■ NATIONAL
72nd Anti-Fascist Day celebrated at NLD HQ
▶ PAGE 2

■ NATIONAL
Children's literature festival goes with a bang
▶ PAGE 3

■ BUSINESS
Ayeyawady dolphins draw eco-tourists
▶ PAGE 4

■ NATIONAL
Performances in one-year period of Ministry of Border Affairs and Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation
▶ PAGES 5+6,11+12

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Vol. III, No. 346, 1st Waxing of Tagu 1378 ME | www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com | 28 March 2017

Myanmar defence chief pledges to achieve everlasting peace

> "The future of the military in Myanmar needs to be ensured with training and modernisation.

A military parade to mark the 72nd Anniversary of Armed Forces Day in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. PHOTO: REUTERS

THE Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services pledged that the Tatmadaw will participate in establishing everlasting peace using the six peace principles laid down by the Tatmadaw under supervision of the government.

He made the remarks in his speech at the 72nd anniversary of Armed Forces Day in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. Through monarchies, colonialism, communism, military rule and present-day transitional democracy, the military has always played a major part in the country's history, Senior-General Min Aung Hlaing, the head of Myanmar's armed forces, said yesterday.

The senior general's remarks were part of the festivities honouring the country's armed forces that took place in Nay Pyi Taw.

Yesterday's events included an elaborate military parade that featured thousands of troops, some of them on horseback, riding atop tanks or marching in formation.

The senior general noted that the Tatmadaw has played a role in the nation's history from the ancient monarchies of Anawyahtar and Bayintnaung to today's slow transition to democracy that included a change of leadership last year, from President U Thein Sein to President U Htin Kyaw.

"After state authority was peacefully handed over by the former government, it is the stand of the army to keep the national tranquility, solidarity and development to support the multi-party democracy system selected by the people," the senior general said.

SEE PAGE 3 >>

72nd Anti-Fascist Day celebrated in NLD HQ

NLD Patron Thura U Tin Oo addresses the audience at NLD headquarters in Bahan Township. PHOTO: MNA

A ceremony to mark the 72nd anniversary of the anti-fascist day was held at the headquarters of the National League for Democracy in Bahan Township.

At the ceremony NLD Patron Thura U Tin Oo said, "Today marks the 72nd anniversary of the historical day when the architect of independence, national leader and father of the Tatmadaw General Aung San and ethnic leaders, leaders of political parties, political activists collaborated with the Tatmadaw to successfully lead the revolution against fascism. It didn't matter how many different political convictions like communism and such were involved when the combined power united under the will for independence achieved victory in a short span of time." Afterwards the announcement for the 72nd anti-fascist day ceremony was followed by formal messages by veteran political members.

The ceremony was attended by Central Executive Committee members of the NLD, diplomats, political parties and civil society organizations. —*Myanmar News Agency*

MPs need to be ever vigilant in carrying out the duties of the Hluttaw: Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Win Myint speaks at the meeting with MPs from Chin State Hluttaw in Haka, Chin State. PHOTO: MNA

PYITHU HLUTTAW Speaker U Win Myint met with Hluttaw Representatives at the meeting hall in Haka, Chin State to discuss law amendments, regional development, the peace process, and experiences of the Hluttaw.

The Speaker explained that the current trend towards democracy requires establishing a Federal Democratic Union Nation for freedom, equality and justice to prosper.

"Only when opportunities for democracy are opened up can rule of law be established for the citizens to have social and mental security in the country. For peace and stability to reign in the country, there needs to be enactment of laws, administration and judiciary. These three mandates cannot overrule each other but should instead be complementary", the Speaker said.

Hluttaw representatives need to consider the restrictions and rules and regulations when submitting proposals and questions in the Hluttaw. They are put in place to prevent disruption of the nation and of the unity of the people and cannot include national level confidential cases, he said.

"In legislating laws, one must keep in mind the benefit of the people and the nation and constantly review existing laws in accord with the changing times so that a respectable and reliable legal system is developed.

"Kindness, compassion, forgiveness, compromise and trust are needed to build a democratic nation with the benefit of the citizens and future generations in mind. As the Hluttaw is the figurehead of democracy, Hluttaw representatives need to be ever vigilant in carrying out the duties of the Hluttaw and promoting the state to peace and rule of law to a better state than now."

The Pyithu Hluttaw has been working to be inclusive of ethnic nationalities in both union and state level organisations.

"A system of checks and balances needs to be in place to prevent the aforementioned three mandates from overpowering or interfering with each other. To foster development of each constituency, it is important to discuss with the government organisations concerned to avoid conflict with the constitution" he said.

Afterwards, Hluttaw representatives reported on regional developments and the Region Hluttaw's work, and then raised questions to which the Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker replied.

In attendance were Chief Minister of Chin State U Salai Lian Lwel, Chin State Hluttaw Speaker U Zoe Bwe, Deputy Speaker U Aung Than, ministers, Pyithu, Amyotha and Chin State Hluttaw Representatives.

Later Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Win Myint inspected the site chosen for construction of Chin State Hluttaw Building in Haka's Myothit Ward.

Afterwards the Speaker visited Zaythawantawya Abbey in Eainmettaw Thitsar Hill and made donations to the Deputy Abbot U Zalida and eight missionaries of the region.

Later the Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker visited the Baptist Church and spoke with its members. In the evening the Speaker inspected the area destroyed by Yone Mountain's landslide in July 2015 and spoke with Chin State Development Committee Director U Talahare and Head of the Department of Irrigation and Water Utilization Management U Tin Aye to discuss on preventive measures in Yone mountain and Haka City with the Speaker filling in on necessary parts. —*Myanmar News Agency*

Water tanker donated to philanthropic association. PHOTO: THURA LWIN

Water tankers donated to philanthropic associations to fight nationwide water shortage

As part of efforts for aiding in the battle with drought nationwide, KBZs Brighter Future Myanmar Foundation donated about 30 water bowsers to philanthropic associations this month.

Many areas in the country are facing a water shortage problem as the summer season begins.

The donation of water bowsers to the country's region started with two 3,000-gallon water bowsers were handed over to a local philanthropic association on 26 March, another to a local philanthropic association in Natmauk and one 2,000-gallon bowser to a philanthropic association in Myingyan.

Five bowsers each were handed over to the Kyawthu Parahita Association and philanthropic associations in Yenangyoung, Sagaing, Pathein and Myingyan in March.

Also one bowser went to the Fire Services Department in Kume, two to Haka, five to Kayin State Government and one to Eleven Media Group in March, for a total of 30 donated bowsers.

The BFM bought 44 bowsers in 2016 to supply water to the people facing water shortages in the summer. —*Thura Lwin*

Dinner hosted to mark the 72nd Armed Forces Day

Families of the army, the navy and the air forces paid respects to retired senior military officers who attended the 72nd anniversary Armed Forces Day.

Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla hosted a dinner to mark the 72nd Anniversary Armed Forces Day.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing presents gifts to veterans. PHOTO: MNA

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing welcomes military attaches at a dinner to mark the 72nd Anniversary Armed Forces Day. PHOTO: MNA

Myanmar defence chief pledges to achieve everlasting peace

>> FROM PAGE 1

Since that time, the country has endured the continuing conflicts in Rakhine, Kachin and Shan states and other regions that has required the presence of the military.

"The Armed Forces, aiming at prosperity of the state and its people, will be suppressing the terrorists that attack Our Three Main National Causes. Moreover, any invasion on the state's territory, water and air space will be defended. The battles in Rakhine State in 2016, in Kachin State in Northern Myanmar, Monekone and Laukkai regions in northeast of Shan State were the operations fought by the armed forces because they attacked the country's sovereignty."

More than 10,000 troops marched through the capital Nay Pyi Taw yesterday as Myanmar celebrated its 72nd Armed Forces Day to mark the resistance movement led by independence hero General Aung San — father of State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi — in 1945.

The senior general said that the future of the military in Myanmar needs to be ensured with training and modernisation.

"In the 21st Century battlefield, the most advanced technology army will be the victor. Therefore, we must try to build our Tatmadaw to achieve success in the 21st modern warfare," said the Senior General.

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing also called for awareness of "foreign interference" in conflicts in western Rakhine State, saying that the Tatmadaw will be responsible for defending against all the measures that base insurgencies on religion and race.

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing concluded his speech, urging military personnel at all levels to work for promoting the education of the people and to assist the people in producing marketable products as part of efforts for regional development.

After his speech, the Commander-in-Chief gave a salute as the military parade columns marched past, followed by a show of military skills performed by army, the navy and air force personnel.

General Mya Tun Oo, Chief of General Staff (Army, Navy and Air) and senior military officers presented awards to military columns that participated in the parade held in the Thittat Parade Ground in commemoration of the 72nd Anniversary Armed Forces Day yesterday.

The prizes which were awarded to the parade columns include best military parade, caravel award, best military songs, best flag-hoisting, best military band and best military disciplines.

Artistees who acted in the Pyidaungsu Thitsar Film which was produced in honour of the 72nd Anniversary Armed Forces Day were also honoured at the Bayinnaung Yeiktha.—*GNLM*

Mausoleum for Heroes (Nay Pyi Taw) at Armed Forces Day

THE opening ceremony of Mausoleum for Heroes (Nay Pyi Taw) was held at 9 am yesterday, at Zeyarthiri Township, Nay Pyi Taw Council, in honour of 72nd Armed Forces Day.

At the ceremony, Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services opened the Mausoleum for Heroes by pressing the button. Then, flames of honour in the 4 stars beside the monument in the premises of the mausoleum were lit by pressing the button of the machine. Afterward, C-in-C of Defence Services laid the flower basket of honour in front of the monument, paying salute to fallen soldiers for the country and the Tatmadaw.

The ground breaking ceremony for mausoleum was held on March 29, 2016 on the hillock of 38.5 acres, and the mausoleum was built of marble stones measuring 54 feet each in width, length and height, at 3000 feet far from the east of the parade ground. It was sculpted in 34 Myanmar fine arts.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing attends the opening of the Mausoleum for Fallen Heroes. PHOTO: MNA

Children's literature festival goes with a bang

Children take part in painting contest on the final day of the Children's Literature Festival in Mawlamyine. PHOTO: MNA

THE closing ceremony for the Children's Literature Festival was held by the Ministry of Information, Ministry of Education and the government of Mon State at the hall of Mawlamyine University yesterday afternoon.

