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Peace possible, but only if we want it: State Counsellor

IN her continuing quest for peace, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi yesterday visited Myitkyina in Kachin State, one of the most war-torn regions in the country.

During her discussions with Kachin elders, she gave honest and heartfelt entreaties to the Kachin people to unite for peace. Kachin State has endured ethnic conflicts for decades. The main ethnic armed group in the region, KIA, has steadfastly refused to sign the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA) nor participate in peace talks.

“If we really want it, peace can be surely had”, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi said. “The 21st Century Panglong Conference is an important political dialogue for building a Federal Democratic Union. I want all to sign the nationwide ceasefire agreement. At the time when the NCA was discussed, the NLD did not take part in it. Yet, after taking office of the government, the government must take responsibility. In studying the NCA, it can be found that it has the guarantees of political dialogues and monitoring ceasefire, plus it guarantees amending the Constitution. The NCA and the 21st Century Panglong Conference is the way that will not harm the country and its people. The NCA is not a goal. It is only a step that national ethnic nationalities have longed for. I want you to take part in the conference for making decisions. Success of the NCA is the success for gaining peace, and it is like making firm decisions

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State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, centre, meets with inhabitants of an IDP camp outside of Myitkyina, Kachin State yesterday. PHOTO: MNA



သဒ္ဓါထက်သန် မြန်မာအားမန် ကမ္ဘောဇဘဏ်

Chinese charity group provides medical treatment for children

Ko Moe

FIFTY children suffering from congenital heart problems born to poor families in Myanmar will receive treatment in China, according to the Yankin Children's Hospital in Myanmar.

The free treatment is for a selected 50 children from Myanmar. The humanitarian effort aims for healthy, happy children and to improve the relationship between the Myanmar and Chinese people.

The 50 children selected throughout Myanmar will be sent to China in three groups, the first in April, the second group in May and third in June to An Zhen Hospital in Beijing, China.

"We share the information



A cardiac specialist examines a child at Yankin Children's Hospital. PHOTO: ZAW GYI (PANITA)

of free of charge treatment to the children's parents all over Myanmar who had their children treated in Yangon Children's Hospital. We will select 50 children from poor families out of 100 children and send them to the hospital in China for free of charge," said Dr Daw Myint Myint Khine, superintendent of

Yankin Children's Hospital.

China will pay for all medical treatment charges, including travelling charges for the children and their parents.

As an act of China-Myanmar cooperation, China Charity Federation's group led by chairman Xu Yixuan and the Myanmar medical team led by cardiac

specialists started the selection process on March 28 to pick 50 of the 100 children who suffered present-at-birth heart attacks.

China Charity Federation is a charitable treatment service organisation for children. It is the first time for the organisation to provide charitable treatment for Myanmar children in China.

Finalists chosen for AFC Women's Asian Cup qualification

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

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

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

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

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

Fruit, vegetable and flower wholesale market to be opened in Danyingon

FRUIT, vegetable and flower wholesale market will be opened in Danyingon, Insein township, Yangon region at the end of April, according to an official from MAEX (Myanmar Agro Exchange Public Limited). The wholesale market is being built on an 83.73-acre plot of land and is aimed at not just making profits, but also at building bridges among farmers, consumers, local traders and exporters. Estimated cost of the whole project is Ks 118 billion.

"We are selling a share for

Ks10,500 to farmers, traders and other interested parties. At first, we had planned to sell only 500,000 shares. But there are many people who want to buy the shares. So, we have sold over 600,000 shares. We are also issuing the shares certificate starting in April," said an official from MAEX. The project is being implemented through a public-private partnership with Yangon City Development Committee (YCDC) and Myanmar Agro Exchange Public Limited (MAEX).—Min Min



A grocer selling fresh vegetable in Yangon. PHOTO: ZAW GYI (PANITA)

Authorities seek more clinical partners to offer healthcare to workers with SSB

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

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

Region as well as Mandalay, especially in the areas with a large population of workers.

Under the agreement between the SSB and private clinics, the SSB will offer medicines to the clinical partners to treat unhealthy individuals with social security numbers. The medical expenses including service fees for an employer will be Ks3,600.

There are about 980,000 so-

cial security card holders across the country, according to the SSB's statistics.

Almost 100 clinics plus three workers' hospitals and one traditional medicine hospital have been opened by the Social Security Board. However, the SSB is now connecting with only two private clinics, planning to expand the joint services in the future.—200

Saturday market supply chemical-free agriculture products

BEING opened on Thittaw Street in Ahlon Township, the Saturday market distributes chemical-free fruit and vegetables products to Yangon residents on a daily basis.

The new market is now opening from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. daily. In the past, the local business group sold green products in Kandawgyi Park on Saturdays.

Organic farmers, producers

and other interested people put forth concerted efforts to open the Saturday Market to sell only safe products of the country. Agriculture products manufactured from chemical free farms and gardens are widely available in the market.

Organic is a term referring to food grown without use of chemicals or other techniques harmful to humans or the land it was

farmed upon.

Seeds of those organic fruits and vegetables will be displayed at the market for sale, said Marketing Leader Ma Thidar.

The establishment of the market is not for profits only, she added. Those who want to invest in the organic business have been invited to purchase shares as much as they can. The prices of one share are Ks500,000.—200

National Blood Centre invites more voluntary blood donor participation

BETWEEN 8,000 and 9,000 units of blood are needed per month for the National Blood Centre to meet hospital needs, said a spokesperson of the centre.

With the aim of raising knowledge on blood donation through online, the National Blood Centre recently launched a website <https://www.donatebloodmyanmar.org>, searching more voluntary blood donors to reach its targets of donation.

The new website includes detail information for those wishing to make blood contribution without a lot of problems, said Dr Nwe Nwe Oo, assistant director of the National Blood Centre.

Organized by philanthropic organisations, the large col-

lective blood donors frequently contribute their blood at the centre, which largely supports the public hospitals including the Yangon General Hospital.

The National Blood Centre is located at No. 97, corner of Bogoyoke Aung San Road and Shwedagon Pagoda Road, Latha Township, downtown Yangon.

For more information about donating blood, dial 01372753 of the National Blood Center.

According to medical professionals, all healthy individuals between the ages of 18 to 60 are encouraged to donate blood.

Blood transfusions contribute to saving the lives of people, especially in emergency cases.—200

25-bed hospital in Myebon to double its capacity

THE Deputy Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw U Aye Thar Aung, accompanied by officials from the office of the Amyotha Hluttaw and the township administrator, donated offertories to the monks from monasteries and Pariratti Sarthintak in Myebon Township, Rakhine State on Monday.

The Amyotha Hluttaw deputy speaker then visited the 25-bed People's Hospital, where he viewed patient rooms, delivery rooms and operation rooms. During a meeting with the medical staff, the deputy speaker called for construction of quality buildings using ministry-approved funds that would double the capacity of the hospital to 50 beds. The deputy speaker recounted his parliamentary experiences and replied to questions in meetings with the township administrator,

township-level departmental officials, ward administrators and citizens at the town hall in the afternoon. The deputy speaker together with Pyithu Hluttaw representative U Sit Naing, the deputy commissioner, township administrators and the officials from the Amyotha Hluttaw office inspected the construction site of the 1,920-ft long Kyatsin Bridge Project that will link Minbya and Myebon Townships in Rakhine State. He was briefed about progress of the bridge by In-charge Deputy Director (Civil) U Thein Naing. The deputy speaker called for timely completion of the project meeting the set standard, urging the officials concerned to compensate for the farmlands possessed by the farmers as soon as possible.—*Myanmar News Agency*



Deputy Speaker U Aye Thar Aung, centre, inspects the 25-bed People's Hospital in Myebon, Rakhine State. PHOTO: MNA

Foreign and local media leave for Maungdaw

MEDIA representatives including reporters from foreign media groups boarded a plane in Yangon for Maungdaw township in Rakhine State yesterday.

The media trip conducted by Ministry of Information will allow journalists to report independently from 28 March to 1 April about the ground situation, border passing, commodity importing, the fishing industry, incidents of fire, resettlement, returnees who fled due to terrorist incidents, and prevention of conspiracies for terrorist acts in

Maungdaw township.

The media representative are from TV Asahi, the BBC, VOA, EPA, Nippon, Fuji TV, Central News Bureau, Frontier Myanmar, Myanmar News Agency, Myanmar Alin and Kyaemon, a total 18 journalists led by General Manager U Ye Naing from the News and Periodicals Enterprise.

A media group visited Maungdaw previously in December 2016 for the first time since the October attacks on border outposts that killed nine policemen.—*Myanmar News Agency*



Local and foreign correspondents are seen at Yangon International Airport before their departure for Rakhine State. PHOTO: MNA



Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, centre, poses for a photo with two women who had a photo taken with Bogyoke Aung San, the father of State Counsellor, many years ago. PHOTO: IPRD

Peace possible, but only if we want it

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to build the Federal Democratic Union, together. Please tell me openly as to which kinds of difficulties you have for signing the NCA and attending the 21st Century Panglong Conference. I had never said I would fulfil all your needs. I cannot give up the trust of the public. But I can give solemn promises I will perform as much as I can, everything I can do for you. Thus, all need to discuss openly in this discussion."

Those present at the meeting disclosed their concerns — armed conflicts between the Tatmadaw and the KIA, the increasing amount of displaced people as a result, urgent needs for food and humanitarian aid, amending the Constitution that will help to build a genuine federal union in accord with 1947 Panglong Agreement, an effective anti-drug campaign, the evil effect of the armed conflicts, freedom of worship and eradication of religious discrimination, and the peace process as it concerns the participation of Kachin people. The State Counsellor gave her advice about the concerns of the people.

Fighting between the KIA and the Tatmadaw resumed in June 2011 after a 17-year-old

ceasefire collapsed. The ensuing violence has resulted in the deaths of thousands and the displacement of over 100,000 civilians.

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi met separately with leaders of Kachin societies, executive committee members for dialogues for peace, and refugees at the Hsatcho Camp for displaced people, the KBC Minar Camp for displaced people and Lansae flood rescue camp.

