot Stan Wawrinka, less than two weeks after they met in the Indian Wells final.

Top seed Wawrinka defeated Argentina’s Horacio Zeballos in 65 minutes, firing seven aces in a 6-3, 6-4 victory in less than favourable morning conditions.

“I’m really happy with the match today,” Wawrinka told reporters. “It’s quite tough conditions, raining and really windy today. It’s really windy on the court, so it’s never easy. “I’m happy with the way I was moving, the way I was playing and my attitude in general was really positive,” he added. “So it’s a great match.”

Austrian number six Dominic Thiem was the only high seed to

suffer a loss on Saturday.

Thiem fell to 20-year-old Croatian Borna Coric, who overcame an embarrassing brain freeze in the final game to win 6-1, 7-5. Serving for the match, Coric stopped in the middle of a rally, challenging a line call, only to be reminded by the chair umpire that he had no challenges left.

Volatile Australian Nick Kyrgios won his match, and also received a code violation warning from the chair umpire for swearing at a spectator who called out during a point.

Kyrgios, the 12th seed, dropped his first two service games, but roared back to beat Damir Dzumhur 6-4, 6-3. —Reuters

Lucic-Baroni beats Radwanska for second time this year

MIAMI — Polish fifth seed Agnieszka Radwanska was the highest women’s casualty

at the Miami Open on Saturday, blown away for the second time this year by Croatian Mirjana Lucic-Baroni. Radwanska had no answer to the 26th seed, who rolled to a 6-0, 6-3 win in barely an hour. Lucic-Baroni also beat Radwanska at the Australian Open in January, in the second round en route to the semi-finals, where she eventually fell to Serena Williams. “She was playing

unbelievable tennis today,” Radwanska, speaking about Lucic-Baroni, told the WTA. “She was very solid from the beginning, very aggressive, hitting everything with unbelievable speed. I couldn’t do much. “The first set went so quickly, and in the second set I had chances, but I didn’t come back and unfortunately I missed the chance to stay in the match. She was just too good today.” Another high seed had a fright, number six Garbine Muguruza overcoming a slow start to beat China’s Zhang Shuai

4-6, 6-2, 6-2 in over two hours. “Since I’ve started the year, I’ve had a lot of matches like this, and I’m expecting that every time I go on court,” Muguruza said. “A win is a win, I don’t wish to have matches this tough every day, but I’m very happy with the way I’m facing them.” It was Muguruza’s second victory over Zhang in barely a month, after their match in Doha in February that also went three sets. Second seed Karolina Pliskova’s match went according to form, the Czech beating Kazak 27th seed Yulia Putintseva 7-5, 6-3. But 17th seed Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova was sent packing, beaten 4-6, 6-0, 6-3 by American Bethanie Mattek-Sands. —Reuters

Barcelona to name one of its stadiums after Johan Cruyff

BARCELONA — La Liga champions Barcelona will pay tribute to visionary midfielder and coach Johan Cruyff by naming one of their new stadiums after the late Dutchman and his statue will also be erected at the Nou Camp. The club are planning to relocate their Mini Estadi, the home of their B team and occasional venue for their women’s team, to their training ground and president Josep Maria Bartomeu said the new ground will be named the Estadi Johan Cruyff. “Cruyff broke down barriers, he was the man who made us lift our heads up and see that nothing is impossible,” Bartomeu said at a presentation on Saturday, a day after Cruyff’s first death anniversary. “His death was a huge loss, not just for everyone connected with Barcelona but also for anyone who loves football.” Cruyff, who died of lung cancer aged 68, signed for Barca from Ajax in 1973 and helped them to a first league title in 14 years in his first campaign. He stayed until 1978.

He is seen by many as the godfather of the modern Barcelona, coaching the club to their first European Cup in 1992 and instilling a style of football imitated by future managers. Bartomeu also revealed plans for a special space dedicated to Cruyff at the club’s museum. Cruyff’s son Jordi, a former Barca player, said the family would donate his father’s old jersey and the Ballon d’Or trophy he won in 1974 to the museum. —Reuters

Chinese investors create new firm to finalise purchase of AC Milan

MILAN — Chinese investors set to buy AC Milan have created a new company structure in Luxembourg to finalise acquisition of the Serie A soccer club, a spokesman for the consortium said on Saturday. Rossoneri Sport Investment Lux will replace the Chinese bidding group, identified by AC Milan’s owners as Sino-Europe Sports Investment Management Changxing Co Ltd, the spokesman said in a statement, adding that the new entity was controlled by investor Li Yonghong.

The company is “completely external to China”, the statement said. The accord — originally inked in August and expected to be signed off first in December and then in March — is set to be finalised on 14 April, the statement added. —Reuters



PHOTO: REUTERS