During the ceremony, Mon State Minister for Social Affairs Dr Htein Lin said the three-day festival had been held successfully with the aim of promoting reading habit for children and improving their intelligence and enjoyment. He also gave his heartfelt thanks to the Union Ministers and officials from the Ministry of Information, Ministry of Education, and the government of the Mon State, town elders who supported the event with resources both human and monetary, the education staffs of the township, the rector of the University and members of the non-profit organisations for their cooperation. He also said that celebrating festivals such as this one should be continued as it educates the public and supports the development of Myanma Literature.

U Maung Pe, Director General of the Information and Public Relations Department of the Ministry of Information, also expressed his heartfelt thanks to the ministers and officials for their efforts for the children's literature festival. Next, 87 students were awarded prizes by the officials.

The students participated in a poetry contest, a storytelling contest, an impromptu contest, and a paper-folding contest. Finally, the officials gave certificates of honour to the judges of the children's contests, the township elders, education staffs, volunteering associations and officials from the private companies who provided aid and support for the festival.—*Aung Min Han (MNA)*

LOCAL Business

Chinese government to reopen accounts of Myanmar merchants

YUNNAN Provincial government agreed that Myanmar merchants' bank accounts in Yunnan Province which were terminated will be reopened after scrutiny.

Myanmar businessmen trading with Chinese merchants in the Muse border area opened the accounts at banks in Yunnan Province in order to create a smooth and quick system of trading and payment. But the government of Yunnan Province recently prohibited use of all the bank accounts of Myanmar merchants because some account holders were suspected of illegal trade and drug trafficking, said U Chan Thar Oo, the secretary of Muse Commodity Depot.

"All of the accounts that were suspicious were closed. The export of sugar, maize and rice are legally allowed to trade by our side, whereas those goods are illegitimate to flow into China by the China government, resulting in termination of bank accounts", U Chan Thar Oo said.

The accounts of 22 merchants, members of the Muse commodity depot, were terminated.

In order to reopen the bank accounts, the type of bank account and account number with the copy of banking book should be submitted to the Muse District Administrative office by 24th March.—*Phyo Lwin Aung (AMIA)*

Myanmar merchants clarify quality of export goods including sugar, maize and rice. PHOTO: MMAL

Ayeyawady dolphins draw eco-tourists

TOURISTS are flocking to see and help endangered Ayeyawady dolphins, which are on the verge of extinction, according to Ayeyawady Dolphin Conservation Team.

In a bid to prevent dolphin hunting, the team started to cooperate with tour agencies in 2013 and a plan was implemented in 2015, said U Han Win, the incharge of Ayeyawady Dolphin Conservation Team.

Under the plan, the tourists come to participate to protect the dolphins from hunters and fishermen. While they are here, they can taste and learn to make local food and observe local sights, allowing the villagers to earn extra money.

Cooking courses are being conducted in the villages where the Ayeyawady dolphin-based eco-tourism has been developed.

The dwindling numbers of Ayeyawady dolphins is attributed to electrocution fishing and becoming trapped in fishing nets. The conservation team, in cooperation with local police, patrol the conservation areas twice a month. Ayeyawady dolphin conservation activities were launched by the Wildlife and Bird Conservation Society and the Fishery Department. The effort is showing results. A total of 72 dolphins were counted in 2011 and 2014, whereas only 60 dolphins were found in some previous years. –*Htet Aung (AMIA)*

Dolphins in the Ayeyawady River become one of the tourists attractions in Myanmar. PHOTO: MMAL

MAPCO to expand agricultural development activities

MYANMAR Agribusiness Public Corporation (MAPCO) will expand its business in a bid to further improve the cultivation of rice, crops and perennial farming, according to MAPCO.

"In the first five-year term, MAPCO produced rice and rice bran. We will expand our business by ensuring that crop cultivation and perennial farming improve in the second five-year term", said U Ye Min Aung, the Managing Director of MAPCO.

The corporation will make its businesses grow beyond rice production, expanding into cotton and silk enterprises, cultivation of various peas and pumpkins and other perennial farming like the rubber businesses, it is learnt. The locals who want to cooperate will be invited, a MAPCO spokesperson said. "We mainly focus on raising the income of the farmers in order to enhance the agricultural sector. In addition, the concerted efforts are also required to be exerted so as to keep up the livestock sector", U Ye Min Aung stated. *-200*

Capital goods import value down by over US$1.47 billion

THE import value of capital goods from 1st April to 10th March during this fiscal year plunged by US$1.47 billion when compared to that of the similar period last year, according to official figures provided by the Ministry of Commerce.

Capital goods, raw industrial materials and personal goods are mostly imported into the country. In the same period, the import value of raw industrial materials was up by US$1067.411mil and personal goods import value increased by US$555.4 mil compared to the previous year.

The total import value as of 10th March in this FY was up by US$147.436mil against that in last FY. The import during this FY hit US$15.71 billion, whereas last year's import value amounted to US$15.57 billion.

Trade values of US$5.06 billion were in deficit so far in this FY when imports surpassed exports. There were trade deficits of US$91.9million in 2012-2013, US$2.56 billion in 2013-2014, US$4.91 billion in 2014-2015 and US$5.41 billion in 2015-2016, according to the statistics released by the Central Statistical Organization (CSO).

The government is putting forth concerted efforts so as to reduce the trade deficit by scrutinising luxury items, except for essentials, according to the second five-year National Development Plan. The external trade value as of 10th March in the current FY reached US$26.37 billion, which is over US$540million higher than that of last FY, with an increase of over US$300mil through normal trade and over US$200mil through border trade. –*Mon Mon*

Grab to roll out its service in April

Commuters will soon to get access to another taxi service with metered fare in April through the ride-hailing application Grab, which is widely used in Asia, said an official from the Grab taxi operation.

The experimental launching of its service will commence next month. The specific times of operation for Grab in Yangon will be determined on the basis of the requirements of commuters. Hello Cabs and Oway Ride are currently offering taxi service in Yangon through phone calls. Grab is used in Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, Viet Nam, Indonesia and the Philippines. Grab is entering the local market with the use of foreign investments.

After the somewhat shaky reformation of Yangon Bus Service (YBS), some commuters relied more heavily on taxi service. Grab will apply its success in other Asian countries and the needs of local commuters in order to provide better service and earn market shares, it is learnt. —*200*

Performances in One-Year Period

Border areas in unprecedented development in the time of the new government

Article: Naing Lin Kyi
Photo: Hla Myint Tun (Border Affairs)

Union Minister for Border Affairs Lt-Gen Ye Aung greets ethnic youths at graduation ceremony at University for Development of National Races in Yangon.

THE Ministry of Border Affairs engaged extensively in stability, national unity, development of borer areas and national races as well as development of human resources for ethnic youths in the time of the new government that was in office as of 30 March 2016.

Characteristics of border areas

Although border areas are wider in terms of area, its population density is low compounded by poor transport, lack of infrastructures and language barriers. The distance between villages in border areas is very far, thus making communications among local people infrequent. Internal insurgencies that were erupted after independence based on racism, dogmatism, and religion made the country lagged behind in development including its socio-economic status.

To ensure development of border areas, the Central Committee for Implementation of Development of Border Areas and National Races was formed on 25-5-1989 in accordance with Our Three Main National Causes— Non-disintegration of the Union, Non-disintegration of national unity and perpetuation of sovereignty.

Meanwhile, to more effectively carry out the above-mentioned tasks, the Work Committee for Implementation of Development of Border Areas and National Races was formed on 31-5-1989, and the work committees and the work sub-committees were formed under the Central Committee and the Work Committee.

With a view to carrying the tasks in a systematic and effective manner, the Ministry of Progress of Border Areas and National Races was established on 24-9-1992 and the ministry was reconstituted into the Ministry of Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs on 30-1-1994 in order to widely engage in urban and rural development apart from regional development.

In the time of the government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, the Ministry of Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs was transformed into the Ministry of Border Affairs on 30-3-2011.

In line with Our Three Main National Causes, the ministry is working towards ensuring the development of economic, social and transport sectors of border areas, preservation of ethnic culture, tradition and literature, strengthening of friendship among national races, elimination of narcotic drugs through establishment of businesses and peace and stability, prevalence of law and order in border areas.

Border Areas and National Races Development Law

To be able to effective carry out the tasks for border areas and national races development, the Border Areas and National Races Development Law was enacted on 13-8-1993 with the Law No. 11/93 and to be in conformity with the times, it was amended for the second time on 22-7-2015.

Under the law, the 30-year long-term from 2001-2002 fiscal year to 2030-2031 fiscal year was formulated and is being implemented, covering seven states adjacent to border line, two regions, six self-administered zones, 168 townships and 11069 villages.

Peace and stability plays a pivotal role in ensuring national development, which calls for national unity, flourishing of nationalistic spirit that has something to do with development of socio-economic status and human resources in border areas.

Towards this end, the ministry has focused on ensuring peace and stability, regional development, development of socio-economic status and human resources development.

Nowadays, the Central Committee for Implementation of Development of Border Areas and National Races chaired by the State Counsellor with 23 members while the Work Committee for Implementation of Development of Border Areas and National Races led by the Minister for Border Affairs with 32 members have been reconstituted. Under the two committees are road and bridge sub-committee, health sub-committee, education sub-committee, agricultural and livestock sub-committee, energy sub-committee, religious affairs sub-committee and social affairs sub-committee, and all the sub-committees are widely engaged in the development of border areas and human resources development.

Funds allocated for border areas development

For development of economic, social, communications sectors and cementing friendship among ethnic groups, infrastructures for health, education, transport and agriculture are being constructed along with facilitating water supply and electrifications in states and regions including self-administered zones.

In the meantime, University for Development of National Races (Sagaing) produces about 500 teachers and University for Development of National Races (Sagaing and Yangon) produce about 600 AGTI, Arts and Science degree holders yearly, and those graduates were appointed at the respective ministries.