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi boarded a plane in Nay Pyi Taw for Myitkyina early yesterday morning together with Union Ministers Lt-General Kyaw Swe, Lt-General Ye Aung, Dr Win Myat Aye, Dr Tin Myo Win, Deputy Minister U Min Thu and responsible officials.

Afterward, the State Counsellor held discussions with leaders from Kachin social societies at the Palm Springs Hotel in Myitkyina and announced that there were two reasons for her visit.

"First, it is necessary to give assistance to those present at the camps for displaced people and another is matters for peace. Myanmar gained its independence nearly seven decades ago. The period is not a long period in terms of history. Due to many

reasons, progress can be said to be little in the attempts for the peace in this 70 years period. Though our government has been in office for only one year, we have been continuously trying to gain progress. Christianity or Buddhism is based on Metta, the loving kindness. In Christianity, it is said that there is no fear in love. In Buddhism, Metta can extinguish fire, which can cause anger.

Present at the meeting were dignitaries and leaders from Evangelist Church, Salawshaung of the Free National Christian organisation, U Lonjon Too Rau, Myitkyina Christian Council, Kachin Advisory Committee, Zaiwa tradition committee, Lhovo tradition committee, Bhamo Tradition committee, literary development literature and culture committee (Nampathkar), PCG (Peace Creation Group).

After the meeting, the State Counsellor and Kachin Societies' leaders posed for documentary photos, followed by photos of State Counsellor and Daw Magaung Khawnraw and Daw Rwanaung, two women who had posed for pictures many years ago with the State Counsellor's father, Bogyoke Aung San.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Union Chief Justice attends ASEAN Meeting

CHIEF Justice of the Union U Htun Htun Oo attended the fifth Council of the ASEAN Chief Justices' (CACJ) Meeting held in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam on 24 March 2017.

Present at the meeting were the Chief Justices and their delegate to ASEAN. During the meeting they unanimously announced the "Bandar Seri Begawan Declaration", which agreed to form a study group for the up-

coming process and to establish the Secretariat of the CACJ.

At the meeting, the chief justices discussed matters on implementing the Internet Portal of ASEAN Judiciaries, cooperating the training for judges and judicial officers, studying the Court Technology and Case Management, convening the First ASEAN Family Judges Forum, and finding a way for facilitating the civil service process.

The ASEAN Chief Justices' Meeting has been held annually since 2013 and was renamed the Council of ASEAN Chief Justices (CACJ) and has been listed in Part 1 of Annex 2 of the ASEAN Charter as an entity associated with ASEAN. The Supreme Court of the Union will be engaging in judicial cooperation with the objectives of CACJ.—*Myanmar News Agency*

LOCAL Business

Mobile app-based ridesharing service coming to Yangon

Mark Angeles, senior expatriate editor, GNLM

GRAB, the ridesharing taxi service that is accessed by use of a mobile phone application, is coming to Yangon on 1 April. The company has already completed a trial run this month in Myanmar's largest city. The Global New Light of Myanmar spoke to Cheryl Goh, Grab's Group Vice President of Marketing, and asked her about the tech-focused service that is already serving seven countries in Southeast Asia.

• **Grab is coming to Yangon on 1 April. What is your company doing differently from other alternative taxi services already here such as Hello Cabs or Oway Ride?**

Grab will offer a more efficient taxi booking platform. Our strong machine learning and data analytics capabilities have enabled greater efficiency over time. We are using big data in a significant way to map real-time customer demand and alert available drivers to head to these locations. This helps drivers to improve their earnings and also improve passengers' ride arrival times.

We will continue to invest in technology to make the app experience more seamless – and more localised for Myanmar. Using Indonesia as an example, we're improving our mapping, which is essential in a city like Jakarta where some street shops are not on the map – so regular maps often don't work. Our mapping technology knows this and routes accordingly. By localising mapping, Grab can improve pickup times, recommend pickup and drop-off locations to passengers, and make it easy for passengers to search and select destination.

Our strategy is to create the

best possible experience for drivers and passengers. We will focus on improving the quality of the vehicles, driver service and safety standards for taxis in Yangon. Grab has robust driver screening and training processes, including in-person verification and vehicle inspection, to ensure that taxis on the Grab platform are comfortable and well-maintained. For example, all our Grab drivers will offer air-conditioning in their taxis.

• **Yangon has a severe traffic problem. Would the presence of Grab hurt or alleviate the traffic here?**

As vehicle ownership grows and mass transit systems are still being developed, solving traffic congestion will require a long-term commitment – one that Grab is committed to. We wish to help solve the local transportation challenges in each city that we operate in and in Yangon, we are privileged to support the government's plans to reform the public transport network, with a focus on taxis. We are heartened that the government is supportive of Grab's plans to trial our taxi booking service in Yangon, and we will be actively collaborating with them.

By providing a more efficient taxi booking platform, Grab aims to make it easier for passengers to choose to book a taxi, rather than drive their own car or for taxi drivers to drive around looking for passengers – and reduce traffic congestion.

In addition, we aim to improve driver service and safety standards for taxis in Yangon, and enable taxi drivers to get more bookings and earn more



Photo : Cheryl Goh, Group VP of Marketing, Grab

We wish to help solve the local transportation challenges in each city that we operate in and in Yangon, we are privileged to support the government's plans to reform the public transport network.

with Grab. We are committed to work with the taxi industry and other transport stakeholders during our Grab beta trial, and work together to test and improve our taxi service to both drivers and passengers.

• **Grab has already launched in Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam, Indonesia and the Philippines. What have you learned from those experiences?**

Grab is in 41 cities in seven countries across Southeast Asia – Singapore, Indonesia, Philippines, Malaysia, Thailand, Vietnam, and now Myanmar. Grab is the leading ride-hailing platform in Southeast Asia with 95 per cent market share in third-party taxi-hailing and 70 per cent market share in private vehicles across the region. The Grab app has been downloaded onto over 38 million mobile devices, and is the largest land transport fleet in Southeast Asia with over 780,000 drivers.

We are bringing our best practices from other countries to our service in Myanmar – and are committed to ensuring that we set the standards for the industry to follow. For example, we are the first ride-hailing company in the world to get ISO certification, which validates Grab's quality management systems, such as the handling of passenger enquiries, driver screening and onboarding processes, internal governance, as well as products and service offerings.

What this means for consumers is that they can be assured of safer rides in more comfortable vehicles, and know that Grab drivers are rigorously screened and undergo best practice training to provide the best ride experience.

• **Is Grab similar to Uber or Lyft?**

The concept is similar in that these are all companies in the ride-hailing space that offer on-demand transport services that can be booked via a mobile app. Lyft operates only in the US.

However Grab is unique amongst other ride-hailing companies that provide transport services in Southeast Asia. We were

founded to improve the safety standards and trust that consumers had in taxis. This remains one of our core missions and we're proud that 8 in 10 women surveyed said they think it's safer to take a taxi with Grab.

We also take a tailored approach to every city we operate in. Other companies tend to lump "Asia" into one bucket – and replicate their service wholesale in new cities – but the continent is incredibly large and vastly diverse. Grab has local teams in every country, who understand the unique set of complex challenges of their home country.

Staying true to taking a tailored approach, we continuously aim to collaborate and align with local public agendas and understand how we can best serve cities. We've seen great work being done in Manila with our collaboration with the World Bank to provide Grab GPS data to the OpenTraffic platform. Through this we've made it possible for city governments to be able to identify and address congested hotspots, improve traffic flow, and plan for better infrastructure.

Working together to develop strong and purposeful regulation is very much live and progressing between Grab and all governments, and that our services are being viewed as a long-term solution in improving public transport in Southeast Asian cities. Governments have appreciated the approach we take and that's why we were the first to be legalised in the Philippines and are the exclusive legal rideshare in Vietnam. We are heartened that the government is supportive of Grab's plans to trial our taxi booking service in Yangon, and we will be actively collaborating with them.

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

MV GSS YANGON VOY. NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV GSS YANGON VOY. NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 27.3.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY

AGENT FOR: M/S NEW GOLDEN SEA LINES

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

MV KOTA HARTA VOY. NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA HARTA VOY. NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 29.3.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY

AGENT FOR: M/S ADVANCE CONTAINER
LINES

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

MV FRISIA LAHN VOY. NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV FRISIA LAHN VOY. NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 27.3.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T/M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY

AGENT FOR: M/S MCC TRANSPORT (S'PORE)
PTE LTD

Phone No: 2301185

Performances in One-Year Period

Changes in one-year period of the Ministry of Electric Power and Energy

News feature: Khin Yadanar
Photo: May Oo Moe (MEE)

IN the tenure of the new government, the Ministry Electric Power and Energy was re-formed by combining the two, which existed as separate sectors, performing the tasks of generating electricity, sending power over a large area by grid lines and distributing power from the sector of electricity with finding and drilling oil and natural gas, producing and distributing oil products performed by the energy sector.

During one-year period, extension and renovation of power plants, building upgraded power grid lines, implementing distribution of power with stable voltage & power-wastage-proof system and clearing away complicated service-wires were carried out, according to the Ministry.



U Pe Zin Tun, Union Minister

Getting more power than ever

In the sector of generating power, more 301 mega watt of electricity were generated. For the betterment of power system, 538.57 miles of 230 KV & 66 KV gridlines were extended with 18 transmitters built. For power distribution to improve, 504.14 miles of 33 KV, 11 KV & 400 Volts gridlines, were extended with 18 transmitters of 66 KV, 428 transmitters of 33 KV & 11 KV built. This resulted in the availability of power in 10 towns and 333 villages during one-year-period, more than before, said U Pe Zin Tun, Union Minister.

Out of 10.87 million households in Myanmar, 3.69 million (34% of the national populace) consumed power in the financial year 2015-2016, while in 2016-2017 4.05 million (37.24% of the whole populace) consumed power. It is learnt that power consumption rose by 3.24%.

78 megawatt Electric Power Station in Mon State.



Increased natural gas consumption

U Pe Zin Tun, Union Minister said, "The Ministry is performing the tasks of finding and drilling oil and natural gases at 27 plots in land, in co-operation with foreign companies. In one year period, 29 places were drilled and it was successful at 12 places. Previously, daily consumption from 150 cubic feet million to 200 cubic feet million rose up to daily consumption 233 million cubic feet. 30 million cubic feet for power generators and 3 million cubic feet for industrial sector, 33 million cubic feet were used more than ever. In transport sector as well, 143 public-used passenger bus lines were supplied with CNG."

Giving licenses

In the past, as regards im-

port, storage and distribution of CNG, only two kinds of license were granted. But as of 2016 May, 5 kinds of license were granted after the process of scrutiny, in accord with the times. Until now, for import, storage and distribution of CNG, 19 private companies were given out license B, with 68 private companies given out license D for CNG tubes, 436 private companies given out license E, 523 in all given out temporary licenses.

Union Minister explained, "Temporary licenses are being given out to those who are running small-scale oil production, free of charge. 237 local oil producers were educated to apply for work permit license. In co-operation with respective Regions and States Cabinets, 156 temporary licenses had been granted.

Increasing amount of lubricant stations

Myanmar Petroleum Products Enterprise sold out its 261 state-owned lubricant stations to private companies. It is learnt that 256 private lubricant stations were given out license for distribution of lubricants, 2 private companies given out license for storage and distribution, 3 stations for selling to waterway vehicles and 11 enterprises for distributing petroleum used in planes.

Union Minister added that plans have been being made with US\$ 300 million of World Bank, under the plan National Electrification Plan—NEP for 63% of the national populace who still needs electricity.

As the first step of five-year plan from 2015-2016 to 2019-2020, 626758 households of 5080 vil-

lages at 2 miles in diameter far away 11 KV gridline will be supplied with power, it is learnt.

At the step 1 of the local development project on poverty alleviation, availability of electrical power in regions and states is being carried out with the loan of Japanese Yen 4.571 billion from JICA. The availability of power for 35983 family members from 406 villages of Loilem and Langkho districts, Shan State (south) is underway with the aid of Euro 30 million under KfW (IDA) from the government of Germany.

15% increase per year

Annual need for power consumption of the country is increasing from 15% to 17% annually. So, in order to be able to distribute electrical power it needs to implement the Energymix that includes hydropower, coal, natural gas and renewable energy.

Out of 10.87 million households in Myanmar, 3.69 million (34% of the national populace) consumed power in the financial year 2015-2016, while in 2016-2017 4.05 million (37.24% of the whole populace) consumed power.

At the present time hydro-power is mainly produced with generating power from natural gas. In implementing economical hydropower projects, the Ministry experienced challenges—existing environmental problems, taking time to construct power plants, difficulties to drive power plants depending power needs due to weather conditions, dropping capacity of existing plants in producing power by using natural gas, loss of finance from the State due to purchase power from private companies to distribute to the national populace, failure to implement to produce coal, the one that includes the Energymix according to people's desires, insufficiency of finance to upgrade power gridlines and transformers which had been built long ago and difficulty to implement Energymix under the long term energy master plan, as it is.

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A docked aeroplane ready to be refilled with fuel. The fuel department is to become a joint venture.



PERFORMANCES IN ONE-YEAR PERIOD

>> FROM PAGE 5

Decreasing productivity

With the age-old production of inland and off-shore petroleum and natural gases for the sectors of industry, electricity, transport and agriculture of the State, decreasing rate of the plots and declining global oil prices led to the decrease of income over oil and natural gases. The country which wholly relies upon it, has been discussing for solutions of expansion of projects and drilling new oil wells.

Careless use of electricity

Due to careless uses of electricity from March 2016 until now, 89 fires broke out across the nation, losing K 10.34 million, claiming 203 lives, and 84 were injured. Despite the fact that talks and delivering leaflets on the knowledge of fire-outbreak were made, it is still a challenge to lay special stress on sharing knowledge on fire.

Finance

Ministry of Electric Power and Energy has to spend the budget under the category of normal expenditure and the category of capital expenditure. The former one includes paying charges for power, paying charges for natural gas needed for driving generators, wages and salaries for staff whereas the latter includes expenditures for investing to build generators, transformers and gridlines. The power plants which are generating power in the country are Independent Private Partnership—IPP.

In the financial year 2016-2017, IPP increased the production of power up to 48.9%. Purchase price for power one unit for the IPP—GT factory is 151.01 kyats, 66.74 kyats for hydro-power plant and 154.05 kyats for solar plant, Union Minister explained.

Over one unit power use

The Ministry of Electric Power and Energy at present, sells at 69.17 kyats per unit against its production cost of 89.39 kyats per unit, losing 20.22 kyats per unit, it

is learnt. And it was said that K 333 billion which is the potential loss for the financial year 2017-2018 and expenditures for the cost of Gas for generating power has been being paid from the normal expenditures of the budget.

Summer season and electricity

It is expected that there will be potential maximum need of power consumption for the summer—3100 mega watt. Actual power production is only 2856 mega watt, so needing 244 mega watt of power.

To fulfill the need of power, if we generate power with modernized machines by using natu-

For power to be sufficient for coming summer, 30 million cubic feet of natural gas from Yad-anar Oil Well will be used for more production of 65 mega watt.

ral gas that comes from Yadanan Off-shore Oil Well, 4 mega watt of power can be obtained from one million cubic feet, while EGAT machines can produce 2 mega watt only.

For power to be sufficient for coming summer, 30 million cubic feet of natural gas from Yadanan Oil Well will be used for more production of 65 mega watt.

Reducing power consumption

In the day-time, the busiest hours of power consumption, making factories and mills stop their operations, reducing the production in state and privately-owned steels and melting factories, stopping water pumping from rivers can save 100 mega



The 133 Megawatt gas-fired Power Plant in Mandalay Region.

watt of power. By lighting alternate lamp-posts in such cities as Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon and Mandalay, 20 mega watt of power can be saved.

If we do not want to reduce power consumption in Regions and States, Tigyt coal power plant which can produce 60 mega watts must be operated. Failing that, regions and states must reduce power consumption in April, May and June to save 60 mega watts, it is learnt.

Union Minister said, “Increasing rate of power need for the country is 15% to 17%. To fulfill

this need, matters relating to the building of more power plants, saving power consumption, to reduce wastage of power, substituting high-quality gridlines, changing digital electric meters, cutting trees and branches that obstruct gridlines and illegal connection to gridlines for dubious uses are underway.”

Multi-power sources

Natural resources for producing electricity in Myanmar are mainly based on hydro-power and natural resources. According to the Ministry of Electric Power and Energy, it is necessary to

take part in launching Energy-mix power plant that adjust water resources, natural gas, clean coal and renewable resources for power production, likewise neighboring countries.

U Pe Zin Tun, Union Minister for Electric Power and Energy said, “There have been many performances for the development of electricity and energy sectors in one-year-period. But I did not hope for people’s complete satisfaction over it. As for us who are serving people, we will perform our duties to the best of our calibre in our respective sectors.”



Fixing and replacing of natural gas pipelines along the Yangon and Mandalay Region.



Experts checking the quality of the material using modern apparatus.



Technicians fixing a powerline in Yangon Region. 66kv, 33kv and 11kv power grid are to be established.

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Corner of Mahabandoola Road and Thein Phyu Road,
Botahtaung Township, Yangon,
The Republic of the Union of Myanmar.
hh@kcyangon.com
Dated **29 March 2017**

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Level 8A, Union Financial Centre (UFC),
Corner of Mahabandoola Road & Thein Phyu Road,
Bothataung Township, Yangon, **Myanmar.**
Dated **29 March 2017** hh@kcyangon.com

Rising number of deregistered buses causes slip price to drop

THE price for a registration slip plunged by over Ks1million because of the rising number of deregistered buses, according to automobile market sources.

Slips for used family cars are being issued as city Dyna trucks and mini-buses made before 1995 model

are deregistered as clunkers. The number of deregistrations for buses has risen and the number of importers has decreased from a cool auto market, resulting in little demand for slips, which has made the price drop.

Previously, a slip fetched up to Ks11.8mil-

lion. The prevailing price of a slip is now around Ks10.7million. Over 2,400 buses were allowed to deregister by the Road Transportation Administration Department and over 1,100 vehicles have already done so, it is learnt.

Additionally, the news

of an advanced income tax on cars with slips at the automobile market further cooled down the price, said car dealers.

Nevertheless, the car importers hope that the market might raise its head again after Thingyan Festival.—*Ko Khant*

Domestic gold price hits record high of Ks905,500 per tical

WITH the global gold price rising, the domestic gold price reached a new all-time high of Ks905,500 per tical on 27th March, according to gold and jewellery shops.

The global gold price

remained on the rise from 22nd to 27th March. The domestic gold price showed a decrease under Ks900,000 per tical in early March. The price dropped down to around Ks880,000 per tical on

10th March and has slightly risen since.

The domestic gold price broke a record high in December with the increase in global gold price, according to the gold market.

Starting from 1st April, a one per cent tax will be levied on the purchase of gold products, while a five per cent tax will be imposed on buyers of gold bars, it is learnt.—*Mon Mon*

Value of normal trade with foreign partners up by over US\$460m

THE value of trade through sea routes with foreign countries was up by over US\$460.127 million as of 17th March this fiscal year when compared to that of last year, according to official statistics provided by the Commerce Ministry.

Normal trade as of

17th March hit US\$20.109 billion with an export value of US\$ 6.589 bil and an import value of US\$13.520 billion.

In the similar period, border trade also showed an increase of over US\$110million. Therefore, the external trade from 1st

April to 17th March hit US\$ 27,026.827million which increased by US\$ 572.544million when compared to that of the similar period of last year.