The ministry implemented 737 works for border areas development as of 30 March 2016, utilizing K 68.262 billion and the project includes upgrading of roads and construction of new schools and water and power supply and facilitated university, colleges and schools, utilizing K 16.494 billion.

SEE PAGE 6 >>

> The ministry is working towards ensuring the development of economic, social and transport sectors of border areas, preservation of ethnic culture, tradition and literature, strengthening of friendship among national races.

An official from Ministry of Border Affairs presents humanitarian aid to internally displaced persons in Muse, Northern Shan State.

PERFORMANCES IN ONE-YEAR PERIOD

>> FROM PAGE 5

Irrigated and drinking water supply

In the time of the new government, the ministry dug 100 wells across the country as its 100-day plan and was engaged in a string of water supply facilities, utilizing K 3507 million whereas building 100 low-cost housings in Kyaukpandu village, Maungtaw township along with of new roads, water and electric power supply. Meanwhile, it renovated 62 buildings in Sittway for IDP.

Humanitarian assistance

The Ministry supplied food such as rice, edible oil, salt and bean, commodities and clothing worth K 1,060 million to the needy ethnic people, ethnic armed groups and internally displaced persons (IDP) in the border areas as humanitarian aids.

School projects

The ministry has been carrying out regional development tasks in cooperation with international organizations. The Bridge Asia Japan (BAJ), a Japan-based NGO constructed 100 schools in Rakhine State during five years period from 2012 to 2017 with the assistance of the Nippon Foundation. Similarly, the Sedanar Group built 100 schools in Shan State.

Poppy-substitute development tasks

In an effort to eradicate opium cultivation which is one the priorities set by the successive governments, the ministry conducted a feasibility study in Naungtaya region in Southern Shan State to implement the 3-year pilot project as poppy-substitute development tasks in partnering with four ministries in the fiscal year 2016-2017. The project is scheduled to begin in the next financial year.

Organizational structure change

The ministry's previous organizational structure was based on special regions or special zones that undertake regional development tasks. Now, the ministry's organizational structure was reformed in accord with the Constitution.

Formation of regional road/bridge committee

The regional road/bridge committee was formed by the Ministry of Border Affairs, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation and Ministry of Construction to effectively carry out development tasks in the border areas. Out of the 63,860 villages in Myanmar, development tasks were undertaken by the Ministry of Border Affairs in 11,069 villages in border area and by the Department of Rural Development in 52,791 villages.

Capacity enhancement for staff

The refresher courses on engineering aimed at assisting in regional development tasks being implemented by the ministry and improving the capacity of the staff were conducted for altogether 150 trainees. With a view to improving the capacity of the staff and teachers under the ministry, the ministry organized leadership skill courses and English language proficiency courses in collaboration with the British Council and the Nippon Foundation.

Ensuring national unity and union spirit

With the aim of exchanging traditional culture and customs among national races from the border areas, observing development of the country and utilizing their experiences for the interest of the ethnic people in an effective manner and consolidating national unity among all ethnic people who have been residing in Myanmar since time immemorial through thick and thin, the ministry have planned the excursions for ethnic people such as Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Mon, Rakhine, Palaung and Danu to Nay Pyi Taw and nearby area. Plans are underway to arrange similar trips for all ethnic people on a rotation basis.

Universities for Development of National Races

The Universities for Development of National Races in Sagaing and Yangon under the ministry educated about 600 ethnic youths from various border areas. With a view to ensuring gender equality in line with the policies laid down by the government and encouraging human resource development, the University for Development of National Races in Sagaing is giving training to the 53 ethnic girls as a pilot project, commencing this academic year. Steps have been taken to accept more ethnic girls at both universities in the next academic year.

Union Minister Lt-Gen Ye Aung inspects construction of Putao-Khaunglanphu Road in Kachin State.

Higher pass rate

Over 6,300 ethnic students from the border areas across the nation were attending at the 44 national races youth development training schools under the ministry in this academic year. The experienced teachers gave close guidance to the matriculation students from the aforesaid schools to achieve higher pass rate starting from this academic year.

Vocational training

In an attempt to create job opportunities for ethnic youths from border areas who wanted to pursue higher education, the ministry increased from seven technical training schools for national youths to the nine schools. The ministry also conducted courses on computer, wire, mechanics, construction and electric welding, promoting socioeconomic status of the ethnic people.

The ministry increased from 39 vocational training centers for women to the 43 centers with the aim of creating job opportunities for the ethnic women who have not been given opportunity to learn their education due to various reasons. The courses on tailoring, knitting, crocheting, weaving and cooking were given to the 6,500 trainees in 2016.

> The ministry placed emphasis on achieving equitable development across the country in undertaking development tasks for the ethnic people in border areas, upholding the national unity in the fore.

Cooperation with international organizations

The Ministry of Border Affairs is implementing development tasks in border areas and human resource development tasks with the government's allotted budget in cooperation with international organizations. The ministry had been able to undertake all-round development tasks such as education, health, food security, elimination of opium cultivation, rural development, availability of water, agriculture, livestock breeding, improvement of livelihood, infrastructural development, family income rise and human resource development in 13 regions and states through five projects with foreign countries, three projects with UN agencies and nine projects with NGOs during one-year period of the new government. The ministry built 10 schools, 9 rural healthcare centers, six bridges and road works in Chin State and Naga Self-administered Zone with US$ 5 million contributed by the India in the fiscal year 2016-2017.

Building a democratic federal union

The ministry placed emphasis on achieving equitable development across the country in undertaking development tasks for the ethnic people in border areas, upholding the national unity in the fore. Without peace and stability, the government will not be able to make efforts on development of the country. Similarly, without development, peace and stability will not prevail in the country.

Development of border areas and human resource improvement contributes to the tasks on building a democratic federal union.

Road along sea shore in Sittway, Rakhine State is paved with concrete.

Officials from Ministry of Border Affairs presents cash for IDPs in Kachin State through a responsible person.

Advanced tailoring courses were conducted to create job opportunities for ethnic women from border area.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Kremlin rejects US, EU calls to free detained opposition protesters

MOSCOW — The Kremlin on Monday rejected calls by the United States and the European Union to release opposition protesters detained during what it said were illegal demonstrations on Sunday and accused organisers of paying teenagers to attend.

Police detained hundreds of protesters across Russia on Sunday, including opposition leader Alexei Navalny, after thousands took to the streets to demonstrate against corruption and demand the resignation of Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov, talking to reporters on a conference call, called the protests "a provocation" and said the authorities were concerned that opposition activists would try to encourage people to break the law again in future. —*Reuters*

UK PM May wants tech firms' help to access messages, but up to them how — spokesman

LONDON — British Prime Minister Theresa May wants technology firms to help law enforcement agencies gain access to messages sent using their platforms if needed, but how they do that is up to the companies themselves, her spokesman said on Monday.

"These are companies which have fabulous technical expertise, are world leading, and where they can do more to assist we would like them to do so," the spokesman told reporters.

"If there are circumstances where law enforcement agencies need to be able to access the contents, they should be able to do so. How that is achieved, I think, is a matter for the talks later in the week."—*Reuters*

US-backed Syrian militias say have paused military operations near Tabqa dam

BEIRUT — US-backed Syrian militias said they temporarily halted military operations near the Tabqa Dam on the Euphrates on Monday to allow engineers access to carry out work.

The Syrian Democratic Forces, an alliance of Arab and Kurdish militias supported by the US-led coalition, has been battling Islamic State near the dam west of the Syrian city of Raqqa, part of campaign to capture the militants' stronghold. —*Reuters*

Sudan cooperating with Chad and France over kidnapped Frenchman — state news agency

KHARTOUM — Sudan is working with Chadian and French authorities on the case of a French citizen who was kidnapped in Chad and taken into Sudan, Foreign Minister Ibrahim Ghandour told state news agency SUNA on Sunday.

"The Foreign Ministry and relevant agencies received a message from the Sudanese embassy in N'Djamena on the French hostage and the case is being followed closely until he returns to his family safely," SUNA quoted Ghandour as saying. —*Reuters*

Iran's Rouhani signals expansion in energy cooperation with Russia

DUBAI — Iranian President Hassan Rouhani said on Monday that Tehran welcomed Russian investment in its gas and oil fields, signalling major developments in energy cooperation between the two countries.

"There is a huge potential for Russian investment in Iran's energy sector," Rouhani told reporters at Mehrabad airport in Tehran before departing for Moscow.

"Some oil and gas fields have been suggested to Russian companies... We will see a big development in energy cooperations," he said in a news conference broadcast live on state television.—*Reuters*

Pakistan says starts fencing Afghanistan border in "high-threat zones"

ISLAMABAD — Pakistan has begun building a fence on its disputed 2,500 km (1,500 mile) border with Afghanistan to prevent incursions by militants, Pakistan's army chief said, in a move likely to further strain relations between the two countries.

Pakistan has blamed Pakistani Taliban militants it says are based on Afghan soil for a spate of attacks at home in recent months, urging Kabul to eradicate "sanctuaries" for militants.

Citing the attacks, Islamabad earlier this month temporarily shut the main crossing points along the colonial-era Durand Line border, drawn up in 1893 and rejected by Afghanistan.

General Qamar Javed Bajwa said initial fencing will focus on "high threat zones" of Bajaur and Mohmand agencies in the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA), which border eastern Afghan provinces of Nangarhar and Kunar.

"Additional technical surveillance means are also being deployed along the border besides regular air surveillance," the military said in a statement over the weekend, citing Bajwa.

There was no immediate comment from Afghan authorities.

Relations between Kabul and Islamabad have been tense in recent years, with both countries accusing each other of not doing enough to tackle Pakistani and Afghan Taliban militants.

Afghanistan has accused Pakistan of turning a blind eye to Afghan Taliban commanders on its soil and even of supporting the militant group, something Islamabad denies.

Bajwa said Pakistan was working on plans to "evolve a bilateral security mechanism" with Afghanistan.

"A better managed, secure and peaceful border is in mutual interest of both brotherly countries who have given phenomenal sacrifices in war against terrorism," Bajwa added.

Pakistan has long harboured ambitions to seal its border, which is largely unpatrolled and mountainous for large chunks.