Border trade has not performed as well as normal trade, as the export value of the Muse border

camp, which has the largest trade volume out of all 16 border trade camps, drastically declined compared to last year because of the internal armed conflicts and confiscation of rice, sugar and maize by China government.—*Ko Khant*

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AGENT FOR: M/S MCC TRANSPORT (S'PORE)
PTE LTD

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

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EVENT SCHEDULE :
29th March 2017
Inauguration - 9.00 am
Exhibition - 9.00 am - 5.00 pm
Seminars - 2.00 pm - 4.30 pm

30th March 2017
Exhibition - 10.00 - 4.30 pm

MAJOR HIGHLIGHTS:

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- 10 Hospitals and Healthcare Service Providers from India
- Interactive Seminar on Regulations, Capacity Building, Procurement and Supply Chain.

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Government Of India
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Opinion

Write for us

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

"Do as I say, but don't do as I do," is an ambiguous statement

Khin Maung Oo

THE above-mentioned expression is a frequently heard expression in our environment, sometimes as a joke and sometimes as a warning. Some people never say these words out of their lips, but their deeds express this meaning. In our surrounding, we can see various kinds of people. Some are industrious, ambitious and diligent. Simultaneously, there are those who are moderate, un-ambitious and complacent. Out of these two, the former kind is good for their future prospects, but there is one condition that they need to take care of themselves for their ambitions not to be excessive more than necessary. Sometimes,

their ambitions may lead them to become too selfish, and ruin their health and lives. The latter kind seems to be complacent and lazy, but if our community is only full of this kind of people, we will find it difficult to reach a developed state. The most important thing for us is to avoid these two extremes.

We have to take lessons from our forefathers, from our seniors and veterans, in leading a successful life, simple yet rewarding. They themselves had faced difficulties, hardships and failures. Every individual may experience a mistake or traumatic event while working. They themselves have to ruminate and assess their mistakes so that they can avoid repeating the same mistakes. By relaying their

knowledge, our veterans can manage to lead us to our success. Men change physically and mentally, as time goes by. Generally, a person's physical maturity can be said to depend on his karma, mind, climate and sustenance consumed, whereas mental maturity depends on what type of intellectual food we feed the brain. The human mind thirsts for information, knowledge and new experiences. It is necessary to stimulate the mind by reading good books, traveling to new places for general knowledge and listening to lectures and talks given by experts on various subjects. For relaxation, we need to listen to good soothing music to calm our nerves after working the whole day amidst the hustle and bustle of

city life. Books we read, and experiences and knowledge shared and recounted by our seniors can guide us to success.

An alcoholic, a drug addict and a criminal who have already tried and regretted their ill deeds can relay their experiences of evil effects to youngsters. Thus their advice, "What to do and what not to do," may become a tonic, as it can help our youths to go straight to their respective goals and simultaneously can help them abandon their bad habits. Meanwhile, we can see another kind of people, especially in our working environment. In fact, they can be categorized as the ultra-opportunist group. They are misappropriating authority empowered to them, as if it were their own heritage left to

them by their parents. They would not like to abandon their old habits and dubious malpractices, but they instruct their juniors to abide by laws, rules and regulations. From their lips, they do not disclose the words, "Do as I say, but don't do as I do," but their deeds are like saying so. We know and see there are such kinds of people around us. We can accept those who change into the right world from the dark one, after deciding to remove their evil spirits and mindsets. Instead, those who jumped onto the bandwagon with the intention of exploiting benefits by pretending to abandon ill minds are unacceptable persons. Now is the time for us to take the responsibility of solving this problem.

Different Levels of the Sangha Organizations of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Ba Sein (Religious)

ACCORDING to the historical records of Buddhism, altogether Six Buddhist Synods (Councils) were successfully convened after the noble demise of the Buddha over 2560 years ago. In fact, the main aims and objectives for convening the Buddhist Synods are to purify, perpetuate and propagate the Buddha Sasana (the teachings of the Buddha) throughout the Universe.

The Sixth Buddhist Synod was held in the Republic of the Union of Myanmar in 1954. The Six Buddhist Synod was actively participated in and attended by the earned and chief monks (Mahatheras) from the Five THERAVADA Buddhist Nations, Thailand, Cambodia, Laos, Sri Lanka and Myanmar. It was found that some isms and views which were incompatible with and contradictory to the essence of the real teachings of the Buddha, appeared and endangered the teachings of the Buddha although the Six Buddhist Synods had been convened. And also, different sects and schools of the Sangha Orders appeared in the Republic of the Union of Myanmar. Many sects and schools of the Sangha Orders were not united and they parted from each other.

According to the situation of the different sects and schools of the Sangha Orders, the Buddhist People and the previous Government of the Union of Myanmar tried to hold the Congregation of the Sangha of ALL Orders in 1965 in order to get the unity of the Sangha of ALL Orders in the Republic of the Union of Myanmar for the first time, but it was not successful.

However, the Buddhist People and the previous Government of the Union of Myanmar did not give up the situation of getting the unity of the Sangha of ALL Orders in the Republic of the Union of Myanmar. And so, the Buddhist People and the previous Government of the Union of Myanmar tried again to hold the First Congregation of the Sangha of ALL Orders in 1980 for purification, perpetuation and propagation of the Buddha Sasana, and to get the unity of the Sangha of ALL Orders in the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

In order to be able to hold the First Congregation of the Sangha of ALL Orders for purification, perpetuation and propagation of the Buddha Sasana, the necessary arrangements and requirements were made by leading chief monks and the previous Government of the Union of Myanmar.

Firstly, the Council Working Committee of the Sangha comprising the respectful and learned sixty-six members of the Sangha throughout the country was formed to make necessary arrangements and requirements for successfully holding the First Congregation of the Sangha of ALL Orders of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar. The sixty-six members of the Central Working Committee of the Sangha actively and effectively carried out the noble task of holding the First Congregation of the Sangha of ALL Orders. The sixty-six members of the Central Working Committee of the Sangha toured the whole country, and discussions and suggestions were made among the members of the Sangha of the respective regions to prepare and draw the drafts re-

lating to the principles, rules, and regulations for holding the First Congregation of the Sangha of ALL Orders of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar. According to the agreement and decision of the whole members of the Sangha (Bhikkhu), the principles, rules and regulations for holding' the First Congregation of the Sangha of ALL Orders of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar were approved and passed by the plenary meeting of the Central Working Committee of the Sangha of the sixty-six members of the Sangha.

And so, the First Congregation of the Sangha of ALL Orders for the purification, perpetuation and propagation of the Buddha Sasana of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar which was attended by 1500 representatives of the Sangha throughout the country and supported by the previous Government was successfully held in 1980.

In accordance with the resolutions of the first Congregation of the Sangha of ALL Orders of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, the very first unity of the members of the Sangha of ALL Orders in the Republic of the Union of Myanmar could be established within one-hundred year in the history of Buddhism. The Nine Sects (Ganas) of the members of the Sangha of All Orders throughout the Republic of the Union of Myanmar were officially recognized by the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar in accordance with the resolutions of the First Congregation of the Sangha of All Order. They are as follows:-

1. Suddhamma Sect (Gana)
2. Shwekyin Sect (Gana)

3. Dhammanu Dhamma Mahadwara Nikaya Sect (Gana)
4. Dhammavinayanulomamuladwara Nikaya Sect (Gana)
5. Anaukchaung Dwara Sect (Gana)
6. Veluvan Nikaya Sect (Gana)
7. Catubommika Mahasatipathana Ngettwin Sect (Gana)
8. Gannavimmotti Kuto Sect (Gana)
9. Dhammayotti Nikaya Mahayin Sect (Gana)

These different schools and sects of the Sangha unitedly carry out the purification, perpetuation and propagation of the Buddha Sasana under the guidance of the different levels of the Sangha Organizations which have been formed throughout the country.

A need was felt that without the unity of the Sangha, it was impossible to execute the purification, perpetuation and propagation of the Sasana. If different schools and sects of the Sangha of ALL Orders appeared separately, they were not able unitedly to implement the purification, perpetuation and propagation of the Sasana.

In fact, all the members of the Sangha and devotees really want the ever-lasting unity of the Sangha of ALL Orders. They firmly believe that it only can be done to purify, perpetuate and propagate the Sasana by the unity of the Sangha. The Buddha Himself urged the members of the Sangha to be united to carry out His teachings.

According to the historical records of Buddhism, it was found that schism and split of schools and sects occurred among the monastic Orders

whenever some members of the Sangha of Orders were in trouble through dispute and mutual misunderstanding.

In order to reconstruct the unity and mutual understanding within sects and schools is deeply needed for the welfare and interest of the nation as well as for the Buddha Sasana.

Altogether six Buddhist Councils throughout our age were held to establish the unity of the Sangha of ALL Orders so long as the Buddha Sasana exists. The Sixth Buddhist Council was held in order to purify, perpetuate and propagate the Theravada Buddha Sasana throughout the world. Without the unity of the Sangha, it is impossible to promote the Sasana. An old saying goes, "Whenever religion is pure, the society is prosperous". The situation of the nation is well developed and prosperous in these golden days when the members of the Sangha of the Order unanimously practice the law and fulfill their religious duties.

Altogether five Congregations of the Sangha of All Orders of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar have been held in order to strengthen the unity of the Sangha more and more for purification, perpetuation and propagation of the Buddha Sasana throughout the world.

According to the Fundamental Rules of the Sangha Organizations of 1980 approved and adopted by the First Congregation of the Sangha of All Orders of the Union of Myanmar, the Organizations of the Sangha at different levels were formed as showing in the following the organization chart: -

SEE PAGE 9 >>



Union Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation Dr. Aung Thu, Mr. Peter Kysholt Hansen and officials pose for a photo at the Denmark-Myanmar sustainable coastal fisheries project workshop. PHOTO: MNA

Denmark- Myanmar sustainable coastal fisheries project workshop held

DENMARK-Myanmar sustainable coastal fisheries project workshop was held at Horizon Lake View Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw on Tuesday. The workshop was jointly held by Denmark and Myanmar ministry of agriculture, livestock and irrigation.

At the workshop, Dr. Aung Thu, Union minister for agriculture, livestock and irrigation, said that the fishery sector is one of the main business sectors for locals.