In 2007, the military said it was fencing and mining a 35 km (22 miles) stretch of border in the North Waziristan region of FATA to prevent militants crisscrossing the rugged terrain. Efforts to establish a more permanent presence on the disputed frontier have angered Kabul. Last year, Pakistan's attempt to build a barrier on the main Torkham crossing ended in brief cross-border skirmishes. In recent weeks at least two US drone strikes have targeted Pakistani militants on the Afghan side of the frontier. —*Reuters*

Mexicans who help build Trump wall 'traitors,' top Archdiocese says

MEXICO CITY — Mexicans who help build US President Donald Trump's planned border wall would be acting immorally and should be deemed traitors, the Catholic Archdiocese of Mexico said on Sunday, turning up the heat on a simmering dispute over the project.

In a provocative editorial, the country's biggest Archdiocese sought to increase pressure on the government to take a tougher line on companies aiming to profit from the wall, which has strained relations between Trump and the Mexican government.

"Any company intending to invest in the wall of the fanatic Trump would be immoral, but above all, its shareholders and owners should be considered traitors to the homeland," said the editorial in Desde la fe, the Archdiocese's weekly publication.

On Tuesday, Economy Minister Ildefonso Guajardo warned firms it would not be in their "interests" to participate in the wall. But the editorial accused the government of responding "tepidly" to those eyeing the project for business.

A spokesman for the Archdiocese, which centers on Mexico City and is presided over by the country's foremost Roman Catholic cleric, Cardinal Norberto Rivera, said the editorial represented the views of the diocese.

Trump says he wants to build the wall to stop illegal immigrants from crossing the US southern border. He has pledged Mexico will pay for the wall, which the Mexican government adamantly says it will not do.

The Desde la fe editorial, which was published online, said the barrier would only feed prejudice and discrimination.

"In practice, signing up for a project that is a serious affront to dignity is shooting yourself in the foot," it wrote. Mexican cement maker Cemex has said it is open to providing quotes to supply raw materials for the wall but will not take part in the bidding process to build it. Grupo Cementos de Chihuahua, another company specializing in construction materials, has also signaled readiness to work on the project.—*Reuters*

Opinion

Write for us

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

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

Boomerang Kids! Come back Home, to live with Brethren

Khin Maung Oo

"TO live apart with our beloved is a great suffering for both sides," we always say so. Sometimes, we live apart to earn money. There are many who work abroad in our country. Those who have been in foreign countries feel homesickness and simultaneously experiences problems, inconvenience and unhappiness, as time goes past, whereas those who are waiting for their beloved's return feel similar homesickness and concurrently remember whenever they sorrow or joy, happiness or anger while living together with other family members. In fact, these sufferings can be said to be attributed to human beings' greed. In our environment, there are some siblings born of a same family who avoid meeting with each other as they quarrel over the division of their parents' possessions. Sometimes they go on trials to wait for the decision of courts of justice. They seem to forget they are born and must leave the world with their arms empty. Such incidents can be said to be attributed to their greed and ignorance. And, we had ever met some people went into trouble as their anger burst out while working in jobs or chatting with friends. This kind of event can be said to have been attributed to his anger and ignorance—the consequence of anger.

Myanmar gained its independence in 1948 January 4. But, sorrowfully enough, since then some of our brethren-ethic people left the lap of mother-like Union of Myanmar, conceiving misunderstanding in their minds. What was worse, they launched armed conflicts. In other words, they are trying to kill their own siblings. The very first misunderstanding, which was a kind of ignorance, led them to the prolonged armed conflicts. Due to holding arms for neatly 7 decades, another ignorance of misunderstanding that mutual trust could not be built up after abandoning arms was added to their first one. Ignorance blindfolded their rightful thoughts and visions. Apart from means of solution through peace talks, any kinds of dealing with political problems by holding firearms cannot bring about peace we want and hoped for. Failing that, our brethren will have yet to be being displaced and our siblings will be killed with their bodies unburied. We all, national ethnic brethren and soldiers are siblings born to the same Union. We own our Union and its natural resources, so we have an access to share the fruits of the union. Come to the negotiation table with full trust so that we can reach an agreement that will guarantee our offspring's future. Now we have able and enthusiastic leaders eager for the nationwide peace. We need to be ready and get ready to give as decided, after deciding what we can sacrifice for our children's brighter future.

Now, we living on the lap of our mother—Union are waiting for you living away from home for long, come back to the lap of our mother—the Union. You are not the strangers, but full-blooded boomerang kids.

The brilliant Performance of Tatmadaw in Nyaung Yan Period

Maha Saddhamma Jotika dhaja Sithu,
Dr. Khin Maung Nyunt

Continued from 27-3-2017

Alarmed by these treacherous activities of de Brito, Rakhine King and Lord of Proms led their armies against Syriam while de Brito was away in Goa. For eight months syriam withstood the heavy siege. The besiegers withdrew when de Brito returned with reinforcement, he bribed army officers and bought off Pegu's neutrality. In 1604 A.D Rakhine and Taungoo combined their Tatniadaws to attack Syriam. Though the enemies were outnumbered they had better weapons to repulse the attackers successfully. In the fierce battle on sea, Rakhine King's son Min Khamaung was captured by the Portuguese, de Brito received a good ransom for the release of the young prince and once again he was the victor. But there was one thing over which he could not win victory. That was the resistance spirit of Myanmar's ethnic nationalities de Brito made two blunders to arouse that spirit-insult to religion and intrigue in local politics. Buddhist shrines were broken open to loot the treasures enshrined inside and the natives were forcibly converted to Christianity. He made alliance with the Lords of Martaban, Pegu and Taungoo and played one against another, until all realized that he was their common enemy.

By the turn of the 17th century a new power was rising in Upper Myanmar. With Ava [Inwa] as his base Prince Nyaung Yan, a son of Bayint Naung was restoring the Empire which had disintegrated since his father's death. Nyaung Yan's son King Anauk Phet Lun continued his father's work. Having reunified Upper Myanmar he marched with his Tatmadaw to Proms which he took in 1607 A.D. Chienmai, Rakhine and Taungoo voluntarily submitted themselves to him. Thus began the union of Myanmar, Mon and Rakhine to fight the Portuguese. As a last resort de Brito tried to divide them in 1612 A.D he and his ally the Lord of Martaban attacked Taungoo, destroyed the city and took away treasure and Taungoo Prince Nat Shin Naung. De Brito won over Prince Nat Shin Naung to his side by adopting him as his brother and making him a Christian convert. But his divide and rule policy no longer worked, for his days were numbered. King Anaukphetlun took the vow not to return to Ava until Syriam was captured. Rakhine and Prome promised to aid him militarily. In 1613 A.D. he led military expedition to Syriam both by land and sea. It was the war of resistance against common enemy from abroad-the Portuguese on a nation-wide scale, because the Mons, the Rakhines and the Myanmars United participated in their repulse of their common foes. For three months Syriam was surrounded and attacked by the King's Tatmadaw. De Brito held out and defended the town to the limit of his resources Reinforcements from Bengal, Madras and Goa did not arrive in time. Exhausted and starved his men deserted him. So Syriam fell at last. De Brito and Taungoo Prince Nat Shin Naung were captured and tried at the court martial on charges of high taeason of both as well as sacrilege of de Brito who not only looted Buddhist shrines but also brought down the largest bronze bell of King Dhammazedi from the platform of Shwedagon Pagoda for making weapons and cannons and in ferrying it across the river, it dropped in the Dawbon creek to lie in its watery grave till today and converting local people to Christianity by force in spite of the objection of the Vatican. The two were publicly executed. Followers and soldiers of de Brito were deported to Upper Myanmar and the King gave them lands for their settlements in the Mu valley. They were allowed to retain their religion and many were employed in royal services. Their descendants still live there and other places well known as Ferrighee [ဘရင်ဂျီ].

De Brito's counterpart in Rakhine was Sebastio Gonsalves. Like the former he had a romantic career. He came to Bengal in 1605 A.D to trade in salt. But he became the leader of the Portuguese pirates who prevailed in the Bay of Bengal and the Indian Seas. By slave raid, looting and all kinds of underhand methods he became rich and lived like a prince on the island of Sandwip. He assumed himself as the lord of that island. For political reason, Rakhine King tolerated the Ferringhees in his Kingdom. Their arms, ships and fighting skills were useful for the defense of his kingdom, especially against the Mughols on the Indian side. Besides, their slave trade and piracy were a source of revenue. The King employed them in his armies and kept friendly relations with the pirate leaders like Gonsalves.

In 1610 A.D, a rebellion broke out in Rakhine. The Lord of Chittagong, Min Mangri who was the younger son of King Min Rajah Gri quarreled with his elder brother Min Khamaung the heir apparent, because the former wanted to supercede his brother in succession to the throne Gonsalves seized this opportunity to promote his self-interest. He persuaded Min Mangri to ally with him. To strengthen their alliance Gonsalves married his son to Min Mangri's daughter, while he himself took Min Mangri's sister as his lesser wife. The two allies revolted. After initial successes the rebels were beaten back by the Tatmadaw of the King. Min Mangri died in the fighting and his survivors and treasures were taken to Sandwip by Gonsalves. By now the Munghols were wiping out the pirates in the Bay of Bengal and threatening to take Rakhine border territories, especially Chittagone. Therefore faced by common enemies, Gonsalves and Min Rajah Gri made an alliance. Gondlaves was to command all Rakhine fleets, while his nephew was kept as hostage at the court. But Gonslaves had made a double dealing. He accepted heavy bribes from the Munghols and turned against his ally. Rakhine officers were treacherously put to death. As a reprisal the King impaled his nephew. Gonslaves escaped to his island abode from where he continued pirating and slave raiding along the surrounding coasts. When Min Khamaung succeeded his father's throne in 1612 A.D. he marched on to Chittagong to bring Gonslaves to punishment. Gonslaves, however, made the last attempt to become the sovereign of Rakhine. He asked military aid from the Viceroy of Goa Dom Jeromyno de Azevedo, proposing to divide the Rakhine kingdom between themselves. But Viceroy declined his offer because he wanted to take Rakhine kingdom for himself. Accordingly in 1615 A.D. he set out to Rakhine with 14 war ships under the command of Dom Francis de Menesse, with Gasper de Abreu as Assistant. But the Rakhine people were now well organized under their leader King Min Kha Maung, who had resolved to clean up the meddlesome Ferringhes from kingdom once and for ever and for all. After a series of naval fightings the enemies were defeated and their warships captured. Those which escaped, sailed straight back to Goa and never returned. Gonslaves also fled to his base. In 1617 A.D. Min Kha Maung dispatched a naval force to Sandwip to destroy the Portuguese strongholds there. Fortresses were pulled down and the buildings were burnt to ashes. Many Feringhes were put to death. But Gonslaves escaped and never reappeared in Myanmar waters.