“We need to discuss the management of the coastal fisheries”, Dr. Aung Thu said. “For the development of the fisheries sector, we need to adopt policies for social development of fishermen and organisations. “The government, private businesses, expert fishermen and public need to co-operate in abundance by the rules and regulations in fishing and protect the reproduction habit of fish for sustainable development of the water

and land resources as well as use the legal correct, fishing ways.”

Mr. Peter Kysholt Hansen, ambassador of Denmark, explained that the aims and objectives, as well as the results were achieved in the implementation of the project. He also discussed the management of the coastal fishing sector, collaboration with the organisations and other conditions concerning the project.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Different Levels of the Sangha Organizations....

>> FROM PAGE 8

The disputes and misunderstanding arising among members of the Sangha of different sects and schools are solved and settled by respective Sangha Courts

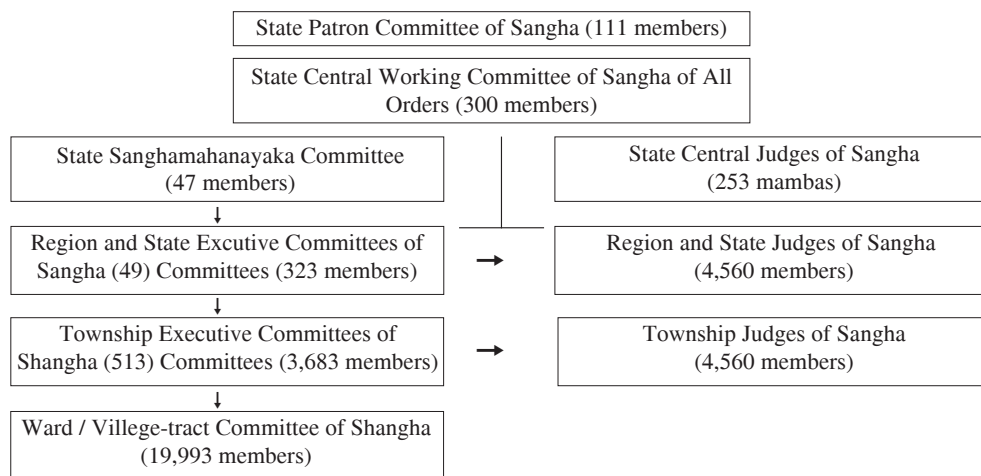
only not by any civil courts.

The different levels of the Sangha Organizations representing the whole members of the Sangha in the Republic of the Union of Myanmar are actively

and effectively implementing the Sasana affairs which lead to the purification, perpetuation and propagation of the Buddha Sasana throughout the world.

Sangha Organizations of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Organization Chart



Myanmar hosts 11th Asian Men's U-19 Volleyball Tournament

MYANMAR hosted the 11th Asian Men's U-19 Volleyball Championship at Wunna Theikdi indoor stadium in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday, with the opening ceremony at 10:30am.

Dr Myint Htwe, Minister for Health and Sports, visited the tournament's opening ceremony and Myanmar Volleyball Federation Chairman U Tun Myint Naing explained the competition.

The Union Minister for Health and Sports greeted and presented certificates of honour to the competitors from Australia, Korea, Bangladesh, Iran, Thailand, Sri Lanka, Japan, China, China (Taipei), Hong Kong and Myanmar.

The opening match in the event featured Myanmar vs Hong Kong, in which Myanmar defeated Hong Kong 3-0.

A news conference by the 11th Asian Men's U-19 Volleyball Championship was held at 1:30 pm at Wunna Theikdi indoor stadium. Vice chairman of the Myanmar Volleyball Federation (MVF) U Thein Win, technical advisor of MVF U Tin Maung Aye and officials from

the Asian Volleyball Confederation explained the aims of the Asian Men's U-19 Volleyball Championship to reporters.

“This is the third time Myanmar has hosted an international volleyball tournament, and the MVF has also continuously hosted Asian-level competitions” U Thein Win said.

“We have held township-level, district-level, regional and state-level volleyball tournaments as well as Ministry-level volleyball tournaments to produce a new generation of qualified volleyball players. We held similar competitions in Ngwe Saung, Inle and Pyinmana,” officials said at the press conference.

The event began yesterday and will continue until 5 April at Wunna Theikdi Indoor Stadium in Nay Pyi Taw, according to the Ministry of Health and Sports.

The 11th Asian Men Under-19 volleyball championship tourney is an important event for the World U-19 Men's U-19 Volleyball Championship, which will be held in Bahrain in August. —*Thura Zaw (MNA)*



Myanmar vs Hong Kong compete at an opening match of the 11th Asian Men's U-19 Volleyball Championship tournament. PHOTO: MNA

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

MV ALEXANDROS THEO VOY. NO (17020)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV ALEXANDROS THEO VOY. NO (17020) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 29.3.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T-5 where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

MV HAI DUONG 01 VOY. NO (-)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV HAI DUONG 01 VOY. NO (-) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 29.3.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.I.P.T.L-3 where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

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

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

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The Russian Army is also expecting a promising short-range anti-aircraft missile system by 2030-2035. PHOTO: TASS

Russia to launch R&D on new ground forces' air defence system

IZHEVSK — Russia will carry out R&D work codenamed Arbalet in 2021-2025 to develop a new surface-to-air short-range missile system, Air Defence Force Commander Lieutenant-General Alexander Leonov said on Friday.

“One of R&D efforts

codenamed Arbalet will be focused on developing a promising robotized short-range air defence system with the expanded capabilities of detecting and hitting advanced air attack weapons, including drones and precision weaponry attacking elements,” the commander said.

“This work is planned to be carried out in 2021-2025,” Leonov said.

As Russian Army Commander-in-Chief Oleg Salyukov said, a promising short-range anti-aircraft missile system is expected to start arriving for the Army by 2030-2035 —TASS

Four militants killed as Bangladesh troops storm hideout

DHAKA— Bangladesh army commandos have killed four Islamist militants in the northeastern city of Sylhet during a raid on a building where they were holed up amid local residents, a senior army official said on Monday.

The commandos surrounded the five-storey building on Thursday evening but had to evacuate its 78 residents before they

could begin their operation on Saturday to flush out the militants, he told reporters.

The militants had a large arms store in the building so the operation was still going on, he added.

“We are about to end the operation and now we confirm that so far four militants were killed, including a female militant,” said Brigadier-General Fakhrul Ahsan.

“We have to carry out our remaining operation very carefully to avoid any risk,” he added.

Ahsan said two of the four bodies found in the building were wearing suicide vests and surrounded by dangerous explosives.

The commandos had stormed the hideout, which belonged to a domestic Islamist group that has pledged allegiance to Islamic State,

because the group was blamed for a cafe attack in July 2016 in which 22 people were killed, most of them foreigners.

On Saturday, six people, including two police officers, were killed and over 40 were wounded — including about a dozen police — in two bomb blasts near the militant hideout in the Sylhet building.

Islamic State has

claimed responsibility “for a bombing on Bangladeshi forces in Sylhet”, the SITE monitoring service said, citing a report on the militant group’s news agency Amaq that appeared to refer to that incident.

The explosions came a day after a suicide bomber blew himself up at a security checkpoint near the country’s main international airport in Dhaka, in an attack

claimed by Islamic State.

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

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

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

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US attorney general says sanctuary cities may lose federal grants

WASHINGTON — US Attorney General Jeff Sessions said on Monday that cities and states that protect immigrant felons from federal immigration laws may lose grants from the Justice Department.

“Failure to deport aliens who are convicted of criminal offenses puts whole communities at risk, especially immigrant communities in the very sanctuary jurisdictions that seek to protect the perpetrators,” Sessions told a White House news briefing.

His statement drew swift pushback from New York state Attorney General Eric Schneiderman, who said his office would continue helping local governments “have the tools they need to protect their immigrant communities.”

Sessions said the Justice Department would withhold, and potentially claw back, grants to so-called sanctuary cities and other localities, such as counties, that are not in compliance with federal immigration law.

Sessions, who heads the Justice Department, said one of his agency’s offices was expecting to award more than \$4.1 billion in grants this fiscal year.

Sanctuary cities help illegal immigrants avoid deportation by limiting coop-



US Attorney General Jeff Sessions joins White House Press Secretary Sean Spicer for the daily press briefing at the White House in Washington, US on 27 March, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

eration with federal immigration authorities and other agencies.

“I strongly urge our nation’s states and cities and counties to consider carefully the harm they are doing to their citizens by refusing to enforce our immigration laws and to rethink these policies,” Sessions said.

He gave as an example Kate Steinle, who was shot to death in San Francisco two years ago by illegal immigrant Francisco Sanchez, who had already been deported five times and had seven felony convictions.

The city had earlier released Sanchez from custody even though immigration authorities had filed a request that he be kept in custody

until they could pick him up for removal, Sessions said. In his response to Sessions, Schneiderman, a Democrat, called the Republican president’s immigration policies “un-American.”

“Despite what Attorney General Sessions implied this afternoon, state and local governments and law enforcement have broad authority under the Constitution to not participate in federal immigration enforcement,” Schneiderman said in a statement. “As my office’s legal guidance makes clear, President Trump lacks the constitutional authority to broadly cut off funding to states and cities just because they have lawfully acted to protect im-

migrant families.”

Schneiderman said that public safety depends on trust between law enforcement and those they serve, but that Trump’s policies “only serve to undercut that trust.”

Last week, Maryland’s Democratic-controlled House of Delegates approved legislation to bar police statewide from checking the immigration status of individuals they arrest or from keeping them locked up longer than otherwise warranted at the request of federal agents seeking to deport them. The state’s Republican governor, Larry Hogan, has said he would veto the bill if it came to his desk. The Maryland measure was in line with dozens of municipalities and local jurisdictions across the country that have declared themselves sanctuary cities, including New York, San Francisco, Chicago, Boston, Los Angeles, Philadelphia, Seattle and Washington.

So far no such statewide designations have been enacted. President Donald Trump in January signed an executive order seeking to withhold federal funds from local governments that limit cooperation with federal immigration authorities. —Reuters

PERFORMANCES IN ONE-YEAR PERIOD



A concrete post for the 11Kv powerline in Haka erected. PHOTO: MNA



Documentary photo of Chin State's meeting for dispersing electricity 11 to 12 October 2016. PHOTO: MNA

Chin State sees rosy picture for development

Maung Chin Swe

CHIN STATE is located in western Myanmar. The 36,019-square-kilometre (13,907 sq mi) Chin State is bordered by Rakhine State in the south, Bangladesh in the south-west, Sagaing Region and Magway Region in the east, the Indian state of Manipur in the north and the Indian state of Mizoram in the west.

Chin State is composed of nine townships namely Kanpatlat, Mindat, Palatwa, Matupi, Haka, Falam, Tiddim, Tonzang and Htantalan townships.

Currently, bridges are under construction along the road linking the southern and northern parts of Chin State and on com-

pletion of the bridges, the transportation between the northern and southern parts of the Chin State would be smoothed.

National-level political dialogue

National-level political dialogue started on 27th February, 2017 and came to an end successfully on 1st March, 2017, in Htantalan, Chin State.

Following Mindat has been connected with the national grid, Chin State Government is currently carrying out measures to link Palatwa, Matupi and Kanpatlat with the grid.

As transportation is the most important for local development,

Chin State Government is working to improve the condition of the transportation sector in order to bring about the rapid commodity flow and also assist in local development.

"Chin State Government is mainly focusing on road infrastructure in the first one-year period. Currently, we are building a road which will cut the travel time to 12 hours for the more than 500 miles distance between the southernmost and northernmost parts of Chin State," said Chin State Chief Minister Salai Lian Luai.

Bwenue Bridge, which is 400 ft long, between Narrain and Rizwa and Myitye bridge are under construction. Further five bridges are also being constructed.

Plans are underway to open a border market in Kyikha Township while Natzan brider is under construction between Tunzan and Kyikha, said the Chief Minister.

Airport, jetty projects in Chin State

The state is a mountainous region with few transportation links. Chin State is sparsely populated and remains one of the least developed areas of the country. It can be accessed only by road. The state experienced the shortage of food in the past. Therefore, the Chin State Government is working to build an international airport in northern Chin State and to build a jetty in the southern part.

The new government has set its target of creating job opportunities and reducing the poverty in the state since it took office one year ago. It also laid down plans for development of agriculture and livestock farming, upgrading basic infrastructures, development of small and medium enterprises and human resources, environmental conservation and transportation.

"Currently, we are stepping our efforts to complete the airport construction in Falam as soon as possible," said the Chin State Chief Minister.

A jetty in Platwa have been completed and it will handle ships for transportation between the Chin State and other areas by water way.

"The transportation facilities

will ensure boosting trade and economy of Chin State," said the Chief Minister.

Town Plan

Chin State Government drew the town plan which includes development of three towns: Haka, Falam and Palatwa and have been carrying out for establishing new towns and housings in the three towns currently.

Conservation of State bird and trees

All the people in Chin State are obliged as a national duty to conserve Chin State's hornbills and the Taungzalat trees so they will not become extinct.

The population of the great hornbill (*Buceros bicornis*) also known as the great Indian hornbill or great pied hornbill, is declining in Chin State, according to environmental conservationists.

Meanwhile, "Lu" and "Sap" rice, indigenous species of rice are also facing extinction in the state.

Natural parks would be established in the mountains to attract tourists who want to see unspoiled environment in Chin State.

"We drew a plan for implementing ecotourism in Chin State with establishment of hotels and tourism services," said Chief Minister of Chin State.

Eleven hotels will be established in six townships in Chin State next fiscal year.

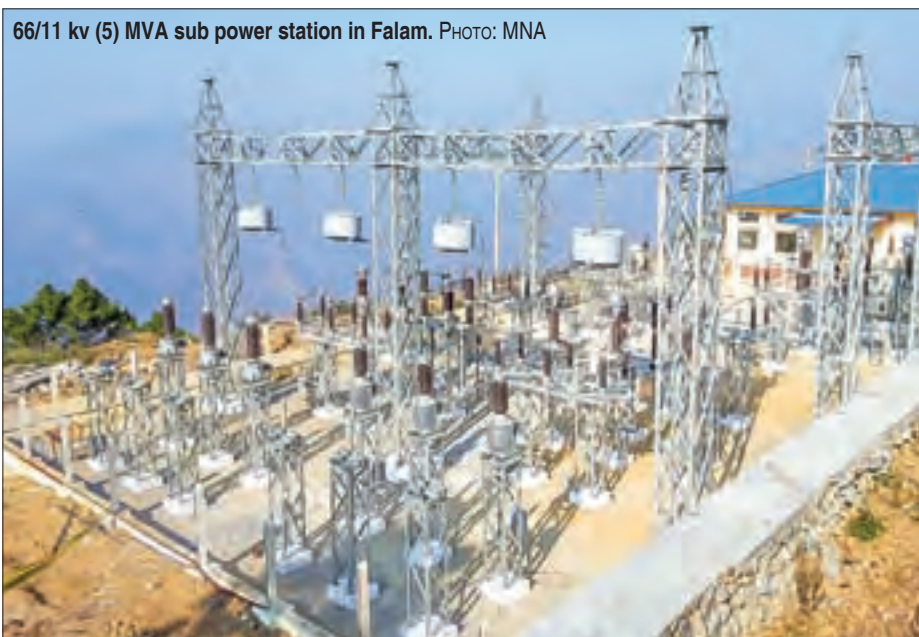
SEE PAGE 12 >>

The state experienced the shortage of food in the past. Therefore, the Chin State Government is working to build an international airport in northern Chin State and to build a jetty in the southern part.



Symbol of Chin State, Taungzalat flowers (rhododendron) in full bloom. PHOTO: TIN WIN (BEIKTHANO)

66/11 kv (5) MVA sub power station in Falam. PHOTO: MNA



PERFORMANCES IN ONE-YEAR PERIOD



Vocational training in Haka City. PHOTO: MNA



A file photo shows an aerial view of Tiddim Township, Chin State. PHOTO: PHOE KHWAH

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Vocational business

Chin State Government is providing assistance to the small and medium enterprises in the state to put the state on the road to development.

Weaving industries including traditional weaving businesses in Haka, Falam and Mindat in Chin State are producing clothing.

"We should focus on booming of silk clothing production and traditional clothing production in order to create more job opportunities in Chin State, said the Chin State Chief Minister.

Haka College, a point of pride for Chin State

With an attendance of Vice-President U Myint Swe, Haka College was opened on 8th November, 2016 to help students in Chin State achieve higher learning in their home state.

Thanks to the college, students from Chin State are no longer need to go to Kalay, Pakokku and Sagaing to earn a university degree. At present, the emergence of Haka college will help them to study with ease and convenience.

Meanwhile teachers and students in Chin state are obliged to perform their respective duties of strengthening sustainable human resources and creating the educational environment with updated knowledge and vision.

Students from Haka, Falam, Htantalan are now able to study academic disciplines in the arts and sciences.

Haka Education College is under construction and is expected to be opened in the 2017-2018 academic Year.

Falam Agriculture Institute was opened by Vice-President U Henry Van Thio and Haka Technical University is under construction. Plans are underway to establish colleges in Mindat and Matupi.

Water supply project in Chin State

Water supply facilities in Chin State were totally destroyed by torrential rain in 2015 and the new government allocated K5 billion to construction of water supply facilities. Upon completion of the project, water shortage being faced by Falam would be overcome.

Visible reduction

The Chin Region Government is working with the aim of visible reduction of poverty and sufficient support of basic necessities in the region by the 2020-2021 fiscal year.

The Region Government is working the development of agriculture suitable for the region, improvement of basic infrastructure, development of small and medium enterprises, development of human resources, and conserva-

tion of the natural environment in mind.

Aim and Objectives

The Chin State Government aims to develop highland farming and production of organic crops, development of livestock breeding, development of inner state roads and inner state roads connecting with other regions, boosting development of small and medium enterprises, supplying adequate electricity to the region, boosting tourism, uplifting city development efforts, boosting the potential of human resources, elevating education, health and other sectors, reducing poverty and unemployment and increasing job opportunities, increasing investment and trade within the region and the border, and encouraging research into Chin State's socio-economic development.



Trainees weaving traditional Chin garments. PHOTO: MNA

Students from Haka, Falam, Htantalan are now able to study academic disciplines in the arts and sciences. Haka Education College is under construction and is expected to be opened in the 2017-2018 academic Year.



The view point of Reed Lake.



Canal bridges in Thinchau Village in Mindat Township. PHOTO: MNA



Walkway constructed near a jetty in Paletwa. PHOTO: MNA

China, Philippines to hold talks on maritime issues in May

BEIJING — China and the Philippines will hold the first meeting of a bilateral consultation mechanism on the South China Sea issue in May, Foreign Ministry spokesperson Hua Chunying said on Tuesday.

“Currently, the two sides are maintaining friendly negotiations on the issue,” Hua said at a regular press conference.

During the 20th diplomatic consultation between the two countries in January, China and the Philippines agreed to set up a bilateral consultation mechanism on the South China Sea issue to discuss issues of common concern and foster maritime cooperation and security.

China is willing to strengthen dialogue with the Philippines to properly manage and control divergences and advance

maritime cooperation to create a favourable atmosphere for pragmatic cooperation as well as the sound and stable development of ties, said Hua.

She said China has invited the delegation of the Philippine Coast Guard(PCG) to visit China at an early date.

At the founding conference of the Joint Coast Guard Committee on Maritime Cooperation in February, the two sides drew up a list of cooperative programs in 2017, including high-level visits, vessel visits, maritime operations and related exercises and capacity building, said Hua. She said the cooperation between the coast guards will deepen mutual trust and friendship between the two sides, so as to inject new vitality into the development of ties.—Xinhua

Thailand sends ousted PM Thaksin \$494 million tax bill

BANGKOK — Thai tax authorities have sent ousted former prime minister Thaksin Shinawatra a whopping 17 billion baht (\$494 million) tax bill over the sale of shares in a telecoms company more than a decade ago, his lawyer said on Tuesday.