What are the historical lessons which we should take from the episodes just recounted? They are firstly because of her natural resources and geographical and strategic location Myanmar has been and is always an attractive ground for imperial ventures as well as spillover of population from neighbour countries at any time of her history. Secondly world politics especially politics of the South East Asian region has always its impact upon Myanmar. Thirdly alliance with big Powers and angers her own security. Fourthly external danger comes in when her ethnic nationalities are divided and it is repulsed when they are united. Lastly it is always Myanmar Tatmadaw that comes up at the clarion call of the nation in danger and protects the people and retains the country's sovereignty and independence.

Celebration of the 72nd Anniversary of Armed Forces Day

The annual Armed Forces Day was celebrated in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday with an elaborate parade that featured thousands of troops, some riding on tanks and other military vehicles, on planes and helicopters and marching on foot. PHOTOS: MNA & REUTERS

NATO to spend 3 billion euros on satellite, cyber defences

BRUSSELS — NATO plans to spend 3 billion euros ($3.24 billion) to upgrade its satellite and computer technology over the next three years as the Western military alliance adapts to new threats, a senior official said.

Seeking to deter hackers, and other threats including Iranian missiles, the investments underscore NATO's recognition that conflicts are increasingly fought on computer networks as well as in the air, on land and at sea.

A senior official at the NATO Communications and Information Agency said the plans include a 1.7-billion-euro investment in satellite communications to better support troops and ships deployed across the alliance, as well as aiding the use of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) or drones.

It was not immediately clear if NATO allies would fund a new military communications satellite to be launched into space or if an increase in broadband capacity could be gained from existing US and other allied satellites.

Non-NATO member Japan launched its first military communications satellite in January.

The proposals, for which some funding must still be approved by NATO governments, also envisage spending about 800 million euros on the computer systems that help command air and missile defences, said the official, who declined to be named.

Seventy-one million euros will go to improving the protection of NATO's 32 main locations from cyber attacks. NATO says it has seen a five-fold increase in suspicious events on its networks in the past three years, while Russian group APT28 is blamed by Western intelligence for the hacking of the US Democratic Party during last year's US election.—*Reuters*

Russia to develop Tor air defence missile system's Arctic version

Tor-M2 short-range anti-aircraft missile system. The Tor-M2 system is currently the basic short-range air defence missile complex used by the Russian military. PHOTO: TASS

IZHEVSK — Works for developing the Tor-M2DT short-range anti-aircraft missile system for the Arctic application are planned to be finished by the end of this year, Air Defence Force Commander Lieutenant-General Alexander Leonov said on Thursday.

"This year, the upgrade of the S-300V4 complex and the adaption of the Tor anti-aircraft missile system for Arctic applications will be completed. Work is in full swing to develop an advanced antiaircraft artillery complex," the general said.

The first brigade set of the upgraded S-300V4 long-range antiaircraft missile system was delivered to the troops in 2014. From next year, only this modification will be operational in the ground force's air defense armament, the general said.

Also, the ground forces have been supplied with the latest modifications of the Buk and Tor complexes and man-potable air defence systems since 2016, he added.

The Tor-M2 system is currently the basic short-range air defense missile complex operational in the Russian Army. It is designed to provide air and anti-missile defence at the division level. The system is capable of protecting land troops from anti-radiation and cruise missiles, remote-controlled drones, glide bombs, aircraft and helicopters.

Under an agreement between the Izhevsk-based Kupol electromechanical factory and Vityaz engineering company posted on the website of state purchases, R&D works for developing the system's modification for application in the Arctic and the Extreme North will be carried out in 2015-2020. The new version of the antiaircraft missile system should be mounted on the chassis of the DT-30PM-T1 two-section tracked prime mover (the DT two-section prime mover).

The S-300V4 is a modification of the S-300VM air defense system with better operational characteristics through the integration of modern computers and new components. The system is capable of hitting ballistic and aerodynamic targets at a distance of up to 400 km.—*TASS*

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Acting Chief Editor - Aye Min Soe
dce@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
Expatriate Consultant Editor
Mark Angeles
markrangeles@gmail .com
Senior Translators
Khin Maung Oo
editor2@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
Copy Writer Min Zaw
International News Editor
Ye Htut Tin
editor1@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
Local News Editors
Tun Tun Naing (Editor)
intlnews@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
Nwe Nwe Tun (Sub-editor)
Translators
Khaing Thanda Lwin,
reporter1@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
Hay Mar Tin Win,
translator@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
Ei Myat Mon
Chief Reporter
Tun Aung Kyaw,
reporter2@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
Computer Team
Tun Zaw (Chief of Computer Team), Thein Ngwe,
Zaw Zaw Aung, Ye Naing Soe, Nyi Zaw Moe,
Hnin Pwint, Kay Khaing Win, Sanda Hnin, Zu Zin Hnin
Circulation
San Lwin (+95) (01) 8604532, Hotline - 09 974424114
Advertising inquiry
01 8604530, Hotline - 09 974424848
marketing@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
subscription@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

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

Britain to decide Northern Ireland's fate after talks fail

BELFAST — Britain's Northern Ireland minister must decide whether to call another election, return to direct British rule of the province or give parties more time after talks to form a new regional government failed.

Northern Ireland's parties had until Monday at 1500 GMT to form a new power-sharing government but all said a deal would not be reached after making little progress on a range of issues deeply dividing the two main nationalist and unionist parties.

The failure to restore the province's administration after its collapse in January prolongs a period of political paralysis just as Britain starts talks to leave the European Union that will determine Northern Ireland's political and economic future.

"We regret very much that there wasn't sufficient progress made but I think we will return to these issues whenever we get the space to do so," Conor Murphy, a senior member of Northern Ireland's largest nationalist party, Sinn Fein, told BBC Radio.

Murphy said Britain's Northern Ireland Minister James Brokenshire told the parties he would make a statement in the British parliament on Tuesday. A spokeswoman for Brokenshire had no immediate comment on the timeline.

By law, Brokenshire must go the polls again in "a reasonable time" once the three weeks of post-election talks elapse. Analysts think he could announce fresh elections — the third in a year — but not set a date in a bid to provide extra time.

Both the British and Irish governments have repeatedly said they are against decision-making being taken back to London for the first time since 2007.

Sinn Fein effectively ended the talks on Sunday when they said agreement could not be reached in disputed issues including funding services for Irish language speakers, gay rights and inquiries into deaths during Northern Ireland's three decades of sectarian violence.

The two largest parties blamed each other for the collapse. The Democratic Unionist Party's (DUP) deputy leader Nigel Dodds said his pro-British party believed Sinn Fein were never serious about getting the executive up and running and "played for time."

Sinn Fein surged to within one seat of the DUP at the 2 March election to deny pro-British unionist politicians a majority in the regional assembly for the first time since Ireland was partitioned in 1921. —*Reuters*

France's Le Pen says lacks election funds, has no Russian backing

PARIS — French far right presidential candidate Marine Le Pen said on Monday she had yet to secure all the funding she needs for her election campaign with less than four weeks to go before voting begins.

The National Front leader, who is running in second place in the presidential race according to opinion polls, repeated her complaint that French banks were refusing to lend her money.

Speaking on Europe 1 radio after a visit last week to Moscow where she met President Vladimir Putin, she said she did not have any financial backing from Russia, nor from any Russian financial institution, but that she was trying to get a loan from a foreign bank.

"I have to," she said. "I'm prevented from borrowing from French banks so now I am being told off for asking for a loan from a foreign bank. What am I supposed to do? ... The French banks have lent to all the presidential candidates except for me."

One French bank, Societe Generale, has said it does not lend to any political parties. The other main banks have declined to comment on the subject.

Le Pen last week declared two loans amounting to 6 million euros for the campaign, money which came from her father and party founder Jean-Marie Le Pen's Cotelec organisation. In 2014 it emerged that the National Front had received a 9 million euro loan from a Russian lender.

Potential Russian involvement in western elections has become a more sensitive issue since US intelligence agencies accused their Russian counterparts of seeking to influence the US election through hacking, something Moscow has denied.—*Reuters*

PERFORMANCES IN ONE-YEAR PERIOD

Performances in One-Year Period of Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation

Local residents who contributed in the five-year are plantation granted permission of its use. PHOTO: MNA

Theint Theint Moe

THE Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation has been performing emphatically the tasks of reducing the climate change, fighting against the formation of deserts, conservation of different biological species and so on.

Here is the interview with the Union Minister for Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation who has been making concerted efforts for reducing the destruction of forest resources and conservation of environment in every way and departmental heads of the ministry.

U Ohn Win, Union Minister for Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation

Interviewer — Please let me know about the remarkable reforms of the ministry during one-year period.

Union Minister— The ministry has three major sectors, namely sector of conserving the forests, sector of conserving the environment and sector of exploiting minerals for sale.

The remarkable change of the forests is none other than the suspension of the production of teak and hard wood in the whole country in the financial year 2016-2017. This was done with the intention of conserving the forests.

Reduction of the Amount of Cutting Woods

Union Minister — In the area of Bago Yoma where the most valuable woods grow, 10-year suspension of cutting woods had been made. Starting from the fiscal year 2017-2018, it has been intended to cut woods less than the amount: ACC (Annual Allowable Cut). By doing so, it will help the conservation of the forests. In the past, Myanma Timber Corporation produced timber under the sub-contract system, with production operated by the Myanma Timber Enterprise only presently. It was no longer permitted to Private Companies.

Banning Timber from being exported

Union Minister — Another change is totally banning logs and timber including seized timber from being exported. This was intended to use timber abundantly in the country. There used to be different types of selling timber in the Myanma Timber Enterprise in the past.

Starting from 2016-2017, another change was sale of timber with the open tender system, intended for the Myanma Timber Enterprise to be beneficial, and for sellers and buyers to effectively gain benefits transparently. Similarly, due to abundance of chain-saws in the country in cutting woods, the Ministry of Commerce has restricted the sale, distribution and exports of chain-saws.

Interviewer — To which extent, did deforestation amount in Myanmar? Please tell me which arrangements had been made to reduce the rate of deforestation.

Union Minister — According to the data surveyed in December 2015, Myanma forests cover 42.92 % of the whole area of the country. Accordingly, to fulfill deforested area and empty area, plantation of forests has been made from the year 2017-2018 to 2026-2027 under 10-year plan. This is the remarkable change of the forestry sector.

Interviewer — I want you to tell me about the implementation for the long-term development.

Union Minister — As regards the long-term development, the Ministry has the department of conserving natural environment. It is a major department which carries out the conservation of natural environment. For sustainable development, there are three major panels under the ministry—social, economic and natural environment sectors. Among them, panel of natural environment conservation plays an important role.

Policy on Conservation of National Environment

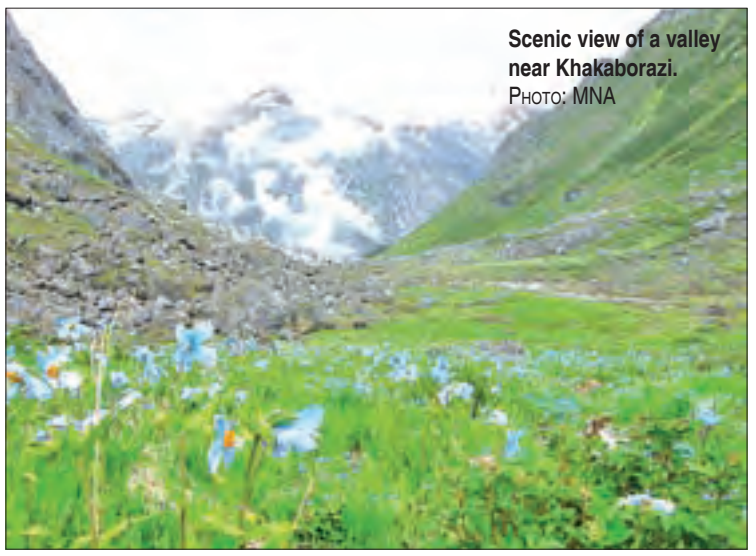
Industries are increasing in our country. Urbanization has been expanded. Similarly, with the increasing population, the economic enterprises are being extended. Due to the deterioration of the environments, it is of great importance to conserve the environments. In 1994, policy on conservation of national environment was drawn up. It was the adapted policy by modifying the national environment conservation policy in accord with economics, social affairs and politics.

The major aim of drawing the policy is for all the nationals residing in the country to possess the strengthened ecological system for progress, healthiness and pleasure, so that all beings including human beings can survive eternally.

There are climate changes happening in the world, including Myanmar. These changes are a challenge for human beings. Strategic policies on national level climate change had already been drafted to the final stage, for sustainable development of the Nation, reduction of impact of severe climate. Yet, from there the policy on the climate change in Myanmar had continued to be compiled.

Impact of Climate Change

Now, strategic framework for national-level green economic development had been drawn for economic enterprises which would cause environmental ruin least, climate-change-proof economic enterprises causing no environmental pollution to be set up. Compilation of the strategic policy was also underway in combination with experts and professionals from home and abroad. This is also a great task for the ministry.



Scenic view of a valley near Khakaborazi. PHOTO: MNA

A central organization is to effectively implement environmental policy, policy on climate change and policy on strategy, presided over by Vice-President 1 as patron and with 6 permanent secretaries leading the respective working committees. Moreover, with a view to effectively implement the conservation of environment up to the bottom level, supervision committees and working organizations had been formed in regions, states, districts and townships.

In implementing sustainable development in the long run, all sectors are closely connected. So, related ministries, private entrepreneurs, CSOs, experts and professionals included. Only if those would operate transparently and with unity, will the whole task be successful.

Interviewer — Amended Mining law was learnt to have been approved on December 24 in 2015. Let me know about the preparation for the promulgation of rules and regulations of Myanma Mining Law.

Union Minister — Mineral sector is one of great importance in Myanmar. Our country abounds with valuable minerals which are very rare in the world. For systematically mining these minerals, laws had been made since long ago. Now amendment of some laws had been underway, in accord with the changing time.

> Myanma forests cover 42.92 % of the whole area of the country. Accordingly, to fulfill deforested area and empty area, plantation of forests has been made from the year 2017-2018 to 2026-2027 under 10-year plan.

The amended law was enacted by the President on 24 December 2015.

The amended law was drawn up in consultation with legal experts and professionals with competency in rules and regulations. The rules and regulations were sent to the Office of the Union Attorney General on December 11, 2017.

After the scrutiny of it from the Office of UAG, it will be submitted to the Office of State Government for further implementation.

Interviewer — Please explain to me concerning the situations of EITI (Extractive Industries Transparency Initiatives).

Union Minister — It is of great importance to be transparent in extracting mineral resources. Failing that, minerals will be used up very soon. As regards this, EITI was initiated as of 2012, so Myanmar became a Candidate Country in 2014. So, in December 2015, the first report had been submitted to EITI Board.

SEE PAGE 12 >>

PERFORMANCES IN ONE-YEAR PERIOD

>> FROM PAGE 11

After that on 28 February 2017, a Tripartite Committee consisting of Government, Private and Civil Society was formed. Likewise, Work Implementation Committee was formed on 28 October 2016 to promptly carry out EITI works. 2nd Report of the EITI was underway to submit to the international EITI Board in March 2018.

Interviewer — Please tell me about the difference between forestry and mineral sectors, the arrangement for the long-term benefit of minerals and jewels.

Union Minister — Regarding the difference between forest and mining sectors, forests and trees are renewable energy, with Minerals being the non-renewable resources. It does not develop again. After using, it is lost. So, for long-term use, it has been arranged to leave reserved mineral resources for new generations. In Sagaing Region, Magwe Region and Mandalay Region, over 1160000 acres of coals were left, with more than 1187000 acres of reserved minerals to be left, in Kathaing Phayartaung region, Phakant township of Kachin State left for further uses.

In mining minerals, EMP (Environmental Management Plan) was drawn up, since the time when the new government took office in 2016-2017. After the approval of the law, licenses were given out to continue mining. If not so, the permission to dig up was suspended. Presently, digging was granted with limitation. With effect from 1 March 2016, permit to mine the limited amounts of mining was granted. Starting from 1 April 2016, it was strictly prohibited to grant new mining plots in the interest of future generation.

Interviewer — Is there any plans to implement for the reducing climate changes and natural environment conservation?

Union Minister — Concerning the sector of forestry, FAO released a report assessing the forest resources. In it, it was described that Myanmar is the third worst countries on the totem pole of the world where most of the forest resources were lost. Now, arrangements are under way for the reforestation to resettle forests and for the plantation of forests. By granting budgets for conservation of the remaining natural forests, conservation works will be carried out.

Criticisms were made that there would be shortages of woods by stopping the permits to cut woods. So as not to happen like that, arrangements are being made. Necessary raw materials can be exported from foreign countries.

To be able to do so, coordination work for reducing taxes will be made after consulting with custom branches and commercial taxes branches.

In the past, due to the abundance of forest resources logs were sold. Since April 1, 2014 sales of logs were stopped. But, in the tenure of the new government not only exports of logs but also those of timbers are to be carried out according to the limits, so that high-priced furnishings are to be produced more for the country and sellers to gain more profits.

As the conservation of forests is of great importance, 10-year-plan will be implemented starting from financial year 2017-2018. The Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment Conservation alone cannot implement the tasks of forest and environmental conservation and climate changes. Only if all-sectors-related ministries, private organizations, social societies, the people and professionals will cooperate, will it be successful.

Dr Nyi Nyi Kyaw, Director-General of Forestry Department

Interviewer — Please let me know major reforms of the department in one-year period.

> In the present rule of the new government up to the end of February, 2017 seizure of 44407 tons of teaks, hard woods and other kinds of timbers were made.

Interviewee — Starting from the financial year 2016-2017, forest management plans for 68 districts was drawn up and implemented. Under the plan, 14 kinds of forestry including forest conservation and forest plantation will be implemented. Production of timber will be suspended and after reassessing the situations of natural forests, the plan of reforestation of Myanma forests will be implemented within 10 years from the year 2017-2018 to 2026-2027.

Technical Aids

Interviewer — I would be much obliged if you recount the implementation of the forest department, in sectors.

Interviewee — For reassessment and data collection of the forests in the country, drawing of a plan is being carried out with the technical aids of FAO and monetary aids of Finland government. The plan is collecting data after designating 8 Pilot Sites in 8 regions and states as a pilot project.

The next one is to protect illegal cutting of woods, the natural resources of the country as illegal smuggling of wood is ubiquitous in the country. In the present rule of the new government up to the end of February, 2017 seizure of 44407 tons of teaks, hard woods and other kinds of timbers were made.

This is the result of the collective effort of Tatmadaw, Myanmar Police Force, related departments and local people. So as to prevent illegal smuggling of woods, patrolling in the areas, educating and attempt to get legal trading of those woods will be performed.

Forest Law Enforcement, Governance & Trade is being implemented with the help of European Union.

Under the programme Myanmar Timbers can be sold to EU countries officially.

Another one is conservation of mangroves. Mangroves are exuberantly growing in Rakhine State, Ayeyawady Region and Taninthayi Region.

These are natural eco systems which can help reduce the climate changes. So, central committee for administering the natural resources of the coastal areas in the country at the national level was formed. Our country is rich in different kinds of biological species. Accordingly, the conservation of these natural resources is being made across the country. Presently 40 natural conservation zones were established and among them Inlay Lake was designated as MAB (Man and the Biosphere Programme) in 2015.