The claim is over the sale of shares in Shin Corp to Singapore’s Temasek Holdings [TEM.UL].

Thaksin’s legal team would appeal to the revenue department within 30 days, his lawyer, Noppadon Pattama, told reporters.

“We need to exercise our right to appeal to show that no legal miracle can happen to collect tax from Dr Thaksin,” he said.



Former Thai Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra looks on as he speaks to Reuters during an interview in Singapore on 23 February, 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Allies of Thaksin say the new tax claim is politically motivated. He has lived in exile since being overthrown in 2006 to avoid corruption charges, but his populist movement remains at the heart of po-

litical division in Thailand. Defence Minister Prawit Wongsuwan told reporters the tax claim was not aimed at bullying the Shinawatras. A court ruled against an attempt by tax authorities to claim 12 billion baht (\$350

million) from the share sale from Thaksin’s children in 2010, Noppadon said. The court said they could not be taxed because the shares were owned by Thaksin and his wife, he said.

Noppadon said that the sale of the shares was tax exempt because it was done through the stock exchange.

The army overthrew the government led by Thaksin’s sister, Yingluck Shinawatra, in 2014 in the name of ending political turmoil. Last month, the junta started reconciliation hearings with political parties ahead of elections that could happen as early as next year, but those talks do not touch on Thaksin’s fate.—Reuters

Cambodia bans breast milk exports

PHNOM PENH — Cambodia on Tuesday banned the export of breast milk, putting a stop to the business of a US-based company that had been selling the milk in the United States.

The decision was welcomed by United Nations child agency UNICEF, worried at a decline in breastfeeding in Cambodia.

Ambrosia Labs - known in Cambodia as Khun Meada, which means “gratitude of mothers”, had been exporting milk from more than 90 Cambodian women for more than two years. The purchase and export of breast milk must stop immediately, Ngor Hong Ly, a Secretary of State at the Council of Ministers, said in

an order on Tuesday.

“Despite how poor and difficult Cambodia is, it’s not at a level where we sell breast milk,” Ngor Hong Ly wrote. Ambrosia did not respond to a Reuters request for comment.

On its Facebook page, the company said it put the safety and well-being of donors and customers before

everything. “We work hard to set, and monitor, guidelines to ensure that we are not taking milk out of the infants’ mouths,” it added.

The post said the company would not accept donations from mothers of infants younger than six months, and that donors should pump milk no more than twice a day.—Reuters



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Pop star Lady Gaga . PHOTO : REUTERS

Gay men in my life helped me become a woman, says Lady Gaga

LONDON — Pop star Lady Gaga says she feels blessed to be surrounded by powerful gay men in her life who have helped her become a woman.

Speaking on “RuPaul’s Drag Race”, the 30-year-old songstress, who is a vocal supporter of LG-BTQ rights, praises the community for being a source of inspiration for her, reported FemaleFirst.

“I have always been surrounded by incredibly intelligent,

powerful gay men who have lifted me up through lots of changes in my life. Becoming famous was very strange and it’s the gay men in my life that helped me become a woman.

“And I don’t know that a lot of people would understand that but it’s because of what you’ve (been) through - you survived so much that you inspire me to continue surviving,” says Gaga. —PTI

Drake ends Sheeran’s Billboard 200 reign, smashes streaming record

NEW YORK — Drake ended Ed Sheeran’s two week reign atop the Billboard 200 album chart on Monday, selling a monster 505,000 copies of his new album “More Life,” according to figures from Nielsen SoundScan.

The Canadian rapper, the world’s best-selling artist of 2016, took the No. 1 spot, setting a new streaming record and bringing home the biggest US sales week for any album since his 2016 release “Views.”

Nielsen said 257,000 units were earned from streaming, beating Drake’s previous re-

cord-setting 163,000 streaming units for “Views.”

The Billboard 200 album chart tallies units from album sales, song sales (10 songs equal one album) and streaming activity (1,500 streams equal one album).

Drake’s new release pushed British singer-songwriter Sheeran’s “Divide” into second place on the Billboard 200 with some 118,000 units sold.

Rapper Rick Ross landed in the No.3 spot with his new album “Rather You Than Me.” —Reuters

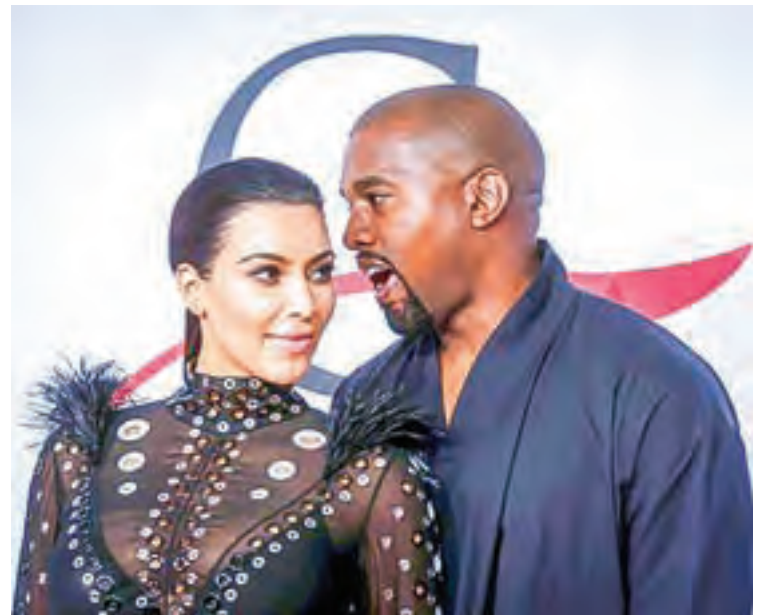
Kim Kardashian, Kanye West step out for romantic dinner

LOS ANGELES — Rapper Kanye West and his wife Kim Kardashian enjoyed a date night at a posh restaurant here.

The couple wine and dined for over three hours and spent some quality time inside a private room, reported E! Online.

Kardashian donned an off-the-shoulder beige sweater and a pair of snakeskin-patterned stiletto boots, while her husband opted for a casual look in a white hooded sweatshirt paired with a long black trench coat.

“Kim and Kanye were seated in a private room with several other tables, but the room was reserved just for the two of them,” a source said, before adding, “they sat on the same side of the table and talked very quietly.” —PTI



Kim Kardashian and Kanye West .PHOTO: REUTERS



Country singer Garth Brooks . PHOTO: REUTERS

Garth Brooks teases new live album

LOS ANGELES — Garth Brooks has hinted at working on a live album that would follow his 2016’s “Gunslinger”.

The 55-year-old country singer teased his project at this year’s South by Southwest Music Festival, reported Billboard.

“I think we’re well on our way. I’ll give you a little hint —

try to remember that 20-something years ago, the (1996-98 international) tour was coming to an end, so we released this thing called ‘Double Live’. Tour’s coming to an end now,” said Brooks. As for his fans, the new live album may be on the lines of his 1998 album “Double Live”. —PTI

Selena Gomez surprises high school students

Selena Gomez.
PHOTO: REUTERS

LOS ANGELES — Selena Gomez gave a sweet surprise to the girl students when she made an appearance at Step Up.

The 24-year-old singer has recently entered into a partnership with the hi-end brand Coach which also includes taking part at Step Up, an organisation that supports girls in underprivileged communities to pursue an education.

Gomez took to Instagram where she shared her experience of meeting her excited fans in person.

“@instagram is celebrating world kindness day and I got to spend it with people who fully will change our world one day.

“@coach introduced me to @stepupwomensnetwork which is an after school organisation that encourages girls to believe that they have the capability to do anything they set their mind to. It’s crazy to me how much they are willing put others before themselves,” wrote Gomez. According to Harper’s Bazaar, the “It A’int Me” singer helped them make a few crafts and even gifted them bags. —PTI

Gold coin worth \$4 million stolen from Berlin museum

BERLIN — A Canadian gold coin named “Big Maple Leaf” which bears the image of Queen Elizabeth II was stolen in the early hours of Monday morning from Berlin’s Bode Museum.

The coin is made out of pure gold, weighs about 100 kilos and has a face value of around \$1 million (794,344.27 pounds).

“The coin was stolen last night, it’s gone,” museum spokesman Markus Farr said.

Given the high purity of the gold used in the coin, its material value is estimated to be \$4 million.

The museum said on its website that the coin was issued by the Royal Canadian Mint in 2007 and that it was featured in the Guinness Book of Records for its “unmatched” degree of purity.

The coin, with a diameter of 53 centimetres and 3 centimetres thick, was loaned to the Bode Museum in December 2010.

Police said it was probably stolen by a group of thieves who entered the museum undetected through a window, pos-



Picture taken in Vienna, Austria on 25 June, 2010 shows experts of an Austrian art forwarding company holding one of the world’s largest gold coins, a 2007 Canadian \$1,000,000 “Big Maple Leaf”. PHOTO: REUTERS

sibly with the help of a ladder.

“Based on the information we have so far we believe that the thief, maybe thieves, broke open a window in the back of the museum next to the railway tracks,” police spokesman Winfrid Wenzel said. “They then managed to enter the building and went to the coin exhibition.

“The coin was secured

with bullet-proof glass inside the building. That much I can say,” Wenzel added.

“Neither I nor the Bode Museum can go into detail regarding personnel inside the building, the alarm system or security installations.” The Bode Museum has one of the world’s largest coin collections with more than 540,000 items.

—Reuters

How two teens in leggings became a PR mess for United Airlines

SAN FRANCISCO — A bystander who touched off a social media furore after she saw United Airlines stop two teenage girls dressed in leggings from boarding a flight admitted on Monday that she did not fully grasp the situation when she started tweeting her indignation.

The girls, who were flying standby on Sunday from Denver to Minneapolis using free passes for employees or family members, were told by a gate attendant that they could not get on the plane while wearing the form-fitting pants.