Besides, arrangements are being made to have Khakaborazi area, the far north of Myanma designated as the world heritage zone.

Dr Ye Myint Swe, Director-General of the department of geological survey and mineral exploration

Interviewer — Please let me know about the arrangements for reducing environmental destruction due to exploration of minerals and gems.

Interviewee — Plots for exploring minerals are being made in accord with the EMP (Environmental Management Plan). In performing the tasks of exploring jades and gems in gem-producing areas, instructions are issued for drawing up the plans for management of natural environment. Now, Valentis and Coffey Company is carrying out the drawing EMP for Lonekhin & Phakant gems areas.

For preventing landslides in the gem areas, 285380 trees of various kinds have been planted.

Deep Gold Pearl is very popular in the world. So, to get that kind of golden pearl, golden lipped oysters are being cultured as a test.

Preservation of remaining forest areas in Magway in the 2016-2017 fiscal year. PHOTO: MNA

Residents of Kwinkyee Village collecting drinking water. PHOTO: MNA

Various timber from Thayet Township's 280 acre plantation-1/2007 being distributed to villages in Shan State. PHOTO: MNA

U Htay Aung, Director-General of Department of Greening Tropical area

There are five kinds of plantation the department of greening tropical area has established, namely plantation used for the village, plantation for greening hilly areas, plantation for diverting and irrigating water and research plantation and other plantation. Out of them, plantation for the village is planting firewood for the locals as the basic needs. Until now, out of more than 180000 acres of plantation for village use, over 35000 acres were handed over to 294 villages.

U Hla Maung Thein, Director-General of Natural Environment Conservation Department

In performing the tasks of conserving natural environment, reducing and adapting the climate changes, we find it difficult to some extent in techniques. Similarly, there are some weak points in capacities and skills, financial difficulties. So, we are implementing 15 kinds of projects including technical aids and monetary subsidies from international organizations. Remarkably speaking, we are implementing 5 projects in the sectors of agriculture, forestry, conservation of different kinds of biological species, and conservation of coastal areas, in the financial year 2015-2016, with the aid of US $ 28.5 million from GEF (Global Environmental Facility), which is the organization of giving aids to under-developed countries like ours.

The department of natural environment conservation is performing to cooperate in the sectors of upgrading the capacities in drawing up the policies and strategies, upgrading the capacities in implementing the purification of the environment in the field, with the force of international organizations. And, the department is to cooperate more with international institutions.

Singapore jails couple for starving Filipino domestic helper

SINGAPOREA — Singapore court jailed a couple on Monday for starving their Filipino domestic helper, a case that highlighted what rights groups say is a common complaint in the wealthy city-state.

Thelma Oyasan Gawidan, 40, weighed just 29.4 kg (65 lb) in April 2014 after being given too little to eat for about 15 months, prosecutors said.

She was given two or three slices of plain white bread and one to two packets of instant noodles for breakfast, while for her second and last meal of the day she was given five or six slices of plain bread, prosecutors said. Lim Choon Hong was jailed for three weeks and fined S$10,000 ($7,200), while his wife, Chong Sui Foon, got three months with no fine. They had both pleaded guilty. Prosecutors said they would appeal. The maximum penalty is 12 months imprisonment and a S$10,000 fine. "I accept that... you are remorseful and that you did not intentionally seek to starve your maid," Judge Low Wee Ping said.

Defence counsel Raymond Lye said his clients had no intention to cause harm. The more common cases of domestic helper abuse were of "physical assault, which are intentional offences", he said. "Clients, they feel a sense of relief. They were hoping to commence their jail term but in light of the appeal by the prosecution, that will have to be delayed," Lye said. In her defence, Chong had said she suffered from an eating disorder when younger and had been diagnosed with obsessive-compulsive disorder as an adult, media reported. The judge said there was no link. The couple paid the domestic helper, who now works for another employer, S$20,000 to settle civil claims, prosecutors said.

John Gee, head of the research team for rights group Transient Workers Count Too, said cases of domestic helpers being given inadequate food "happen with alarming regularity". "This is definitely a familiar practice, especially by employers who want to save money," Gee said, adding that although overall living and working conditions for domestic helpers in Singapore had improved, "a lot more needs to be done."

Jolovan Wham, executive director of rights group Humanitarian Organisation for Migration Economics, said at least 30 per cent of the domestic helpers who approached his organisation in the past six months complained of "inadequate food".—*Reuters*

About 700 artillery troops engaged in Crimean coastal defence drills

The units are planned to practice organizing sea coast defence in the areas of potential amphibious assaults, the Black Sea Fleet spokesman said. PHOTO: TASS

MOSCOW — About 700 artillery personnel of a separate coastal defence brigade from the Black Sea Fleet's army corps are completing command and staff exercises at the Opuk practice range in Crimea, Fleet spokesman Vyacheslav Trukhachyov told TASS on Monday.

"The brigade's units are planned to practice organizing sea coast defence in the areas of potential amphibious assaults and delivering counter-strikes in interaction with other formations of the army corps as part of the command and staff drills," the spokesman said. A field camp with the required infrastructure has been set up at the practice range and the deployment of forces has been completed, he said.

The drills started on Friday with the march of a column of 100 pieces of the armor to the practice range. While on the move, the troops repelled air strikes and neutralized a sabotage and reconnaissance group of a notional enemy.—*Tass*

Philippine military rescues three Malaysian hostages from Abu Sayyaf

MANILA — The Philippine military said on Monday it has rescued three Malaysian men held captive by the Abu Sayyaf militants in the southern Sulu province.

Gen Eduardo Ano, chief of staff of the armed forces of the Philippines, told reporters that the military rescued three Malaysian hostages around 11:30 pm on Sunday in a remote village in Sulu.

"They are all alive and well, and they are in a Sulu hospital," Ano said, adding they were brought to a local hospital for check-ups.

Ano said the Abu Sayyaf are still holding around 20 hostages of different nationalities, including Indonesians, Vietnamese and Dutch.

The three hostages were part of five Malaysian crewmen who were kidnapped by the Abu Sayyaf militants off Malaysia's Sabah state in July last year.

The two other hostages were rescued last week by Philippine marines and sailors after they were reportedly abandoned by their captors.

The three hostages who were rescued late Sunday were identified as Zulkipli Bin Ali, Mohammad Bin Ismail and Fandy Bin Bakran.

The two Malaysian hostages rescued on 23 March were identified as Tayudin Arjut and Abdurahim Bin Sumas.

Abu Sayyaf is one of the smallest and most violent jihadist groups operating in the southern Philippines.

It is notorious for kidnappings, bombings and attacking civilians and the army.

The group, numbering about 500, has been sowing terror in the southern Philippine region since the early 1990s. Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte has ordered the military to crush the Abu Sayyaf militants.—*Xinhua*

20-year-old woman burnt alive in western India

NEW DELHI — In a gory incident, a 20-year-old woman was burnt alive in a village near Jodhpur town in the western Indian state of Rajasthan for staging a protest against cutting of trees.

The incident took place on Sunday but came to light Monday morning when the woman succumbed to her injuries in a hospital.

According to police, the woman, identified as Lalita, had raised objections to the cutting of trees planted in her farm for the construction of a road near her village on Sunday.

Initially it started as a minor argument, but the row escalated and a group of villagers allegedly attacked her.

The group that included village head Ranveer Singh did not stop there. It soon poured petrol on her and set her on fire, cops said.

"The village head and 10 others poured petrol on her and burnt her alive. We have launched a probe and will soon arrest the accused," a senior police official said.—*Xinhua*

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

Jennifer Lopez goes and Alex Rodriguez. PHOTO: REUTERS

Jennifer Lopez goes on romantic date with Alex Rodriguez

LOS ANGELES — Jennifer Lopez and Alex Rodriguez enjoyed a romantic dinner date in Beverly Hills just days after returning from their whirlwind getaway to the Bahamas.

The pair was spotted leaving the Bel-Air Hotel together in a luxury car, reported E! Online.

Lopez, 47, wore her signature gold oversized hoop earrings to accessorize her light ensemble, while Rodriguez wore a black wool coat and matching shirt.

"All his friends can tell he really likes JLo (but) in the beginning they thought this may just be a fling. Friends are slowly thinking this may actually be a great match.

"He calls JLo his lady. He would wife her up in a heartbeat... She is different than other people hes dated," a source said.—*PTI*

Emma Thompson says wants people to 'shout loudly' about climate change

STOCKHOLM — From "Sense and Sensibility" to "Love Actually" and "Nanny McPhee", British actress Emma Thompson is known for her memorable roles in costumes dramas, comedies and fantasy films.

But like fellow Oscar winner Leonardo DiCaprio, the 57-year-old is also an avid environmental campaigner, seeking to raise awareness on issues such as fracking and climate change.

"I think that we've all got to shout as loudly as we can," Thompson told Reuters in an interview. "Ordinary people now need to know more. They need to inform themselves. You can't just sit back and go 'look, I recycle'."

The actress was speaking in Sweden, where she is adding her voice to fellow activists' criticism of Norway's plans to open up more oil and gas exploration in the Arctic.

Last year, Oslo opened up new grounds for exploration for the first time in two decades, and this month, announced preliminary plans to nominate a record number of blocks in the Barents Sea, drawing ire from environmentalists.

Thompson said Norway had long been a "green beacon" to her, saying it was one of the first countries to sign the 2015 Paris Climate Agreement and to provide a constitutional right to a healthy environment.

"You can't say you want to safeguard future generations and then drill for more of the stuff that has already put our planet in danger," she said. "We already have."

In 2014, Thompson, who said she joined Greenpeace in her youth, travelled to the Arctic archipelago of Svalbard, roughly midway between the North Pole and northernmost tip of Europe.

"To see the ice that is sadly melting changed me actually on quite a molecular level," she said. "But also to see the grief of the scientists who have been visiting the place for 25 years and to stand on a glacier and to see...the marks of where it used to be is a terrible thing."

Currently in cinemas in Disney's "Beauty and the Beast" remake, Thompson said her next project was directing a film about the 1665 London plague.

"What is interesting about it is that like so many plagues that affect the world it affected only the poor which is why we don't know much about it", she said, when asked what next for her.