Passengers using the passes are considered airline representatives, United Air Lines Inc (UALN) spokesman Jonathan Guerin said, subject to a dress code that prohibits sleep or swimwear, torn clothing and revealing attire.

The girls were fine with the policy, Guerin says, but a traveller named Shannon Watts who overheard the exchange took offence.

Watts was further

incensed when another woman who was listening told her 10-year-old daughter to put a dress on over her leggings, apparently thinking United’s policy applied to all passengers, not just those flying free.

Her subsequent tweet storm, which accused the airline of “policing women’s clothing,” quickly went viral, with celebrities such as model Chrissy Teigen and actors Seth Rogen and Patricia Arquette decrying United’s stance.

After the incident, United’s mentions on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram exploded from its average 2,000 daily mentions to 174,000, nearly 70 per cent of them negative, said Kellan Terry, a spokesman for the social media analysis firm Brandwatch.

Watts, in a phone interview on Monday, conceded that she did not initially realize that the girls were using passes that entailed following a dress code.

Regardless, she said,

the policy is wrong-headed.

“I don’t get why that’s the issue here,” she said. “A dress code still shouldn’t be gendered and sexist. To be clear, this was happening very publicly right here in the gate.”

American Airlines Group Inc (AAL O) has a policy on free passes that is similar to United’s, but Delta Air Lines Inc (DAL N) defers to travellers’ “best judgment” about their clothing.

United may have limited any damage to its image if it reacted more quickly to the tweets and explained its policy on the free passes, Terry said.

“Once the fire starts to burn, it’s all about containing that fire,” he said.

United’s Guerin conceded that the airline could have done a better job of getting the facts out early.

“But our response following that, once we did have all of the facts, I think we reacted the right way with this,” he said.

—Reuters

Paris exhibition highlights Picasso’s passion for distant cultures

PARIS — Pablo Picasso’s lifelong admiration for art from far-flung civilisations comes to light in a new Paris exhibition featuring such pieces from the artist’s collection as well as his own sketches, sculptures and paintings inspired by them.

Entitled “Picasso Primitif”, the exhibition aims to show “a comparative view of his works with those of non-Western artists” from Africa, Oceania, the Americas and Asia, according to

the Quai de Branly museum.

Items on display include Picasso’s “Women’s Head” painting, where the subject’s prominent forehead, teeth and hole in lieu of cheeks are reminiscent of an anthropomorphic mask from Ivory Coast, while a 1919 striped hexagonal-shaped mask by him appears to give a modern twist to such traditional African pieces.

“Picasso Primitif” runs from Tuesday until July.—Reuters



People play drums as they attend celebrations to mark the Gudi Padwa festival, the beginning of the New Year for Maharashtrians, in Mumbai, India, on 28 March, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

mitv Myanmar International Programme Schedule

(29-3-2017 07:00am ~ 30-3-2017 07:00am) MST

07:03	Am	News
07:26	Am	Myanmar Social & Charitable Association w(Ep-2) (Jivitadana Hospital)
07:51	Am	Sagaing: Guitars

08:03	Am	News
08:25	Am	Home Grown Treasure
09:03	Am	News
09:26	Am	Director: Thiha Kyaw Soe
09:39	Am	Myanmar Betels
09:55	Am	Paper Flower
10:03	Am	News
10:25	Am	SHWE SETTAW (Minbu)
10:43	Am	Mosaic Painting (Precious Stones & Gems)

(11:00 Am ~ 03:00 Pm) - Tuesday 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
07:27	Pm	Travelogue: Ngwe Saung Beach
07:47	Pm	Pet Fish Biz
08:03	Pm	News
08:26	Pm	Myanmar Traditional Identity (EP- 3)The Sphinx of Egypt And The Manousiha of Myanmar
08:40	Pm	Myanmar Harpist
08:47	Pm	Local Tour Guide: Pho Khant

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

Peerless Federer rolls on with win over del Potro

MIAMI — Roger Federer produced another dazzling performance on Monday, easing past Juan Martin del Potro in the third round at the Miami Open.

Federer wowed a boisterous, capacity crowd at Crandon Park, winning 6-3, 6-4 in just over 80 minutes of nearly flawless tennis.

Former US Open champion del Potro, buoyed by a large Argentine contingent who did their best to lift him with regular chants of ‘ole, ole, ole’, did not submit easily but one break in each set was enough for Federer to move on to the fourth round.

Federer improved his career record against del Potro to 16-5, the Swiss closing out the match in style with a forehand winner before acknowledging the roaring crowd. The 35-year-old, who missed the second half of 2016 with a knee injury, has lost only once this year, to Russian Evgeny Donskoy in early February.

An 18th grand slam crown in a five-set thriller over long-time rival Rafa Nadal at the Australian Open in January has been the highlight of the still young season, but the past two weeks in the United States have been second to none.

He ripped through the field at Indian Wells without dropping a set en route to the title, and has not lost a set in his first two matches in Miami either. Federer is giving his opponents less time than ever to react, running them ragged by regularly standing inside the baseline and taking the ball early.

Next up for Federer is Spanish 14th seed Roberto Bautista Agut, who overcame a slow start to outlast American 22nd seed Sam Querrey 3-6, 6-2, 6-3.

Czech 10th seed Tomas Berdych beat 24th seed Gilles Muller of Luxembourg 6-3, 6-4, while Adrian Mannarino of France edged Croatian Borna Coric 6-4, 2-6, 7-6(3).—Reuters



Roger Federer of Switzerland hits a forehand against Juan Martin del Potro of Argentina (not pictured) on day seven of the 2017 Miami Open at Crandon Park Tennis Centre in Miami, FL, USA on 27 March, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

Man City fined 35,000 pounds for failing to control players

LONDON — Manchester City have been fined 35,000 pounds (\$44,030) by the English FA after they accepted a misconduct charge for the way their players reacted to a 50th minute penalty in the 1-1 Premier League draw with Liverpool on 20 March.

City were charged by the FA last week after their players surrounded referee Michael Oliver who had awarded Liverpool a spot kick following a foul by Gael Clichy on Roberto Firmino.

Former City player James Milner converted the penalty after Clichy, who had raised his boot on Firmino, and David Silva were booked. Some City players continued to remonstrate after-

wards. City equalised 18 minutes later through Sergio Aguero.

“Following an Independent Regulatory Commission hearing today (Monday 27 March 2017), Manchester City have been fined 35,000 pounds after the club admitted an FA misconduct charge,” the governing body said in a statement.

“City breached FA Rule E20(a) in that in or around the 50th minute of the game against Liverpool on 19 March 2017, the club failed to ensure that its players conducted themselves in an orderly fashion.”

City, who are third in table, travel to sixth-placed Arsenal on Sunday.—Reuters



Manchester City manager Pep Guardiola speaks with referee Michael Oliver after the game. PHOTO: REUTERS

Venus all smiles after straight sets win

MIAMI — Venus Williams had every reason to smile on Monday as she defeated Svetlana Kuznetsova 6-3, 7-6(4) to advance to the quarter-finals at the Miami Open.

Williams, who will next play Angelique Kerber after the top seed cruised by Japanese qualifier Risa Ozaki 6-2, 6-2, is a three-time champion in Miami and first played in the tournament as a 16-year-old.

“I was still in braces, it’s been a long time,” she said in a post-match interview.

The 36-year-old delivered exquisite shot-making during a rally on match point to eliminate the twice major champion Kuznetsova.

Her next opponent Kerber was barely tested in her 62-minute match, feasting off her opponents’ serve, while second seed

Karolina Pliskova also reached the quarter-finals as she beat 15th-seeded Czech compatriot Barbora Strycova 6-1, 6-4.

Pliskova cruised through the first set in 22 minutes and looked ready to wrap up a quick victory when she went ahead 5-2 in the second but Strycova found life late in the match breaking Pliskova then holding at love. Pliskova recovered to take the final game.

French Open champion Garbine Muguruza retired from her match with Caroline Wozniacki after dropping the first set. The sixth seed took a medical timeout after dropping the first set 7-6(1) to Wozniacki and decided she was unable to continue. “I started normal, and then like at 3-3 or something like this I started to feel headache, pain in my stomach,” Muguruza said.

“And then it kind of went more and more during the match.

“When I was getting to the 5-4, something like this, I started to feel a little bit dizzy. I think it was the heat? The heat affected me suddenly like that.”

Wozniacki has now advanced to her sixth quarter-final in seven 2017 events.

In other women’s matches, third seed Simona Halep overcame Australian Samantha Stosur 4-6, 7-5, 6-2, and former Czech world number five Lucie Safarova beat Slovakian fourth seed Dominika Cibulkova 7-6(5), 6-1 to reach the last eight. For unseeded Safarova, who is on the comeback trail from a bacterial infection that hampered her for parts of the past two seasons, the win marked her first top-10 victory since 2015.—Reuters

FIFA says no word from Maradona over threat to quit

ZURICH — Football’s governing body FIFA said on Monday it had heard nothing official from Diego Maradona since the Argentine World Cup winner threatened last week to quit his ambassadorial role.

FIFA said its last official contact with former Argentina captain Maradona had been when he took part in a draw for the under-20 World Cup in South Korea on 15 March.

“There have been no updates from him since then,” said a spokesman, adding that Maradona’s relationship with FIFA

during that event had been “very positive”.

Maradona told Argentine newspaper Clarin last Wednesday he was angry over the Argentina FA’s (AFA) decision to appoint television presenter Marcelo Tinelli as head of its national teams committee, which oversees teams from under-17 upwards. Maradona told FIFA president Gianni Infantino in a telephone call that he would step down if the decision was not reversed within two days, the interview said. The AFA is currently under FIFA intervention which,

Maradona said, gave football’s governing body the power to reverse the appointment.

Last June, FIFA responded to a financial and governance crisis in the AFA by stepping in and putting it under the administration of a ‘normalisation committee’. The committee’s main role is to prepare the AFA for a presidential election which is due to be held on Wednesday. Maradona took up his new role in February, saying: “Finally I can fulfil one of the lifelong dreams; to work alongside people who really love football.”—Reuters