"But on my 60th birthday I want to be putting up a Greenpeace banner."—*Reuters*

PHOTO: REUTERS

Actress Emma Roberts.
PHOTO: REUTERS

Emma Roberts knows how to 'step away from spotlight'

LOS ANGELES — Emma Roberts has lived most of her life in the spotlight and the actress says that now she has learned a lot about how to handle it.

The 26-year-old actress talked about how she has become proficient in maintaining a certain level of privacy when it comes to more personal aspects of her life, such as relationships, reported People magazine.

According to Roberts, it is extremely important to learn how to be "able to step away from it."

"I mean, I think it's all about just really knowing who you are yourself. And staying grounded with your family and with your friends.

"I think it's easy to get so caught up in it because now with social media, there is no stepping away, really, because even when you do it's still all on your phone. So I think (it's about) figuring out how to really step away and kind of turn it off and make time for yourself and your real life," she said.

The "Scream Queens" star has been in an on-again, off-again relationship with Evan Peters, 30, since 2012.

The two met while filming on the set of "Adult World" and got engaged in late 2013. They called it quits in June 2015 and have been largely on and off since then.—*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

Captain James Cook waistcoat fails to sell at Sydney auction

SYDNEY — A waistcoat owned by British explorer Captain James Cook, who claimed Australia for Britain in 1770, has failed to sell at auction, with bids far below its anticipated million dollar price tag, the auction house said on Monday.

The 250-year-old waistcoast was passed in at A$575,000 ($438,035.00) at Sunday's auction in Sydney, after being valued between A$800,000 and A$1.1 million. Aalders Auctions said the highest bidder, a local, was now in negotiation with the owner.

"There have been a few Captain Cook items come up but probably nothing as significant as this," said Julian Aalders from Aalders Auctions.

The auctioneer said Cook's family kept the waistcoat in the United Kingdom after the explorer's death from a knife wound in Hawaii in 1779.

In 1912 a British industrialist bought the waistcoat from an antique dealer and gave it to a prominent Sydney pianist, Ruby Rich, who had the garment altered to fit a woman, Aalders said. Unfortunately, the auctioneer said, Rich wore the garment to many social gatherings and spilt wine on it.

The auctioneer didn't disclose the identity of the seller, a private collector, who bought the garment from Rich's family in Sydney in 1981.—*Reuters*

Julian Aalders from Aalders Auctions house adjusts a 250-year-old embroidered silk waistcoat that belonged to Captain James Cook on a mannequin during a display in Sydney, Australia, on 22 March 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

J-pop singer, Kyogen troupe perform at Washington cherry blossom event

WASHINGTON — Multilingual J-pop singer May J, members of the Shigeyama Kyogen traditional Japanese theater troupe from Kyoto and other artists performed at the opening ceremony Saturday of an annual cherry blossom festival in Washington.

With many cherry trees in full bloom in the capital, May J, who sung "Let It Go" from the 2013 Disney animation film "Frozen" and other songs in both English and Japanese, said she was glad to have seen people picnicking under the blossoms in downtown Washington.

"That's how the Japanese people enjoy cherry blossoms. I was happy to see that," she said. Speaking at the ceremony, Muriel Bowser, mayor of the District of Columbia, said the capital welcomed 1.5 million people for the festival last year and expects around the same number this year. A series of Japan-related events such as Japanese film screenings, kite flying, fireworks and a downtown parade are scheduled for the festival through 16 April.—*Kyodo News*

Cherry blossoms are in full bloom in Washington on 25 March 2017, with the Washington Monument in the background. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

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 0o, (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.

The cremation ceremony will be held at Hindu Yeway cemetery at 2:00 PM, on 30 March 2017. Buses will leave No. 51/53, 124th St Mingla Taung Nyunt, Yangon at 12:30 PM.

Bereaved family

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

mitv Myanmar International
Programme Schedule

(28-3-2017 07:00am ~ 29-3-2017 07:00am) MST

07:03 Am News
07:26 Am Myanmar Game Changers (Ep- I)
07:53 Am Great Minds of Myanmar - U Kyaw Win (Anthropologist)
08:03 Am News
08:26 Am The World's Largest Book
08:50 Am Kay Tu Mar Lar "The Family"
09:03 Am News
09:26 Am International Dances in Myanmar
09:46 Am Dances of Myanmar "Muun Traditional Dance"
09:50 Am Today Myanmar: Pristine Nature - Gaw Yan Gyi Island
10:03 Am News
10:27 Am Lucrative Myanma Rattan Industry
10:46 Am The Iron Rider

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

Prime Time
07:03 Pm News
07:26 Pm A Day Out With Sarah (Ep-3)
07:51 Pm Philatelic Pleasure
08:03 Pm News
08:26 Pm Taste of Myanmar (Shan - Flat -Rice- Noodle Soup)
08:43 Pm A Life In The Ring

(09:00 Pm ~ 11:00 Pm) -Today Repeat (09:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)
(11:00 Pm ~ 03:00 Am) - Monday Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)
(03:00 Am ~ 07:00 Am) -Today Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)

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

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

1st Waxing of Tagu 1378 ME

Tuesday, 28 March 2017

England's Jermain Defoe scores their first goal during the match between England and Lithuania at the 2018 World Cup Qualifying European zone, Group F, at the Wembley Stadium in London, England on 26 March 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

Defoe scores on return as England beat Lithuania

LONDON — England striker Jermain Defoe made a scoring return to the international stage and substitute Jamie Vardy added a second goal as the hosts laboured to a 2-0 victory over Lithuania in World Cup qualifying Group F on Sunday.

Veteran Defoe, making his first appearance for nearly 3-1/2 years, fired lacklustre England ahead in the 21st minute at Wembley but Gareth Southgate's team struggled to finish off a Lithuania side who are 93 places lower in the FIFA rankings.

England survived a couple of worrying moments and had to wait until the 66th minute to double their lead when Defoe's replacement Vardy finished neatly shortly after coming on.

It was hardly an emphatic performance but the result kept England top of Group F with 13 points from five games, five more the Slovenia who visit Scotland later on Sunday. England's plodding pace allowed Lithuania a relatively comfortable opening 20 minutes on a balmy afternoon.

England completely dominated possession but barely tested Ernestas Setkus's goal as their passing lacked pace.

It took 34-year-old Sunderland striker Defoe to inject some spark, first latching on to Adam Lallana's clever reverse pass to force a fine save from Setkus and then firing England ahead with his 20th goal for his country.

Raheem Sterling burst towards the byline and squared the ball for Defoe to plant a shot past Setkus — his first England goal since bagging two against San Marino four years ago.

The lively Defoe flashed another snap-shot just wide but England toiled away bluntly against Lithuania's yellow wall.

The hosts had a scare on the stroke of halftime when a clearly offside Nerijus Valskis headed towards an open goal under pressure from goalkeeper Joe Hart but his weak effort was cleared off the line by a retreating John Stones. There was no discernible change of gear at the start of the second half as fans ambled back to their seats. Lithuania had a half-chance when Vykintas Slivka's deflected shot was comfortably gathered by captain Hart.

England responded with Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain's 25-metre effort clawed away by a flying Setkus. Defoe then made way for Vardy — with Marcus Rashford replacing Sterling — and the Leicester City striker made an instant impact, scoring with a neat finish from Lallana's pass. *—Reuters*

'Comfortable' Ozil soon to decide on his Arsenal future

LONDON — Arsenal midfielder Mesut Ozil insists he is comfortable at the North London club and will make a decision regarding his future soon with the German's contract due to expire at the end of next season.

Manager Arsene Wenger said last week that contract negotiations with key players Ozil and striker Alexis Sanchez were on hold until the end of the current campaign.

"Do you think Arsene Wenger tells the journalists (about my future) before he tells me? I know him differently," Ozil told German newspaper Die Welt.

"I have a contract until 2018 in London and I feel very comfortable there. We'll talk soon and then make a decision."

Arsenal have slipped to sixth in the Premier League, losing four of their last six encounters in all competition, including a 10-2 aggregate loss to Bayern Munich in the last 16 of the Champions League.

Ozil acknowledged the recent slump in form and said his side was hoping to finish the season strongly. "Of course, we have had a difficult time recently and we are not satisfied with sixth place," the 28-year-old German added.

"I am convinced, however, that we will catch up again soon." Arsenal trail fourth-placed Liverpool by six points and are hosting third-placed Manchester City on Sunday. *—Reuters*

Nishikori survives Miami marathon, Raonic withdraws

MIAMI — Second seed Kei Nishikori of Japan outlasted Spain's Fernando Verdasco 7-6(2), 6-7(5), 6-1 in a nearly three-hour marathon at the Miami Open on Sunday.

The victory came hours after third-seeded Milos Raonic of Canada, suffering from a hamstring injury, withdrew before his third-round match.

Nishikori, the runner-up to Novak Djokovic last year, fired 37 winners but Verdasco, aided by persistent swirling winds, used his varying pace and depth to rattle the eventual winner, inducing 48 unforced errors.

Verdasco rallied to force a first-set tie-break after trailing 3-0 but Nishikori's lunging half-volley backhand winner enabled him to take the set.

Nishikori served for the match at 5-4 in the second set but Verdasco saved a match point to break back and eventually forced a decider with a scorching cross-court backhand.

Nishikori won six of seven games in the third set to advance to the Round of 16.

Raonic had been scheduled to play American qualifier Jared Donaldson in a third-round match. "It's related to the previous injury I sustained almost four weeks ago... in Delray Beach," he told reporters.

"It's the same muscle in the hamstring, up high. It got progressively worse after my first round. It seemed like it was not possible for me to compete today without putting myself at significant risk."

Raonic said he would not return until he felt 100 per cent fit again. "That could be in two weeks; that could be a little bit longer." *—Reuters*

Kei Nishikori of Japan celebrates after winning match point against Fernando Verdasco of Spain (not pictured) on day six of the 2017 Miami Open at Crandon Park Tennis Centre in Miami, FL, USA on 26 March, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

Editorial Section — (+95) (01)8604529, Fax — (01) 8604305
gnlmdaily@gmail.com www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com www.facebook.com/globalnewlightofmyanmar
Advertisement & Circulation — (+95) (01) 8604532

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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